



July 2026 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

2nd July - Keith Edwards

"Caves and caving"

DATES FOR YOUR 2025 DIARY (All talks start at 2pm)

6th Aug - John Butterworth "How the stagecoach transformed our area"

3rd Sep - Henry Chance "The Chance Family and their Smethwick Glassworks"

* Please check the website "Events" for a list of speakers for 2026

FROM THE CHAIR

David Haggarty

We will be having our AGM at the October monthly meeting as our financial year ends this month. With costs rising we need to reduce our outgoings so earlier this year we asked members that did not want to continue taking the TAM magazine to let us know. This resulted in a very small reduction so we now have to tell you that, from the August renewal, any member registered to receive the magazine will have an increased fee of £25 per year to cover the cost we pay the National Third Age Trust. Fees for members not taking TAM will remain at £20. One problem we have is that our membership has fallen significantly since the Pandemic and our income from those fees has reduced. We have started a campaign to increase numbers but members could help by promoting H of E u3a to anyone they know; the groups available, our monthly speakers, and the advantages of this sociable organisation.

In order to maintain the £20 fee, we will also stop printing paper copies of the newsletter but at the moment, every member with a registered email address does receive a copy. We hope that members without email will have a friend to keep them informed.

The committee do continually look at ways to save costs without reducing members experiences of our u3a. Our Speaker Secretary, Tim Folan, gets some very interesting speakers for our monthly meetings but we still only see around 25% of our membership attending.

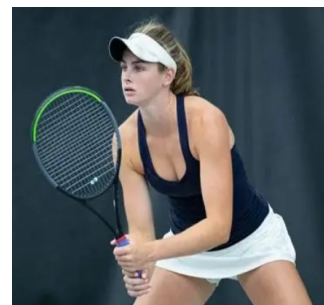
Our committee are always looking for new ideas and ways to maintain, improve, and progress our u3a. Some committee members have indicated they may step down this year so we need volunteers to join us if H of E is to survive. We only meet around four times a year, so if you feel you are able to contribute to our u3a, you would be warmly welcomed. Email me at d-haggarty@outlook.com.

Also confirming our coffeee morning at the Pen & Parchment at 10.30am Wednesday 15th July . All welcome.

July was named
after Julius Caesar



Wimbledon Tennis
Final 12th July



Independence day
USA - July 4th



MAY SPEAKER REPORT

Tim Folan

Rural blacksmith and wheelwright yards were commonplace, everyone needed one for making and repairing agricultural tools, wagons etc. Even a village like Wellesbourne could support 5. Derek Apps is a volunteer at Chedham's Yard, a rare survivor. He talked to us about the history of the yard and how it was saved for posterity. The yard can be dated to 1711 and was owned by the Riley's - a local landowning family. Ledbury born Thomas Chedham took on the lease in 1823. The business thrived but in the 1890s son Henry lost his wife, several children and his landlord in short succession. He managed to borrow enough to buy the yard and several cottages for rent and left it to Henry Jnr. In the early 20th century similar yards were diversifying into bicycle and motor vehicle repairs but not Chedham's. Business continued to decline and Bill, the final Chedham, closed the yard in 1966. It was left untouched and passed into the ownership of the Parish council intending to make the yard a centre for heritage and education. English Heritage also took an interest but offered no money. Fortunately, the BBC Restoration Village programme came along and the yard was the 2006 winner. This released some Heritage Lottery Fund cash. Today the yard is run by volunteers and visitors can still see blacksmiths and wheelwrights at work. You can even have a go yourself!

ALL THAT SWINGS AND JAZZ

Sue Tringham

In spite of the heat we had a good turnout at our June meeting although we moved to a cooler room! Glynis researched the jazz players on the cd she used and gave us great information about them. A really interesting programme. A big thank you goes to our members brave enough (and talented) who put together programmes for our enjoyment. Not sure yet who will be presenting the programme at our next meeting on Thursday 23 July at 2pm at the Methodist Church but rest assured, someone will!! Look forward to meeting up with everyone.

BOOK CLUB MONDAY

Jackie Biggs

The Monday Book Club meets on the 3rd Monday of each month, for more information please contact Jackie at jackiebiggs@btinternet.com

BOOK CLUB – WEDNESDAY

Gillian Caveney

Here is our report for the next newsletter: Our book this month was Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier. There are two sets of remarkable creatures in the novel: the two (real) women Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot whose friendship and mutual interest in fossils transcends barriers of class and education; the others are the fossils the women find and the relevance of these to our understanding of the world. The book is well researched, well written, full of period detail and sympathetically describes the life of the two women while exploring themes of class, gender and religion. We enjoyed it and would recommend it to other readers.

CARD MAKING CLUB

Angela Ramsey & Jane Edkins

Due to the extreme weather conditions, the June workshop was cancelled. We will transfer our plans for creating cards for teenagers to the July workshop. We welcome new-comers to join us for a relaxing few hours, trying new techniques and producing cards for ourselves and for sale at monthly meetings. All proceeds are donated to local charities. Base cards of different sizes and colours, A4 white and coloured card, backing papers and accessories are all provided. The next donation of £100 will be sent to the local Air Ambulance Service. Next workshop: Friday, 24th July, 12.30 to 4.00, in the new room. For more information, please chat with Angela and Jane at the card sale table or email Robyn, at redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CHINWAGS

Glynis Holloway

We are a small friendly group which meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 12.30pm in Bistrot Pierre to enjoy a nice lunch and good conversation.

Our next lunch will take place on Monday July 27th.

We are full at the moment but we have a waiting list so if you would like to join us please contact me at glynisa.holloway@gmail.com.

CHOIR

David Haggarty

We are currently rehearsing for our September concert and would welcome new members. We meet on Friday mornings, 10.30 to 12.00 in the Stratford Methodist Centre.

Contact David at d-haggarty@outlook.com

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

Edwin Lilly & Graeme Ramsey

Heart of England u3a Classical Music Group Report of Meeting, 11 June 2026 At the June meeting of the Classical Music Group we listened to a delightful concerto for two violins by Bach, the first movement of Beethoven's light-hearted Eighth Symphony and the first movement of Anton Bruckner's mighty Seventh Symphony. After the tea interval, the programme concluded with a complete performance of Brahms's Second Piano Concerto. The meeting was well attended despite a few regulars being away on holiday. However, we were delighted to welcome some new faces to the Group. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 9th July in the Lounge at the Methodist Church Centre, starting at 2:00 p.m. A varied selection of popular classics by Edward Elgar will be played. We are a very friendly group, open to all u3a members. So do come along and enjoy an afternoon of lovely music. No need to book. Just turn up on the day. Entrance fee per person is £3.00, which covers room hire and refreshments.

COMPUTER GROUP - offering I-T assistance for our members.

Robyn Nicoll

The Spring Course has concluded and those who attended have provided very positive feedback, increasing their knowledge and skills using laptops, tablets, and phones They received one-to-one assistance from our own members who have been willing to give their time and expertise. The Group are now looking for a new organiser for the courses. Robyn will be pleased to pass on details required to arrange the courses. Email: redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

The Crafters meet monthly on the 2nd Monday afternoon at the Methodist Church, 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the reception area. The Crafters would welcome new members to join us for a relaxing afternoon each month. We bring our own projects to work on and from time to time have a joint project to which interested members are invited. Next Get-together: Monday, 13th July. For more information about the Group please contact Robyn email: redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sylvia Bevan

We meet on Wednesday 8th July at 2pm in the upstairs community room at the Guild cottages . Enter through the double wooden doors opposite the council offices and you will be greeted. National and international politics moving quickly and many issues to discuss . New members and topics for discussion very welcome . Contact Sylvia at john.bevan573@btinternet.com

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks

We meet next on Tuesday 7th July at the Pen and Parchment. Look forward to seeing everyone for lunch and a catch up.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Keith Riste

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to discuss a variety of topics and have an enjoyable lunch. Next meeting is on Wednesday 15th July at the Stratford Sports Club. New members welcome. For more information, please contact: Keith at keithriste@yahoo.com

HISTORY GROUP

Robert Tringham

The Group met on 16th December to consider the origins of language. We discussed the findings that all languages devolved from the first African Tongue which was the cradle of all modern languages. We also looked at "Lucy" who walked upright and is likely a Homo Erectus but lived 3.2 million years ago. We considered whether a dog barks in different languages, or birds sing in their own local language. Part 2 of origins of languages will continue in similar theme in September. Please check the website for further information or contact me at hofe.u3a.com

KEEP FIT

Jan Jones

Our small friendly group consists of both males and females of mixed abilities. The class is designed for our age group, with standing and sitting exercises
We meet every Thursday morning from 10 -11am in the Parish Centre at St Andrews Church in Shotton. We have an excellent tutor and really enjoy the exercises and a chat.
At present there is a waiting list, but please contact me If you are interested in finding out more about the group.

SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARD GAMES

Sue Tringham

We normally meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month from 2pm until 4pm in the Foyer of the Methodist Church. It's a light hearted afternoon of fun, laughter and conversation! In July we will meet on the 6th and 20th. Tea, coffee and biscuits at 3. All welcome!!

SNATTS

Mike Genge

We meet on the second friday of each month. For more information please contact Mike at email mikegenge@sky.com

THEATRE GROUP

Glynis McDougall

There is no air conditioning in either the Attic or The Bear Pit so I have decided to cancel the July Theatre visit . In August the Rother St Arts House are performing The Importance of Being Ernest I will be taking names for tickets on 13th August at the August meeting, I think they have air conditioning. For more information please contact me at email, glynismcdougall1@gmail.com

WALKING GROUP

Lin Randall

Our next walk is the one postponed from last month. It's on Wednesday, 8th July at 10am, (weather permitting) and starts from the Ipsley Pool car park (free), Old Forge Drive, Redditch B98 7FX. The walk will include the Arrow Valley Lake which is beautiful with a break at the cafe for coffee, as well as part of Ipsley Common. The walk is on hard surfaces and on the level so very easy going and is 4 miles in length. This is one not to be missed! Lin.

**** NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED ****

After four years Robert is retiring from the role of Newsletter editor, and is seeking a member to take over from him. The role involves receiving updates from team leaders, pasting photos and pictures of group or local events, adding interesting features to make the newsletter an easy and pleasant read. Full training will be given, and Robert will be available to assist with any technical help needed until the new editor is fully confident with the role. Robert will continue to upload the Newsletters to the Website each month and update it as needed. Anyone interested in knowing more, please contact David Haggarty at d-haggarty@outlook.com or Robert at hofe.u3a@gmail.com

Garden Appreciation Group At Kiftsgate Manor Garden



Taking the kids out for a spin on the river



TEA /COFFEE ROTA 2026

Refreshment Co-ordinator

Gillian Edwards, email: gillian_edwards50@hotmail.co.uk

Group Leaders please check the Newsletter for your rota.

Below is a list of the interest Groups that will be responsible for serving tea and coffee each month.

Jul	-	Games	Aug	-	Walking Group	-	Sep	-	Wed. Book Club
Oct	-	History	Nov	-	SNATTS	-	Dec.	-	Keep fit