



June 2026 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

4th Jun - TBC

"Chedham's Yard – a Warwickshire village blacksmith and wheelwright"

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

2nd July - Keith Edwards "Caves and caving"

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

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

FROM THE CHAIR

David Haggarty

Welcome to our June newsletter, this month is named after the Roman goddess Juno, God of marriage and childbirth.

The weather was quite topsy-turvy during May with cold winds but there was some welcome rain to keep our farmers and gardeners happy. Unfortunately, the change to very hot at the latter part of the month has probably dried out all the benefit of that.

Since the national u3a movement started, the membership has been assisting research bodies with finding cures and/or treatments for conditions that affect health. Our u3a has been approached by Birmingham University for volunteers who currently experience balance disorders to take part in a study to help develop a new diagnostic test and treatment. The tests are non-invasive and not painful and last around three and a half hours. Lunch and travel expenses to the university are included.

If you interested in taking part in this valuable research email me and I will send you all the details, please email me at d-haggarty@outlook.com

More details will be available at the monthly meeting on 4th June.

Also, Just confirming our coffee morning at the Pen & Parchment at 10.30am Wednesday 17th June. All welcome.

David

ALL THAT SWINGS AND JAZZ

Sue Tringham

Another great turnout at our May meeting when Barrie (not Glynis!) presented another entertaining programme. A big thank you goes to our members brave enough (and talented) who put together programmes for our enjoyment. Glynis will be presenting the programme at our next meeting on Thursday 25 June at 2pm at the Methodist Church. Look forward to meeting up with everyone!

**June belongs to
The Goddess
Juno**



**FIFA World Cup
Starts 12th June**



**Summer Solstice
21st June**



BOOK CLUB MONDAY

Jackie Biggs

We read *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn, a historical murder mystery set in 1950's Washington DC, a time of McCarthyism, racism, homophobia, misogyny, Korean War, nuclear bomb testing and political persecution. It is set in a rundown all-female boarding house where five women, all with their own secrets, form an unlikely friendship until the murder of two men threatens their peaceful sanctuary. The revelation of the women's secrets including wife beating, Cold War spying and the theft of a Klimt painting are skilfully exposed and then finally wrapped up in a rather contrived ending linking the women together at the end. The book is extremely well written and enjoyed by all.
Highly recommended!

BOOK CLUB – WEDNESDAY

Gillian Caveney

Our book of the month was *The Stranger in Room Six* by Jane Corry. A historical suspense story set across two time lines, the present and WW2. The majority of us were not convinced by either the main characters or some of the plot lines. We did think the theme dealing with British supporters of Hitler was an interesting aspect of the novel but it was a lighter read – one for picking up at the airport perhaps.

CARD MAKING CLUB

Angela Ramsey & Jane Edkins

At our May workshop we concentrated on making cards featuring Cats & Dogs, requested by members visiting the sale table at the monthly meeting. Find some examples on the sale table. Anyone interested in joining us for a relaxing few hours, including a buffet lunch, would be very welcome. Base cards of different sizes and colours, A4 white and coloured card, backing papers and accessories are all provided. The next donation of £100 from the sale of cards will be sent to the local Air Ambulance Service. Next workshop: Friday, 26th June, 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

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

Edwin Lilly

At the May meeting members were treated to a selection of music by the great eighteenth century composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, consisting of his Piano Concerto No 20, his Symphony No 39, and the Overture and excerpts from his opera, Don Giovanni. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 11 June, starting at 2:00 pm, in the lounge at the Methodist Church Centre. The programme will feature works by Beethoven, Brahms, Bach and Bruckner. 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 with hearing or hearing aid tuned in and batteries charged.

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

Robyn Nicoll

The Computer course is underway. This short course is designed to give individual assistance to members to gain the best use of their laptop, tablet, and phone. Dates: 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons, 2pm to 3.30pm in the lounge. (To come - June 5th and 19th.)
The fee for the course is £15. 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, 8th June. For more information about the Group please contact Robyn at email: redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Sylvia Bevan

We will meet on Wednesday 10th June at 2pm in the upstairs room at the Guild cottages. Enter through the double doors opposite the council offices where you will be met. Plenty to talk about! All suggestions for discussion are welcome as are new members. Contact Sylvia at john.bevan573@btinternet.com

DINAHS**Sylvia Crooks**

We meet next on Tuesday 2nd June at the Pen and Parchment. Look forward to seeing everyone for lunch and a catch up.

FINE DINING**Hazel Miller**

What better way to spend a balmy summer evening than having dinner with friends overlooking the river. We visited the Boathouse and were not disappointed. The food was delicious, the doors on the balcony were open, and air conditioning served the tables further back. It was a very enjoyable evening.

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP**Suzu Genge**

We visited Batsford Arboretum this month. After a drink in the popular cafe there, we had an inspiring walk around the grounds. Wonderful trees, especially the handkerchief trees and great swathes of wild garlic. Shame it is not 2 for 1 anymore!

Next month is a trip to Kiftsgate on June 9th. Meet at 2pm in the cafe as not open in morning.

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 17th June 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 saw photographs of ancient carvings especially the Java Shells carved by Homo Erectus 500,000 years ago. 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 July. 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 Shottery. 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 of the month from 2pm until 4pm in the Foyer of the Methodist Church playing Scrabble, Dominoes and Card Games. It's a light hearted afternoon of fun, laughter and conversation! In June we will meet on the 1st and 15th. Tea, coffee and biscuits at 3pm.

All welcome!!

SNATTS**Mike Genge**

Mike is away and in June we will have an introduction to the fabulous world of Dan talks. These are short video presentations by leading experts on a huge number of subjects relevant to SNATTS. Friday 12th June 14.00 The New Room. mikegenge@sky.com

THEATRE GROUP

Glynis McDougall

Our visit for June which is already booked, is Tuesday 9th June Lady in the Van. July will be Shakers at the Attic Theatre on Thursday 9th July. Sign up at the meeting or contact me email, glynismcdougall1@gmail.com

WALKING GROUP

Lin Randall

Our next walk is a real treat. It's on Wednesday, 10th June at 10am 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

** MAGAZINE EDITOR REQUIRED **

The role will involve maintaining an organised archive system, digitizing records for accessibility, and collaborating with team leaders to curate exhibits or publications that highlight our rich history and activities of the Heart of England u3a, and produce a quarterly magazine for publication on our website. For more information please contact David Haggarty at d-haggarty@outlook.com

Morris Dancers in Stratford in May



Hot air balloons landing near Stratford



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.

Jun	-	Fine Dining	-	Jul	-	Games	Aug	-	Walking Group
Sep	-	Wed. Book Club	-	Oct	-	History	Nov	-	SNATTS