

Please note - as advised in the previous UPDATE 79, we are no longer sending out the UPDATE via email. All new newsletters will available from the web-site to download, print or simply read! Hard copies will still be available for those members without access to the technology.

This method of delivery will free up time as well as electricity costs for the editor as well as the Coventry u3a.

Coventry U3A Chairpersons Address.

This year 2023 has been a good year for our U3A, our membership is approximately 293 and still growing although very slowly.

Our speaker secretary Sandra has done an amazing job providing speakers with an incredible variety of topics to keep us informed and entertained. Bob Rouse with his usual aplomb and panache has organised some amazing trips throughout the year. Our treasurer is always on hand with her cheque book and keeps the books in an impeccable manner. Our secretary did an amazing job, unfortunately she passed away earlier this year.

All other members of the committee support you equally as well, we have Jane who as just taken on the role to do the update and apart from having to chase me for this address seems to be developing the role really well.

We are short of several members though, we need a secretary, several ordinary committee members just to help out as and when, understand how the committee works and potential take on a specific role sometime in the future. At the last committee meeting the annual subscription charge was discussed. The subscription was held at £14 for the last two years. It was agreed to increase the subscription from 1st April to £15.

We could also do with some members or new members starting up new groups, do you know anybody who has an interesting pass time/hobby, who would consider sharing their knowledge?

All for now and your committee and I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

See you in 2024. Derek

YOUR COMMITTEE 2023 - 2024

The following Officers and Committee members were agreed and ratified by the Membership at the AGM of May 3rd 2023.

Position	Name	Contact No	o. Email		
Chair:	Derek Medcraft	02476597656	derekm14@hotmail.com		
Vice Chair:	Tony Adamson	02477676151	adamsontk@yahoo.com		
Treasurer:	Jennie Watson	02476 715189	jennie.m.watson@talk21.com		
Business Secretary: VACANT					
Almoner:	VACANT				
Meet & Greet	: [Job-share] Pauline Bond Anne Buckley	02476 415147 02476 460279	paulinebond@bulldoghome.com ea.buckley@btinternet.com		
Group Co-ord	Group Co-ordinator: Susan Pearce susanpearce60@gmail.co				
Membership:	Sandra Clarke	02476635142*	sandraclarke36@gmail.com		
Social Secreta	ry: Bob Rouse	02476411724			
Speaker Secretary Sandra Clarke as above*					
Assistant Treasurer: Judy Wilkinson 02476674616 jmmwilkinson@icloud.com					

In addition to the above we have our Web-site Co-ordinator Ken Bond 02476415147 coventryu3a@yahoo.com Who, along with Pauline, keeps our website up to date with local and national news. The Committee send our thanks on your behalf.

GENERAL MEETINGS

January - April 2024

These meetings are held every twice monthly for most of the year, but monthly during the summer months of June, July and August. They take part at St. Barbara's Church Hall on Wednesdays at 2pm. Registration takes place from 1.15pm. The meeting is usually led by the Chair who after the general housekeeping will introduce the afternoon Speaker. The Speaker will then have around 1 hour to speak on a wide variety of interesting/educational topics. After which Tea or Coffee may be purchased and members may take that time to chat and catch up with friends. Sandra Clarke our Speaker Secretary has been busy booking Speakers for the next eighteen months and below you can find a list of the bookings for the next 3 months. We hope you continue to enjoy the wide range of interesting subjects that speakers bring to the table and if you have an interest or story you would like to tell please let Sandra know.

Jan 24th

African Animal Encounters

Fran tells us about some alarming and amusing encounters from the expeditions of the great African explorers and a few of his own experiences, during his solo walk across Africa.

Feb 21st

Brave or Bonkers?

Starting Stand Up Comedy at Nearly 50

In her late 40's, Jules decided to dip her toe into the world of stand up...and hasn't looked back! Jules's talk includes clips from comedians who have inspired her and so many others from back in the 70s up to modern day, extracts from her comedy sets and stories about a variety of gigs all over the country.

Wed Mar 20th

What Did You Do In The War Daddy?

Alastair tells us about a Coventry airman who served in the Second World War and played a part in The Great Escape. Alastair is Kenneths son, and he takes us through Kens` exploits.

Wed April ADD DETAILS HERE AT A LATER DATE

Jules O'Brian

Fran Sandham

Alastair Price

COVENTRY u3a OUTINGS 2024

GO TO THE BOTTOM OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR INFORMATION

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ARTLeader: Julie SeftonSt. Barbara's Church RoomsContact: Julie (024) 76716061 for further details.

ART APPRECIATION Leader: Bob Rouse & Jo Perkins (Speaker Secretary) Contact Bob on: (024) 76411724 Talks are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall. They run from 10.30 to 12.00 with a 15 minute break.

Please come and support this group, old and new members are very welcome.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13TH Art of Comic Books - Hergé and Roy Lichtenstein

TUESDAY MARCH 12THOld Mistresses - Women Painters of the 16th &18th Centuries.

NO MEETING IN APRIL DUE TO TRIP TO LIVERPOOL

BADMINTON

Monday's 10am – 11.0am Leader: Chris Sidwell

Cost:£1.50 per session.

The group has a new leader and is very welcoming to a wide range of ages and abilities. 'We range in age from 50,s through to 80 years plus. Some players have come to us having not played the sport before, others after a long gap. We also have former league players but people are very helpful and understanding of others abilities (or lack of !) Badminton is a great leveller – why not come along and enjoy the group yourself if you fancy a really nice start to the week ? We have spare racquets for those who wish to try.

Contact: Christopher Sidwell Mobile 07522 76655

BOWLS Leader: Eddie Finch

Memorial Park

Contact: Eddie (024) 76414558

The Bowls group will meet on Mondays at 2:00pm at The War Memorial Park rink. I look forward to seeing you all then (weather permitting). If you have not been before, come along and give it a try. You will be most welcome!

CLASSICAL MUSIC ENJOYMENT Leader: Tony Daziel

Sessions are held Fortnightly on Mondays at Coventry Central Library - Upstairs Meeting room at 10:30am. Contact: Tony 07765 305882

We hope that you will enjoy listening to a wide range of performances with us. Using videos and Cd's we aim to widen our familiarity with music. Our sessions are led by some of our members and we encourage follow up by listening to live performances locally. Our programmes presently run from January - April and from October - December.

JANUARY	22ND	PEERLESS PURCELL				
FEBRUARY 5TH		The Famous or not so Famous 5 th Symphonies				
	19TH	Masterpieces of the 20 th Century II				
MARCH	4TH	Three Concertos, Two Overtures & A Surprise				
	18TH	LISZT - LIFE, MUSIC and FAITH				
APRIL	8TH	REQUESTS of MEMBERS CD'S				
	22ND	MORNING, NOON & NIGHT				
CRAFT GROUP		Leader: Sue Gill Memorial Park Visitor Centre Contact: Sue - 07564 627860 2 nd MONDAY of the Month 10:30 12:30				

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12TH	Activity TBA
MONDAY MARCH 11TH	Activity TBA
MONDAY APRIL 8TH	Activity TBA

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Annette Maxted is the leader of this group

The group will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at Hearsall Golf Club, 33 Beechwood Avenue, CV5 6DF.

Please contact Annette on (024)77987263 OR on Email <u>nettmax52@gmail.com</u>

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Leader is Bob Rouse.

Come along and have your say. See if you can get a word in edgeways. We discuss news, listen to views and have opinions of all hues.

We meet on alternative Fridays from 10am until 12 Noon at the Gilbert Richards Centre, Broadway, Earlsdon, Coventry.

Bring a drink and a biscuit (or a banana) to sustain you through our 10 minute interval.

For further information telephone Bob Rouse on 76411724

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Conversational French for beginners, Group leader is Peter Lawes - prlawes47@gmail.com Venue:- Hearsall Golf Club. 11.00 - 13.00 1st & 3rd Thursdays in every month.

GARDENING

Jennie Watson is Group Leader 4th Thursday in month at 14.00

All Talks are at St Barbara's Church Hall with a charge of $\pounds 3.00$ Details of dates an speakers are shown on the **<u>EVENTS</u>** page.

JANUARY 25TH	Speaker - Adrian James	Four Seasons & A Festival
FEBRUARY 22ND	Speaker - David Cheshire -	Nurseries Bonsai
MARCH 28TH	Speaker - Simon Watts - Wild	l Life presentation
APRIL	This meeting is cancelled du	e to Holiday in Liverpool

GENTS INTERNATIONAL DINING

Leader is John Latham. For further details please contact John either by phone or Email.

01788570138 07783308847 john.latham@sky.com

HOLIDAY

Bob Rouse is organising the 2024 coach Holiday via Dunwood Travel.

It is to **Liverpool** from 22nd to 26th April with half board at the **Liverpool Atlantic Hotel**. Twin/Double at a basic cost of £399.00. Single rooms are limited and subject to availability and a supplement.

Excursions to be arranged and the hotel price does not include any entrance fees or train fares etc.

A £20.00 deposit is required, payable to Dunwood Travel, at the next meeting; the balance payable by 31st January 2024. Insurance, if required, will be extra.

Excursions include the following:-

-Dunham Massey (NT)

- Speke Hall Gardens (NT)
- Beatles coach tour including Museum visit
- World Museum Liverpool
- Crosby Beach
- Ferry Across the Mersey
- Birkenhead Art Gallery
- Walker Art Gallery
- Free day for sightseeing
- On way back visit Tatton Park (NT)

JAZZ APPRECIATION

Last Monday of each month

Leader: Tony Adamson

Contact Tony on: 07976 184867

For Further details

LADIES INTERNATIONAL DINING

Kindly contact Sheila Grant on sheilagrant54@gmail.com or 76-367046 or 07527916494 if you wish to join this group.

LOCAL HISTORY

Leader is Peter James. Meetings at 2.00pm in St. Barbara's Church Hall in Rochester Road Earlsdon. **The FIRST THURSDAY of every month**

JANUARY 5TH The Girl who invaded America- born in Foleshill in 1862 the heroine was the daughter of a silk weaver. At the age of 17 she sailed to Philadelphia - what happened next? Speaker :- Peter James

FEBRUARY 1ST St. Mary's Guildhall Coventry - Its history and recent refurbishment. Speaker :- Niamh Carton - Community Engagement Manager - St.Mary's Guildhall.

MARCH 7TH Sixty years of change at Baddesley Clinton 1923- 1980. Speaker :-Jill Kashi

APRIL 4TH Visit to St Mary's Guildhall Coventry (Further details to come later)

PETANQUE

Leader is Peter Jackson. 02476 414230

Meetings Held at Castle Farm Sports Centre, Fishponds Road, Kenilworth. 13.00 in winter;14.00 in summer.

This is quite a successful group now run with Warwick U3A. If you are interested in joining, what Peter describes as a very social activity, please contact him on the above number.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Bill Gill Photograhy Group Secretary

Bring up to ten images on a USB stick New members welcome, see details on our group page

The Photography Group meets at 11.00 on the last Monday of each month at the Hearsall Golf Club, Beechwood Avenue Coventry CV5 6DF

We also have occasional photographic trips out. These usually involve a stop for lunch.

At our meetings, members show up to ten photographs on a set subject chosen by the group two months previously. We also show our favourite photograph of the month, which can be on any subject. Additionally, for 2023 we are collecting "the Accidental Alphabet", subtitled "letters in the Landscape".

Our members use all types of digital cameras and phone cameras.

We would be very pleased to welcome new members. Just come along to a monthly meeting to find out more. Please contact me if you wish to know more or to find out what our current set subjects are. Bring along your photographs on the set subject on a "stick", or just come to see how the group has interpreted the subject.

Bill Gill Secretary Coventry U3A photo group, 07564 627859

POETRY

Leader is Dee Finch 02476414558

We are very pleased to confirm that the Poetry Reading Group will recommence on the third Tuesday of each month. Please contact Dee Finch for further information.

QUIZ Leader: Jane Beidas War Memorial Park Visitor Centre

Please contact JANE BEIDAS by phone - (024) 76692218 or 07905 100655 or Email jbeidas@hotmail.co.uk

THURSDAY	JANUARY 11TH
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 8TH
THURSDAY	MARCH 14TH
THURSDAY	APRIL 11TH

RAMBLING

Leader is John Latham. Meet alternate Tues & Wed.

Contact: John Latham & Jo Swinn 07783308847

ALL RAMBLES COMMENCE AT 10.30 UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. ALL ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER/ LEADER AVAILABILITY. GROUP LEADER TO ADVISE ON NEXT WEEKS WALK. FOR CONFIRMATION RING THAT SPECIFIC WEEKS LEADER.

We always welcome new members and would be especially pleased to find members who would be willing to lead new or existing walks. The weather may sometimes be dismal but the enthusiasm of the walkers is never dimmed. Come along and enjoy the wonderful countryside that Britain still has to offer. Walks are usually followed by a pub lunch.

Please confirm on previous weeks walk or ring the listed walk leader.

SEE THE EDITED VERSION FOR INFORMATION

SHORT WALKS

These walks are led by Jane Tyrell, Peter Davies & other group members. They are every Tuesday morning at 10:30 am. Meeting places change each week; the group also have lunch together afterwards. For more details please contact Jane & Peter. 07767 021228

THEATRE

Anyone requiring details please contact Jacky Hall or Joyce Bird

The idea of a theatre group is to ensure anyone who wishes to see a show or visit the cinema can ask the Theatre Group if they can arrange a trip. We would like everyone to feel that they have someone to go with to enjoy a performance.

We will order tickets together whenever possible with a preference for matinees in Coventry and local areas concentrating on the Belgrade & Albany Theatres. In this case tickets will have to be paid for in advance.

The group meets mostly 10.30 every 3rd Wednesday monthly with coffee meetings at the foyer of the Belgrade. Everyone is welcome to come to these meetings.

WE LOVE POP MUSIC CLUB

Activity wise we meet every other Thursday from 2.00-3.30pm.

We meet in the ground floor Music Lounge of the Albany Club which is situated next door to the Co-op in Earlsdon Street.

Our streamed playlists are delivered via the Club's superb p.a. system and Admission is Free! Many thanks go to the Club for providing us with such a superb venue.

Contact me if you need more information.

Why not pop along on a Thursday to sample our experience? You may well be pleasantly surprised.

Cheers, Colin

The Group Leader is Colin Baldyga 07973 861225

Coventry u3a Outings 2024

May 7 th	Art App	preciation	Derby Art Gallery DE1 1BS Kedleston Hall DE22 5JD (NT)			Cost £24
May 16 th	May 16 th Gardening		RHS Wisley	GU23 6	QB	Cost £31
June 4 th	Art Appreciation		Manchester Art Gallery M2 3JLCost £34 Whitworth Art Gallery M15 6ER			
Jun 27th		& Mountair	tehouse Farm Ash Newtow d cake at both	n Linford		•
Jul 25th		Trip to Wat OX33 1JZ c	erperry Garde ost £33	ns Oxford	dshire	
Aug 22nd		& 5 Burton	neytrees Tropi 1 Lane Whattor 1 cake at both	n Notts N		
Sep 19 th		& Ravelin H	ckamin Callow Ianley Castle V d cake at botł	Norcs WR		TQ
Oct17th		Trip to Stud	dley Castle& G	ardens G	loucs GL	54 5DL Cost £41

All trips apart from May 16th (RHS Wisley) and June 4th (Manchester Art Gallery) will **Depart at 8:45am from Fairfax** Street and 9am from War Memorial Park.

* Departures on May 16th and June 4th will be at 7:45am from Fairfax Street and 8am From the War Memorial Park.