

COVENTRY SPIRES u3a

Website: <https://coventry-spires.u3asite.uk/>

HOT OFF THE PRESS APRIL – JUNE 2026

Chair: Rene Whitlock 02476 675158

Membership: Roger Clark 07935 957 672

Secretary: Kay Gardner 02476 419199

Almoner: Jo Wright 07909 306309

Treasurer: Jo Wright 07909 306309

GENERAL NOTICES

General Meetings

Meetings are held at St. Barbara's Church Hall, Rochester Road, Coventry CV5 6AG, usually on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 2.15 p.m.

Speakers at the General Meetings

Thursday 16th April – Richard Cruchley “The Meaning of Surnames”.

Thursday 21st May – Ian Malin on Warwickshire Search/Rescue.

Thursday 18th June – John Kinroy on his experiences as a film extra.

Tea Rota at the General Meetings

April – French Conversation

May – Geography & History

June – Music & Movement

Could the leaders of these groups please try and make sure some members come to the relevant general meeting to help out. Thanks.

Notes from the Chair

Is spring on the way I wonder? I think spring and autumn might be the best seasons – neither too hot nor too cold, usually. Nice to see snowdrops and daffodils, although a spell of dry weather would be good!.

The Christmas outing to Studley Castle was disappointing again, so at the moment I'm trying to get details of the Lake @ Barston for this year, although these won't be available until August.

With regard to our new Secretary, Hazel Williams, and new Treasurer, Jane Black, they are working in tandem with the current officers at the moment, until they officially take over at the AGM. Again, many thanks to them both for volunteering.

General Notes

If you are experiencing difficulty in receiving Hot off the Press, please contact our Membership Secretary, Roger Clark, who will do his best to sort it out for you, but please check your junk section first if you receive HOTP by email. Thanks.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are as follows:-

Annual Subscription - £15. Payable from 1st April.

If you are a member of any other u3a and pay their full fee - £11

If you receive Hot off the Press by post, there will be an additional charge of £3.60 towards postal costs.

If you receive the u3a's magazine, the additional cost will be £3.60.

Over 90's – free (well done).

Please pay only at a general meeting or by post to Roger Clark, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card, and the cheque made payable to Coventry Spires u3a, to 60 Rouncil Lane, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1FQ. You can also pay by bank transfer – please contact Jo Wright for details.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please be aware that if Rene puts your name on any of the lists for our trips, payment where relevant is required except in extenuating circumstances. Also, as soon as Rene puts your name down and when you make a payment, please put this in your diary to avoid confusion. In addition, please make a note in your diary of the details of the trip as soon as these become available. Thanks.

N.B. Please note that owing to the fact that we have been successful in obtaining a grant from the National Lottery Awards for All, the only charge for our trips will be to cover any extra costs such as entrance fees etc., as the coach fare will be covered by the grant. The grant finishes at the end of March 2027.

2026 Holiday

This will be to Warner's Holme Lacy House in the Wye Valley on 13th July for 5 days (4 nights). At the time of writing, one single room has become available, so please let Rene know asap if you would like this.

Day Trips

Thursday 2nd April – British Motor Museum, Gaydon, where there is a special exhibition including a Rolls Royce once owned by John Lennon, plus “motoring music”. The exhibition is called “Beep Beep Yeah”.

Thursday 2nd July – Trentham Gardens, as many people enjoyed the stop-off here, on the way to Alvaston Hall.

Thursday 3rd September – Severn Valley Railway, hopefully.

All details tbc.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Art & Craft Appreciation: Contact Margaret Bonnell 024 7641 3579, David Taylor 024 7705 0247, or Martin Lewin 024 7650 5639.

Friday 1st May – Leamington Art Gallery, Open Exhibition providing a showcase for artists living and working in the West Midlands. Free event. As usual, we meet in the Art Gallery Cafe from about 10 a.m. and go round the exhibition from about 10.45 a.m.

All other dates to be confirmed.

Book Club 1: Meet 10.00 a.m. Contact Margaret on 024 7641 3579
Dates for April, May & June to be confirmed.

Book club 2: Meet Tuesday morning every 4 – 6 weeks. Contact Sue on 0779 989 8776.
We have places if any members would like to join us.

Club Games: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Rene on 02476 675158

This group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at Hearsall Golf Club. We can stay for lunch afterwards if we want to. The games are usually snooker, dominoes, trionimoes & card games etc., and we all have a bit of fun.

Meetings: 13th April, 11th May, 8th June.

Craft: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Sue on 07564 627 860 or email widgiegill13@gmail.com

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at the War Memorial Park Visitors' Centre. £2 per session to cover room hire. Tea & coffee included. We try a different craft each month and have done card making, quilling, printing, Tunisian crochet, pottery and many other crafty makes. We are a friendly crowd and would warmly welcome any new members to our group.

Creative Writing: Contact Mike on 07854 597180

This is a relatively new group – please contact Mike for meeting details.

Current Affairs: Meet 2.00 p.m. Contact John on 07973 425712 or Irene on 02476 713674

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at Hearsall Golf Club. We discuss anything which has been in the news during the past month. Please bring a news item to discuss. New members are always very welcome.

Meetings: 21st April, 19th May, 16th June.

French Conversation: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Rene on 02476 675158

This group meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Visitors' Centre, War Memorial Park, for 2 hours. We are a very friendly and informal group, welcoming new members who are looking to practise and improve their French. Generally speaking, it's 'O' level French standard.

Meetings: 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June.

Geography & History: Meet 10 a.m. Contact Cathie on 02476 410282 or email cathiedaviesfhy@yahoo.co.uk

Meetings are usually on the 3rd Monday in the month at the Visitors' Centre, War Memorial Park. Contact Cathie regarding availability.

II: Contact Martin on 0773 673963 or email m.campbellkelly@gmail.com

If you have any problems with your mobile phones and tablets, please contact Martin either by phone or email and he will be happy to meet you on a one-to-one basis to talk it through.

Italian Conversation: Contact Felicia on 02476 478738 or 07443 611007

Music & Movement: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Rene on 02476 675158

This is fairly gentle exercise to music – mostly from the 60's and 70's. It is held at St. Barbara's Church Hall's Meeting Room on the 3rd Wednesday of each month for 1 hour. Do come along to see if it's what you are looking for. It's good fun, and we have soothing words and music at the end of each session for meditation!

Meetings: 15th April, 20th May, 17th June

Painting & Drawing: Meet 1.30 p.m. Contact David on 02477 050247

This group usually meets on alternate Wednesdays at the Visitors' Centre, War Memorial Park, until 3.30 p.m.

Meetings: 1st, 15th & 29th April, 13th & 27th May, 10th & 24th June.

Poetry Appreciation Group 1: Meet 2 pm at Margaret's house.

Contact Margaret on 02476 425572. Meeting on 14th April. All other dates tbc.

Poetry Appreciation Group 2: Contact Marilyn on 02475 099148 or 07747 527624

This is a new group. Meetings at Marilyn's house. Contact Marilyn for details.

Psychology: Meet 11 a.m. Contact Keith on 02476 416917 or email keithredhead1@hotmail.co.uk

We meet at Hearsall Golf Club in Earlsdon on the 4th Tuesday in the month for 2 hours. This group is very friendly and new members are always very welcome.

Meetings: 28th April, 26th May, 23rd June.

Quiz: Meet 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start. Contact Vivien on 02476 592466.

This group meets on the 3rd Monday in the month at the United Reformed Church in Warwick Row. We play in teams so there is no pressure on an individual person, just lots of enjoyment.

Meetings: 20th April, 18th May, 15th June.

Rambling: Meet 10 a.m. Contact John on 02476 670661.

You are welcome to join us on rambles (4 – 5 miles) which start at 10 a.m. Please 'phone the leader to confirm details. If you wish to lead a walk, please give details to John for inclusion in the next programme.

Scrabble 1: Contact Lesley on 02476 417102

This group now needs more members.

Scrabble 2: Meet 10 a.m. Contact Vivien on 02476 592466

This group meets in Room 71 at the Belgrade Theatre (which is on the ground floor next to the cafe). New people wishing to join us would be made very welcome. Remember, we play for enjoyment and fun.

Meetings: 30th April, 28th May, 25th June.

Singing for Fun: Contact Rene on 02476 675158.

This new group had its first meeting in February in the Methodist Church, Earlsdon which was very successful. It doesn't matter what level your singing is – it's strictly for fun and we will choose what songs we sing. We have wonderful piano accompaniment on the Church's grand piano – we all know that singing is very good for your health and well-being, so please give it a try.

No meeting in April as it's our u3a's trip to Gaydon on 2nd, but hope to meet on 7th May & 4th June.

Table Tennis: Meet 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start. Contact Rene on 02476 675158.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday in the month in St. Barbara's Church Hall for 1 hour. Afterwards we go to one of the cafes in Earlsdon Street for lunch.

Meetings: 9th April, 14th May, 11th June.

The Boffins: Contact Chris on 07718 325402

This is another relatively new group which talks about such things as AI, Ground Source Heating, Space Travel, Renewable Energy, Electric Cars and Nuclear Power.

Contact Chris for details of meetings.

Other new groups we are hoping to start:

Classic Cars, Knitting & Crochet.