

COVENTRY SPIRES u3a

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

HOT OFF THE PRESS JULY – SEPTEMBER 2026

Chair: Rene Whitlock: 02476 675158

Secretary: Kay Gardner: 02476 419109

Treasurer: Jane Black: 02476 591010

Membership: Dev Dayal: 07719 112 115

Almoner: Jo Wright: 07909 306 309

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 23rd July – Paul Thompson "The Past in Practice" (the ancient Greeks including costumes & artefacts).

Thursday 20th August – Songs with Marcia and cream tea.

Thursday 17th September – Andy Deeley on bee-keeping.

Tea Rota at the General Meetings

July – Painting & Drawing

August – Poetry Appreciation Group 1

September – Poetry Appreciation Group 2

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

It is with great sadness that I have to let you know of the sudden passing away of our long-serving membership secretary, Roger Clark, on 8th May. Our condolences go to his friends and family. Dev Dayal has very kindly volunteered to take over this position and we are very grateful to him for this. We would ask for your patience during this transition as the circumstances are making it quite difficult, as you can imagine, but Dev will do his best. Please note, it may be that we will have to ask those of you who take the Third Age Trust magazine to contact Head Office in order to receive future copies.

The outing to the British Motor Museum at Gaydon went very well, as did the Elvis tribute at Hearsall Golf Club plus the trip to Abba Voyage (although this was a very long day!). Would you believe, the Abba Voyage show makes £1.6m per week!!

General Notes

If you are experiencing difficulty in receiving Hot off the Press, please contact our Membership Secretary, Dev Dayal, who will try and sort it out for you, but please check your junk section first if you receive HOTP by email. Thanks.

Subscriptions

Annual Subscription - £15. Payable now please.

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 want the u3a's magazine, the additional cost will be £4.20.
Over 90's – free (very well done).

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 Hotel in the Wye Valley on 13th July for 5 days (4 nights). The excursions will be to Hereford plus Berrington Hall (N.T.).

Day Trips

Thursday 2nd July – Trentham Gardens. Cost £10. Start 9.30 a.m. from the Memorial Park. Leave Trentham Gardens 3.30 p.m. If you want to visit the Monkey Forest, there's an extra charge at a discounted rate of £13.50, payable on the day.

Thursday 3rd September – Severn Valley Railway from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth & back. Cost £23. An early start from the Memorial Park 8.45 a.m. as they now want us to get there well before the departure time. Leave Kidderminster 4.30 p.m.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Art & Craft Appreciation: Contact Margaret Bonnell 024 7641 3578, David Taylor 024 7705 0247, or Martin Lewin 024 7650 5639.

All meeting dates for July, August & September to be confirmed.

Book Club 1: Meet 10.00 a.m. Contact Margaret on 024 7641 3579
Dates for July, August & September 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 and card games etc., and we all have a bit of fun.

Meetings: No meeting in July. 10th August, 14th September.

Craft: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Sue on 07564 627 860 or email sue@craftgroup.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, 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 new group usually meets at 3.00 p.m. on a Monday in the cafe at Earlsdon Methodist Church, but please contact Mike for meeting details.

Current Affairs: Meet 2.00 p.m. Contact John on 02476 425 712 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 July, 18th August, 15th September.

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 July, 5th August, 2nd September.

Geography & History: Meet 10 a.m. Contact Cathie on 02476 410282 or email cathie@yaho.co.uk
Meetings are usually on the 3rd Monday in the month at the Visitors' Centre, War Memorial Park. Contact Cathie regarding availability.

IT: Contact Martin on 02476 673963 or email m.campanella@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 473738 or 07443 611 007

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 need. It's good fun, and we have soothing words and music at the end of each session for relaxation purposes.
Meetings: No meeting in July (trip). 19th August, 16th September.

Painting & Drawing: Meet 1.30 p.m. Contact David on 02476 050 247
This group usually meets on alternate Wednesdays at the Visitors' Centre, War Memorial Park, until 3.30 p.m.
Meetings: 8th & 22nd July, No meetings in August. 16th & 30th September.

Poetry Appreciation Group 1: Meet 2 p.m. at Margaret's house.
Contact Margaret on 02476 413579 for details of meetings.

Poetry Appreciation Group 2: Contact Marilyn on 02476 599148 or 07747 527 524

This new group meets once a month, 2 p.m. on a Monday 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 July, 25th August, 22nd September.

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's no pressure on an individual person, just lots of enjoyment.

Meetings: 20th July, 17th August, 21st September.

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 July, 27th August, 24th September.

Singing for Fun: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Rene on 02476 675158.

This new group meets in Earlsdon Methodist Church for 1 hour. It doesn't matter what level your singing is – it's strictly for fun and we choose what songs we sing. The church has a wonderful grand piano which Rene will attempt to play for our meetings during the summer when the usual accompanist will be in Florida. Remember, singing is very good for your health and well-being, plus the cafe is very good!

Meetings: No meeting in July. (trip). **6th August.** No meeting in September (trip).

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 July, 13th August, 10th September.

The Boffins: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Chris on 02476 675317

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.

Meetings: No meetings in July or August. **10th September.**

We hope to start groups for Classic Cars, Knitting & Crochet at some point.