

COVENTRY SPIRES u3a

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

HOT OFF THE PRESS OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2026

Chair: Rene Whitlock: 02476 675158

Vice-Chair: Vivien Pulley 02

Secretary: Kay Gardner: 024

Treasurer: Jane Black: 0

Membership: Dev Dayal: 07710 11 113

Almoner: Jo Wright: 07900 300 302

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 15th October – AGM, followed by Duncan Taylor from People's Partners talking about care in the home.

Thursday 19th November – Lucy Sewall talking about her life as a police-woman.

Thursday 17th December – Mike Roberts, professional keyboard player and singer, followed by Christmas buffet.

Tea Rota at the General Meetings

October – Psychology

November – Quiz

December – Rambling

Notes from the Chair

Hopefully the very hot weather is now behind us, although we may now have to deal with deluges!

The holiday to Holme Lacy was hopefully enjoyed by all those who went, and we were blessed with good weather. The trip to Trentham Gardens was also very good. Next year's trips and holiday are still to be sorted out, but the holiday could be to Potters at Hopton on Sea, and one of the trips could be to Gloucester Docks.

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.

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, please phone Head Office (Rene will give you the number).

Over 90's – free (very well done).

Please pay only at a general meeting or by post to Dev Dayal, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card, and the cheque made payable to Coventry Spires u3a, to 31 Elmwood Court, St. Nicholas Street, Radford, Coventry CV1 4BS. You can also pay by bank transfer to Lloyds Bank, High Street, Coventry, sort code 30-92-33, account no. 04863637.

AGM

This is to give you notice of our AGM on 15th October. We are not looking for any new Officers or committee members but are obliged to let you have the attached form regarding the posts of Treasurer, Secretary and committee members so that the people who have been carrying out these positions in tandem with the outgoing holders can be voted in officially.

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, but we will most likely go for this to be renewed.

Day Trips

Our remaining trip is to the Lake @ Barston for a Christmas lunch and entertainment on Wednesday 9th December. This is now full, but there is a waiting list in case anyone drops out.

2027 Holiday

This could be to Potters at Hopton on Sea, on 21st June for 5 days (4 nights) but arrangements are in their infancy.

2027 Day Trips

One of them could be to Gloucester Docks, and maybe one to Emma Bridgewater's pottery factory (if it's still going), plus one to a National Trust house but, again, nothing has been organised yet.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Art & Craft Appreciation: Contact David Taylor 024 7705 0247 or Martin Lewin 024 7650 5639. All meeting dates for October, November & December to be confirmed.

Book Club 1: Meet 10.00 a.m. Contact Margaret on 024 7650 5639. Dates for October, November & December to be confirmed.

Book Club 2: Meet Tuesday morning every 4 – 6 weeks. Contact Sue on 0775 389 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: 12th October, 9th November, 14th December.

Craft: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Sue on 0564 627 860 or email wideregill13@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, 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 group usually meets at 3.00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday in the month at the Wellspring cafe, Earlsdon Methodist Church.
Meetings: 27th October, 24th November, 29th December.

Current Affairs: Meet 2.00 p.m. Contact John on 07973 425 712 or Irene on 0476 613 671
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: 20th October, 17th November. No meeting on 15th December as it's the Christmas Lunch at 12.30 p.m.

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: 7th October, 4th November, 2nd December.

Geography & History: Meet 10.00 a.m. Contact Cathie on 02476 410282 or email thiedavies@yaho.co.uk
Meetings are usually on the 3rd Monday in the month at the Visitors' Centre, War memorial Park.
Contact Cathie regarding dates and availability.

IT: Contact Martin on 02476 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.

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: 21st October, 18th November, 16th December.

Painting & Drawing: Meet 1.30 p.m. Contact David on 02476 675158
This group usually meets on alternate Wednesdays at the Visitors' Centre, War Memorial Park, until 3.30 p.m.
Meetings: 14th & 28th October, 11th & 25th November, 9th December.

Poetry Appreciation Group 1: Meet 2.00 p.m. at Margaret's house.
Contact Margaret on 02476 513579 for details of meetings.

Poetry Appreciation Group 2: Contact Marilyn on 02476 527 624
This group meets once a month, 2.00 p.m. on a Monday at Marilyn's house. Contact Marilyn for details.

Psychology: Meet 11a.m. Contact Keith on 02476 416917 or email keith@redhead@hotmail.co.uk
We meet at Hearsall Golf Club in Earlsdon, usually on the 4th Tuesday in the month for 2 hours.
This group is very friendly and new members are always very welcome.
Meetings: 27th October, 24th November, 15th December for Christmas Lunch at 12.30 p.m.

Quiz: Meet 10.15 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start. Contact Vivien on 02476 513579
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: 19th October, 16th November, 14th December.

Rambling: Meet 10.00 a.m. Contact John on 02476 513579
You are welcome to join us on rambles (4 – 6 miles) which start at 10.00 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 10.00 a.m. Contact Vivien on 02476 513579
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: 29th October, 26th November, no meeting in December.

Singing for Fun: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Rene on 02476 675158
This 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 and we have a very good pianist. Remember, singing is very good for your health and well-being, plus the cafe is very good!
Meetings: 1st October, 5th November, 3rd December.

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: 8th October, 12th November, 10th December.

The Boffins: Meet 10.30 a.m. Contact Chris on 02476 513579 or Jim on 02476 675158
This group talks about such things as AI, Ground Source Heating, Renewable Energy.
Phone Chris for dates.

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