

u3a

Learn Laugh Live

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<https://u3asites.org.uk/shottery/home>
www.u3a.org.uk

SHOTTERY u3a

NEWSLETTER: March 2026

Tuesday, March 3rd

**Warwickshire first world war heroine
Lady Dorothe Feilding**

Christine Cluley

DESK AND REFRESHMENT ROTA:

March – Rambling

April - Local History

Duties include checking members in at the entrance desk and serving tea and coffee and washing up afterwards (dishwasher available). Generally 4 members are required. Where groups have difficulty in raising the necessary 4 members, please get in touch with Jan Grant– Group Coordinator. (01789 417721)

Please note that as I don't have a current rota pattern I have gone back to the 2023 list I have. Apologies if you find your group listed above and have recently already done the duty. Kate

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

April 7th – The Art and Science of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery – Peter Craig

May 5th – Guide Dog Training -Rod Arthur

Chair 's report for March 2026

Thank you all for attending our meetings. I hope you all enjoyed the impromptu quiz by ChatGPT at the February meeting ,after the speaker cancelled at short notice. I think Chat GPT is the future! I can see why students find it so easy to use it to write their essays, but it does need careful proof-reading. We wish Lyn, our Newsletter editor, all the best following her car accident. She is recovering well after a spell in Coventry Hospital. My thanks to Kate for stepping in to cover for Lyn. I look forward to seeing you all at the March meeting. Let's hope it stops raining! Frances.

National News

u3a Festival 26 tickets are now available to book. U3a's biggest event of the year. Members will meet together for three brilliant days of learning, sharing and connection. You can find out more on the national website.

Find out more about Interest Groups Online..

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/interest-groups-online>

If you have any ideas for future activities, or want to see what's available including online interest groups, please email learning@u3a.org.uk. Get involved!

INTEREST GROUPS

We are always interested in expanding the number and range of interest groups that are on offer. If you would be interested in developing a new group, please get in touch with the Secretary via the website group

<https://u3asites.org.uk/shottery/home> .

New Group Launch - Poetry Matters!

The aim of this exciting new group from Stratford-on-Avon u3a will be to explore the fabulously rich tradition of poetry in this country - poetry that distils experience, delights, moves us and even changes the way we think about ourselves and the world.

The group will develop its appreciation of this wealth by coming together to read and share our responses to some carefully selected poems on a chosen theme for each session.

To facilitate meaningful discussion the poems will be shared in advance of each session and each session will be a stand-alone so members can opt in and out as they wish. As well, because this is a new group the intention will be to continually review the way the group works to ensure it best meets the wishes of its members.

Anyone with an enthusiasm for poetry, or who would like their interest kindled, will be welcome regardless of previous knowledge or experience. Currently the plan is to

hold the sessions in a easily accessible venue in central Stratford at a frequency, dates and times to be agreed by the group.

Members from all local u3a groups will be especially welcome!

For further information and to express an interest please contact Jonathan Baker from Stratford-on-Avon u3a at jonobaker@hotmail.com



Group Reports

Gardening Group

As agreed at our January meeting we did not hold an outing in February. Bearing in mind the weather we have had so far this year I, for one, was grateful for this decision! Our first planned visit in 2026 may have to be amended but I have already flagged this directly with the Garden Group members and a final decision has, at the time of writing, not been made. Nick

Ambling Group

Amble 10 February was around Stratford because of weather conditions.



Thirteen of us met at the Crown Plaza and because of floods we were not able to get to the Fisherman's Car Park. Change of plan necessary, so we decided to head towards the Tramway, lots of snowdrops to look at on the banks. We then made our way back towards the river, which in places had breached the bank the day before so a little paddling through puddles required.

Refreshments at the RSC afterwards was welcomed. Report by Carole as I was enjoying the Orchid festival at Kew gardens. Margaret

Rambling Group

January's Ramble on Tuesday 27th was really quite damp, walking on the Thwaites estate near Chesterton with lunch in the Butcher's Arms in Bishop's Itchington (five walked, four dined). But we were out in the fresh air!

This year's Rambles (locations to be decided) will be on;
Feb 24th, March 24th, April 28th, May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th,
September 22nd, October 27th and November 24th.

If you wish to join the group, please write to Martin Young at xh558@yahoo.co.uk.

Local History Group

The first meetings of the year have been bedevilled by weather one storm that didn't happen and one that did. Rain affected attendance but we found plenty to talk about on a wide range of topics.

Photographs found by one group member led us to workhouses to education via change of use to proposals to pedestrianise High Street, an idea that has been tried before and failed.

A very wet but thoroughly enjoyable meeting. Miles

Keep Fit

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 Shotton. 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 and being added to the list. Jan

Lunch Club

The next lunch club meeting is **Thursday 12th March** meeting at 1pm.. Lunch club is at different venues. Signing-up lists are put on the table at the Tuesday monthly meeting.

Digital Photography

We had a really interesting session with some members showing their 20 favourite photographs.

Sadly time ran out for others to show theirs so we will see them at the next meeting.

One member had a photograph of him aged 3 in his gasmask in war time. We forgave him for not taking the photograph himself! His national service photograph saw him on Christmas Island collecting coconuts! Another member showed wonderful wildlife photos with some very spectacular ones from African safaris, and very old architecture in the middle east. A member showed fantastic winter views of the coast around the Cape of Good Hope as well as Egyptian temples.

The subject for March is "Spring". We have space for two more members, please contact me. We meet on the third Friday afternoon in a member's house with refreshments and chat. Frances

Play Reading

Our January meeting took place on yet another wet afternoon but we were warmed up by reading the first Act of Haunted by Eric Chappell. We decided to start it again as we had a new member and it had been so long ago (November) that we had read it we had almost forgotten the plot!

This means that we will finish the play at our February meeting on Friday 27th. We meet on the last Friday of the month at 2 .15pm. More members are welcome. Please contact me if you're interested. Lauri

Book Group

Our book for February was 'Buried Deep' by Naomi Novik . At the time of writing we have not had the meeting so I can't report views but this book of short stories was certainly something different! Some of the stories were based around myths , fairy stories and legends and all were in the fantasy genre which we haven't addressed often.

Having welcomed two new members, the group is currently full, but if anyone would like to start a second group, advice on how to do this is available – contact Kate

Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter or enquiries regarding interest groups or membership leaders via the email

shotteryu3a@gmail.com