

**u3a**

Learn Laugh Live

Registered Charity No. 288007  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/shottery/home>  
[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

## **SHOTTERY u3a**

### **NEWSLETTER: April 2026**

**Tuesday, May 5th**

**Guide Dog Training**

**Rod Arthur ( with his canine friend!)**

A collection in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind  
will be taken at the meeting

#### **DESK AND REFRESHMENT ROTA:**

**May – Play Reading**

**June – Book Group**

*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:**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – Guide Dog Training -Rod Arthur**

**June – Warwickshire Search and Rescue – Nick Cole**

**THANKS!** *This message was received from the speaker at last month's meeting where a collection for his chosen charity was taken ( Cardiac Research in Young People). Thank you all for your donations. We aim to make a collection for the charity selected by any speaker who does not charge for their talk.*

'Thank you so much for your kind donation of £100.00 and for choosing CRY as the charity to benefit from your talk at Shottery U3A.

Your support means a great deal to us and will help us to continue our campaign to reduce the number of young sudden cardiac deaths and the heartbreak that follows such a tragedy.

It is only through the generosity of our supporters that CRY is able to offer its essential services and to pursue important campaign aims and objectives. Every single contribution to CRY is greatly appreciated.'

### **New Series – Your input needed!**

Have you had your 15 minutes of fame? If so, would you share it with us all in the newsletter? Many people have had an encounter with someone famous, done something noteworthy which gave them 'fame' ( or notoriety!). It doesn't have to be major, even a smidgeon of 'fame' would be interesting. We'd love you to write a short piece for inclusion in the newsletter ( with photos if appropriate). Send it to:

**[shotteryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shotteryu3a@gmail.com)**

### **National News**

*u3a Festival Fringe* - take part in the fun Find out more about Interest Groups Online..  
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/learning/interest-groups-online>

If you aren't able to attend *u3a Festival 26*, we're delighted to share *u3a Festival Fringe*. This is an online events programme specifically curated to complement the Festival activities.

The events will take place in the lead up to, and following on from, the Festival in York on 1-3 July, making a full two weeks of learning and fun. The programme will feature online workshops and talks from Festival speakers with highlights including *How to watercolour*, *The role of women in ancient Egypt*, and *The role of wind energy in the UK's electricity system*.

### **Tell the story of UK's historic buildings**

Today we have launched our new learning activity, *Missing Pieces*, where you can help uncover the stories of the historic buildings near you. Whether it's a place

you've passed every day, a building with a family connection, or one that's quietly overlooked, your written or visual record can help build a richer picture of our shared heritage.

Get involved and download a learning pack for your u3a group on [the \*Missing Pieces\* page](#).

### ***Missing Pieces Events***

To support this learning activity, we are running a series of online events about buildings around the UK:

[Kingsmeadow House: the inside story of a modest country house - 1 May, 2pm](#)

[Save Buildings at risk: empowering community - 7 May, 2pm](#)

[The legacy of Edinburgh's Victorian Swimming baths - 15 May, 2pm](#)

[People's Collection Wales: exploring the public archive of Welsh history - 28 May, 2pm](#)

### **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> .

Poetry Matters - For further details please get in touch with Jonathan Baker at [jonobaker@hotmail.com](mailto:jonobaker@hotmail.com)

A message from the Groups coordinator at Dene Valley. We currently have a couple of vacancies in each of our Tai Chi / Fusions classes 1.45-2.45 Mondays and 9-10 on a Wednesday if any of your members are interested. Please contact me if you want any more information. Dave Houlton

### **Group Reports**

#### **Local History Group**

No report available this month. Contact Miles for information about the group

## Gardening Group



April's visit was to Spetchley Park Gardens near Worcester. Unfortunately due to a number of different reasons only three members were able to attend. However, the consensus was the gardens were beautiful and lived up to the website's description of it being a 30 acre Victorian paradise. Although too early to see the peonies there were plenty of spring flowers and the magnolias were spectacular. As Spetchley has one of the finest and largest private collections of peonies a return visit is a must.  
Nick

## Ambling Group

No report available this month. Contact Margaret for information about the next amble. Margaret

## Rambling Group

This month's ramble has not taken place at the time of compiling the newsletter.

This year's remaining Rambles (locations to be decided) will be on;

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](mailto:xh558@yahoo.co.uk).

## Digital Photography



We had a well attended meeting in April with the subject of Spring. We saw some wonderful spring flowers and views of Spring scenes. Our next subject is 'Close -ups' on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm at Rickie's. We look forward to seeing as many members as can attend, anyone wishing to join us please contact Frances

## Play Reading

The group meets on a Friday afternoon on the last Friday of each month. This month we are finishing the play Dangerous Corner by JB Priestley on 24th April.

Visitors are welcome to come to the group, if you would like to see how we operate, with a view to joining us. Contact me to find out where we are meeting. Lauri Scrivens.

### **Lunch Club**

The next lunch club meeting is Thursday 14th May meeting at 12:30 for lunch at 1pm.. Lunch club is at different venues. Signing-up lists are put on the table at the Tuesday monthly meeting.

### **Book Group**

This month we read 'Swimming in the Dark' a well-written, debut novel by Tomasz Jedrowski which provoked differing responses. Set in communist Poland in 1980's during times of unrest leading to the 'Solidarity' movement revolts (remember that?). Written as a letter from Ludwik who has fled to USA, the novel explores love, loss and political repression. It follows a growing, gay relationship between Ludwik and Janusz who meet at a summer agricultural camp. It is a forbidden love. All this is set against a repressive society which tears them apart as Ludwik decides he cannot live within this system and Janusz decides to play the system, join the party and get married to a woman. We are shown how difficult it is to stick to ideological principles when your life and those of your loved ones can be improved by working within the system. Some of us liked it and some disliked it and did not finish.

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

### **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 Shottery. 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. Jan Jones

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

***[shotteryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shotteryu3a@gmail.com)***