

July 2026 News

**Our Monthly Meeting in St Peter's Church
Wellesbourne CV35 9LS
is at 2pm for 2.30pm on Tuesday 14th July.**

Our presentation, by **Nick Martin**, will be a **Celebration of British birds**.

Our Relationship with Birds

This talk will build upon our love of birds and our relationship with them and how many species have adapted to live alongside us and our activities. We'll look at the rare birds, the common species and the new kids on the block. We'll enjoy the best of the dawn chorus, seabirds, birds of prey and many more.



Cartridge Recycling

This article is included on behalf of the "Friends of Hastings House" who, as you may know, organise various initiatives to raise funds for the purchase of equipment for use by Hasting House Medical Centre which cannot be funded by the NHS. They have recently set up a project called "Recycle4Charity" to collect used printer cartridges and send to a company who will pay for them. There are already drop-off points in Hastings House Medical Centre, The Community Hub and Body Balance Works. This has now been extended to include a collection point in St Peter's Church. This is a great initiative which we hope u3a members are prepared to support.

Also, anyone who can't get to a collection point can contact Audrey Spriggs at secretary@friendsofhastingshouse.co.uk who will arrange pick up from your homes.

Opening of the Community Hub

The Parish Council has arranged an event on Sunday 12th July 2026, between 13:00–17:00, to celebrate the opening of the new Community Hub in Wellesbourne. For those of you not sure where this is, it's the old "Connie Club" at 14 Church Street, CV35 9LS.

Guests will have the opportunity to explore the building, which has rooms to hire for meetings etc. Our u3a is already planning to start a new snooker group using the 3 large tables upstairs in the Hub. The afternoon will include refreshments and food, family-friendly activities, and a free raffle. Family members and friends are very welcome to attend.

We have been asked to notify the manager of the Community Hub roughly how many members of the u3a, and possibly their families, are likely to attend this event although it's not essential to book to come. You can visit anytime throughout the afternoon. Can you notify John Hargis at john.hargis@btinternet.com if you are likely to come by end June please?

Our Groups

We have a wide range of activities in our groups. Visit our web page <https://denevalley.u3asite.uk/groups/> to see what you can do.

JOIN DENE VALLEY U3A LAWN BOWLS GROUP!



Looking for a fun, friendly way to stay active?

Come and discover the game of lawn bowls!



Suitable for all



Gentle exercise and fresh air



Make new friends and enjoy social events



Coaching and equipment provided for beginners

Whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced player, everyone is welcome.



Free taster sessions available



Convenient local location



Enjoy a friendly atmosphere on and off the green

The group is free to play and refreshments are available to purchase.

Sessions are: **Mondays 2.00 – 4.00 pm** at the **Wellesbourne Bowls Club**.

Give lawn bowls a try – you may be surprised how much you enjoy it!

For more information or to arrange a visit contact Margaret Taylor:



07774630124



Taylor.mgt@outlook.com

Narrowboating

For our **July** trip we'll be returning to Bidford and heading up the Avon, to Luddington, or even Stratford if we feel like it. Within hours of announcing this to my mailing list I half-filled a boat, so who knows, by cast-off we may need both boats! Fare around £20; Lunch at the 4 Alls. Dates have now narrowed to **Wed 15** and **Tue 28 July**. Contact me if you'd like to come along.

Peter Davies [07973 908249](tel:07973908249) , dvu3anews@gmail.com



Subscriptions and AGM Our Committee have agreed a change in the Subscription year: it now runs from October to September, so we'll get a free month! Subscriptions will therefore be due fairly soon. They remain at £12 for the year, payable by BACS, cheque or cash. See <https://denevalley.u3asite.uk/join-us/> for details.

Our AGM will be at the **Tuesday 8th September** Main Meeting, when we'll be presenting reports and swearing in a new Committee. We'd love to have some new Committee members. Would you like to serve? More in the September Newsletter.

Chairman: Alison Edwards [01295 688247](tel:01295688247) alison.mallalieu@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: William Howard [01789 508831](tel:01789508831) william.howard@dunelm.org.uk

Groups Coordinator: David Houlton [07713 137336](tel:07713137336) dave.houlton@btinternet.com

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Copy for next month to Peter by the 15th please. Registered **Charity** Number 1183747

Web: <https://denevalley.u3asite.uk/> **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/denevalleyu3a

Reports

Social Event / Quiz

Trains, Planes and Autos: Trip to Statfold Barn Narrow Gauge Railway

England's Heritage Group: Visit to Henley on Thames 11/5/26

SOCIAL EVENT

On Saturday 30th May, our u3a held its first ever social event! After much deliberation, a working group led by our Chair, Alison, along with Trevor Shaw, Jackie Williams and John Hargis, decided to go for a quiz night with those attending this free event encouraged to bring along their own food and drink. What an evening it turned out to be! The 40 or so members that came along were spread over 10 tables with the first hour spent consuming the food and drink they had brought. This was followed by a quiz session hosted by Chris and Jane who took us through a wide array of questions with much hilarity coming from all of the groups. The entire evening lasted over 3 hours with prizes given out for various parts of the quiz. A questionnaire was filled in by many of those attending with the overall conclusion being that, apart from a good time being had by all, we should look at holding other events. We are listening so, as they say, "watch this space".



TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOS visit to Statfold Barn Narrow Gauge Railway

The June trip of the Trains, Planes and Autos group was to the Statfold Barn Narrow Gauge railway near Tamworth. We were able to take unlimited rides on both the 12.25 inch and 24 inch tracks through miles of scenic countryside. The museum



holds over 20 steam and diesel engines from manufacturers around the world with many more under restoration in its own workshops.

There is also a fairground museum within the grounds



which offers a feeling of vintage fun fairs including bumper cars and penny slot machines! A good day out for friends and family!

John Hargis

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Englands Heritage Group - Visit to Henley on Thames 11/5/26



Our visit in May was to Greys Court, less than 3 miles from Henley on Thames. As we were very close to the river we decided to skip our usual pub lunch arrangements. This gave more time for a quick look round Henley and the river trip

Visit to Greys Court

In 1086, when Domesday Book was written, the Norman knight Anschetil de Grai held land at Redrefeld. This included the site of Greys Court and its nearby village of Rotherfield Greys, both of which were named after him.

Set in the rolling hills of the Chilterns in Oxfordshire, Greys Court began as a small, defended house in the 12th century. Around 1558, Sir Francis Knollys began greatly

enlarging and
modernising the
house to
encourage a royal
visit from
Elizabeth I.
Strange how
many of the
houses we visit
were spruced up
in anticipation of
her royal visit
The house was
further expanded
with wealth created



by sugar plantations in the West Indies (and all that suggests to us today !). In the 1930s the house was acquired by Evelyn Fleming , mother of author Ian Fleming. Finally being given to the National Trust in 1969 on condition it maintained its appearance as a family house , rather than a museum. We then settled for a snack in the National Trust cafe on site. We were lucky with the weather, and also the day we chose, The previous Monday was a Bank Holiday with over 800 visitors passing though the gates of Greys Court!

Henley on Thames



Henley-on-Thames is a historic riverside market town with dating back to the 12th Century. Originally a vital inland port supplying Chilterns timber and grain to London, and a route to providing easy access to Oxford. There were very few early bridges built over the Thames. The bridge at Henley was one of the earliest being completed by 1234. Henley is one of the most beautiful towns in England, recently voted by The Times as one of the best places to live in the countryside and a regular winner of Britain in Bloom medal. Henley is well known as the home of the Royal Regatta, one of the most successful boating Thames Boat trip. With 90% chance of rain forecast I was concerned this trip would be a complete washout. However we were lucky once again and rewarded by a very enjoyable 1 hour cruise. This took in the full Regatta course, and at £14.5 per person version was really good value for money.



Thames Boat Trip



There are many boat hire/ boat ride trips at Henley and we used Hobbs of Henley , the largest and oldest one on the river

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