



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

New Website address:-

www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

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April 2011 Newsletter

TODAYS SPEAKER

Today's speaker is Jo Payne who will be talking to us about the wonderful work done by Warwickshire & Northampton Air Ambulance.

NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

Our speaker for 5th May will be Dr Robert Edwards, who will be talking to us on Samuel Cooper. A portrait painter of the Commonwealth and Restoration periods.

OUTING to Lord Leycester Hospital.

In response to requests after the talk by the Master at The Lord Leycester Hospital, there will be an outing to the Hospital on 20th May,

We will leave Johnson's yard at 9.30 (cars can be parked here free) and the Leisure Centre in Stratford at 10.00. and proceed to Warwick.

At the Lord Leycester Hospital we will have coffee served by the Master's wife then the Master will give us a tour of the Hospital and the gardens.

We will have an hour and a half to get lunch in Warwick at either one of the many sandwich places, pubs or The Brethen's Kitchen attached to The Lord Leycester Hospital.

Then we meet at Hill Close Gardens – this is a ten minute walk from the Lord Leycester Hospital – we will have an introduction to the gardens which are a rare survival of Victorian gardens once used by townsfolk to escape from the crowded town. We look at the gardens with a guide and then have tea and cake.

The cost of this outing is £25.00. This is based on 24 people coming on the trip if more than that come we may be able to give a refund.

On Line Courses from National Office.

Several members have started the Art History Course – Great Northern European Artists - and have received the 8 Units via e-mail. Members will meet informally from time to time to discuss their research.

In September David Sladden reaches the end of his term as Treasurer and we will need a replacement. The Committee would like to co-opt a new Committee Member as Assistant Treasurer with a view to him or her taking on the role of Treasurer at the next AGM. If you are interested or would like more information please speak to David at a meeting or telephone him on 01789 295498

STOP PRESS: The Fairtrade Shop is open for members at todays meeting which will be selling tea, coffee, cocoa, cereal, rice, pasta, cookies, chocolate, sweets, dried, sugar, and paper goods.

Your support will be appreciated.

Invitation to all New Members. The Committee invites all of you who have joined Heart of England U3A since September 2010 to join us for afternoon tea in the Annex on **Friday 17th June from 2.30 pm.**

National Summer Schools: Information and application forms for the Summer Schools are on the notice board. The above may also be found on the national web site. www.u3a.org.uk (Members' area - events)

A special request from the committee:

Postage charges are increasing substantially very soon.

If there are any members receiving the monthly newsletter by post who have access to the internet and who would now be willing to see the newsletter via our Web Site, please would you contact the membership secretary Brian Bradley by e-mail. brianfrancestuts@aol.com

Also, all members, please let Brian know if your e-mail details change. Thank you!

Our Web address is: www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

The PDF version of the newsletter on the web site is suitable for viewing or printing. Remember that if you do not have a PDF reader program on your computer, just click on the link provided on the "Newsletter" Section of the Website to download it - the program is free of charge!!

The newsletter is usually available on the web 2 or 3 days *before* the main meeting and paper copies are posted *after* the main meeting to members not attending the meeting.

Message for Interest Group Leaders: The next get-together for the Committee and Group Leaders will be held on **Friday, 6th May**, from 10am to 12 noon in the lounge.

Language College at Stratford Girls' Grammar School:

The Girls' Grammar School offers a range of courses at a reduced fee for U3A members. (£20 for 8 sessions).

Italian for Beginners; Spanish at various levels; and French Conversation for Beginners and Advanced.

If interested, please contact Sarah Parkinson at the School for further information. 01789 293879.

Proposed New Group - Tai Chi.



The first Tai Chi session will be held at the Priory Hall, opposite St.

Gregory's church, on Tuesday, 12th April from 9.15 - 10.15a.m. Cost £5 per session. Any queries please ring Jackie Williams.

Proposed New Discussion Group.

More news next month when we have had our first meeting – watch this space

Athena. Roderick

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation Group



In March we watched an extremely interesting video on ways of looking at art and sculpture, including works by Constable and Elizabeth Frink.

Next month we are going to Birmingham Art Gallery; the May venue has now changed and we will visit Lynda Kettle's exhibition at Preston Bagot :- arrangements later.

Phyllis Collins

Big Band Swing Jazz Group



It is with regret I have to inform you, that a recent new member of our Group Lyndon Hellier has passed away. On behalf of all the members of the Swing and Jazz Group, we offer our sincerest sympathy to his wife Margaret.

The next meeting of the H of E Big Band Swing & Jazz Group is on Tuesday 26th April 2011 at 2pm in The Lounge of The Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon. You are welcome to join in with us. We listen to recorded Big Band Swing and Jazz music. Our Group is a very informal and friendly mixed group of enthusiasts.

Dennis Sully

Bird Watching Group.



Following our meeting this month we have some exciting visits planned. The monthly meetings will be led by different members, who will plan the visits and disperse information to the group. We have some very knowledgeable members. Thank you in advance for sharing your knowledge and skills.

Dorothy Jones

Bridge Group



The Bridge Group is very friendly, very sociable and very keen to encourage new members. Following the life-long learning ethos of all U3As we can offer encouragement to "rusty" ex-players and, for complete beginners, separate introduction card play to get you started.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 in the Methodist Hall Side Room 1. Complete beginners can contact Ann Parker on 01789 205189 to arrange for introductory sessions.

John Yeomans

Chinwags



Grants hosted 12 of us in February. Everyone had an enthusiastic contribution for 'the best production they had seen' and we were still listening while they were trying to serve lunch. No-one offered the King's Speech, but a variety of recent and earlier shows were described, taking us back and producing murmurs of appreciation. Thanks to all.

Aline Cumming

Classical Music Group



Deidre presented her programme "Some favourite Singers and Instrumentalists". A lovely varied programme, John Lill played Schumann's 'Carnival Jest' from Vienna followed by Tasmin Little playing Delius Violin Sonata No 2. This was a wonderful interpretation and of special interest because of her connection with Stratford. Mozart's Clarinet Concerto led us into tea. The beautiful duet from La Boheme sung by Angela Gheorghiu and Robert Alagna was one that always pulls the heart strings. Jose Carreras followed with another Puccini; Nessun Dorma, demonstrating the strength of his voice before his illness. Kathleen Ferrier sang a selection of traditional songs, 'Ye Banks and Braes', 'I have a bonnet trimmed with Blue', 'Down by the Sally Gardens', all delightful. Bryn Terfel concluded the afternoon with Mozart 'Ave Verum Corpus' and John Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and keep you'. Thank you Deidre for the time and care in selecting such uplifting music. Next meeting April 12th, please join us!

Margaret Barnett

"The Choir"



The Choir, formed and run by Tony Griffiths, has been together for over a year. We meet in the Wesley Hall Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford CV37 6BG, every two weeks on a Friday from 12.00 till 1.30 pm. For the first half hour a group member gets us warmed up for our music master professional musician, Stewart Wallace. He is an excellent teacher and from 13th May he will be with us for the whole session. We are increasing the tempo and though not at the encore stage we are aiming for the high notes. Although some of us have not sung in a group for many a year, we are lively and enthusiastic, and we find it very therapeutic. It concentrates the mind and also exercises our lungs and vocal chords.

At our next session we shall have a 'free and easy', then miss the next one due to the Royal Wedding.

Tony Griffiths

Computer Group At Stratford High School.

The final session this term – Thursday, 14th April. Sessions will resume after Easter.



A Beginners Course has been requested so if interested, please sign the sheet on the notice board table or contact Ron or Robyn. Starting date in May will be advertised in the next newsletter.

Robyn Nicoll

Cooks Club Group



The March meeting of the Cooks' Club took place on 27th March, when we sampled two very tasty and different dishes made with Quinoa grain, together with Orange Pekoe tea straight from a Sri Lankan plantation. Various favourite recipes were discussed and exchanged.

The next meeting will be on April 27th. There will be no meeting in May. If anyone would like to join us, please ring Chris Heaps on 01789 550662.

Chris Heaps

Creative Craft Group



The March session saw the group attempting Chinese Paper Cutting assisted by Sheila Giles who provided patterns and papers. This intricate cutting is done with a sharp blade or small scissors to create silhouette pictures or decorations for cards. None of the group had done this craft before and were pleased with the end results.

Our next session on **Thursday 21st April**, 2pm to 4pm in the Annex, will be making Paper Beads. Members will need to bring paper to cut into strips (eg used envelopes or wrapping paper), scissors and ruler, glue and a knitting needle or skewer for winding the paper strips.

Roma Rudd

Card Making workshop



Last weeks meeting was very enjoyable. We welcomed a new member and then with Robyns guidance made cards for men. These fine specimens will be for sale at the next monthly meeting. I was able to send £50 from our sales to the Salvation Army in Stratford in remembrance of Nev MacFarland. At present we are open to suggestions for a local charity to receive our next £50. The next card day will be April 15th 1-5pm in the Side Room. Come and join us for good company cards and a delicious buffet!

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs



There were 10 of us for lunch on the 3rd of March, the venue Jimmy Spices by special request. The conversation was varied, Libya and the Arab Countries; Wasted food : E.U. rules concerning Supermarkets giving food to the needy have stopped. A new U3A for Shipston, there seems to be several people showing an interest, more and more retired Seniors are around and need to be mentally and actively stimulated!!

Cannot drive too far with price of petrol as it is; how high will it get?

We next meet at the Encore on the 5th April.

Sylvia Crooks

Family History Group



The group meets on the third Thursday of the month at Stratford High School at 3.45pm.

We primarily use the Internet to research our Family Histories using Census returns and birth, marriage and death indexes, and there is always someone on hand to offer encouragement and advice on finding those mysterious relatives!

Our next meeting is March 17th. New members are always welcome.

Carol Styles

Grumpy Old Men Group



The European Court of Human Rights - not a topic which would suggest an entertaining discussion over lunch but once again the Grumps managed sparkling and erudite contributions to delight the gathering. Frank Hodgson kicked off proceedings with an outline

of the workings and aims of the Court since its inception in 1959. Each of the 47 countries involved appoints their own representative to the Court which to date has received 57,100 cases for consideration (the majority from Eastern European countries) but judgement has been delivered on only 1,625!!! The different national legal systems throughout Europe inevitably leads to inconsistent interpretations of pronouncements handed down by the Court. The "politically correct" UK usually abides by them - "yes we will do it although we might not fully agree" - while our Continental cousins response often appears to be "yes we will give consideration to what you say" and then "forgets" to take any further action. The UK is basically anti European and therefore anything that goes wrong or is a bit silly is always blamed on Europe but certain recent judgements such as "votes for prisoners" and the possibility of a decree that "prisoners are being denied their human rights if they are not receiving full state benefits" surely gives support to this belief. It was agreed that the Court was indeed a desirable institution but some of its decisions raised the question are we governed by Parliament or Europe and should the European Court of Human Rights be allowed to decide how we conduct our own affairs.

This month's "rotating Chairman" Paul Burley, awarded the Grump of the Month Trophy to Frank Hodgson for his comprehensive introduction and further contributions to the subsequent general discussion.

Next meeting - Wed. 20 April same time and place.

Subject - Female emancipation - a good idea gone wrong??

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We continue to enjoy ourselves making what we hope is a cheerful and tuneful sound. Our stalwart band of 10 Ringers meet regularly every fortnight, at 10 am (this is very early for a Monday Morning!!!). We do have room for more Ringers if anyone is interested in joining us.

Ron Castleton

History Group



At our March Meeting Peter Burgess spoke to us about "The Corridors of Power". He gave us a brief history of the development of the Civil Service – starting off with the Monks following the King around the country recording the monies he gathered, through administrators such as Chaucer, Thomas Cromwell and Pepys to the present day, when the Treasury is still the most important Department. In telling us about his own work as a Civil Servant Peter was (sadly) discreet but we did learn about the new Housing Minister who did not realise that many people bought their homes by having a Mortgage.

Our next meeting will be at 2 pm on Monday, 11th April, when Robin Sankey will give us a talk entitled "Slow Boat to Singapore". He is always an entertaining speaker so do come along – usual venue.

Sheela Burchill

Keep Fit Group



Keep Fit is now full and we have started a waiting list.

For more information please ring Mary Palmer or Joy Baylis for further details.

Pilates Group



Every Monday at St. Andrew's Parish hall Shottery between 12:15 and 1:15. For more information contact Gill Ganner.

Play Reading Group



We met at Gwyneths again for our March meeting. The play we read this time was "Afternoon at the Seaside" by Agatha Christie, We enjoyed the humour and twist at the end; most unexpected. We meet at Gwyn's on the 8th April at 11.00am. Please give a ring if you wish to come along.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry Reading Group



The theme for this meeting was Spring, in any of its aspects. Therefore two poems about birth were chosen as well as the more usual topics of the promise of Spring flowers and brighter days to come. Love, to which a young man's fancy lightly turns, was represented by

three verses by Dorothy Parker in her usual comic but pessimistic vein.

There is no rhyme for 'daffodil',
For 'daffodil' there is no rhyme;
A pleasant word, but in most verse
It's best missed out to end a line.

Jess Monk

Reading Group - Monday



We all enjoyed the biography of Martha Gellhorn (was married to Ernest Hemingway)..in fact two members wanted more time to finish it! Apparently a film of her life is being made. She was a war correspondent for half a century .maybe the first..and led an exciting life of foreign travel, numerous liaisons and friendships with famous people, Moorehead, her biographer ,produced a page-turner of 500 pages from her diaries and correspondence. We are looking for some fresh faces, why not give us a try?!

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



This month we read 'SEMI DETACHED' by Griff Rhys Jones. The book is his account of his childhood, family and university life. It had very good reviews 'Absolutely cracking, captivating, hilarious but poignant. Our group didn't share this view. We agreed it was an easy read which started with promise but didn't live up to expectations. He jumped from one time scale to another and overall we felt it was very self indulgent and quite conceited. We enjoyed coffee and super biscuits in Sheela's sunny conservatory. This month we are having free choice so we will have some interesting reading ,we meet at Pat's house in Shipston .

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group – Friday



We read 'The Eyre Affair' written by Jasper Ford. It is fantasy fiction so as the blurb says 'forget the rules of time, space and reality.' Characters come out of books and have an independent life of their own while the literary detectives attempt to solve crimes that might alter the outcome of the plots of different books. It is a very clever book with many puns and jokes along the way.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



We met as usual and had a varied programme of rock music that included music from one of the very earliest performers, Fats Domino, up to and including Dire Straits. We have room for more members so why not come along and see if you like it. Second Thursday of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church

Coral Bradley

Science & Nature Group



On March 11th we visited W J Findon & Son - Bordon Hill Nurseries. We were all fascinated by the production system, most of it is mechanised, from the tray filling through seed sowing, to replacement of non germinating seeds. The trays are moved around on a mobile system that takes them through different growing conditions (temperature humidity and watering). In excess of 60,000 trays each containing 250 plug plants are processed each day.

April 8th - Tour of The Morgan Car Factory
May 13th - Soho House Museum Guided Tour

Sandra Sladden

Shakespeare Group



We continued to follow the perils and adventures of Pericles. He seemed to be pursued by bad luck: wife dead, daughter about to be captured by pirates. All ended happily, however; his wife Thaisa hadn't really died in childbirth and his daughter Marina survived both pirates and the brothel where they left her, with her virtue intact. They reunite at the Temple of Diana at Ephesus and all the villains come to a sticky end.

Our next (and final) meeting will be on April 12th when we will examine critically the Shakespeare authorship question – if there is a question.

Jess Monk

Stratford Swingers Big Band & Jazz Group



The next meeting is on Thursday 28th April 2011 at 2pm in The Lounge of The Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

You are welcome to join in with us. We are a very informal mixed group of enthusiasts, and we listen to and enjoy recorded music of the Swing & Jazz era.

Dennis Sully

Sunday Lunch Group

The April Sunday lunch date at Kings Court has been changed to the 10th. The following Sunday lunch will be at the Henley Golf Club on the 1st May



Brian Bradley

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Next concert Wednesday - 4th May 2-15pm. – **A FEW TICKETS LEFT!!**



CBSO Conducted by Jun Marki with Thomas Trotter, (Organ).

DEBUSSY - Le Martyre de Saint Sebastien

RAVEL - Concerto in G Major

SAINT-SAENS - Symphony No 3

This sounds an exciting concert. Cost £26 includes concert ticket and return coach to Symphony Hall. Cheques made out to Heart of England U3A . Please send to Dorothy Jones **All payments as soon as possible – we have to pay for the tickets NOW!!!**

Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins

Theatre Group & Outings



23 April 2011 Malvern Theatre – “Busybody” - All the tickets for this play have now been sold. Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.

14 May 2011 Malvern Theatre – “Jeffery Barnard is Unwell” with Robert Powell. There are a few places left for this theatre visit. For people who have put their names down payment is now due. £27.50. Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.

9 June 2011 - The Birmingham Hippodrome “Cosi Fan Tutti” by Mozart. There are still a few tickets left for this, the cost is £45.50. Leaving the Leisure Centre at 5.30 and Henley at 5.45.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



The April walk will take place on Wednesday the 13th April 2011 at 10 a.m. PROMPT and start from Paxford. You take the A429 out of Stratford and then turn towards Chipping Campden then take a left to Paxford (the sign is broken but there is a diversion sign next to the turn} drive into Paxford and park opposite the Village Hall make sure you pull onto the grass and park close to each other as there isn't a lot of parking.

This is a just under five mile walk through mixed farming country and also some very interesting buildings. I do recommend very good walking shoes and also that you bring a drink with you as there is nothing on the way.

Paxford is a small village between Chipping Camden and Moreton in Marsh it is signposted on the A429 3 miles north of Moreton on Marsh.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Valerie Redfern

WHAT'S ON – Monthly Meetings at Stratford, Shotton and Dene Valley U3As.***Stratford–27th Apr, “ Stratford to Moreton-in-Marsh Tramway”, Roger Cragg.******Shotton – 3rd May, "Antique Roadshow U3A style", Mark Ashley.******DeneValley – 12th April, “ Bess of Hardwick”, Gillian White.***

Group Leaders Contact List			
<i>Group</i>	<i>Group Leader</i>	<i>Contact Telephone</i>	<i>Usual Meeting date (Monthly)</i>
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood	01789-266 429 01789-299 860	3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Dennis Sully	01789-721 021	4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	01789-748 197	Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming	01789-298 357	4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Tony Griffiths	01789-296 436	12 noon, Fortnightly
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	01789-298 357	2 nd Tuesday 2.30 pm
Cooks Club	Chris Heaps	01789 550 662	4 th Wednesday
Creative Crafts	Roma Rudd	01789-262 690	3 rd Thursday 2 – 4 pm
Computer Group	Robyn Nicoll	01789-262 186	2 nd Thursday - 4.15 pm
Dinahs Luncheon Group	Sylvia Crooks	01789-416 965	1 st Tuesday for Lunch
Family History – Genealogy	Carol Styles	01789-266 373	3 rd Thursday – 4.00 pm
Gardening Group	Dorothy Bonham	01789-261 798	2 nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men Group	Robert Chorley	01789-450 867	3 rd Wednesday for Lunch
Hand Bell Ringing Group	Ron Castleton	01789-205 878	Alternate Mondays 10am
History Group	Janet Anslow	01789-295 181	2 nd Monday – 2.0 pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	01789-204 707	Every Thursday am
Luncheon Group – Sundays	Brian Bradley	01789-488 551	- see Newsletter for dates -
Pilates Group	Gill Ganner	01789-269 657	Mondays – 12.15-1.15pm
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	01789-416 965	-see Newsletter for dates -
Poetry Reading	Jackie Williams	01789-841 155	2 nd Weds. 10 – 12 am
Poetry & Prose Appreciation	Anne Davies	01789-450 442	As appropriate
Reading Group – Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	01789-204 892	3 rd Wednesday 2.30 pm
Reading Group – Monday	Phyllis Bailey	01789-262 191	3 rd Monday–2.30-4.30pm
Reading Group – Friday	Coral Bradley	01789-488 551	As appropriate
Rock & Roll Music Group	Coral Bradley	01789-488 551	2 nd Thursday – 2 – 4pm
Science & Nature Group	Geoff Bridgewater	01789-298 059	2 nd Fridays
Shakespeare's Life & Works	Jess Monk	01789-415 278	2 nd Tuesday – 10.00 am
Stratford Swingers	Dennis Sully	01789-721 021	4 th Thursday
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins	01789 204 892 01789-299 565	As appropriate
Tai Chi	Jackie Williams	01789-841 155	To be announced
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	01789-488 551	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	01789-471 048	2 nd Wednesday

TEA ROTA - 2011

April	Family History Group
May	Shakespeare's Life & Works Group
June	Dinah's Luncheon Group
July	Keep Fit Group
August	Bridge Group
September	Creative crafts Group
October	U3A Choir
November	History Group
December	Pilates Group