



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

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August 2012 Newsletter

TODAYS SPEAKER

The speaker for August is Mrs. Cathy Silk, who will be telling us all about her exploits and adventures as a lady pilot. Something a bit different and a little unusual even for today.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

The speaker for September will be Mr. Eugene Schellenberg whose Ifakara Bakery Project has made such a big difference to people's lives in Tanzania.

From the Chairman's Desk

The Membership Fee for 2012/2013 will remain at £16.00 per person and becomes due on **1st September 2012**. It will be reduced by £1.00 if renewed before 4th October but **MUST** be paid by **30th November 2012**. If not paid by then, which is three months after the due date, we will assume you no longer require membership and will remove your name from our records. To rejoin, you will have to complete a New Members form. If you would like your Membership Card posted to you please include a stamped addressed envelope.

Newsletters will no longer be posted automatically, due to increase in postage costs. If you want them to be posted to you this can be done but you will need to include an extra payment of £4.00 with your membership fee.

The Newsletter is available on line at www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

David Sladden

Courses On-Line from National Office.



Note: There is no charge for Untutored Course access to U3A members. Members will at first need to register at National Office for verification of membership.

National Web Site. www.u3a.org.uk Go to "Create an Account"

A list of the courses may be found on the notice board.

Several courses have been downloaded and saved over the past 2 years.

For more information, please contact Robyn - redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The China On-liners are nearing the end of the course.

The last 3 Units cover **The Modern History of China** (post 1912) and are ideal as a short stand-alone course.

If interested in joining the group for these 3 units, please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

Units are sent to members via e-mail and are in printer friendly pdf.

The date for our next get-together will be advertised in the next newsletter. We plan to meet again in mid-September.

Robyn Nicoll

Art Appreciation Group



A large group enjoyed a fascinating visit to James Butler's studio in July. He showed us the whole process of creating a sculpture, from the first idea, through the preliminary sketches, the first small trial figure, the making of the armature to support the clay, and the finished clay sculptures which are then sent to be cast in bronze which is a very lengthy and complicated process. In his workshop he told us the history of the clay figures, many of which are very powerful and well over life size, which now stand as bronze statues in prominent places throughout the world. Finally we went into the show room where there was a selection of his finished work, for all of which he had a story to tell.

Phyl Collins

All Swing and Jazz Group

Report of the June 2012 meeting.



This month's programme was compiled by Jennifer McGinn. Who started the afternoon with a Trad track of Kenny Ball playing "Midnight in Moscow", which took us all back to the British Trad revival in the 1960's. This was followed by three swing tracks by Benny Goodman, Count Basie and Sid Phillips, one of which "Sing Sing Sing" drew applause for its drum solo. The next track was the Mills Brothers singing "Paper Doll" which was met with universal approval. The second half closed with Glenn Miller and Orchestra playing "Moonlight Serenade. After our Tea/Coffee/Biscuit/Natter we had a delightful second half of Standards ranging from "It Don't Mean a Thing" played by "The Duke" featuring Evie Anderson, through tracks by The International Sweethearts of Rhythm, Artie Shaw, Ella Fitzgerald and Bix Beiderbeck. The afternoon finished with a return to British Trad with Acker Bilk and his band playing "Marching Through Georgia". The thanks of all of us go to Jennifer for her choice of tracks and Dennis for 'Putting it together'. Our next meeting will be on the 23rd August at 2p.m. in our usual meeting place of The Lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town.

Mavis Pickett

Big Band Swing & Jazz.



Next meeting will be on August 28th. New members are welcome.

Tony Badham

Bridge Group



The Bridge Group is friendly, sociable, and keen to encourage new members. We also offer encouragement to "rusty" ex- players. The Group meets every Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 in the Methodist Hall Side Room next to the kitchen.

John Yeomans

Chinwags



The group met at Grants again, with a smaller number present and without a theme. A general discussion took place which all enjoyed and in my absence the world was put to rights. The next lunch is on Monday 23 July at Grants.

Aline Cumming

The Choir



Following our concert in June we have welcomed about six new members and hopefully more will join. We have made the decision to have our Friday meetings in the main hall to accommodate our growing numbers. On Thursday 19th July we entertained the residents of Briars Croft with our "Lets Sing a Song " programme. We had a most appreciative audience and we thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon. Come and join us if you have always wanted to sing in a choir. We'd love to see you!

Dorothy Jones

Classical Music Group



An overture to begin with brought by George, Rossini's William Tell played by the RPO. Valma's choice was a selection performed by Bryn Tyrfel, first Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, then The Lord Bless You and Keep You written by John Rutter in 1981 for the funeral of a beloved teacher. An Austrian carol, Stille, Stille, Stille was sung with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Then we heard a setting of Ave Verum Corpus written specially for Bryn from a cantata composed for the opening of the Welsh Millennium Centre in 2004. Deidre brought Mendelssohn played by Cortot (this a correction from the printed copy), first the Variations which was new to most of us. After tea we had Deidre's second choice Song without words. Then Aline chose two of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances played by the Cleveland Orchestra conducted by George Szell, Tempo de Minuetto and Allegro Grazioso. We finished with two more contrasting dances, Danse Macabre by Saint-Saens and the Can-can from Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld. The next meeting is on Tuesday 14 August at Bridge Cottage. Valma will provide the programme

Aline Cumming

Computer Group at Stratford School.

We plan to resume the computer group at the end of September.



- **A Course for Beginners** with an introduction to the Internet.
- **An Advanced group** – introducing tables, mail merge, extra Internet skills, and topics requested by members.

(Lap tops, I-pads welcome)

Please sign the sheet on the notice board table or contact Ron or Robyn if interested. Dates for the courses will be advertised in the September newsletter. The cost will depend on numbers enrolling to cover the hire of the room and equipment.

PS More helpers would be appreciated particularly for the beginners.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our session on 19th July found members ironing fresh flowers and leaves between sheets of waxed sandwich paper producing attractive parchment paper. This paper can be used in various ways to make cards, tea light holders, gift packets, book marks and wrapping paper. By popular demand, this workshop will be repeated next month -**Thursday, 16th August, 2pm to 4pm** in the Annex. The group would welcome anyone who would like to have a go doing this very simple craft. All you need are fresh flowers and leaves, and an iron. A plentiful supply of waxed paper is provided. Please contact Roma Rudd if interested.

Roma Rudd

Card Making Group

If anyone would like to join us at our next day on Aug 10th, please phone Robyn on 01789 417935



Carolyn Leach

Dinahs



The re-vamped Bistro Pierre was our venue this month. We all had a lot of catching up to do as we did not meet in June. The Bankers and Politicians were first on the list. Inland Revenue and taxes were next. Cruises down the Rhine, Verona and Family coming over from Canada for the Olympics cheered us up. We can only hope the 'Jet Stream' which we are told by the media, is causing all this lovely wet weather, will move: then summer can begin. We next meet on the 7th August and the venue is as yet undecided.

Sylvia Crooks.

Discussion Group

Wednesday July 11th - Bankers & their misdeeds. We were all agreed that it was down to greed, which had got out of hand through the deregulation of Banks. We felt that it was immoral, if, perhaps, not illegal, although this appears to be debatable, that the general population should be suffering while the Bank bosses were still taking huge 'bonuses', a word very much misused, we felt. We all hoped that a younger generation would be able to find ways of solving these problems of unfairness which are still so rife. We will meet again Aug 8th at the West End Pub @ 1PM

Athena Roderick

Family History Group



We usually meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Stratford High School at 3.45pm during term time. We primarily use the Internet to research using Census returns and birth, marriage and death indexes, and there is always someone on hand to offer encouragement and advice. I also have lots of resources gathered over many years of research which I am happy to share. We share a room, and costs with the Computer Group. New members to this group always welcome. Feel free to ring me if you have any questions.

Sue Ocock

Grumpy Old Men Group



We were pleased to welcome a new Grump to our gathering of 18 souls. Unfortunately we were unable to debate the pre-arranged topic as our presenter was indisposed at the last moment. However in order to uphold the tradition of lively and knowledgeable discussion the Chairman sought contributions from members to air their views and opinions on any subject which took their fancy. True to form with such a diverse group of individuals a wide range of topics was explored ranging from such things as Olympic Games security to the delights of the Kindle e-books and as ever there was never a dull moment although slightly more chaotic than the norm!!

Next meeting - Wed. 15th Aug. **Venue** - Le Bistrot Pierre.

Subject - Coalition Government - Does it Work. **Introduced by** Derek Phillips.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We continue to get to grips with playing from normal music (instead of charts of numbers) – with some success! **We still have room for more Ringers – IF YOU CAN READ MUSIC AT ALL – do come and join in the fun!** We meet every two weeks – at the Parish Hall in Old Town (opposite Holy Trinity church).

We meet next on 30th July, and then after the Summer break on 17th September

Ron Castleton

History Group



At our July meeting Athena Roderick spoke to us about Chile where she and her family lived for five years. Her husband had been appointed as poultry advisor to the Chilean

government so they went there in January 1969, initially living in an apartment in downtown Santiago, and later in the Andean foothills. Chile's unusual ribbon-like shape (250 miles wide and 2700 miles long) has given it a hugely varied climate, ranging from the world's driest desert in the north, through a mediterranean climate in the centre, to a snow-prone Alpine climate in the south with fjords, glaciers and lakes. Surrounded on three sides by virtually impassable barriers, Chile's rich central valley remained largely unknown until the 15th century when the Incas began conquering much of South America. The Spanish conquistadors colonised the region from the 16th century until 1818 when Chile proclaimed itself an independent republic with the Supreme Director a moderate with the wonderful name of Bernardo O'Higgins.

Chile is one of South America's most stable and prosperous countries and has not suffered so many of the coups which have blighted the area, the exception being the 17-year rule by General Pinochet, whose 1973 coup left more than 3000 dead or missing. It faces the challenge of having to diversify its copper-dependent economy and of addressing uneven wealth distribution.

Our next meeting is on Monday 10th September when Sandra Whiteley is going to talk to us about Desmond Tutu. All welcome.

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.

Opera Group



The opera group met at Pam's where we saw a recording of the comic opera "Don Pasquale" by Donizetti. A jolly score and comical libretto made an entertaining combination

Don Pasquale, a wealthy old bachelor, decides to marry and produce an heir to disinherit his nephew whose marriage plans he disapproves of. Pasquale's doctor finds a suitable bride who he pretends is his own sister, but is actually the same girl the nephew wants to marry, and is a party to the deception. The hasty marriage turns out to be a sham and as soon as Pasquale's wealth is assigned to the new 'bride' she sets about spending his money like water. Pasquale soon tires of the arrangement, gives in and agrees to his nephew's marriage after all. The moral is: A man should not marry when he is old. It just causes him trouble! Next meeting is on Wednesday 25th July at Sandra's at 2pm.

Aline Cumming

Pilates Group



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

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Play Reading Group



We met at Gwyneth's on the 19th July. "Bonaventure" by Charlotte Hasting is our new play, read the 1st Act. Will continue on Thursday 16th August 10.45 at Gwyneth's. If you would like to join us please ring Sylvia on 01789 416965.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry & Prose Reading Group



We have been continuing with our theme of 'Seven Ages of Man', with a wide range of poems and readings from W H Auden, Mary Betham, Shakespeare, Janes Michie, Carol Ann Duffy and W S Gilbert. The next meeting will be on 8th August.

Anne Davies

Reading Group - Monday



As our Library list had nothing for us this month we were offered books from the Shakespeare Hospice bookshop. We all read 'Sister' about a woman whose sister met an untimely death and her efforts to establish the culprit. On the whole the group found it somewhat depressing, confusing and lacking authenticity despite it having a compelling overtone. The reader was left to decide the outcome for herself. It was listed as crime-fiction. The best part was the list of questions for reading group discussion at the end.

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



This month our book was "The Historian" by Elizabeth Kostova. Several members read the book but others didn't manage the 704 pages. This month we are having "free choice" and meeting at Gwyns on August 15th. I will certainly choose a book with fewer pages.

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group - Friday



This month we read The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney. The author has taken the western genre and updated it with the typical features of a mysterious stranger appearing in the town to solve a problem, the danger of Red Indians, wild dangerous countryside, a search and a young boy avenging his father. Overall it is an interesting book although it has some things in it that we felt were 'padding'. It gave us plenty to discuss.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



We met as usual on the second Thursday of the month and listened to a selection of Rock & Roll CDs. These ranged from the early 1950s up to mid 1980s so every one had something to enjoy and to comment on. If any new members would like to join us – just turn up to the lounge in the Methodist Church at 2.00.

Coral Bradley

Science & Nature Group



On the 13th July we visited James Butler at his studio. The former out buildings of the farm he purchased are used for a workshop studio and gallery. He entertained us with the story of his career from art school to stone carver to sculptor. He is also a Royal Academician. James has produced many statues of numerous heads of state, historical figures and some very moving war memorials. As well as towering figures he has designed the Jubilee coin and a 50 pence coin commemorating Rodger Banister. At the moment he is working on a figure of William Shakespeare which is at the clay model stage.

August 25 Stourbridge International Festival of Glass (organised by Athena)
September 11 Slimbridge & Chavenage House

Sandra Sladden

Sunday Lunch Group



The next Sunday lunch will be on the 5th August at the Kings Court Hotel, Nr. Alcester. Names please to Brian Bradley, Tel: 01789 488551.

The September Lunch will be on the 2nd of the month at the Bistro Pierre.

Theatre Group



On 11 August 2012 we go to Malvern to see Volcano a 'new' Noel Coward play. All the tickets for this play have been sold. We leave Johnson's yard at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. My mobile number for the day is 07818820207.

On 8 September we have booked The Importance of being Earnest at Malvern. Currently there are 6 tickets left costing £33.00 each. We leave Johnson's yard at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. We welcome new members to this group but it is usually best to book early as tickets can sell out quickly.

Two plays have been reserved for October and November and details of these will be in the September Newsletter.

Coral Bradley

Outings



The next outing is 22 August 2012. All the tickets have now been sold. We leave Johnson's yard at 9.00 and the Leisure Centre at 9.30 and we hope to be back in Stratford by 6.00. You can bring a packed lunch as there are places where you can eat outside and there is also somewhere to buy food. Members of the National Trust must remember to bring their membership cards which will be checked when we arrive. Let's keep everything crossed for good weather on the day. My mobile for the day is 078188209207.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



There was no walk in July due to holidays. The next walk will be from Lighthorne (near Wellesbourne) on Wednesday 8th August 2012 and will be lead by Tony and Sandra Whiteley. The walk is approx 5.75 miles over farmland. It is easy going and undulating. It is easy going and undulating and so far we have never failed to see deer running through the woods. Look forward to seeing you then.

Valerie Redfern

WHAT'S ON – Monthly Meetings at Stratford, Shotton and Dene Valley U3As.

Stratford – 29th August. - "Bess of Hardwick" – Dr Gillian White.

Shotton – 7th August. - " Stratford Riding for the Disabled" - Donna Jenkins.

Dene Valley – 14 August. - "The Ifakara Bakery Project" – Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Edwin Lilly (01789 204 472) has now taken over the role of Newsletter Editor - Please ensure that any copy for the September Newsletter is sent to him before 26th August.

His email address is: edwinandelaine.lilly@virgin.net and telephone is 01789 204472

Dates for your Diary:

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT BIRMINGHAM

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7th 2-15 pm AUTUMN CONTRASTS.

This is a super programme -- Mozart Symphony No 25, Vaughan Williams Oboe Concerto

Dorothy Jones

<i>Group</i>	<i>Group Leader</i>		<i>Usual Meeting date (Monthly)</i>
All Swing and Jazz Group	Dennis Sully		4 th Thursday
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood		3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Tony Badham		4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bridge	John Yeomans		Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming		4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones		11.45 for 12 noon, After 2 nd March - Weekly
Classical Music	Aline Cumming		2 nd Tuesday 2.30 pm
Creative Crafts	Roma Rudd		3 rd Thursday 2 – 4 pm
Computer Group	Robyn Nicoll		2 nd Thursday - 4.15 pm
Dinahs Luncheon Group	Sylvia Crooks		1 st Tuesday for Lunch
Discussion Group	Athena Roderick		2 nd Wednesday
Family History – Genealogy	Sue Ocock		4 th Thursday – 4.00 pm
Grumpy Old Men Group	Graham Mitchell		3 rd Wednesday for Lunch
Hand Bell Ringing Group	Ron Castleton		Alternate Mondays 10am
History Group	Janet Anslow		2 nd Monday – 2.0 pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer		Every Thursday am
Luncheon Group – Sundays	Brian Bradley		- see Newsletter for dates -
Pilates Group	Gill Ganner		Mondays – 12.15-1.15pm
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks		-see Newsletter for dates -
Poetry Reading	Jacqueline Williams		2 nd Weds. 10 – 12 am
Poetry & Prose Appreciation	Anne Davies		As appropriate
Reading Group – Wednesday	Dorothy Jones		3 rd Wednesday 2.30 pm
Reading Group – Monday	Phyllis Bailey		3 rd Monday–2.30-4.30pm
Reading Group – Friday	Coral Bradley		As appropriate
Rock & Roll Music Group	Coral Bradley		2 nd Thursday – 2 – 4pm
Science & Nature Group	Geoff Bridgewater		2 nd Fridays
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins		As appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley		As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern		2 nd Wednesday

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
JANUARY	Computer Group	Grumpy Old Men Group
FEBRUARY	Friday Reading Group	Monday Reading Group
MARCH	Poetry & Prose Appreciation	Bird Watching Group
APRIL	Poetry Reading Group	Family History & Computer Groups
MAY	Walking Group	Big Band Music & Jazz Group
JUNE	Play Reading Group	Dinah's Lunch Group
JULY	Wednesday Reading Group	Keep Fit Group
AUGUST	Classical Music Group	Bridge Group
SEPTEMBER	Rock & Roll Music Group	Creative Crafts Group
OCTOBER	Science & Nature Group	U3A Choir
NOVEMBER	Chinwags Lunch Group	History Group
DECEMBER	Hand Bell Ringing Group	Pilates Group