



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

New Website address:-
www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

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February 2011 Newsletter

TODAYS SPEAKER

Our speaker today, Bill Davies, is a man with 40 years experience as a sailor. His talk 'A Pinch of Salt' tells us of his fascinating life on the ocean waves.

NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

Our Speaker on 3rd March is Bernard Pumfrey, a man with a wealth of experience in many topics including History, Music, Cathedrals, Shakespeare, & World Heritage Cities to name just a few, is talking to us on "Derbyshire County of Dale & Dignity".

ON LINE COURSES FROM NATIONAL OFFICE. –

A list of the courses is on the notice board. More details can be obtained by visiting the National Office web site - www.u3a.org.uk

The next meeting for the Garden History On-liners will be on Tuesday, 22 February, from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in the Annex.

Several members are interested in the Art History On-Line courses. Please meet Robyn after the main meeting to arrange for the transfer of the preferred course to home computers.

NEW YEAR LUNCH

*Take a large roomful of cheerful U3A'ers, add 3 delicious courses to the mixture, throw in some entertainment, and then set aside for 12 months to mature. A big **thank you** to Athena Roderick and David Sladden for providing the ingredients for this very successful annual New Year Lunch on Saturday 22nd January at Le Pierre Bistro.*

STOP PRESS: The Fairtrade Shop will be open for members at the April monthly meeting. – (7th April)

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 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!!

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.

Proposed New Group: Tai Chi. A tutor for Tai Chi is willing to start a class for U3A members. If interested in this activity, please sign the sheet at the notice board table or contact the Interest Group Coordinators - Dorothy Jones or Jackie Williams.

Proposed New Group: Bird Watching

We had a good response to this proposed new group. We will meet in the side lounge after the main meeting on February 3rd to plan the way forward. Do join us if you are interested.

Dorothy Jones

Other Proposed new Interest Groups:

Cooks' Club, Knitting Group, and Italian Art 1400-1600 (an On-Line Course suitable for beginners). Another Interest Group proposed for the New Year is a practical Art Group.

If interested in any/all of these groups, please sign the lists at the notice board table.

If unable to attend the monthly meetings but wish to add your name to the lists, please contact Dorothy Jones or Jackie Williams.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation Group



Members enjoyed a lively arts quiz at Barbara's home at the January meeting - each person contributing three questions. It was amazing how much we could not remember!

The February meeting, on Friday 18th, will be at Shipston, meeting at The Stour Gallery in the High Street to view an exhibition - followed by tea in one Shipston's cafes. Please be at the Gallery at 2 pm and contact either Phyl Collins or Pat Wood for transport queries.

In June we would like to organise a coach outing to Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, Horace Walpole's home, which has recently been reopened and restored. This will be open to all U3A members - costs and date to be announced later. Please get in touch if you are interested - Pat Wood

Pat Wood

Big Band Swing Jazz Group



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd February 2011 at 2pm until 4pm in The Lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

We meet, listen to and enjoy recorded music of the Swing and Jazz era. This includes Big and Small group Swing and Jazz, of all styles. We are an informal and friendly group. You are very welcome to join in with us.

Dennis Sully

Bridge Group



The Bridge Group meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30 in the Side Room next to the kitchen. We call it Social Bridge and the atmosphere is "relaxed"!

John Yeomans

Chinwags



We will have met on 31st January at Grants, more news next month. For February we will keep to 4th Monday so meet on 28 Feb. Venue to be decided at the January lunch.

Aline Cumming

Classical Music Group



Ten people attended the meeting and we started with a discussion of the way forward. We agreed to continue with the same format and meet in the Lounge, increasing the contribution to £2 every meeting. The deficit has been dissolved!

Then we heard George's selection, starting with Jupiter from Holst's Planets, and Chopin Ballade No 1 played by Evgeny Kissin. After tea and the eerie The Isle of The Dead by

Rachmaninov, we were cheered by Widor's Toccata, plunged into grief by Dido's Lament from Dido and Aeneas by Purcell, cheered again by Shostakovich Jazz Suites 1 and 2 and finally uplifted by the second Chopin Ballade. We omitted Ravel's Bolero as time was short.

In February we meet on Tuesday 8th at 2.30 in the Lounge for a 'Bring Your Own' programme and there is plenty of room for more people who enjoy listening to classical music.

Aline Cumming

"The Choir"



We met in the Annexe for our second January meeting. It is so uplifting to see all the familiar faces coming along to sing for fun. There was a new lady who enjoyed it and is coming back for more. Our men were in full voice, however we could do with more male voices!!

Margaret got us started with the warm-ups then on to "Dona Nobis Pacem" when Stuart arrived. He got us singing five songs in a round; great fun, then working on "Someone To Watch Over Me" with four voices!!

Our next meeting is on the 4th of February in the Side lounge. New faces are welcome.

Sylvia Crooks.

Computer Group At Stratford High School.



February dates: 10th and 24th. Sessions are held in room S42.

Please sign the list on the notice board table if interested in joining this course or contact Ron or Robyn.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our January meeting was spent making out a list of projects for this coming year. There were lots of interesting suggestions put forward, enough to keep us all busy for the rest of the year. A sample being:- Encaustic Art, Button Work, Glasswork, Working with Fimo, and many more.

We begin our first project on February 17th in the Annex 2pm-4pm.

The theme will be Knitted Super Ted Bears. Materials required are:- 1pair of No.9 needles, Double knitting wool in a selection of colours.

Also we will be making fabric bags out of any material approximately 8"x10" to keep the Teddies in. We still have vacancies in the craft club so if any one is interested in doing craft work please feel free to join us.

Roma Rudd.

Card Making workshop



Our first meeting of this year was very enjoyable. We had nine members present who contributed to a delicious buffet. The theme for the cards was butterflies. You will have a chance to buy these masterpieces at the Monthly meeting. Thank you to all who support our sales table. We have received a letter from the Royal Institute for the Blind thanking us for the £50 that we sent last month.

The next Card Making workshop will be held in the annex on Friday 4th March from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. "Cards for Men and Boys" will be the theme for the day.

Carolyn Leach will provide further details.

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs

Jimmy's Spices was our venue on the 4th January. Not everyone managed to make it on time, however with self service and eat as much as you want!!!! It worked well. We did a lot of talking "Libraries, What happened to the personal touch? You hand your books over to a machine!



Also, once again the NHS. However a lovely remark from Moira brought a smile to our faces, she was approached by a gentleman shopping in Morrisons with a question, "You look like a lady that knows what Blancmange is" she did and showed him where they were: The young staff had never heard of it. Dinah's will next meet on the 1st February at the Encore in town.

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 February 17th. New members are always welcome.

Carol Styles

Grumpy Old Men Group



Localism - a major proposal of the Coalition to devolve power from central government to the local community - will it work? Led by Paul Burley the Grumps made a valiant attempt to get to grips with this part of the "big society" idea but due to the lack of any specific detail behind a broad proposal, except perhaps for planning matters, it proved difficult to arrive at any definitive conclusion. However most thought that in principle an idea that might be worth trying although many difficulties were foreseen and it may be a "passing the buck" exercise. For it to be acceptable those involved locally would have to act independently of any political affiliations and all strata of society would have to be fully represented. This was seen as a major problem as undoubtedly national politicians would wish to influence matters and always the same type of people would seek to actively participate. We have now all got used to direction from the centre and to radically change this mind set could prove a very difficult task indeed.

Next Meeting - WED. 16th FEB. same time and place. (New members would be very welcome!)

Subject - Supermarkets - a blight or a blessing? Introduced by Sid Slaughter.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



After the Christmas break, we assembled again on 17th January to recap on the tunes we had tackled before. Although a little rusty, we had a good session and look forward to our next meeting on 31st January.

Ron Castleton

History Group



The next meeting will be a talk by Geoff Bridgewater on 14th February at 2 pm, in the usual small lounge of the Methodist Hall – Subject “Viennese Tragedy comes to Stratford”.

At our last meeting Mary Smith of Tiddington gave us a fascinating resumé of her working life. She was Secretary to J.B.Priestley, who lived in Kissingtrees Lane, and her duties included chauffeuring. She accompanied them when they visited America and still has her Work Permit from that time. Afterwards she worked for Miriam Rothschild for 10 years, who was the world expert on Fleas. A little known fact is that Fleas can only be differentiated by differences in their ‘genitalia’!!! She finished her career by working for Local Government – very boring but with a good Pension!!

Janet Anslow

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 are next meeting on the 11th February at 11.00am till 12.30. Gwyn will host the meeting, anyone wanting to come along will they give me a ring.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry Reading Group



For the first time the group met in the West End pub in Bull Street. It was not a typical meeting but devoted to choosing whichever of Neville's large collection of poetry books we would like to keep for ourselves. This opportunity was due to the generosity of Ann McFarlane. Because poetry-lovers cannot resist reading aloud when they get together, the session was frequently interrupted by cries of 'listen to this!' as we looked through our choices. Neville's absence was keenly felt but I think he would have approved of the light-hearted atmosphere which prevailed by the end of the meeting. Our next meeting is at the same venue on February 9 when we will be studying the work of Sylvia Plath. It should, perhaps, be stressed that coffee *only* is served!

'...fare you well.
Hereafter, in a better world than this,
I shall desire more love and knowledge of you.'
As You Like It 1.2

Jess Monk

Poetry & Prose Group



In Anne's absence we met, by courtesy of Mary Cox, at 29 Shakespeare Street. Although there were only three of us, we spent an entertaining, and enlightening afternoon, reading poems from the Nineteenth Century, including works by Wordsworth, Manley Hopkins, Yeats, Tennyson, Thomas Hood, Walt Whitman, Thomas Hardy, and Charles Wolf. We rounded off the afternoon with a recitation by Jane, from memory and without hesitation, of Lewis Carol's *The Owl and the Pussy Cat*.

Brian Bradley

Reading Group - Monday



We had a lively gathering but have two vacancies and would welcome new members!! We start at 2.30pm to allow for earlier commitments. Our book was *The Boy with the Topnot*....it was a sort of autobiography of a Sikh who is now a London journalist. It did make clear the cultural problems facing immigrant families particularly when the mother fails to learn any English. The writer had been so terrified of hurting his mother by having a relationship of another faith only to discover at the end that it was 'no big deal'

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



Our book this month was the 2006 Booker Prize winner. *The Inheritance of Loss* by Hiran Desai. Only one member of the group finished reading the book - well done Sheela. The novel was set in Northern India and we felt it had an atmospheric feel for the countryside and gave us fragments of life. However it didn't really have a story line and it was slow moving. Thank you Gwyn for hosting our group

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group – Friday



We had *The Phoenix* by Henning Boetius. The author's father is the only living survivor of the Hindenburg which exploded in America in 1936. He tries to discover if it was an accident or sabotage. This is a fictional story with a factual background. As part of the story he goes to an island where the islanders have not accepted that the second World War has ended and they try to protect any secrets that the pilot of the Hindenburg might have. We,

of course, read the book in translation and this made it difficult to read. Only two of our group finished it. It had the potential to be a good book but most of us gave up quite early.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



Our programme this month ranged from 1957 to 1967 and we had highlights of those years including Rocking Pneumonia and Boogie Woogie Flu and a dance called Bacon Fat. We meet on the second Thursday of the month usually in the Lounge at 2.00. Why not come and see if you like it.

Coral Bradley

Science & Nature Group



On January 14th we had a very enjoyable meeting at Geoff and Heather's house. Geoff gave an interesting talk about Isambard Kingdom Brunel who was one of the most versatile and outstanding engineers of the 19th Century. He designed tunnels, bridges, railway lines and ships. His final project was the Great Eastern - the biggest ship ever built up to that time. The talk was followed by a DVD of the building of the Great Eastern. Heather followed this with tea and cakes.

- On Feb 11th at 2pm we will meet in the lounge at the Methodist Hall to hear a talk by Judy Klinkenberg on the subject of Cells. Cost £2 each
- On 11th March we are visiting W.J.Findon & Son - Bordon Hill Nurseries to see their technical production of seedlings and plants. Cost £3 each
- On 8th April we will be visiting the Morgan Motor Company. Cost £10 each

Sandra Sladden

Shakespeare Group



This report combines our December and January meetings. Chiefly owing to illness only two people arrived in December so instead of continuing with the Olivier version of *Richard III* we watched the Richard Loncraine/Ian McKellen film. This is set in an imaginary fascist, 1930s England echoing faintly the atmosphere of late mediaeval times. It also ends with one of my favourite film quotations from the final reel of James Cagney's *White Heat*. This month we returned to the Olivier film; a marvellous study of tyranny (Shakespeare blames Richard for everything) represented by Olivier just short of caricature. Having brought to an end our survey of the history plays, next month (February 8th) we turn to something completely different: one of the later plays, *Pericles*.

Jess Monk

Stratford Swingers Big Band & Jazz Group



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th February 2011 at 2pm until 4pm in **The Annexe** of The Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

We meet, listen to and enjoy recorded music of the Swing and Jazz era. This includes Big and Small group Swing and Jazz, of all styles. We are an informal and friendly group. You are very welcome to join in with us.

Dennis Sully



Sunday Lunch Group

The March lunch will be on Sunday the 6th at the Golden Cross, Ardens Grafton. Names please to Brian Bradley: Tel: 01789 488551; E-mail: brianfrancestuts@aol.com

Brian Bradley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Next Symphony Hall Concert – Wednesday 16th March 2011 – 2.15pm



CBSO conducted by Hannu Lintu with Angela Hewitt, Piano
Liszt Les Preludes
Beethoven Piano Concerto No 1
Dvorak Symphony No.9 (From the New World)

COST £26 . Coach leaves Stratford Leisure Centre at 12-30pm.

Cheques made out to HEART OF ENGLAND U3A Please send to Dorothy Jones **Thanks to everyone for sending cheques so promptly.** We have two seats left- if you would like to join us contact Dorothy Jones.

ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Next concert Wednesday - 4th May 2-15pm.



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 This includes concert ticket and return coach to Symphony Hall. Cheques made out to Heart of England U3A . Please send to Dorothy Jones
All payments by March 10th.

Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins

Theatre Group & Outings



All the tickets for The Life of Riley which we go to see in March have been sold and paid for. We are now taking names and money for the April theatre trip. This is also to Malvern on 23 April and we will see Busybody this is a comedy based on an Agatha Christie type of detective story. The cost of £27.50 and we will leave at our usual times 12.00 from Henley and 12.30 from the Leisure Centre.

We are also taking names and money for the Opera. This is Cosi Fan Tutti by Mozart. This is at the Hippodrome in Birmingham on 9 June and is an evening performance. So we leave the Leisure Centre at 5.30 and Henley at 5.45. The cost of this trip is £45.50 and the tickets are going quickly and I will be asking the other U3A groups next week if they want the last few so get your name down to avoid disappointment.

Coral Bradley

COUNTRY DANCING with Stratford U3A



Another good session was held at the last meeting and much progress achieved in the new dances, instilling country dancing confidence in our ability to attempt more complex pieces.

New members are always welcome to come along and enjoy the fun.

Dates for the year 2011 are available at the next monthly meeting of the U3A and at each dance session.

Contact: Joyce Curtis on 01789-205283.

CYCLING with Stratford U3A



We are still going strong and beating the bad weather on the way home. One only cancellation has occurred because of "Willy The Wind" and the threat of heavy rain. This was all to the good however as we appreciate the exercise in the fresh air and the rural ambience enjoyed by us riders.

More new "members" are welcome; there is no restriction on numbers.

John Curtis 01789-205283

WHAT'S ON – Monthly Meetings at Stratford, Shotton and Dene Valley U3As.***Stratford – 23rd February, “Clocks in Stratford”, Richard Thomas .******Shotton – 1st March, AGM , " Comic Material", Mr & Mrs Peter Cook .******DeneValley–8th Feb., “The Implications of feeding the World”– Richard Napier.***

Group Leaders Contact List		
<i>Group</i>	<i>Group Leader</i>	<i>Usual Meeting date (Monthly)</i>
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood	3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Dennis Sully	4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming	4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Tony Griffiths	12 noon, Fortnightly
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
Family History – Genealogy	Carol Styles	3 rd Thursday – 4.00 pm
French Conversation	Anthea Dodsworth	Every Tuesday 1.30 pm
Gardening Group	Dorothy Bonham	2 nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men Group	Robert Chorley	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	Jackie 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	As appropriate
Shakespeare's Life & Works	Jess Monk	2 nd Tuesday – 10.00 am
Stratford Swingers	Dennis Sully	4 th Thursday
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins	As appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2 nd Wednesday

TEA ROTA - 2011

March	Sunday Lunch Group
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