



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

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February 2012 Newsletter

TODAYS SPEAKER

Roger Hailwood, our speaker today is going to give us a slide presentation of New Zealand, Volcanos and Hot Springs. A topic I'm sure many of us will be able to relate to.

NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

The speaker on 1st March will be Mr. J Butler whose talk is on "The Art of Sculpture".

On Line Course from National Office.

A list of the free untutored courses available to members may be found on the notice board. Units for these courses are sent to members via e-mail. The courses provide interest for an individual, or a self-help group to study the material for a few weeks/months. Research may be done via the library, the internet or using material within the home.

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

The China On-liners met to discuss Unit 3 research on Wednesday afternoon, 18th January. One of the most interesting items in this unit was the spotlight on Chinese inventions which changed the world which included printing, gunpowder and magnetism. Amongst the more mundane inventions uncovered were paper money, toilet paper, and the folding umbrella. The Chinese were very inventive! Members were also introduced to language for absolute beginners – all fell into that category.

Next get-together will be held on Wednesday, 7th March, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the side room.

Robyn Nicoll

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Big Band Swing Jazz Group



The report of the Big Band Swing & Jazz Group Meeting on 13th December.

This month's playlist was submitted by David Grahame and presented by Tony Badham.

The content illustrated David's love of Big Bands and included tracks by Ted Heath, Harry James, Benny Goodman and many more of the well-known big bands from the 40's and 50's which set everybody's feet tapping.

The tracks were interspersed with plenty of discussion and comment and the whole list was well received by all present!

Members of the group have been invited to each submit their own personal favourite track of Jazz or Swing in order to build a composite playlist for a future monthly meeting!

Next meeting 24th Jan 2012

Tony Badham

Bridge Group



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

For complete beginners, separate introduction to card play is available. You can

contact Ann Parker to arrange for introductory sessions.

John Yeomans

Chinwags



There was no 'Chinwags' in December but we will have met again on 30 January. Despite being closed Mondays and Tuesday in January and February, Grants have offered to open just for us and we have gratefully accepted.

Aline Cumming

The Choir



Our "phase two" is exciting – from 2nd March we will be singing every week and aiming for new pieces for possible concerts.

Tony Griffiths

Classical Music Group



Another successful Bring Your Own. We began with the Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla by Glinka, from Sheila, then Jean brought the first two movements from Elgar's Cello Concerto, played by the BCS Philharmonic conducted by Edward Downes and soloist Alexander Baillie; nice to hear a different interpretation to the usual one by Jacqueline Du Pre. George chose Chopin's Scherzo No 2 played by Benjamin Grosvenor and Sheila's second contribution was Mussorgsky's Khovanschina Prelude. After tea Sheila's third offering was one of the Polovstian Dances from Prince Igor by Borodin then we heard Aline's choice, Bruch Violin Concerto, the second movement with soloist Bakels and the Philharmonia. Sheila's final choice was the Finale of Tchaikovsky's Little russian Symphony No 2, all hers were played by the LSO conducted by Solti. Finally from Howard we heard the glorious clear tones of Emma Johnson in Mozart's Clarinet Quintet. thanks to everyone!

Aline Cumming

Computer Group at Stratford School . (Formerly Stratford High School)



The Basic Brush-up Course of 5 sessions is underway.

Dates booked in February – 9th and 23rd.

Dates booked in March – 8th and 22nd.

Due to the numbers attending, the cost for this course is £10 and this has included handouts supplied by Ron.

Requests have been received for a **Digital Camera and Computer Course** to begin after Easter. Plans for this are underway and there will be more information in the March newsletter. You may indicate interest by contacting Ron or Robyn.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our January meeting was preparing projects for the following months of this year. Some good ideas were put forward and some of our projects include making various articles for charities we have supported in the past.

Next month we will be knitting scarves and jumpers to send to the school in Africa.

Our next meeting will be in the Annex on February 16th. 2pm-4pm.

Please come along and help support our group in this good cause. Everyone will be made most welcome.

Roma Rudd

Dinahs



On the 3rd January Dinah's met at the Opposition on Sheep Street for another enjoyable lunch. I did not know, until then, that Vintner, Lambs, and the Opposition are run by the same people; lovely food enjoyed by all.

Once again it is a friendly group catching up on family gatherings over the seasonal holidays. New Year resolutions, if any, were talked about; will they last!!

One or two of us have been out of sorts so home remedies were mentioned, dark chocolate is good for our teeth! Also cross your arms, hold your ear lobes, control breathing as you go down; very good for the memory: this is from a reputable source, the Saga magazine. If you need to know more give us a call.

We next meet at Grants 12.30. on the 7th February.

Sylvia Crooks.

Discussion Group



We had a quick trip through the news items from 2011. Then we looked at the coming year, including the Olympics in the hope that it may provide more and better facilities for sport, especially for the youngsters. The Diamond Jubilee, we admired the dedication of the Queen and Prince Philip. HS2, which brought a variety of different opinions, both for and against. A lively couple of hours.

Our next meeting will be on 8th February, at the West End at 1 pm.

Athena Roderick

Family History Group



The group met on 15 December and shared a room with the computer group which worked well.



As Stratford High School now charges for rooms it has been decided that we will, in future, share the room for one of the computer group's sessions each month. To fit in with the computer group the FHG will now meet on the fourth Thursday.

Group members will need to pay in advance for each term with the cost dependent upon how many members "sign up". The maximum cost will be around £9 per term (ie 3 sessions).

Sue Ocock

Grumpy Old Men Group



Despite the interesting and very informative introduction by Lesley Page into the background of the Gunpowder Plot the discussion topic - What If Guy Fawkes Had Succeeded - did not seem to fully ignite the passions of the 20 Grumps present going off a little bit like a damp squib rather than the normal full blown explosion of ideas, opinions and comment. However there was much talk of civil wars, domination by the Roman Catholic Church, invasion by Spain and/or France and general chaos for many years as various factions strived for supremacy in very uncertain times. Obviously this was a difficult subject to get to grips with as everything could only be based on supposition rather than hard fact but the consensus of the meeting was that the status quo would have eventually triumphed and the Country would have developed into the State very much as we know it today.

Grump of the Month Award went to Robert Chorley for his alternative take on the Plot and its outcome.

Next Meeting - Wed. Feb. 15th **Venue** - Le Bistrot Pierre.

Subject - Hs2 **Introduced by** - Keith Riste **Chairman for the Day** - Colin Robberts.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



This month we are continuing to play from normal music and we think we are making some progress? We are working our way through the course in the Handbell Ringers Handbook, so no experience is necessary at this stage. *We still need some more members to fully utilise the two Chromatic Octaves of Hand Bells.* Do come and join us – next practice 6th February.

Ron Castleton

History Group



At our January Meeting we saw a black and white film made in 1941, about a family living in Salford in the early 1930's. "Love on the Dole", which starred a young Deborah Kerr at the beginning of her career, painted a grim picture of a society struggling for survival when unemployment was rife and moral values declined. "Dole" money was cut if one member of the family was working, pawnshops flourished and both men and women took a drink for comfort (a nip of whisky cost 3 pence). In spite of the grimness there was some perky humour and a sense that the family would curvive.

We had fun spotting actors in minor parts who went on to become famous.

On Monday 13th February, Robyn Nicoll is going to talk to us about an on-line course from the U3A National Office which some members have been following – "2000 years of Chinese History in 30 minutes"! Should be good. Please join us – 2pm in the Side Room of the Methodist Hall.

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



Meeting to be 29 February 2pm at Bridge Cottage, to watch the Opera programme from Howard Goodall's Big Bangs in Music series..

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.

Play Reading Group



Play Reading this month was cancelled, due to sickness and other commitments.

Hope to meet in February on Friday the 17th. Please ring Sylvia on 01789 416965 for venue.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry Reading Group



We can take one or two more U3A members into the group. We meet at the West End pub, Bull Street, Old Town, on the second Wednesday of every month at 10.0 until 12.0 mid-day. If you love Poetry and would like to pay us a visit to see if this group is for you, please ring Jackie Williams, 01789 841155.

Poetry and Prose Reading Group



The topic for our January meeting was an open choice of a poem of special and personal significance. This brought forth offerings from Longfellow, Mrs Alexandra. Edwin Muir, Stevie Smith, Wordsworth, Rudyard Kipling, Kahlil Gibran, Jane Triplet, Sylvia Plath and D.H.Lawrence, a real mix of poets and topics. the next meeting will be on February 8th.

Ann Davies

Reading Group – Monday



We read Shining hero by Sara Banerji and all enjoyed it. We were reminded that there is still much poverty and what we would call superstition in modern India. The story is gripping, if sad, but to be recommended. Regretfully there are now too few books on the library list still to be enjoyed. We would welcome a couple of new members to widen our horizons!

.....`Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



Our book for January is *The Storyteller* by P. Sturrock, the Roald Dahl biography. We enjoyed our Christmas lunch at Bistro Pierre, good food and service. We had a short discussion about our last book, *If this is a Man* by Primo Levi. Several members managed to finish the book and commented that historically it was very interesting.

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group - Friday



Another book chosen by the library staff and this time we enjoyed it. It was *The Whaleboat House* by Mark Miles. It is his first novel and although there was probably too much back story it was well written with some good descriptions and well thought out characters. The story is set in one of the northern states of north America and set in 1947. It is a detective story and features troubles between the resident working class and wealthy in-comers with their holiday homes.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



We met as usual on the second Thursday of the month and had a mixed programme of rock & roll ranging from 1950s to 1980s. It included what was considered the worst song that we have ever had by Chuck Berry – you can't win every time.

Coral Bradley

Science & Nature Group



In January we had a talk and DVD about Joseph Bazalgette (*The Sewer King*).

In the mid 19th century London was overwhelmed by the waste products of its ever growing population, raw sewage was everywhere and so was the stench. There were continuous outbreaks of Cholera, in 1853 - 1854 more than 10,000 Londoners were killed by the disease. It was caused by the sewage contaminating the water system, but this was not recognised as it was thought to be caused by foul air (miasma).

Bazalgette was appointed Chief engineer of London's Metropolitan Board of Works , after many setbacks, his design of an extensive and efficient sewage system was built under London, this had a huge impact on the health of its inhabitants.

February 10th Talk --Aviation & the principles of flight. 2pm Methodist Hall lounge

February 15th Lecture at the Spa Centre Leamington 7pm for 7.30. Prof.Chris Stringer (Natural History Museum)

"Ancient Human Occupation of Britain" (Warwickshire Geological Conservation Trust)

March 9th Sarehole Mill tour (near Hall Green) 11am. Followed by pub lunch

Sandra Sladden

Stratford Swingers Big Band & Jazz Group



Our December Meeting was a departure from the norm in that we had a showing of the film "Jazz on an Summers Day". So not only did we have music, we were able to put faces to some well-known names from the Jazz scene. Amongst those performing were Anita O'Day, Gerry Mulligan, Thelonius Monk, Chico Hamilton and of course the incomparable Louis Armstrong. It was a good start to our Christmas Celebrations and made even better with Christmas Cake and Mince Pies supplied by group members.

Our thanks to Mary and Bob Fishleigh for organising and showing the film.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 26th January in the Lounge of the Methodist Church.

Happy New Year to you All.

Mavis Pickett

Sunday Lunch Group



The March lunch will be on Sunday 4th at the Kings Court Hotel, Alcester. Names please to Brian Bradley, Tel: 01789 488551.

Brian Bradley

Our next visit to the Symphony Hall is a Matinee on Wednesday 25th April 2012.



CBSO "British Classics"

Conductor: John Wilson

Clarinet: Michael Collins

Just a few tickets left!!!

Elgar Imperial March

Wood – London Cameos

Butterworth – Shropshire Lad

Katelbey – In a Monastery Garden

Finzi – Clarinet Concerto

Farnon – Jumping Bean

Coates – London Calling

Coates – Dancing Nights Waltz

Monckton – the Arcadians

Delius – Hearing the first cuckoo in Spring

This is a very popular programme and will be most enjoyable.

The cost of the visit will be £26. this includes return coach journey and ticket.

Please sign up at the main meeting. or phone Dorothy Jones 01789 204892 to reserve a place. We need to pay for the tickets by February 24th. Send cheques (made out to Heart of England U3A to 14 Ascot close Stratford upon Avon CV37 9FN

Dates for your Diary

Our second Visit to Symphony Hall – Thursday 28th June 2012 – Matinee Performance. 2.15pm.

Theatre Group



This month we go to see Nora at the Belgrade on 18 February 2012. Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.

My mobile number for this day is 07818820207. All the tickets for this event have been sold.

Our next trip is on 21 April 2012 to Malvern see "Anne Boleyn". This is a joint production between The English Touring Theatre and the Globe Theatre so it should be very enjoyable.

The cost is £26.00. Names and money are being taken from this month.

Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.

Tickets have also been reserved at Malvern for 2 June 2012 for Alan Bennett's The Lady in the Van starring Nichola McAuliffe. Some people, have already put their names down for this event.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 8th February 2012 at 10 a.m. prompt. The walk will start from the Gower memorial Bancroft Gardens Stratford and you can park in the Recreation Car Park or if coming from out of town use park and ride.

This is a five mile easy walk around Stratford on good surfaces appropriate for this time of the year.

I recommend good waterproof walking shoes as there is a little mud around and also bring a drink with you. I look forward to seeing you.

My mobile no is 07885435601

Valerie Redfern

New Year Lunch

Our New Year Lunch held on Saturday 21st January was enjoyed by one and all. The Bistro Pierre did us proud once again.

Athena Roderick

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON U3A : LUNCH AT CROOME PARK (National Trust)

We are going to the 1940's style canteen at Croome for lunch on Wednesday 21st March, followed by an optional visit to the house (which is empty, being refurbished) and/or grounds. The canteen offers good food using locally sourced products. Sample menu: Beef Bourguignon OR Pork loin in sage & onion gravy OR Seasonal vegetable bake topped with cheese (V) + dessert + pot of tea or mug of filter coffee.

We should like to invite Heart of England members to join us on our first trip of the year – a day out among the daffodils. The cost of the visit is **£21**, which includes coach travel and two-course lunch. Anyone who is not a member of the National Trust will need to pay extra on the day to look around the house; this is free, of course, to NT members.

Anyone interested should contact Margaret Dews on 01789 209900 as soon as possible. Commitment and money are needed early in February.

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

Stratford – 29th Feb. – “Professional International Tennis Umpire” – Bernadette Holtom.

Shotton – 7th Feb. – “Compton Verney – Past and Present” – Christine Culley.

Dene Valley – 14th Feb. – “The Alternative Robbie Burns” – Mike and Pat Ledbury.

Group Leaders Contact List			
Group	Group Leader	Contact Telephone	Usual Meeting date (Monthly)
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood	01789-266 429 01789-299 860	3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Tony Badham	01789-772 520	4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bird Watching Group	John Stagg	01789-267 549	See Newsletter for dates
Bridge	John Yeomans	01789-748 197	Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming	01789-298 357	4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	01789-267 984 01789 204 892	11.45 for 12 noon, Alternate Fridays After 2 nd March - Weekly
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
Discussion Group	Athena Roderick	01789 551 416	2 nd Wednesday
Family History – Genealogy	Sue Ocock	01789-491 004	4 th Thursday – 4.00 pm
Grumpy Old Men Group	Graham Mitchell	01789-205 195	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	Jacqueline 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
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
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	01789-488 551	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	01789-471 048	2 nd Wednesday

Tea Rota for 2012.

January	Computer Group	July	Weds Reading Group
February	Friday Reading Group	August	Classical Music Group
March	Poetry & Prose Group	September	Rock & Roll Group
April	Poetry Reading Group	October	Science & Nature
May	Walking Group	November	Chinwags
June	Play Reading Group	December	Hand Bells Ringers