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## *June 2016 Newsletter*

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Hello everyone.

It is with an enormously heavy heart that I am having to write this month's jottings.

### **EDWIN & ELAINE LILLY**

Our dear Heart of England U3A friends were involved in a terrible road accident on the Fosse Way on Sunday, 8th May, resulting in, sadly, Elaine losing the battle for her life and Edwin suffering very serious injuries. Many of you will have known them as a devoted couple with great plans for the enjoyment of their retirement in the years that lay ahead. Only two days previously, poignantly, on the previous Friday, Elaine was at the forefront of our choir, singing a lovely solo, at the sell-out choir concert at the Methodist Hall. Her sunny personality and warm smile will always be remembered and sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

Edwin, a highly valued and hard working member of the committee, is our newsletter editor, archivist, web page manager and on-line magazine editor, activities he tirelessly carries out quietly and efficiently. As he slowly recovers, in the weeks and months ahead, he will need all our friendship and support to cope with life without Elaine. I trust that you will join me in sending our condolences to Edwin, when appropriate, and to their three sons, who I know are totally devastated by this tragedy. I will endeavour to keep you updated on any relevant information, when I have it.

*Geoff Bridgewater*

### **TODAY'S MEETING**

Our speaker for June will be Rod Pomeroy.- "A Brief History of the Bow" - with examples from around the world including Europe, Middle East, Asia, Japan and the New World. It covers the bow in hunting, war, as a pastime, sport and even spiritual aid.

### **NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER**

Our speaker for July is Andrew Lound. His topic is "When the lights went out Birmingham goes to war."

### **SUMMER OUTING TO HUGHENDEN MANOR    TUESDAY 12th JULY 2016**

Hughenden Manor is the former home of Benjamin Disraeli, located in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. It was also a secret RAF base. As well as the house, there are gardens to explore and woodland walks.

**COST:** £18.50 FOR NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS    £ 27.50 FOR NON-TRUST.

LEAVE HENLEY 9.00AM    LEAVE LEISURE CENTRE 9.30AM

PLEASE PHONE CORAL BRADLEY    01789 488 551

### COURSES ON-LINE FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll

There is a vast list of courses available which may be found on the National U3A Web site.

For a detailed list, you will need to access the Members' Area by creating a user name and password.

**National Web site:** [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

For more details about courses, please contact Robyn. ([redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk))

### CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

We are looking forward to our next get-together on Friday afternoon, 17th June, 2.30 to 4.30, in the lounge. A special guest, Hu, a young Chinese student studying at the Shakespeare Institute, will be giving us a talk on Chinese visitors to the Birthplace over the past 100+ years. Visitors are welcome so let Robyn know if you would like to join us.

More information from Robyn Nicoll. [redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk) or  
David Ralph. [david@ralphhome.com](mailto:david@ralphhome.com)

### ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett

This month's meeting was compiled by Mavis Pickett who started off with 'The Big 18' playing "Tuxedo Junction" which blew away the cobwebs. Then Johnny Hodges followed with "Hodge Podge" a lovely bright sharp track. In contrast the next track was Pee Wee Russel with "Take me to the land of Jazz". I do like searching through my books on jazz for interesting facts (to me) and for Pee Wee who suffered ill health for years his fellow musicians said "Even his feet looked sad". Will Bradley and his Octet came next with "When Gabriel Blows His Horn" a nice solo on this from Billy Butterworth. Then we had two vocals, the first from 'The Velvet Fog' Mel Torme with "When a Bee Lies Sleeping" and the second "Anything goes" sung by George Melly. The first half finished with a 'Bostin' (I'm a Brummie) "Stompin at the Savoy" played by Henry Jerome and the Brazen Brass.

After our tea break it was on with Slim Gaillard playing "Dizzy Boogie". The next three tracks were the Bobby Hackett Quartet, Charlie Parker and a duet with Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt. The final five tracks were female singers but in the case of three of the excellent jazz pianists. We started with Diana Krall, and then it was Blossom Dearie and then Nina Simone. The final two were solely singers - Dinah Washington and lastly Anita O'Day with "You're the Top" bringing back memories of the 1958 Newport Festival. My thanks to Barrie for presenting for me. Why not join us.

We meet on the **4th Thursday of the month** in the lounge at the Methodist Church Hall, starting at 2pm.

### ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish/ Pam Collins

At our May meeting Judith Fogg, a member of the group, talked about one of her favourite painters, Gustave Caillebotte. He is often referred to as 'a lesser known impressionist', but we learnt much more of interest about Caillebotte's life and work, as both an artist and patron of the arts, from Judith's enthusiastic presentation.

In June we'll be visiting an exhibition at the Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum.

### BRIDGE GROUP

John Yoemans

We play in a relaxed atmosphere and are always keen to welcome new members with some experience of the game. If you would like to try us out please come as a guest so that you can decide if you would like to join the group. We meet **every Tuesday afternoon** for a two and a half hour session starting at 2.00pm in the Methodist Church, Side Room 1, next to the kitchen.

### CARD MAKING GROUP

Carolyn Leach

Our next workshop will be on Friday, 3rd June, in the new room from 12.30pm to 4.30pm.

Last month £50 was raised for Greyhound and Lurcher Rescue. Thanks to all who supported us.

### **CHINWAGS**

Belinda Sylvester

We are still at Le Bistro Pierre where good food, chat and laughter are on the menu.

### **THE CHOIR**

Dorothy Jones

We had two concerts in May. Our main concert was enjoyed by everyone - super audience, choir and soloists.

We also entertained the residents of Briarcroft.

### **CLASSICAL MUSIC**

Aline Cumming

The group will meet too late for the early deadline.

### **COMPUTER GROUP**

Robyn Nicoll

A course of 5 sessions is underway at the Parish Centre, 2.30 to 4.00pm.

This course is covering topics for **tablets and laptops** and is offering help to members who wish to upgrade their computers to the free Windows10 operating system. (free until 23rd July)

**The June dates booked: June 8th and 22nd.**

More experienced members give their time to help the “students” and this is greatly appreciated. If you are able to offer some time and expertise please let Robyn know. (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

### **CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP**

Robyn for Tricia Callaghan

At our May meeting, we created bows, butterflies and flowers using metallic ribbon. This clever ribbon seals itself so no need for glue or thread.

Date for the diary: **Thursday, 16th June, 2pm to 4pm in the new room.**

### **DINAHS**

Sylvia Crooks

We last met on 3rd May at the Red Lion. Lovely to see everyone. After an enjoyable meal, there was a glass raised to Sue for looking after Athena’s daughter Julie. Athena is then able to have a little break and not worry about Julie. We chatted about Cordoba in Spain, the 400 year celebrations for William, Religion, Money laundering, Brexit and problems with teeth!!

### **DISCUSSION GROUP**

Athena Roderick

We were a smaller group and talked about our views on privacy for the Royal Family.

### **FILM GROUP**

Mary Fishleigh

More information in the next newsletter.

### **GAMES GROUP - SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARD GAMES**

Sue Tringham

I was not around for the sessions in May but I am sure Heather ran the group successfully. In June we will be meeting on Monday, 6th and Monday 20th June. We contribute £2 for our pay and play sessions which include tea/coffee and biscuits! We welcome new members so just turn up.

### **GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP**

Jayne Jones

Our May meeting was a visit to the National Herb Centre just outside Warmington Village near Banbury. They have an extensive range of herb plants to delight the chef, the gardener and anyone with an interest in herbal remedies or alternative medicine. A number of us braved the pouring rain to look around the centre, buy some plants then have a cuppa and a chat. However the nature walk was called off. The next visit is on June 14th, either to Kiftsgate Gardens or Baddesley Clinton. Members will be advised later as to venue. Our programme for the year can be found on the Chairman’s information board.

### **GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP**

Graham Mitchell

Although far from unanimous, Brexit was the choice of the majority of the 17 Grumps at the May lunchtime meeting gathered to discuss the EU Referendum. Strongly held opinions were put forward to support individuals' positions on the pros and cons of "in or out". The effect on such aspects as the economy, uncontrolled immigration, sovereignty, potential expansion of the EU (Putin/Russian reaction) etc., etc., were debated and associated "facts, figures and statistics" challenged as to their accuracy and believability. Despite the obvious passion in the room, members behaved in a reasonably orderly manner throughout. A "secret" paper ballot was conducted before and after the discussion which resulted in one initially "undecided" changing to "out". The final result being IN 4; OUT 11 and UNDECIDED 2.

**Next meeting - Wed. 15th June** Venue - Le Bistro Pierre

**Subject -** Is pollution the inevitable outcome of a consumerist society and if so how should it be contained.

Introduction by Stuart Andrews.

### **HISTORY GROUP**

Jean Hicks / David Dumper

.At our May meeting, Jackie Checketts gave us an interesting talk on the history of the Stratford Tramway. It was a 16 mile wagonway from the canal basin to Moreton in Marsh with a branch to Shipston on Stour. It was intended to carry Black Country coal, limestone and agricultural products northwards.

The Parliamentary act for the line was passed in 1821. It was surveyed by William Jones, a wealthy local railway promoter, and engineered by John Urpeth Rastrich. Construction was completed in 1826 and the branch to Shipston ten years later. The line from Shipston to Stratford continued to be used as a horse drawn branch line until the 1880's when it fell into disuse. The main line also functioned as a horse drawn tramway for several decades but began to suffer from the advent of steam power. The tracks were lifted in 1918 as part of the war effort.

The tramway bridge is now used by pedestrians and one of the only 2 surviving wagons which belonged to Thomas Hutchins of Newbold was rescued from a scrap yard and restored. The other carriage is in York Transport Museum.

Next Meeting: **Monday 13th June.** Episode 2 of Michael Wood's Shakespeare

### **KEEP FIT**

Mary Palmer

The class is now full. A waiting list has now been started if anyone is interested.

### **PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP**

Dorothy Jones

We usually have an average of 10 members; we probably have space for 2 more.

Do drop in if you would like to join. Our June meetings: Mondays 6th and 20th in the Methodist Hall

### **PILATES GROUP - MONDAY**

Gill Ganner

Weekly at St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Shottery, 12.15 to 1.15. More information from Gill Ganner.

### **PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY**

Weekly at St. Andrew's as above, 10.15 to 11.15. More information from Sue Workman - 01789 297061.

### **PLAY READING GROUP**

Sylvia Crooks

Next meeting at Sylvia's, **16th June**, 10.30.

**READING GROUP MONDAY**

Phyllis Bailey

We all thoroughly enjoyed "Amy Snow" by Tracy Rees and would recommend it. There was something very satisfying about the story ; it had the 'not put-downable' quality we all appreciate! with plenty to discuss.

**READING GROUP WEDNESDAY**

Dorothy Jones

The newsletter went to print before our meeting; we were reading "I Can't Begin to Tell you" by Elizabeth

**READING GROUP FRIDAY**

Coral Bradley

Check the next newsletter for up to date information.

**SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS TECHNICAL GROUP**

Geoff Bridgewater

Mike Genge kindly agreed to come to talk to us about the Island of St. Helena. He told us about the origins of the island on the Mid Atlantic Ridge and some of its more recent history! Most of us knew it was a remote island and that Napoleon had been banished there. Some knew an airport was being built there but Mike gave an interesting talk, which included 3 video clips to give us a more rounded knowledge of this island which lies in the South Atlantic Ocean. We also learnt about the islands of Ascension and Tristan da Cunha as well as seeing a picture of Jonathan the world's oldest turtle! Many thanks to Mike for his time.

**SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

Brian Bradley

Next date: 5th June 2016 - Kings Court Alcester.

Names to Brian Bradley - 01789 488551

**SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS**

Dorothy Jones

Three visits will be arranged for the 2016/17 season.

Look for the dates in the next newsletter.

**THEATRE GROUP**

Coral Bradley

On **18th June** we go to the Belgrade to see "The Birthday Party" by Harold Pinter.

Cost: £29.50. Leave Henley 12.00, Leisure Centre 12.30.

On **9th July** we go to Malvern Theatre to see "HMS Pinafore".

Cost £27.50.

Phone Coral Bradley 01789 48551

**WALKING GROUP**

Valery Redfern

The June walk was cancelled.

Check the next newsletter for future walks.

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

Stratford - 29th June - "Performance Between the Ears" - Karen O'Connor.

Shotton - 7th June - "The Motor Heritage Centre at Gaydon" - Adela Thomas .

Dene Valley - 14th June - "Walking Across Africa" - Fran Sandhom.

Alcester - 7th June - "The Antiques Roadshow - A visitors observations." - John Dallimore

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>GROUP LEADER</u>	<u>USUAL MEETING DAY</u>
All that Swing and Jazz	Brian Bradley	4th Thurs. 2.00-4.00
AmDram & Supper	Geoff Bridgewater	As announced
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	3rd Friday 2.00pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tues. 2.00pm
Card Making	Carolyn Leach	As announced
China Discussion Group	Robyn Nicoll	See newsletter
Chinwags Lunch	Belinda Sylvester	4th Monday 12.00 noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	Every Friday 10.30 - 12.00
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	3rd Monday 2.00pm
Creative Crafts	Tricia Callaghan	3rd Thurs. 2.00 - 4.00
Computer Group	Robyn Nicoll	2nd and 4th Weds 2.30-4.00
Dinahs Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1st Tues. For lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	2nd Wed.
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	2nd Tues 2.00pm
Games-Scrabble, Dominoes,Cards	Sue Tringham	1st and 3rd Mon .2.00 - 4.00
Garden Appreciation Group	Jayne Jones Suzy Genge	2nd Tues.
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	3rd Wed. for lunch
History	David Dumper	2nd Mon. 2.00pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thurs. 10.00 - 11.00
Painting/Drawing	Dorothy Jones	As announced
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	Every Mon. 12.15 - 1.15pm
Pilates - Wednesday	Sue Workman	Every Wed. 10.15 - 11.15am
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	See Newsletter for dates
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davey	2nd Wed. 10.00 - 12.00
Reading - Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3rd Mon 2.30 - 4.30
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3rd Wed. 2.30
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	2nd Thurs. 2.00 - 4.00
Science, Nature etc.	Geoff Bridgewater	2nd Frid. 2.00 - 4.00
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	As arranged
Theatre Visits and Outings	Coral Bradley	As arranged
Walking	Valery Redfern	2nd Wed 10.00am

#### **ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
June 2016	The Choir	September 2016	Rock & Roll Group
July 2016	Grumpy Old Men	October 2016	Walking Group
August 2016	Reading Groups	November 2016	Card Making Group