



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

New Website address:-

www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

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January 2011 Newsletter

..... *And a Happy New Year too!*

TODAYS SPEAKER

Today's speaker is Andrew Lound who is going to take us on a voyage of discovery where the sky is no longer the limit, and tell us about Saturn, Lord of the Rings.

NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

'A Pinch of Salt' will be next month's topic (3rd February), whose experiences in the Navy will be shared with us by Bill Davies.

Membership Fees: Members are reminded that the fee of £15.00 per person is now overdue.

Renewal forms and envelopes will be available at the meeting, and payment should be made at the meeting today or by post to the Treasurer, David Sladden,

10 Saffron Walk, Stratford CV37 6GN **REMEMBER TO GET YOUR 2011 DIARIES NOW!!!!**

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Nev MacFarlane at his home on the 13th December. Nev has not been well for several weeks but was still hosting the Poetry Group at his home the week before he died. Nev had started the Poetry Group many years ago and was famous for the cakes he baked specially for the occasion. Last year, Nev and his "poetry girls" organised the successful Poetry Festival held in the United Reformed Church. He was also a keen member of the Grumpy Old Men's Group. Nev was a delightful gentleman and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. A message of sympathy has been sent to his wife Ann and family.

Robyn Nicoll

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

Please contact Robyn if you would like more information about the courses.

The next meeting for the Garden History On-liners will be on Tuesday, 25th January, from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in the Annex.

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS.

Our Old Website ceased to function on 31st October due to BT changing the website supplier. Our New website, IS NOW FUNCTIONING AT www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk.

Christmas Raffle:

A very big THANK YOU to all members who generously supported the Christmas Raffle and Craft Table. The raffle raised £65 and the crafts £17.

The Craft Group have donated £82 to the Aylesford Unit at Warwick Hospital.

Heart of England U3A Archive

I have been asked to set up and maintain an archive of material from the last ten years of operation and to continue to collect material in the future. At the moment we are anticipating that the archive

will be mainly paper based - photographs, reports, programmes, menus, newspaper or magazine reports. These will be kept in a large folder (or series of folders) and brought to the monthly meetings for members to view. It may be possible, eventually, to view images of the archive on a website.

If you have material from previous meetings, events, etc., I would be pleased to have copies or originals. If you do not wish to relinquish originals I would be able to scan them and make copies so that you can retain either the originals or have copies.

Please contact me on 01789 204472 or by email at edwinandelaine.lilly@virgin.net. My address is 9 Addison Drive, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7PL should you wish to deliver items or I can collect.

I have already received digital photographic images from the Science & Nature Group and from the Walking Group and look forward to other groups providing further items in the near future.

Edwin Lilly

NEW YEAR LUNCH

Heart of England U3A has arranged to celebrate the **New Year** at **Le Pierre Bistro in the Garden Room of the Swan's Nest Hotel** on Saturday 22nd January 2011 at 12.00 noon. The price is an amazing £12.00 for a delicious 3 course lunch, not including wine or coffee, which can be ordered separately. There will be a **FREE** draw for a **lunch for two** at Le Pierre Bistro and we will also have another prize for the winner of a short fun quiz. The booking form and menu choice is available at this meeting or can be downloaded from our website. Please return your menu selection to Athena Roderick at the next meeting or to 17 Gifford Walk, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 9LN, Tel No 01789 551416 and send your cheque for £12 each (Made out to Heart of England U3A) to David Sladden, 10 Saffron Walk, Stratford CV37 6GN

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Proposed new Interest Groups:

Interest has been shown in the Cooks' Club, Bird Watching, and the On-Line Italian Art Course.

- Bird Watching – please meet Dorothy Jones in the Lounge after the main meeting.
- Cooks' Club - Chris Heaps will meet interested members in the hall after the main meeting.
- Art History On-Line – meet Robyn for further information after the main meeting.

Another Interest Group proposed for the New Year is a practical Art Group. Please sign the list if interested in this new group.

If unable to attend the monthly meetings but wish to add your name to the lists, please contact Dorothy Jones (01789 204892) or Jackie Williams (01789 841155).

Big Band Swing Jazz Group



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th January 2011 at 2pm until 4pm in the Lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

We meet, listen to and enjoy the recorded music of the Swing and Jazz era. This includes Big and Small group Swing and Jazz, of all styles. You are 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

To avoid a clash with Christmas there was no Chinwags lunch in December.

To avoid the HoE U3A New Year Lunch in January we shall exceptionally meet on 5th Monday which is 31st January 2011. We have booked a table at Grant's Restaurant in Sheep Street, for 12 noon. Topic for discussion "Are we unprepared for winter weather?"



Grant's is on the same side as Lambs but further down i.e. nearer the river. Regret there is No parking nearby - Please anyone who has not already told me let me know if you are

coming
Happy New Year to all

Aline Cumming

Classical Music Group



We met, five of us in the Annexe. Some people had already cried off with good reason, medical grounds and colds but there were not enough of us and it was left to Anna Barton, Jean Frick and Margaret Barnett to support Aline and yours truly to carry the flag. This is serious. Particularly as we have run out of money and are relying on a sub from George to keep going. To be discussed more fully at our next meeting in January

We had selected The Carol Symphony by Hely-Hutchinson as an entre-act to begin with but cut it off because we were late starting.. Aline played the first of her continued presentation on the Art of Conducting but Disaster Struck! It seemed there was a loose wire somewhere in the connections, caused by taking all the bits out of the boxes so often. Aline did a brilliant piece of improvised surgery using the screwdriver which travels with the Equipment and borrowing George's penknife which has a pair of scissors attached to make a repair.

After Tea we turned again to play the music for the second part of the program but disaster struck again. Nothing we could do would persuade it to play anything except the last of last months Brahms Symphony so we gave up in disgust but played all of the Carol Symphony to make up. The Group Leader and Sound Engineers' resignations were offered but voted down because no one else wanted to do it. Good job there were only five of us there.

George Cumming

"The Choir"



We had a special Christmas Session when Stuart came early to an extended meeting and we were soon singing "Walking in the Air" and improving well on the "Lord's Prayer" (not great heights but we are ascending!) This was followed by a brilliant poem composed and read by Christine, then we celebrated our success with tables laden with food everyone had contributed including a special cake marking the year's achievement. We are now looking forward to 2011.

Tony Griffiths.

" THE CHOIR"

"Let's start a choir!" someone said
And Tony's brainwave quickly led
To finding the first choir call
In the British Legion hall
Which rendered quite a large array
Of people from the U3A.
But Oh! There was a gaping chasm
'tween reality and enthusiasm
For a choir without a master
Is a bit of a disaster.
Sylvia was a little star
Her efforts helped us get quite far
But we felt somewhat at a loss
'cos what we needed was a boss.
We didn't have too long to wait
Before we found our saviour- Kate
Her African chants were soon perfected
The foreign tongues were unexpected
But embraced, so when Kate stated
She'd to leave, we were deflated.
What else, we wondered, could we learn?
'twas Dorothy and Margaret's turn

Reach up! Breathe in! Count to five!
Breathe out (if you're still alive!)
Meanwhile a second bod came along
Hoping to teach the art of song
Said she'd control us with one finger
We really hoped she wouldn't linger
Her fearsome presence made us cower
She lasted only half an hour.
But various people brought a song
We had a good old sing-a-long
And some of us were even seen
Disco-ing to "Dancing Queen"
And then, to bring much needed solace
Along came Mr. Stuart Wallace
Oh! Knight in shining armour gallant
To the rescue! What a talent!
His mission in life was to be
To teach us four part harmony
With carols, hymns and do-re-mi's
And song selections aimed to please
But sadly Stuart's only here
Until the ending of the year

He hopes to make a working trip
As singer on a big cruise ship
He'll entertain folks brilliantly
Whilst all at sea, bereft, we'll be
But someone's bound to come along

To teach the choir another song
Despair ye not! Have Christmas merry!
And see you all in January!

Christine

Computer Group At Stratford High School - 2nd and 4th Thursdays 4pm – 6pm.



The first session for "Cameras and Computers" will be on Thursday 13th January. Please meet in the reception area at the High School at 3.45pm. and bring your camera with photos and a connecting lead with USB plug. Sessions will be held in room S44 on the second floor.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our last meeting for this year was spent doing our own craft from home. This involved card and bead making, knitting and sewing. We discussed some ideas for next year and everyone hoped that some new members will be joining us for some fun afternoons in 2011

Carolyn Leach (01789 266194)

Card Making workshop



At our last meeting of the year we brought our own crafts from home to work on. A pleasant afternoon was enhanced with cake mince-pies and cheese straws! I would like to thank all U3A members who generously supported the sale of our cards and crafts at the last two meetings..A cheque for £50 has been sent to Guide Dogs. I hope that we can continue to count on your generosity during 2011.

The first Card Making workshop in 2011 will be held in the annex on Friday 14th January from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. "Butterflies" will be the theme for the day.

Due to the bumper sale of cards over the Christmas period, Carolyn has donated £50 to "Different Strokes" – a UK based charity specialising in the support of young stroke survivors; **and** has also donated £50 to Guide Dogs for the Blind Assoc. **Thanks to all members who supported the Card Stall so generously.**

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs



Our Christmas meal was at the Stratford College, enjoyable for most of us, however a few were disappointed. The Monday Reading group also joined us which was nice seeing new faces. The weather and health did deter a couple of ladies; also Athena had a fall the day before so we do wish her well. We are going to meet at Jimmy Spices on the 4th January, Dinahs wish all readers a Happy and Healthy 2011.

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 History 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!

There is no meeting in December so our next meeting is in January. New members are always welcome.

Carol Styles

Grumpy Old Men Group



This month's topic - would you want to be 18/20 again - introduced by David Grahame (Grump of the month) was enthusiastically embraced by all members but there was a distinct tendency to go "off-track" (or should it be "piste" bearing in mind the arctic conditions of late) which gave rise to a wide ranging discussion during which, true to form, most of the world's problems were aired and sorted out. 18/20 again - not a unanimous "yes" and although we were undoubtedly naive compared with today's 18's most considered it was a good and exciting time for them. With a reasonable amount of ambition and enthusiasm the possibility of getting a decent job leading to a secure, interesting career were highly achievable (then a degree was not the minimum qualification needed to even get started!!) Many gained valuable experience and positive personal development and often free world wide travel thanks to National Service. With regard to being 18/20 now - a resounding YES as we would be free from the affliction of the numerous aches and pains and worn out joints resulting from many years of ceaseless toil but a NO as the future prospects and security for many of our youngsters appears to be far less encouraging than in "our day". What will it be like when to-days 18/20's are our age!?

Next meeting - WED. 19 JAN. same time and place.

Topic - LOCALISM - WILL IT WORK. Discussion led by Paul Burley.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We had a successful and enjoyable meeting in December, and worked our way through "Good King Wenceslas" and "O come all ye Faithful", and finished off with a rousing version of "Old MacDonald. At the moment we are more enthusiastic than skilful, but are improving with practice. We are looking forward to our next session on 17th January. If anyone can't make it, please ring me.

Ron Castleton

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.

Reading Group - Monday



We meet on the third Monday each month at 2.30pm. We now have two vacancies and would welcome new members! We all enjoyed our book last month, "A Gathering Light" by J. Donnelly and find overall that 75% of the library offerings are titles we would not have thought of selecting but are rewarding and discussion-provoking! Several of the group joined the Diners for their Xmas lunch at the college which Sylvia kindly arranged.

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group - Wednesday



Our meeting this month, being the Festive Season was held at Jimmy Spice. Everyone was able to be there so we had a very jolly lunch. Not too much mention was made of the book, which truth be told had gone unread by most of the group. Even our reliable reader had given it up as boring so that made the rest of us feel not quite so guilty at not having made too much of an effort. Ha the book, What Maisie Knew by Henry James.

Sandra Whiteley

Reading Group – Friday



The library couldn't supply us with a book this month so we picked one for ourselves. We chose *The Crow Road* by Iain Banks. It is quite a big book with a lot of characters in it. Some of our group found it hard to get started with it because of the number of characters and it also ranged over several years but once into it most people really enjoyed it. It is the story of an extended family in Scotland with all the usual family problems including murder and it is seen through the eyes of a young man in his early twenties with all the hang ups that young people experience

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



The next meeting will be on the second Thursday of the month (13th) in the lounge of the Methodist hall.

Science & Nature Group



On December 10th we had a very enjoyable Christmas Social at Hampton Lucy village hall. Geoff devised a quiz which taxed our little grey cells and then we tried to solve the puzzles and conundrums that the group had all brought, the nail puzzle (brought by Geoff) defeated us all!. This was followed by a Christmas tea which allowed our little grey cells to relax in the very convivial atmosphere. A great afternoon!

2011.

- January 14th we will meet at Geoff and Heathers at 2pm. Geoff is giving an introductory talk on Isambard Kingdom Brunel followed by "The Great Eastern" DVD.
- February 14th 2pm. at the Methodist Hall lounge. Judy Klinkenberg presents a talk on the subject of Cells.

Sandra Sladden

Stratford Swingers Big Band & Jazz Group



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 27th January 2011 at 2pm until 4pm in the Lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

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

Dennis Sully

Sunday Lunch Group



The next Sunday lunch will be on the 6th February 2011 at the New Inns, Clifford Chambers. Names please to Brian Bradley Tel. No: 01789 488551

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)

Please sign up as soon as possible as it will be a very popular 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 14 Ascot Close

Stratford upon Avon CV37 9FN Telephone 01789 204892 **All payments by January 31st.**

Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins

Theatre Group & Outings



Some dates for your diaries and some to be considered now.

12 March 2011 Malvern Theatre. "Life of Riley" written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn starring Lisa Goddard. Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.
Cost for the outing is £27.50.

23 April 2011 Malvern Theatre "Busybody" written by Jack Popplewell. Usual pickup times.
We are not taking names or money for this trip yet - but the tickets are booked.

14 May 2011 Malvern Theatre "Jeffrey Barnard is unwell" written by Keith Waterhouse starring Robert Powell. Usual pickup times. We are not taking names or money for this trip yet - but the tickets are booked.

9 June 2011 Birmingham Hippodrome Welsh National Opera "Cosi Fan Tutte". This is an evening production.

Coach will leave the Leisure centre at 5.30 then Henley at 5.45. Back in Stratford at approx 11.15. This is an expensive trip and the theatre has to be paid in March. Cost £45.50. Names and money needed by the beginning of February.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group

The January walk will take place on Wednesday the 12th January 2010 at 10.a.m. We will start from the Bancroft Gardens and park in the recreation car park.

It is the charm of dear old Stratford town walk the distance is five miles so allow three hours and also bring a drink with you just in case.

I do recommend good walking shoes and hope the lone range forecast for more snow is wrong and we have a good day – and are able to burn some of the Christmas calories. ***We wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New year.*** Look forward to seeing you there.

Valerie Redfern

COUNTRY DANCING with Stratford U3A

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

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

Our next and last session of the year is to be held in the ANNEXE on Tues. 7th December at 2.30 p.m.

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 – 26th January.

Shotton – 1st February – "The Lord Leicester Hospital" - Lt. Col Lesinski.

Dene Valley - 11th January – "The American West Part 2 - Richard Eggington.

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
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
French Conversation	Anthea Dodsworth	01789-415 972	Every Tuesday 1.30 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 Canner	01789-269 657	Mondays – 12.15-1.15pm
Play Reading	Suzette Pullen	01789-204 974	1 st Friday 10.30 – 12.00
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	As appropriate
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
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	01789-488 551	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	01789-471 048	2 nd Wednesday