



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

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JULY 2012 NEWSLETTER

TODAYS SPEAKER

We welcome back David Howe today who is going to give us a talk on the history of the English language, entitled 'English whose English'. David has a wide experience of giving talks all over the Midlands and on many and varied subjects, from 'Remembering not to Forget' to 'Laughter: The Best Medicine'. I'm sure we shall have an enjoyable and thought provoking afternoon

NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

The speaker for August is Mrs Cathy Silk whose talk is 'The Adventures of a Lady Pilot'.

From the Chairman's Desk

Ron Castleton has decided that it is now time to hand over his roles as Editor of the Newsletter and Webmaster. His work and expertise have been invaluable to Heart of England U3A since he was Founder Chairman in 2001. Many thanks Ron. We are very pleased to announce that Edwin Lilley has agreed to take on this important role.

Our 11th AGM will be held on 6th September 2012 and this will include the election of members to the committee. We therefore need nominations for the posts of officers and committee to be submitted in writing to the Chairman or Business Secretary by the 9th August 2012. Nomination forms are available at this meeting or by post.

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 you 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

The China On-liners will be meeting to discuss the 7th Unit on **Wednesday, 11th July, 2.30 – 4.30**, to be held in **Side Room 2**. Members will be researching the Qing Dynasty which brings us towards the present day. (1644 – 1912)

Robyn Nicoll

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation Group



In June we visited the Summer exhibition at the Torquil Gallery which as usual was full of the most lovely and interesting art work: paintings, ceramics and sculpture. The latter spills out into the garden which had quite a menagerie of hares, frogs, owls and spinning piglets, apart from more decorative pieces and an impressive half apple. In July we are visiting James Butler's studio.

Phyl Collins

All Swing and Jazz Group



Report of the May 2012 meeting.

On a blisteringly hot afternoon Dennis treated us to a 'hot and cold' session. He started with the David Rose Orchestra playing "The Stripper" which increased the temperature of the group (no offers to demonstrate though). This was followed by "Creole Jazz" played by Acker Bilk and in quick succession "Skylark" and "Miss Otis Regrets" sung by Ethel Waters. Then the temperature dropped a little with a couple of cool tracks - "Boo's Blues" played by Quincy Jones and "Makin' Whoopee" by Ben Webster after a few more tracks we finished the first half with "On the Street Where You Live" played by the Harry Arnold Orchestra. After the interval we burst into the second half with The Commanders playing "The Monster" which certainly invigorated us. Then it was on to a delightful mixture of tracks ranging through Louis Armstrong, Sammy Davis Jnr, Kansas City Five and The Widespread Jazz Orchestra. For the next track we had "Sweet Violets" and were asked 'guess the vocalist' which we did *wrongly*, all thinking it was Doris Day when in actual fact it was Dinah Shore. The session drew to an end with "It Don't Mean A Thing" played by Peter Herbolzheimer, "Avenue C" with Lambert, Hendricks and Ross and "Love for Sale" by Ted Heath, featuring Frank Horrox.

It says much for the programme that on a sweltering afternoon we all **stayed** awake. Thank you yet again Dennis. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 26th July at 2pm in the lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town.

Mavis Pickett

Big Band Swing & Jazz.



Next two meetings will be on June 26th. & July 24th. 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



A rather depleted group met in May and as the table was not cut down it was difficult to hear so the discussion was local rather than the complete group. Nevertheless it was enjoyable and thanks are due to Belinda for organising it. The June lunch is on Monday 25 June and Sheila is making the bookings.

Aline Cumming

The Choir



We were thrilled to have such an amazing audience for our Concert on Friday 15th June. We really enjoyed seeing everyone. Thank you all for your appreciation and enthusiastic support. We hope to make our concert "Let's Sing a Song" an annual event. After we paid out all expenses we were able to give £438 to the Methodist Church Restoration Fund, which was wonderful! We all realise how fortunate we are to have Stewart Wallace as our Musical Director - An Inspiration to us all! If you enjoy singing, come and join us. We'd love to see you. We have members from all five U3A's in the area, We were so pleased to see Tony Griffiths, our Founding Father, and his wife Belle on the front row.

Thank you Dorothy Jones and all members of The Choir.

A Note from Tony and Belle Griffiths

"The Concert on 15th June – What a wonderful performance! A Huge success. From such humble beginnings to achieving such an easy flowing natural concert. We should be forgiven for overlooking the organisation and hard work involved. The warm welcome and friendliness radiated out to us all – a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and a very sincere thankyou."

Classical Music Group



A small select group met at Bridge Cottage for Aline's choice of choral music. We started with Faure's Requiem in its entirety, which left us stunned. Amazing that his music is not played more widely as although it is not 'big' and theatrical it has lovely melodies and orchestration. To wake us up we heard Mozart's Exultate Jubilate, composed when the composer was becoming happy and successful. After tea we were exposed to all five movements of Beethoven's Ninth symphony, the Choral. Amazing how many variations he managed to create on the theme in the final movement. We overran on time but most of us lasted. In July we meet at Bridge Cottage for a Bring Your Own session. All welcome, we can take more members

Aline Cumming

Computer Group at Stratford School.



The **Digital Camera and Computer Course** continue until Thursday July 12th, 4pm – 6pm. On the final session, members will be presenting a slide show of their selected and edited photographs.

Please give suggestions for topics you would like us to consider for courses in the future. We hope to begin again after the summer break at the end of September.

Contact Ron or Robyn or add suggestions to the sheet on the notice board table.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our June meeting was spent making Pricking and Stitching Cards under the guidance of Joy and Mary. Everyone seemed to get on very well with their project. Next month

there is a change of programme from Bead making to Making bags, and book marks using fresh flowers and greased paper.

Requirements.

Small thin Fresh flowers. Examples Pansies, Lobelia, Daisy, Rose petals, thin leaves etc.

Next meeting will be in the Annex on 19th July. 2-4pm. Everyone welcome.

Roma Rudd.

Card Making Group



On June 1st we spent an enjoyable day making cards, most of which were for charity. £50 has been raised at the monthly meetings for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Stratford Hospice is also selling some as is Huncote Farm Shop for Air Ambulance. If anyone would like to join us at our next day on July 6th or Aug 10th, please phone Robyn on 01789 417935

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs



Dinahs did not meet for lunch in June because of the Jubilee Holiday. Dinahs will meet for lunch on Tuesday 3rd July at the refurbished Bistrot Pierre.

Sylvia Crooks.

Family History Group



The last Family History Group meeting for this term was on 28 June.



We usually meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Stratford High School at 3.45pm.

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. Unfortunately numbers have been down this term due to personal circumstances and date clashes. Unless numbers increase it is likely that the group may not be viable.

New members to this group would, therefore be particularly welcome. Feel free to ring me if you have any questions.

Sue Ocock

Grumpy Old Men Group



The discussion topic for our mid-summer (ha! ha!) meeting "What I have missed most", produced a varied mix of contributions such as - not not having a computer, the era before mobile phones, feeling 100% healthy, being able to run, songs with proper lyrics and singers you can understand, "repairers", the camaraderie associated with work, sleeping through the night and one eccentric grump actually missed reading the newspaper on his daily 1 hour commute by train into London. Early on the discussion centred round the experiences of several members who felt they had missed out on what is deemed to be a traditional family life due to the absence or loss of parents during their formative years, illness or being an only child. Understandably a sensitive period during the lives of those concerned but on today's evidence something they have successfully overcome.

Next meeting - Wed. 18 July. **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.

Ron Castleton

History Group



At our June Meeting Tony Whiteley gave us an illustrated talk on Joseph Arch (1826-1919) who lived in Barford all his life. His parents had been able to buy their own house so were able to grow their own vegetables. This was important at a time when the majority of Villagers were farm workers living in cramped, overcrowded tied cottages on starvation wages. Joseph started work at the age of 9 as a bird-scarer, eventually becoming a hedge-cutter, which work took him all round the country. In 1879 his seven children had grown up so he set about trying to improve the working conditions of agricultural workers. In February 1872 a meeting was held in front of the Stags Head Pub in Wellesbourne and eventually the Agricultural Workers' Union was established. When members went on strike some of them were evicted from their tied cottages and many emigrated to places as far away as Canada, New Zealand and Brazil. After many struggles conditions improved and in 1896 the Union was dissolved, the interests of agricultural workers being looked after by other Unions.. In 1885 Joseph Arch was elected as a Liberal MP and achieved an even greater honour by having a pub named after him.

At our meeting on 9th July, Athena Roderick's talk is entitled "Chile Lindo: Tales of Life in Chile". We shall not meet in August.

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



We met at Pam Howland's house and enjoyed a performance of La Traviata.

It started happily then grew more and more moving. In the final act, the heroine is dying of consumption yet manages to sing for 30 minutes before the end comes. Although it sounds ridiculous the music and acting transcend the reality and belief is suspended.

Pam will host the June meeting on 27 June.

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



We met at Gwyneth's on the 22nd June. We finished reading "Fresh Fields" a comedy by Ivor Novello. Enjoyed the play very much.

Next Play Reading will be at Gwyneth's, Thursday 19th July 10.45. If you would like to join us please ring Sylvia on 01789 416965.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry & Prose Reading Group



The meeting in June was cancelled. We shall meet again on July 11th.

Ann Davies

Reading Group - Monday



We read Miss Garnet's Angel this month, for some of us ,for the second time! Salley Vickers' first novel won considerable acclaim when it was first published in 2000 and the forecast that it was destined for a long life is being confirmed. We all enjoyed it and discussed a short passage near the end when the transformation of the heroine 's character after her six months sojourn in Venice was revealed. As usual we digressed on to other topics but shared an enjoyable afternoon.

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



This month we read "The Swallows of Kabul" by Yasmina Khadra. This is a nom de plume for an Algerian army officer who took a feminine pseudonym to avoid submitting his manuscripts for approval by the army. The novel is set in Kabul which is described as "hell on earth, a place of hunger, tedium and stifling fear under the Taliban regime. The book prompted a lively discussion. We were appalled by the treatment of women and we all felt very fortunate that we have freedom and we are living in luxury compared with life in Kabul.

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group - Friday



We read North & South by Elizabeth Gaskell this month. We enjoyed it although some people found it rather wordy. She tries to compare poverty in the towns with poverty in the countryside and also looked at the beginnings for industrial action.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



We met as usual and listened to a selection on Rock & Roll C Ds, mostly from the early years. We found plenty to discuss as the music brought back memories.

Coral Bradley

Science & Nature Group



July 13 2pm Visit to James Butler's Studio

August 25 All day Stourbridge International Festival of Glass

September 11 Slimbridge am Pub lunch Chavenage historic manor House pm

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.

Theatre Group



There still some places left for VOLCANO on 11 August £35.50 and The IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST on 8 September, cost £33.00

Coral Bradley

Outings



On 22 August 2012 the outing is to Tyntesfield which is just south of Bristol. After the last meeting I had a waiting list so I have upgraded the size of the coach and everyone who was on the waiting list is now included we also have **three seats left**. For National Trust members the cost is £14.50 and for non-National Trust members the cost is £25.50. There

are plenty of places to eat a picnic or there is a pleasant National Trust restaurant. We leave Henley at 9.00 and the Leisure Centre at 9.30. The money for this trip is due now.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



There will be no walk in July due to holidays therefore 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, Shottery and Dene Valley U3As.

Stratford – 25th July. - “Ducks in Detention” - John Terry.

Shottery – 7th August . - “ Stratford Riding for the Disabled” - Donna Jenkins.

Dene Valley – 10 July. - “The Curious Story of the Diary in the Attic” - Tony Boullemier.

<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
Bird Watching Group	John Stagg	See Newsletter for dates
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

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 Bell Ringers

IMPORTANT NOTE: Edwin Lilly (01789 204 472) has now taken over the role of Newsletter Editor – Please ensure that any copy for the August Newsletter is sent to the him before 22nd July. His email address is edwinandelaine.lilly@virgin.net