



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heart of England U3A

Website address:-

[www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk](http://www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk)

Newsletter Editor: **Ron Castleton**, 114 Loxley Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 7DS

☎ 01789 205 878 : ✉ [ron.castleton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ron.castleton@tiscali.co.uk)

Membership Secretary: **Brian Bradley**, 7 Appleby Close, Gt. Alne, Alcester, B49 6HJ

☎ 01789-488 551 : ✉ [brianbradley@uwclub.net](mailto:brianbradley@uwclub.net)

## JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER

### TODAYS SPEAKER

Mike Miles is going to give us a talk and slide show on the lives of the women who Works the Canal Boats. An occupation that I would think has mainly died out in the twenty first century, but you never know.

### NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

The speaker for July is David Howe whose subject is English Whose English? a history of the English language.

### From the Chairman's Desk

A meeting for members who have joined Heart of England U3A in the past year has been arranged for 22nd June at 2.30 pm in The Annex of the Methodist Hall. I have sent details to those members but if I have missed anyone, my apologies. Please let me know as we would like you to come.

The next issue of "Third Age Matters" will be published mid-June. The circulation list has been updated but if you do not receive your copy please let me know."

*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](http://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](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

The China On-liners visited Compton Verney on 9<sup>th</sup> May and were given a comprehensive guided tour of the China Collection which includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest collection of bronzes in the world. There was also time to visit some of the other exhibitions, in particular the "Impressionists" Paintings.

The next session is on **11<sup>th</sup> 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



Eleven members visited the Silk Mills at Beckford and were given an informative tour of the workshops where a colourful Tudor design scarf was in the process of being printed for the Shakespeare Trust.

On Friday 15th June a visit to 'An English Summer' Exhibition is planned at The Gallery Upstairs, Torquil, Henley-in-Arden.

Members can travel by the X20 Birmingham bus or by car - those travelling by car may also like to visit the Art Barn at Preston Bagot. Enquiries to either Phyl Collins or Pat Wood.

*Pat Wood*

### **All Swing and Jazz Group**

Report of the April 2012 Meeting - Since this programme was put together by Mavis Pickett the report has been Compiled by Mary Fishleigh. (Thanks Mary).



Our meeting was very well supported as was clear by the 'shuffling' of chairs before we began. The programme was put together by Mavis, she had given it the title of "The Tune in Focus" and gave us a varied selection of pieces with information about the Composers rather than the performers. The first half was mainly tunes composed before World War II and included one piece, "Buckets Got a Hole in it" which was based on a 17<sup>th</sup> Century manuscript both for the music and words. We started with a rousing rendition of "Love is Just Around the Corner" by the Alex Welsh Band and this was followed by such tracks as "There's a Small Hotel", "Willow Weep for Me" and "Tis Autumn" played by Bobby Hackett (beautiful cornet playing). This was followed by "Cocktails for Two" by the king of the 'slurping saxophones Billy May. First half was finished with an unusual version of "Tuxedo Junction." After tea and biscuits and plenty of chat the second half kicked off with "There will never be Another You". The pieces in this half were nearly all later compositions and included a smooth "Bens Web" with Ben Webster and Johnny Hodges and a real **show stopper** version of "Secret Love" by The Count. Other tracks after this were "Bossa Antigua", "Bemsha Swing" and Sarah Vaughan singing "Mean to Me". We finished with Syd Lawrence Orchestra playing Pennsylvania 65000. Our thanks to Mavis for a good afternoon. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm in the lounge of The Methodist Church, Old Town.

*Mary Fishleigh*

### **Big Band Swing & Jazz.**



This is the latest from the Big Band Swing & Jazz Group which met on Tuesday 24th. April 2012: The program selected and presented by Elliot Cave and recorded by Tony Badham, included both large and small bands ranging from Artie Shaw & Duke Ellington to Humphrey Littleton & Muggsy Spanier!

Elliot also introduced a minor mystery by playing a couple of tracks by the Colin Busby Band which nobody seems to know much about beyond the actual music! It was suggested that Colin Busby may in fact be 'Laddie' Busby who used to be with the Jack Parnell Band in the fifties. If anyone out there can throw any light on this guy please contact me and I will pass on any info to the rest of the group!

Next two meetings will be on May 22nd. & June 26th. Everyone is welcome so why not give us a try.

-----  
The Big Band Swing & Jazz Group met today, 22/5/12 and listened to a program compiled & presented by Tony Badham. The program was deliberately varied to cover as many types of Jazz & Swing as possible and included examples of Modern Jazz (Modern Jazz Quartet), Traditional Jazz (Ken Colyer), Blues (Joe Turner), Be Bop (Dizzy Gillespie), Swing (Benny Goodman) and many more in between. Everyone had a good time with much laughter and discussion!

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



We met on 23 April at Grants, clad in our red and white to celebrate St George's day. The topic was 'Should we be more patriotic and celebrate England?'. At present it seems we only get particularly English for sporting events. We are not even going to get an opportunity at the Olympics as our team is UK not just England. We discussed an English National Anthem and other manifestations, perhaps another bank holiday, but it is too close to Easter and Mayday. We concluded that there is not sufficient impetus to demonstrate our English nationality and in any case some of us have Welsh, Scottish or Irish forbears too, so unless there is a dramatic change in circumstances no action is anticipated.

Chinwags meet on 28 May at Grants and Belinda is making the booking so please contact her if unable to come. The theme is EU rules.

*Aline Cumming*

### The Choir



If you have always wanted to sing in a choir - come to the concert and sign up. We don't have auditions, the only requirements are an enjoyment of singing, a smile and a sense of humour

*Dorothy Jones*

**THE CHOIR Concert "LET'S SING A SONG" - FRIDAY JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>**  
in the Methodist Church Hall - 2-30-4pm.

Tickets £2-50(inc tea & cake) are now available at main meetings  
or phone Ruth Grahame or Dorothy Jones.

Come and join us to celebrate the Jubilee . There will be songs from all parts of Britain and beyond.  
We'd love to see you and hope it will be a very entertaining afternoon.

### Classical Music Group



We welcomed back Valma who chose our programme. We began with Songs without Words numbers 2 and 5 by Mendelssohn, played by John Ogden. This was followed by Shostakovich playing his own Piano Concerto No 2 in F parts of which show his amazing technique and others which are quiet and melodic. Then Libera Me from Verdi's Requiem was sung by Mirelli Freni.

After tea we heard Pavarotti singing Caruso favorites. Tchaikovsky's Fantasie overture to Romeo and Juliet was played by the CBSO conducted by Nelsons, some themes of which were familiar. Finally we heard Giuliani's Guitar Concerto No 1 played by Martin Haselbock, a fitting finale to a delightful afternoon. The June meeting is on 11 June and Aline will provide a programme at Bridge Cottage.

*Aline Cumming*

### Computer Group at Stratford School.



The **Digital Camera and Computer Course** is well underway.

Dates for June: Thursdays, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4pm – 6pm.

Special time will be given by Ron at the June 14<sup>th</sup> session to advise about the various methods and devices available for backing up documents and photographs.

Please give suggestions for topics you would like us to consider for courses in the future.

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

*Robyn Nicoll*

### Creative Craft Group



Our May meeting was knitting Chicken Jumpers for ex-battery hens. Also continuing with last months project of Tunisian crotchet. Both these projects are on-going.

Next month we will be Pricking and Stitching cards.

Materials required are :-

Card, Pricking tool, Pricking mat, needles and if possible glitter thread and embroidery thread. Mary and Joy will be taking us through this project.

Our next meeting will be in the Annex on 21st. June. 2-4pm.

*Robyn Nicoll*

### Card Making Group



On April 27th we spent a very enjoyable day making cards with the stamping method. 10 members brought contributions to a buffet lunch, after which guided by Robyn we made some very attractive cards. Some of these will be sold at the monthly meeting in aid of Leukaemia and Lymphoma research. We now have a new outlet at the Hospice who would like a selection of our cards to sell. Our next work-shop day will be on June 1st. Any new members will be welcome to join us. For further information call me - Carolyn.

### Dinahs



We did not meet at Sorrentos on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, it was not suitable. Bistro Pierre made us very welcome instead. Lovely to see everyone, and catch up with the latest news. The conversation was mixed like the weather, pheromones off plants! (I thought it came from animals?) Hairy caterpillars and spiders. Food Hygiene course Heather and Sandra had been on was most interesting. We will not dine together in June as it is a Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday. 3<sup>rd</sup> July will be the next Dinahs.

*Sylvia Crooks*

### Grumpy Old Men Group



Drawing on his extensive experience as a Programme Director/Producer/Controller with various TV companies and other branches of the media, Grump of the Month Robert Harding's introduction to this month's topic "The Power of the Media" provided a first hand insight into the workings of the media and how it has and continues to strongly influence events. The present day situation where huge global enterprises, such as the Murdoch empire, have the ability to wield enormous power over the output and agendas of the various media they control and even influence the actions of Governments was very undesirable. It was agreed that television was now the most influential medium and although newspapers still carried a lot of weight the growth of information obtained through the internet would hasten their decline in importance. With the advent of 24 hour news channels it was felt that we were in danger of "drowning" in news and it was becoming more difficult to determine what was fact or simply the opinion of the presenters and "experts" who were rapidly attaining celebrity status. Unusually for the Grumps an air of negativity pervaded proceedings and only after prompting from the Chair were the more positive aspects considered with praise for numerous activities including such as the BBC Overseas Broadcasting Service and investigative journalism which revealed, for example, the scandal of Thalidomide and more recently phone hacking.

**Next meeting** - Wed. 20 June. **Venue** - Le Bistrot Pierre.

**Subject** - What have you missed most! **Introduced** - All Members.

*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 - Do come and join in the fun! The next meetings are at 10 am on 28<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June – at the Parish Hall in Old Town (opposite Holy Trinity church).

*Ron Castleton*

### History Group



In May we had an entertaining afternoon at the Cinema, watching an early David Lean film, "Hobsons Choice", which starred Charles Laughton, Brenda deBanzie and John Mills. It was set in Salford in the early 90's (Salford seems a favourite location for this type of gritty

film) and told the story of Henry Hobson, a Bootmaker, and his three daughters, the eldest of whom, Maggie, was determined to marry Will Mossop, her father's employee, who was timid and innocent but a wonderful craftsman. Under Maggie's tutelage Will gains in confidence so that by the end of the film he becomes Hobson's partner in the family business. John Mills played the part of Will brilliantly – his expression of wonderment after the wedding night being conveyed by the two words "By Gum!"

On 11<sup>th</sup> June Tony Whiteley is going to talk to us about "Joseph Arch of Barford" and on 9<sup>th</sup> July Anthene Roderick's talk is entitled "Chile Lindo: Tales of life in Chile" There will be no meeting 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**



For the April meeting we saw and heard Il Trovatore composed by Verdi, with Pavorotti in the role of the Troubadour. The tale of love, jealousy, battles, sacrifice, and final tragedy unfolded before us told in moving arias and action. Dying heroes and heart-broken heroines sang of their grief. It was quite difficult to come back to Stratford afterwards.

The May meeting on 30 May has been moved to Pam's who will show La Traviata, contact me for details.

*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.

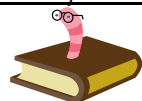
### **Play Reading Group**



We last met at Gwyneth's on the 17th May. Read Act 1 and 2 of Fresh Fields a comedy by Ivor Novello. It is a long play which we will finish when we meet again Friday 22nd of June. Please ring Sylvia 01789 416965 if you would like to come along.

*Sylvia Crooks*

### **Poetry & Prose Reading Group**



The meeting in May found us still reading from Dickens with excerpts from Pickwick Papers, Hard Times, Sketches from Boz and Oliver Twist, and poetry from Kipling, Yeats, Sassoon, Andrew Motion and Katharine Tynan

*Ann Davies*

### **Reading Group - Monday**



As we meet on the third Monday in the month we often miss the deadline for our update! This month we have read Purple Hibiscus by a Nigerian lady, Chimamanda Adichie. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and we were moved by the sad tale of a girl who suffered under the malign influence of an ultra religious and cruel father. Some time ago we read her other book about the Biafra war, "Half of a yellow sun" equally memorable. We hope she will write again!! ...

*Phyllis Bailey*

### **Reading Group – Wednesday**



Our selection from the library this month was "My Father's War" by Adriaan Van Dis, which we had read several years ago. It is described as a remarkable explanation of the impact of war and the legacy of an empire on the lives of individuals, including the relationship between a damaged father and a sensitive son.



The story revolves around a Dutch Indonesian family who resettle in Holland after World War 2 following the hardships suffered under the Japanese during the occupation of Indonesia. The young son grows up as almost an outsider in the midst of his family of mixed-race half-sisters.

We thought it a disjointed and depressing read. It was hard to empathise with many of the characters. However, the descriptions of the bleak Dutch landscapes around the coast were very realistic. The facts that emerged about the camp internments and the Dutch treatment of the returning colonials provided interesting historical information.

*Sandra Whiteley*

### Reading Group - Friday



This month we read Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier. We had all read it before but agreed that it warranted a second read. Although the story is basically about Mary Anning and her discovery of dinosaur fossils it is also about the lives of women at that time whether they were poor, rich or members of the genteel poverty stricken class. The novel looked at the interaction between women of different classes and the way women were treated even though they may have had much more intelligence or information than the men they met. We can recommend this book.

*Coral Bradley*

### Rock & Roll Group



Tony Whitley presented the programme this month and it was very enjoyable. We listened to music of several decades and then saw some films of singers which brought many happy memories. Thank you Tony. The biscuits were OK this month.

*Coral Bradley*

### Science & Nature Group



On the 11th of May we had a talk by Brian Ellis of the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group, "Warwickshire Landscapes: the 600 million year story".

We were surprised to learn that 600million years ago Warwickshire was 60 degrees south of the Equator. It gradually moved north forming faults full of erupting volcanos (which still cause mild earthquakes to this day). On its journey it turned subtropical rain forests into coal deposits, its deserts into sandstone, leaving glacial deposits after ice sheets and limestone formed from warm shallow seas plus mudstone from deposits of mud and sand. Warwickshire is one of the most varied geological areas in the country.

13th July. Visit to James Butlers Studio

*Sandra Sladden*

### Dates for your Diary

Our second Visit to Symphony Hall – **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012** – Matinee Performance. 2.15pm.



#### **"SUMMER SERENADE"**

*Elgar – Serenade for Strings*

*Mozart – Sinfonia for violin and viola*

*Barber – Adagio*

*Dvorak – Serenade for Strings*

The cost of the visit is £26. This includes return coach journey and ticket. The coach leaves Henley at 12noon and the Stratford Leisure centre at 12-30pm - JUST A FEW TICKETS LEFT!!!!!!

Please sign up at the main meeting or phone Dorothy Jones to reserve a place. We need to pay for the tickets now. Send cheques made out to Heart of England U3A to 14 Ascot Close, Stratford-upon-Avon. CV379FN

## Theatre Group



Two new trips for your diaries:

**11 August 2012** Volcano by Noel Coward with Jenny Seagrove & Dawn Steele. At Malvern Theatre. This is a play that was not performed in the author's lifetime and is the first major production of it. We will leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30 as usual, the cost of this trip is £35.50.

**8 September 2012** at Malvern Theatre The Importance of Being Earnest. As yet we do not know who will be appearing in this play. We will leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30 as usual, the cost of this trip is £33.00

It is becoming more expensive to go to the theatre so I am pacing the trips and looking for another one for November but it may be that we do not have another one until February –after the Christmas season.

*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 a few 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



Our next walk will be on Wednesday 13<sup>TH</sup> June at **10 a.m.** and start from Hidcote Gardens National Trust Car Park. It is a medium 4 ½ mile walk mainly on country lanes with some magnificent views and there are hills. **I have permission for us to park in Hidcote gardens car park (National Trust) so if you have a car park badge as a member please display it, if you are not no problems permission has been granted – but will you please park in the Overflow and I think it would probably be rather nice to have a coffee at the end.**

I have chosen this walk again due to the weather conditions at the moment and hoping that it will have improved by the time we walk

I recommend good walking shoes and that you bring a drink along with you although we will be able to purchase one at Hidcote

*Valerie Redfern*

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

Stratford – 27<sup>th</sup> June – James Butler - Sculptor .

Shotton – 3<sup>rd</sup> July - "Body Language". - Martin Pleasance.

Dene Valley 12<sup>th</sup> June – "Cordelia Leigh, An Unfashionable Woman". - Sheila Woolf.

<i>Group</i>	<i>Group Leader</i>	<i>Usual Meeting date (Monthly)</i>
All Swing and Jazz Group	Dennis Sully	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Tony Badham	4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	11.45 for 12 noon, After 2 <sup>nd</sup> March - Weekly
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 2.30 pm
Creative Crafts	Roma Rudd	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2 – 4 pm
Computer Group	Robyn Nicoll	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday - 4.15 pm
Dinahs Luncheon Group	Sylvia Crooks	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday for Lunch
Discussion Group	Athena Roderick	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday
Family History – Genealogy	Sue Ocock	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday – 4.00 pm
Grumpy Old Men Group	Graham Mitchell	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday for Lunch
Hand Bell Ringing Group	Ron Castleton	Alternate Mondays 10am
History Group	Janet Anslow	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Weds. 10 – 12 am
Poetry & Prose Appreciation	Anne Davies	As appropriate
Reading Group – Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 2.30 pm
Reading Group – Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday–2.30-4.30pm
Reading Group – Friday	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Rock & Roll Music Group	Coral Bradley	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday – 2 – 4pm
Science & Nature Group	Geoff Bridgewater	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fridays
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins	As appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please ensure that any copy for the July Newsletter is sent to the Newsletter Editor before 24<sup>th</sup> June.