



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

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March 2011 Newsletter

TODAYS SPEAKER

Mr Bernard Pumfrey, Senior Tutor in Social Studies NFWI Denman College, Former Director EDA Summer School for the Arts, and Past President of Institute & College of Craft Education to name just a few accomplishments, is going to talk to us today on Derbyshire - County of Dale & Dignity.

NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

The speaker on 7th April will be Jo Payne or Peter Haywood who will tell us all about the wonderful work done by the Air Ambulance of Warwickshire and Northampton.

OUTING to Lord Leycester Hospital.

In response to requests after the talk by the Master at The Lord Leycester Hospital, there will be an outing to the Hospital on 20th May,

We will leave Johnson's yard at 9.30 (cars can be parked here free) and the Leisure Centre in Stratford at 10.00. and proceed to Warwick.

At the Lord Leycester Hospital we will have coffee served by the Master's wife then the Master will give us a tour of the Hospital and the gardens.

We will have an hour and a half to get lunch in Warwick at either one of the many sandwich places, pubs or The Brethen's Kitchen attached to The Lord Leycester Hospital.

Then we meet at Hill Close Gardens – this is a ten minute walk from the Lord Leycester Hospital – we will have an introduction to the gardens which are a rare survival of Victorian gardens once used by townsfolk to escape from the crowded town. We look at the gardens with a guide and then have tea and cake.

The cost of this outing is £25.00. This is based on 24 people coming on the trip if more than that come we may be able to give a refund.

ON LINE COURSES FROM NATIONAL OFFICE. –

The next meeting for the Garden History On-liners will be on Tuesday, 22 March, from 3.00pm to 4.00pm in the Annex. All units of the course have been completed and the final session consists of a quiz and a slide show giving a pictorial summary of all the units covered.

Several members have started the Art History Course – Great Northern European Artists and have received the 8 Units via e-mail. Members will meet informally from time to time to discuss their research.

In September David Sladden reaches the end of his term as Treasurer and we will need a replacement. The Committee would like to co-opt a new Committee Member as Assistant Treasurer with a view to him or her taking on the role of Treasurer at the next AGM. If you are interested or would like more information please speak to David at a meeting or telephone him.

**STOP PRESS: The Fairtrade Shop will be open for members at the April monthly meeting. – (7th April) which will be selling tea, coffee, cocoa, cereal, rice, pasta, cookies, chocolate, sweets, dried, sugar, and paper goods.
Your support will be appreciated.**

National Summer Schools: Information and application forms for the Summer Schools are on the notice board. The above may also be found on the national web site. www.u3a.org.uk (Members' area - events)

A special request from the committee:

Postage charges are increasing substantially very soon.

If there are any members receiving the monthly newsletter by post who have access to the internet and who would now be willing to see the newsletter via our Web Site, please would you contact the membership secretary Brian Bradley by e-mail. brianfrancestuts@aol.com

Also, all members, please let Brian know if your e-mail details change. Thank you!

Our Web address is: www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

The PDF version of the newsletter on the web site is suitable for viewing or printing. Remember that if you do not have a PDF reader program on your computer, just click on the link provided on the "Newsletter" Section of the Website to download it - the program is free of charge!!

The newsletter is usually available on the web 2 days before the main meeting and paper copies are posted after the main meeting to members not attending the meeting.

Message for Interest Group Leaders: The next get-together for the Committee and Group Leaders will be held on **Friday, 6th May**, from 10am to 12 noon in the lounge.

Language College at Stratford Girls' Grammar School:

The Girls' Grammar School offers a range of courses at a reduced fee for U3A members. (£20 for 8 sessions).

Italian for Beginners; Spanish at various levels; and French Conversation for Beginners and Advanced.

If interested, please contact Sarah Parkinson at the School for further information. 01789 293879.

Proposed New Group - Tai Chi.



We had a good response to this proposed new group, meeting on a Tuesday morning, 9.15-10.15am. Venue to be decided. Tai Chi is a gentle form of exercise suitable for all levels of fitness & health. Benefits include: better mobility within the joints & less arthritic pain, improvements in circulation, better coordination & balance. The instructor is Debbie Wild, fully qualified & insured from the Swan School of Tai Chi in Stratford.

For more information on Tai Chi please call Debbie on 07773 318830

Group coordinators Dorothy Jones or Jackie Williams

Proposed New Group. How would you like to join a Discussion Group called "Talking Shop" for stimulating conversation & exchange of views on wide ranging subjects. The suggestion is to start with a natter over lunch/snack/drink & then get down to discussing the topic in hand. Time & venue to be decided after the next meeting on March 3rd. Look forward to seeing you there."

Athena. Roderick

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation Group



In February we visited the Celtic Winter Exhibition at the Stour Gallery, Shipston. We were very fortunate as the owner gave us a very interesting talk on her experiences of running the Gallery.

In March we shall watch a video at Phyl's house.

Phyllis Collins

Big Band Swing Jazz Group



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd March 2011 at 2pm until 4pm in The Lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

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

Dennis Sully

Bird Watching Group.



Following our meeting this month we have some exciting visits planned. The monthly meetings will be led by different members, who will plan the visits and disperse information to the group. We have some very knowledgeable members .. Thank you in advance for sharing your knowledge and skills.

Dorothy Jones

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



We had a successful lunch on 25th February at which some agreed the authorities found it difficult to be prepared for the cold weather while others were smug about our personal preparations. Grants met with approval and we meet there again on 28th after this goes to press.

Aline Cumming

Classical Music Group



We met in the Lounge, twelve of us and Aline was collecting the new subscriptions as agreed. This was a 'bring-your-own-CD's' affair and we got off to a good start. There were plenty of them. First contributor was Sheila with Allegri's Miserere followed by George with his favourite Piano Piece Schubert's Allegretto No2. Then we had a rib-tickler from John who brought in Strauss Laughing Song from Die Fledermaus. Then we had a more serious note Valmas Softly awakes my heart from Samson by Saint Saens with memories of Nevil who particularly liked this piece. Then we had a mix-up, Jean having brought in the wrong CD from the car. Then Gwynneth presented Strauss Morgen (or Morning) sung by Renee Fleming. Aline played Bolero by Ravel which had been held over from the last meeting. After Tea she played some of the second choices which people had brought along. Valma contributed Finlandia by Sibelius, and John provided three CD's in succession, Grieg's Piano Concerto, Puccini Nessun Dorma sung by the original Three Tenors, and Williams Lark ascending played by Tania Little. Sheila presented Grieg's Peer Gynt and finally Gwynneth had Ashkenazy playing Bach Prelude No 1. A good show all round, and Deidre is doing the next program.

George Cumming

"The Choir"



The Choir continues to go from strength to strength.

Our next meeting is on the 4th March in the Side lounge, in the Methodist Hall. New faces are welcome.

Tony Griffiths

Computer Group At Stratford High School.



March dates: 10th and 24th. Sessions are held in room S42.

A Beginners Course is being planned after Easter when the Cameras and Computer Course is completed. Please sign the sheet on the notice board table if interested in joining the beginners group or contact Ron or Robyn.

Robyn Nicoll

Cooks Club Group



The initial meeting of the Cooks Club took place on 26th January, where Delia Smith Biscuits and Coffee helped a lively session along. The merits of making fresh pasta as opposed to buying at the supermarket were discussed, (the overwhelming response being “get a life!”) and various gadgets for zesting lemons were examined. We all wondered what Quinoa was, so that will be tasted at our next session. There was no meeting in February, so the next session will take place on 23rd March at 10.45 at 45 Bridgetown Road.

Chris Heaps

Creative Craft Group



Our February meeting Project was knitting bears and making small fabric bags to keep the teddies in. When finished these Teddies will be given to Valerie Redfern for the Charity she supports which is The children of the African village AMAFANGO. Everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon and we were joined by two new members which helped to boost our numbers.

Our project for the March meeting will be :- Chinese Paper Cutting.

Materials required are:-

A cutting Board.

Small sharp pointed scissors. or

Small very sharp cutting knife.

Everything else will be supplied by Sheila Giles who will be teaching us the art of Chinese paper cutting which has aroused great interest among the group.

We still have a few spaces left in the group so why not come along and join us!

Next meeting will be on March 17th in the Annex 2pm-4pm.

Roma Rudd

Card Making workshop



Reminder for Card Makers: The April workshop will be held on **Friday 15th**. Please note the change of time to **1.00pm to 5.00pm** and the change of venue to the **Side Room**. (for this workshop only)

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs



We met in the Encore for our February Dinahs lunch. The food was good and the room upstairs very pleasant. A mixed variety of chit-chat followed, RSC Restaurant, some thought it a disappointment and pricey. “The Kings Speech” the movie, we all agreed was excellent and well worth seeing, also Michael Portilo’s Railway Journeys on BBC2 has raised him up in our estimation more than his political life ever did; (allegedly). An idea of an inheritance track; a piece of music you would pass on to your children: that would need more thought.

We have 2 new members Sue Tringham, and Heather Bridgewater, welcome. Next Dinahs 1st March at Jimmy Spices

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 Histories 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!

Our next meeting is March 17th. New members are always welcome.

Carol Styles

Grumpy Old Men Group



Supermarkets - blight or blessing. The Grumps had mixed feelings but most admitted to using them regularly whilst still patronizing local shops, farm shops and farmers markets for some products. It was agreed that the emergence and spread of supermarkets (and vast retail parks) had seriously affected the viability of High Street traders resulting in the rash of empty shops seen throughout many town centres. Although we regret the loss of the personal service often provided by shops prior to the advent of supermarkets it was agreed that we live in a privileged society where we can now choose from a huge range of generally good quality and reasonably priced commodities resulting from the buying power and intense competition between the supermarkets. Concern was expressed at the waste generated by their insistence on ultra perfect, standardized fruit and veg. etc., from their suppliers and also customer over buying due to the numerous "2 for 1" type special offers tempting customers to purchase more than they really need. Despite worries over the considerable power and influence that they can now exert while not being an actual blessing it was felt that supermarkets are now essential to many people helping to ease the pressures of today's hectic lifestyle.

Grump of the Month Trophy was awarded to Paul Burley.

Next Meeting - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - NOW WEDNESDAY. 9 MARCH - same time and place.

Subject - The European Human Rights Act.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We continue to enjoy ourselves making what we hope is a cheerful and tuneful sound. We think we are making some progress but are finding that it is not quite as easy as it seemed at first. However we press on!!

Ron Castleton

History Group



At our last meeting, Geoff Bridgewater gave us a talk entitled "A Viennese Tragedy comes to Stratford-upon-Avon". This was really two stories – the Kindertransport Story and Geoff's own family history. He showed us a DVD of a BBC Documentary concerning the nearly 10,000 Jewish Children who were brought out of Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport trains and placed with families in England. The documentary concentrated on three children and the interviews with them as elderly adults were both heartrending and uplifting. Some children were reunited with their parents after the war but in many cases the parents were among the 6 million Jews killed in the Concentration Camps.

Geoff's own Mother, Lotte, was one of three sisters who came to England. Her father, Edmund Hamber, and his brother were very successful and wealthy film magnates in Austria, counting Richard Tauber and Andre Deucher among their friends. Geoff's story about what happened to the family was harrowing, particularly the eyewitness accounts of the brutal murder of Edmund by a sadistic guard in Buchenwald. In the face of such tragedy it is truly remarkable that children who escaped were able to re-build their lives in England, and go on to have families of their own.

Our next meeting will be at 2pm on Monday 14th March, in the usual Side room of the Methodist Hall – Peter Burgess, who worked in Whitehall for many years, will talk on "The Corridors of Power". We are looking forward to some entertaining gossip!! Everyone welcome.

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.

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 Gwyneths for our February meeting. The play we read was "Shop For Charity" very funny, we did enjoy the relationship between the characters and could imagine it done by Victoria Wood and Julie Walters. Gwyn will host the next meeting on the 11th March at 11.00am. Please give me a ring if you wish to come along.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry Reading Group



Our topic this month was the American writer and poet Sylvia Plath. We approach each poet with an open mind but agreed that her poetry was difficult and obscure. Her background seems to have been against her, with the loss of her father at the age of eight and her dislike (to put it mildly) of her mother which obviously left her with psychological problems but this knowledge did not help us to enjoy her efforts any better. The ensuing discussion was as lively as usual, however and we felt we had learned something new, even if negatively. We meet again on March 9th to consider the subject of Spring, with our usual optimism.

Sylvia Plath
Took her own path.
We found her troubled
And her *angst* redoubled.

Jess Monk

Reading Group – Wednesday



Our book this month was ZORRO by ISABEL ALLENDE. The novel started in Southern California in the Late 18th century. The main theme of the novel was how Zorro was created. It started when he was a young boy and followed his steps to heroism. The story is a series of incidents and adventures. Our members found the book enjoyable but not too profound. It was entertaining and had very good descriptive passages. A big thank you to Gwyn for hosting our morning, delicious biscuits and coffee.

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group – Friday



We read From The Holy Mountain by William Dalrymple. It is described as a travel book but in fact it is much more than that. He follows the route taken by two pilgrims in 578 AD from Istanbul through what we now know as The Middle East to Egypt. Along the way he tells us the history of the region, looks at the art and architecture and talks to many people about the plight of the Christians there. He has many adventures, some of them very dangerous. We can recommend this book to other groups.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



A lively meeting was held in February in a very hot room. We listened to music from 1968 to 1978 and saw how rock & roll had changed from the 50s. The next meeting will be on the second Thursday in the Lounge of the Methodist Church 2.00. New members welcome.

Coral Bradley

Science & Nature Group



On 11th March we are visiting W.J. Findon & Son - Bordon Hill Nurseries to see their technical production of seedlings and plants. Cost £3 each.

On 8th April we will be visiting the Morgan Motor Company. Cost £10 each

Geoff Bridgewater

Shakespeare Group



From the study of Shakespeare's earliest plays the Group has gone to the later so-called romances: the little-known *Pericles*. He is a much travelled man who has appalling luck at sea. So far he has lost his wife (he thinks) and he has left his daughter with untrustworthy friends. At the moment we left him she is about to be murdered. Fortunately they all live happily ever after, unlikely though it seems at the moment. We will find out their fate at the next meeting on March 8th.

Jess Monk

Stratford Swingers Big Band & Jazz Group



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th March 2011 at 2pm until 4pm in The Annexe of The Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

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

Dennis Sully

Sunday Lunch Group



The next lunch, on Sunday 3 April, will be at the Kings Court Hotel, Alcester. Names please to Brian Bradley; Tel: 01789 488551

Brian Bradley

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Next Symphony Hall Concert – Wednesday 16th March 2011 – 2.15pm

ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Next concert Wednesday - 4th May 2-15pm.



CBSO Conducted by Jun Marki with Thomas Trotter, (Organ).

DEBUSSY - Le Martyre de Saint Sebastien

RAVEL - Concerto in G Major

SAINT_SAENS - Symphony No 3

This sounds an exciting 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 01789204892

All payments as soon as possible – we have to pay for the tackets NOW!!!.

Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins

Theatre Group & Outings



“Life of Riley” at Malvern Theatre on 12 March, these tickets have all been sold.

Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30

Contact number for this visit is Rosemary Davies 01789 294862

“Busybody” at Malvern Theatre is on Saturday 23 April - there are a few tickets left for this play

The cost is £27.50 - Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30

“Jeffrey Barnard is Unwell” is at Malvern Theatre on 14 May - Names and money for this play is being taken now - Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the leisure Centre at 12.30 - The cost for this play is £27.50

“Cosi Fan Tutti” the opera at Birmingham Hippodrome on 9 June - there are a few tickets left

The cost is £45.50 - Leaving the Leisure Centre at 5.30 and Henley at 5.45.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



The March walk will take place on Wednesday the 9th March 2011 at 10 a.m. PROMPT and start from the National Trust Car park at Baddesley Clinton (I have been granted permission to use the car park}. This is a very picturesque 5 mile walk around Wroxhall Abbey we have not done it before and it is well worth the effort to walk it.

I recommend very good walking shoes as it can be a little muddy in places and bring a drink with you as there is nothing on the way but you do have the facility of Baddesley Clinton on our return for coffee or lunch. Look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely

Valerie Redfern

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

Stratford – 30th March, AGM.

Shottery – 5th April, “Ifakara Bakery Project Tanzania” – The Schellenbergs.

DeneValley – 8th March, “The Inspiration for my Sculpture” – James Butler R.A.

Group Leaders Contact List		
<i>Group</i>	<i>Group Leader</i>	<i>Usual Meeting date (Monthly)</i>
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood	3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Dennis Sully	4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming	4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Tony Griffiths	12 noon, Fortnightly
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	2 nd Tuesday 2.30 pm
Cooks Club	Chris Heaps	4 th Wednesday
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
Family History – Genealogy	Carol Styles	3 rd Thursday – 4.00 pm
Gardening Group	Dorothy Bonham	2 nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men Group	Robert Chorley	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	Jackie 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
Shakespeare's Life & Works	Jess Monk	2 nd Tuesday – 10.00 am
Stratford Swingers	Dennis Sully	4 th Thursday
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins	As appropriate
Tai Chi	Jackie Williams	To be announced
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2 nd Wednesday

TEA ROTA - 2011

March	Sunday Lunch Group
April	Family History Group
May	Shakespeare's Life & Works Group
June	Dinah's Luncheon Group
July	Keep Fit Group
August	Bridge Group
September	Creative crafts Group
October	U3A Choir
November	History Group
December	Pilates Group