



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

# Heart of England

Newsletter Editor: Edwin Lilly, 9 Addison Drive, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7PL

Telephone: 01789 204 472. Email: [Edwin\\_lilly@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Edwin_lilly@yahoo.co.uk)

Membership Secretary: Sue Tringham, 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HD

Telephone: 01789 204 295. Email: [suetring@tesco.net](mailto:suetring@tesco.net)

## ***April 2016 Newsletter***

### **TODAY'S MEETING**

Our speaker for April will be Maggie Wood & her topic is:- 'The Sheldon Tapestry Map of Warwickshire'. One of a set of four maps woven in the 1590s for Ralph Sheldon, the Warwickshire tapestry map is a rare and wonderful pictorial representation of Elizabethan Warwickshire, and gives a tantalising glimpse of Shakespeare's county at a time when map-making was in its infancy.

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

Our Speaker for May will be Brenda Middleton, whose topic will be Peter Ustinov; a tribute to a much loved personality.

### **CHAIRMAN'S MARCH JOTTINGS**

*Geoff Bridgewater*

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to our April monthly meeting. Last month the hall was pretty full and it was great to see you all and you seemed to be having a jolly time.

I announced my intention at that meeting, as a three month trial, to reserve some seats near the front for those of you with some hearing and sight problems. Whilst the loop system seems to be working well now, if you need additional help by using one of these reserved seats please advise the registration desk or a member of the committee. Similarly, if you are using a wheelchair we are equally happy to accommodate you at the side near the front.

Would all group leaders please note that the date of the Group Leaders Meeting is now at 9.30am on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April in side room one. I look forward to seeing you there.

With five months to go until our AGM on September 1<sup>st</sup>, no one as yet has stepped forward to take on the role of our Chairman. I've enjoyed it, you could too. All you need is to like the sound of your own voice!

### **'OUR WARWICKSHIRE' WEBSITE.**

The 'ourwarwickshire.org.uk' website is a new website being created by local museums, archives, local history groups, and communities. It is now operating and already has a mass of material and information about the local area. Please search for the website and look it over. There are opportunities for study and to get involved.

### **RICHARD DIMBLEBY LECTURE—"WAS SHAKESPEARE CHINESE?"**

For those who missed it, The Richard Dimbleby lecture, entitled 'Was Shakespeare Chinese' given by Greg Doran on Wednesday March 16th, BBC1 at 10.45. It is worth searching for on I-Player or similar, as it was most interesting & different. It will be on BBC I-player for 30 days after broadcast day.



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)**

The Australia U3A offer a large selection of topics which may be studied individually or in a small group as we have done previously but with an annual charge to sign up. (For an individual - \$25; For an Organisation - \$15.)

The topics include: World Affairs and History - 10 courses; Nature - 5 courses; Writing and Creativity - 12 courses; Lifestyle - 11 courses; Science - 11 courses. (See the notice board for a detailed list)

NB The original free Untutored Courses have been downloaded and saved so are available to members as before.

A list of these courses may be found on the notice board. These courses may be forwarded to members via e-mail or transferred to a memory device. These courses are ideal for a small group to study together.

Courses studied so far: Garden History, Art History, and China History Ancient and Modern. The Russian History Course has recently been complete and a second Garden History Course has been arranged.

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

[NB: Do look at the National Web site to see all the opportunities and information available to U3A members.]

**THE CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP***Robyn Nicoll*

Our March discussion afternoon began with a very informative report from Janet who had attended the STRADFAS study day held at the ArtsHouse - "A Journey through 3000 years of China's Civilisation". Anne Haworth, the guest speaker, is renowned for her knowledge of ceramics. We then discussed the 12 Chinese signs of the Zodiac and were amused by the predictions for the year ahead for our relevant sign. The numerous superstitions, particularly applying to the New Year celebrations, also were found to be amusing. To sum up: "If you follow all the "traditions", you will get nowhere!"

**Next meeting: Friday, 29th April, 2.30 to 4.30 in the lounge.**

The topic: Provinces of China. Each member is choosing a province to research.

Our get-togethers are informal and varied consisting of a short language/practical session led by Patricia Wy, followed by discussion of the chosen topic often accompanied by a photo presentation and concluding with "what the papers say".

If you would like to join us, please contact Robyn.

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***Report of the February 2016 Meeting.**

This Month's meeting was compiled and presented by Derek Phillips. I am a little wary of writing this report, Derek is so knowledgeable and steeped in jazz that it seems unnecessary for me to report ....HOWEVER...for those unable to attend I will give a taster of what he gave us. We started off with

John Everett and Group playing "Washington and Lee Swing" which it transpired had been recorded at the Navigation Inn Wootton Wawen, there followed tracks by The Squadrinaires, Ray Foxley, Richard Leech and Colin Busby, all local to the Midlands Jazz Scene. Derek then remembered U3A member Bev Bevins with Bev and his group playing "In a Mellow Tone". Then we had a 'hairs on the back of the neck' track with Kenny Baker playing "What's New" The first half finished with another remembrance track this time for Dennis with Ted Heath playing "East of the Sun". After our usual talkative coffee break it was on to the second half which began with a good strong swing track of "On the Alamo" by the Benny Goodman Band. In complete contrast then with a British Trad track of Chris Barber and "Whistlin Rufus". Later in the programme we had another British Trad track when Acker Bilk got to play and sing "Easter Parade". George Huxley featured twice and with good reason, firstly playing "Pete Kelly Blues" and later playing us out with "When the Saints". Interspersed with the 'Brits' was a good sprinkling of tracks from the other side of the Atlantic, we heard Tommy Dorsey, Bix Beiderbecke, and the Duke and the Count. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon's music. Thank you Derek. All are welcome to come and join us, we meet the **4th** Thursday of the month in the Lounge of the Methodist Church Hall in Old Town. Starting at 2p.m.

## ART APPRECIATION

*Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins*

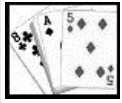


On 15th March we met at Jackie's house to watch a very enjoyable DVD about a much loved British artist L S Lowry.

The documentary was very informative about his very difficult life, and his wonderful art work. Thanks Jackie for helping to make the afternoon so enjoyable.

## 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 2.00 pm in the Methodist Hall Side Room 1, next to the kitchen.

## CARD MAKING GROUP

*Carolyn Leach*



Our next work-shop will be on April 22nd. New members are welcome. Our card sales at the last monthly meeting provided £50 for Parkinsons Disease Association. Many thanks to our generous customers. We would be pleased to hear of any local charity to support in the future.

## CHINWAGS

*Belinda Sylvestor*



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

## THE CHOIR

*Dorothy Jones*



We had a two week break at Easter and are now looking forward to our concert on May 6th in the Methodist Hall. We have a few tickets left, either buy at the main meeting or contact Ruth or Dorothy. If you are unable to come to the Methodist Hall concert you will be very welcome at Briarcroft residential apartments, Alcester Rd, on May 13th at 2-30pm, when we will be performing again for the residents.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

*Aline Cumming*



We meet again third Monday, 18 April, for a selection from Valma Rose's gift.

## COMPUTER GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll*



A course of 5 sessions has been arranged at the Parish Centre, 2.30 - 4.00pm beginning in May. (2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons)

The course just completed concentrated on Tablets and Ipads and members agreed that the sessions had helped them to become more familiar with these small touch screen computers. This next course will cover topics for **tablets and laptops** and will offer help to members who wish to upgrade their computers to the free Windows10 operating system. ( free until 23rd July) .

**The dates booked: May 11th. and 25th. June 8th and 22nd. July 13th.**

**Please sign the sheet at the notice board table in the reception area if interested in joining the group for this course. The cost for the 5 sessions will be £7 which will cover the cost of hiring the hall.**

More experienced members have given their time to help the "students" and this has been greatly appreciated. If you are able to offer some time and expertise *please let Robyn know. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk*

## CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

*Tricia Callaghan*



At our March meeting the group continued our recycling theme by tackling the new craft of Book Folding using old paperbacks, collected by Jayne. We began with a simple method of folding each page similarly to create the shape of a hedgehog, adding a button nose, googly eyes and flower hat. To see a finished creature, one will be lurking on the notice board table.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday afternoon, 21st April, from 2.00 to 4.00** in the new room. Carolyn will be demonstration how to make flowers from wired ribbon.

We welcome new members so do come along. For more information, please contact Tricia.

## **DINAHS**

*Sylvia Crooks*



Our last get together was Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Red Lion. The staff are so friendly and accommodating, it's like going home! An enjoyable meal was had by all, also lots of chatting about : Forum Face Book, to look at Old Photos of Stratford. Midsummer Nights' Dream : The Bear Pit actor David Meers, excellent performance of Bottom. One of our Ladies, Margaret Weir; had been a Ball Girl for the Davis Cup in Eastbourne in the Forties : What an Ace!!

Also news, Swan Court had a Coffee morning and made almost £300 for The Eye and Cancer Hospital.

A question for all : Will we Lose the Picture House? We sincerely hope not.

We next have lunch together on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 12.15. at the Red Lion.

## **DISCUSSION GROUP**

*Athena Roderick*



As it is the topic uppermost on many peoples' minds, we talked about "The Referendum". We all had our chance to speak, but, overwhelmingly, we all agreed that we didn't have enough well informed information to be sure we knew how to vote. We agreed that the immigration crisis was confusing things. We all felt that we were being subjected to self-interested spin, & we didn't know whose word to trust. On the whole, the conclusion seemed to be, that there are probably as many reasons to stay as to go, which lead to a summing up (gut feelings) of "we are Europeans, so would like to stay in", "younger generations should have the opportunity to find new ways of working, so we should opt out". We are all hoping that a little more intelligible information will appear before voting day..

## **FILM GROUP**

*Mary Fishleigh*



At our March meeting we watched "Me and Orson Welles". This is period drama directed by Richard Linklater and starring Zac Efron, Christian McKay, and Claire Danes. It is set in 1937, when a teenager is cast in the Mercury Theatre production of "Julius Caesar" directed by a young Orson Welles. The film was enjoyed by most of our members and seemed to be a fair portrayal of Orson Welles' character at this time in his career. This film is the start of a short season of films that we are showing with connections to Shakespeare's plays.

Our aim for the group is to show films that are not on general release now – some oldies, some considered art or cult, some foreign films (with subtitles), some that are regarded as exceptional for the acting or production. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis.

Our next meeting will be on April 12th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

## **GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS**

*Sue Tringham*



We play Scrabble, Whist and Dominoes (5s and 3s) usually, but other games are possible. We meet in the Reception Area of the Methodist Hall between 2 – 4 pm on the first and third Mondays of the month. Our meetings in April will be Monday 4th and Monday 18nd. 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*



March saw the group's return to Hidcote Manor Gardens. The gardens at Hidcote were the group's inaugural destination in June 2015 so it was interesting to see Hidcote at a different time of year waking from its winter slumber. The gardens were being prepared for the summer - perennials were being stripped, mulching was occurring, ponds cleaned & the vegetable gardens were being prepared. We came away having enjoyed our stroll around, chatting to some of the gardeners along the way & we are looking forward to returning in the summer.

Please see the Chairman's board for our 2016 programme. If anyone is interested in joining us for some of our outings please feel to contact me - [jaynejones303@gmail.com](mailto:jaynejones303@gmail.com)

## **GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP**

*Graham Mitchell*



"Should there be an ENGLISH National Anthem" was the discussion topic at the Grumps' March lunch time get together and a hot topic it proved to be. From the start passions ran high as members vigorously expressed their opinions which in the main produced a resounding YES. Then came the problem. Despite numerous suggestions for an appropriate song there was no consensus on what it should be although "Land of Hope and Glory" figured prominently as a real possibility with "Jerusalem" and "There'll always be an England" also having their supporters. The Grumps were also concerned that whilst it was OK to be a Scottish and Welsh Nationalist, to be proud of being English was perceived by other nationalities to be very "un-English" and bordering on "arrogance". It was agreed that the English should be more passionate in promoting their nationality (but of course in the nicest possible way) and that it might help if we could publicly demonstrate our passion as the New Zealand All Blacks Rugby Team does with their Haka although, so as not to be seen to show off too much, the English offering would probably be a rendition of the Hokey Cokey (with actions of course).

Next Meeting - Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> April. Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre.

Subject - Your nomination for Sovereign of the World. Introduction - ALL.

## **HISTORY GROUP**

*Jean Hicks*



Dr Viv Thomas returned this month to finish his talk on Shakespeare's passion for flowers. He introduced the afternoon by giving a brief resume of Shakespeare in Elizabethan England ....how theatre became the "Open University of the age" with his stories that appealed to his followers on many levels such as moral and cultural. Viv helped us to understand Shakespeare's approach to both written and spoken language. He gave examples of everyday life that allowed us to move from the literal to beyond. We ere given examples of wordplay, parody and rhetoric. We also learned of the many references to herbs and their medicinal properties. It was also interesting to hear how Shakespeare employed the symbolism of trees and plants in his plays. Viv ended this fascinating afternoon by quoting the famous garden scene in Richard 11 where metaphor is put to such potent use both by the King and the gardener. In this way Shakespeare implies that this is the natural order of things eg the following seasons----this is the nature of the garden and the way of the world at large.

Next Meeting: April 11th at 2pm. Topic: A DVD on Michael's Woods Shakespeare Episode 1.

## **KEEP FIT GROUP**



The Keep Fit Class is now full to capacity after a bit of a dip in numbers last year. We have a new instructor who keeps us active and we all think we feel much better for our efforts. A waiting list has now been started if anyone is interested. Please phone Mary Palmer on 204707.

## **PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP**

*Dorothy Jones*



We continue to enjoy our Monday morning sessions. We have welcomed several new members and we are a supportive group. Do pop in if you would like to join us.  
Our April meetings are April 4 & 18, 10am -12 noon

## **PILATES GROUP - MONDAY**

Weekly at St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Shottery, 12:15 to 1:15. For more information call Gill Ganner on 269657.



## **PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY**

Weekly at St Andrew's Parish Centre, Shottery, 10.15 to 11.15 . For more information call Sue Workman on 297061.



## **PLAY READING GROUP**

*Sylvia Crooks*



We last met on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> March. After coffee we read "Babysitting Calvin" by John Newmeir, a comedy : and what a hoot!

Next get together will be Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 10.30am at Sylvia's for coffee. It is also the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

## **READING GROUP – MONDAY**

*Phyllis Bailey*



'The Girl in The Photograph' by Kate Riordan was enjoyed by most of us...in fact the more we discussed it the more our opinions seem to improve!! The characters were skillfully drawn and the plot engaging!

What took place over a century ago and the links between then and the present time were skillfully interwoven. Overall we would definitely recommend it to other reading groups.

## **READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY**

*Dorothy Jones*



Only one member, Gillian Caveney, enjoyed reading the book *ARCADIA* by Lauren Croft. She thought the book was wonderful with fantastic descriptions and she loved the language.

Others found the book irritating and didn't enjoy the plot.

This month we are having free choice - this is always interesting and introduces us to a varied selection of fact and fiction.

## **READING GROUP - FRIDAY**

*Coral Bradley*



Due to the Alcester library moving we had to take pot luck with a book that was chosen for us and we had "The Twilight Hour" by Nicci Gerrard. The story is about a young man who has had an unhappy time going to help an old lady clear out her personal papers. He finds family secrets and, with discussions, helps the old lady and himself to come to terms with where they are in life. We all really enjoyed the book and

would recommend it to other groups. Perhaps we should always let the library choose books for us.

## **ROCK AND ROLL GROUP**

*Coral Bradley*



Tony is back from his travels and he gave us a really entertaining programme. He always finds interesting facts that we didn't know and makes an enjoyable afternoon for us. Thank you Tony.

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

*Geoff Bridgewater*



Geoff Bridgewater gave a talk on Fred Dibnah with illustrations by clips and sequences from some of his videos and explained why Fred was one of his heroes. Despite his lack of formal education Fred had a very good way of describing engineering matters which made things seem so simple, without talking down to the audience. The sequences shown were about such engineering marvels as the Pontcysyllte

Aqueduct taking the Llangollen Canal over the River Dee near Trevor, repairing a church steeple and a look at the coal mine shaft that he dug in his back garden, complete with brick lining and winding gear.

Our future meetings include:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – A day trip into Birmingham to visit The Coffin Works Museum and the Jewellery Quarter Museum, with pub lunch.

## **SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

*Brian Bradley*



The next lunch will be on Sunday 3rd. April, and is at the Stratford Golf Club. The following month we will be at the Navigation Inn, Wooton Wawen, and will be on the 8th. May 2016. NOTE: This is the second Sunday of the month. NOT the first. Names please to Brian Bradley, telephone No. 01789 488551.

## **SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS**

*Dorothy Jones*



**SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT** 26 MAY 2-15pm.

The programme looks very exciting.

2 pieces by TCHAIKOVSKY "The Tempest" & "Symphony No5". Also a violin concerto by GLAZUNOV, Tasmin Little playing violin. The conductor is a former Bolshoi music director.

The cost of the visit is £35 which includes concert, return coach to Symphony Hall and driver's tip. We will leave the Stratford Leisure Centre promptly at 12-15pm and pick up our Henley group en-route to Birmingham.

I need to pay for the tickets in March. Please make cheques out to HEART OF ENGLAND U3A and send to Dorothy Jones .

## **THEATRE GROUP.**

*Coral Bradley*



Our next theatre trip will be to Malvern on 21 May 2016 to see "Travels with my Aunt" by Graham Greene. There are a few tickets still available, the cost is £29.00 and we will revert to our usual travel arrangements - 12.00 from Henley and 12.30 from the leisure centre.

On 18 June 2016 we will go to the Belgrade to see "The Birthday Party" by Harold Pinter. Cost to be announced later.

## **WALKING GROUP**

*Valery Redfern*



As the weather was so poor the walk in March did not take place but we will try again for April. The next walk will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 10.00 a.m. and start from Bridge Free car park Shipston on Stour (this is by the river). This is a medium five mile walk on good surfaces for a winter walk. I recommend good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you.

There are plenty of places to eat and have a drink in Shipston after the walk.

## **WHAT'S ON – MONTHLY MEETINGS AT STRATFORD, SHOTTERY, DENE VALLEY AND ALCESTER U3AS.**

Stratford	-	27th April	"The Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick."	Anne Jennings
Shottery	-	3rd May	"A Taste of Africa"	Liz Rose
Dene Valley-		12th April	"Favourite Comic Characters of Stage and Screen"	Jeff Woods
Alcester	-	3rd May	"Every Picture tells a Story"	Peter Preece

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>GROUP LEADER</u>	<u>USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)</u>
All That Swing & Jazz	Brian Bradley	4th Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
AmDram & Supper	Geoff Bridgewater	As Announced
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	3rd Friday 2.00pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 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 noon
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	3rd Monday 2.00pm
Creative Crafts	Tricia Callaghan	3rd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Computers	Robyn Nicoll	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2.30—4.00pm
Dinahs Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	2nd Wednesday
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	2nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Games –Scrabble, Dominoes and Cards	Sue Tringham	1st & 3rd Monday 2.00—4.00pm
Garden Appreciation Group	Jayne Jones Suzy Genge	2nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	3rd Wednesday for lunch
History	David Dumper	2nd Monday 2.00pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thursday 10.00am
Painting/Drawing	Dorothy Jones Lynette Forsdyke-Crofts	As Announced
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	Every Monday 12.15—1.15pm
Pilates - Wednesday	Sue Workman	Every Wednesday 10.15—11.15am
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	See Newsletter for dates
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davey	2nd Wednesday 10.00—12.00noon
Reading - Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3rd Monday 2.30—4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3rd Wednesday 2.30pm
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	2nd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Science, Nature & All Things Technical	Geoff Bridgewater	2nd Friday 2.00—4.00pm
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2nd Wednesday 10.00am

#### **HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
April 2016	Discussion Group	July 2016	Grumpy Old Men
May 2016	History Group	August 2016	Reading Groups
June 2016	The Choir	September 2016	Rock & Roll Group