



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-
www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

Heart of England

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January 2016 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for January will be a volunteer from the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, Warwickshire. They haven't specified a topic, as they have asked for questions from our members. As these have to be sent to the centre, well in advance, I am hoping that members will give it some thought. I imagine that we will hear about its history and any plans for the future. But, if you would like to know anything specific, then could you email me the question at 'athena.roderick@btinternet.com'.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for February is Jon Goldswain who will take us on a journey through Elgar's life, with pieces of Elgar's music on CD.

CHAIRMAN'S JANUARY JOTTINGS

Geoff Bridgewater

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to our January monthly meeting.

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and my very best wishes to you all for a healthy and enjoyable New Year. I've hesitated to say 'prosperous', although that would be good, because interest rates continue to be diabolical, especially for us 'oldies'! Let's spare a thought though for young people trying to get a foot on the property ladder. Most of you will have heard of the sad passing of Dennis Sully, the popular group leader of one of our first groups, 'All That Swing and Jazz', for fourteen years. He suffered from an increasingly debilitating lung disease, with great fortitude, and has chosen to donate his body for medical research. A wonderful gesture. Our sincere condolences go to his family. He'll be missed.

We're still searching for a new Chairman, to follow me after the AGM in September. Think about it, it's your opportunity to get more involved in our great U3A. Interested? Come and have a chat..

NEW YEAR LUNCH

Athena Roderick

If you fear that you may have left it too late, there is still time to book for our lunch. Our New Year Lunch will be on January 23rd 2016 at Pierres Bistrot, Swan's Nest Hotel, gathering in Reception for midday, starting lunch at 12.30. Don't forget to pick up your name card in Reception so that you can put it on the table of your choice. Committee Members will be meeting and greeting and are there to provide help with seating arrangements.

Price this year is £15 cheques made out to HOE U3A and handed in at the meeting or sent to Athena Roderick 17 Gifford Walk, SOA CV37 9LN. This includes the staff tip and a raffle prize of lunch for 2 at Pierres and also a quiz, with a small prize. As always, there are 3 courses, each with a choice from 3 dishes, including vegetarian option. All great value and a really good way to start off our year. Come and join us and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

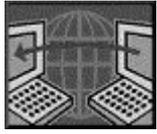
2016 DIARIES

Sue Tringham

The U3A 2016 Diaries are on sale at the monthly meetings. This year they are a very smart 'Colombia Green'. They are still at the bargain price of £2! They can be found on the table at the back of the Hall where Norma and Sue sit.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll



Access to On-Line Courses has been updated and is different from our original method. All details may be found on the National Web site. 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 completed.

For more details about courses, please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

[National Web Site. www.u3a.org.uk Do look at the site to see all the opportunities and information available to U3A members.]

THE CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

Our next get-together has been arranged for **Friday afternoon, 8th January 2016, 2.30 to 4.30** in the front lounge. For something a little different, members are choosing a well know person (past or present) to research and then to give a short presentation with illustrations.

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 or David Ralph. david@ralphhome.com

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett

Report of the November 2015 Meeting.



The meeting this month was presented and compiled by Geoff Harrison. The set was based on an American Jazz Programme which had presented their choice of the best of jazz recordings. They ranged from 1931 up to 1992. The first half was of tracks recorded from 1931 up to 1940 and were varied from blues to swing, with Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and a name new to most of us Noble Sissie (He is on Spotify). The two tracks by Louis were particularly strong being "Star Dust" and "St. Louise Blues", they made you realise just how great a player he was. After a 'swoon inducing' "Begin the Beguine" played by Artie Shaw (I meant for the ladies). The first half was played out by The Duke Ellington Band playing a great version of "Cotton Tail". Coffee imbibed it was on to The second half with the 'Count' "Jumping at the Woodside" The recordings on this half were dated from 1938 up to 1992. A lot of 'Modern' jazz was included ranging through Thelonius Monk, Horace Silver, Gillespie, Coltrane and of course Miles Davis. Some beautiful tracks that more than satisfied those of us that like this genre. Interspersed however were tracks by two ladies...Billie Holiday singing "Solitude" and Sarah Vaughan with "They Can't Take that Away From Me". A good mixed programme which gave all of us some satisfaction. Very many thanks Geoff. Don't forget our meetings take place on the **4th Thursday** of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town and begin at 2pm.

ART APPRECIATION

Pam Collins

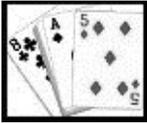


In December, we thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas lunch at The Opposition, although we missed those members who couldn't make it for various reasons.

At our January meeting we will be learning more about Frida Kahlo.

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



Card Making Group Our monthly sales table continues to do well. £50 has been sent to the local M E branch. Our next work-shop will be on Jan 22nd. From then on these will be a monthly event in the New Room of the Methodist Hall. The amount raised from the sale of cards for 2015 is **£612.60** which has been donated to local charities.

CHINWAGS

Belinda Sylvester



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We were very busy with the choir in December.

We sang at Dene Valley U3A's Christmas meeting, where we were made most welcome and enjoyed mince pies.

The following week we entertained the residents of Briarcroft and finally we had our main concert in the Methodist Hall on December 18th. Stewart, our multi talented Musical Director, had planned a super programme of Carols from around the world and from different centuries. We had several readings and solo numbers and also our audience were in fine voice and joined us singing some of our favourite carols.

Many thanks to everyone who made this concert so successful ,especially to Stewart who inspires us and gives us so much pleasure..

We all love our weekly choir sessions on Friday mornings. Our next meeting is January 15th..

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



We did not meet in December as it was too close to Christmas. In January we meet on the third Monday 18th . Please Bring Your Own CD at Bridge Cottage, 2pm as before.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



A course of 5 sessions has been booked at the Parish Centre beginning on Wednesday, 27th January, 2.30 - 4.00pm.

Many members have acquired tablets and i-pads so this course will be concentrating on becoming more friendly with these small computers with touch screens.

The dates booked: Jan 27th, Feb 10th and 24th, March 9th and 23rd.

The cost for the course will be £7 and will be collected in advance of the first session. Payment may be made in cash to Robyn at the January monthly meeting or by cheque (payable to Heart of England U3A). A cheque may be posted to Mrs R Nicoll, 165 Banbury Road, CV37 7HT.

More help for the "students" would be greatly appreciated. Please let Robyn know if you could offer some time and expertise during the afternoons. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We met on the 8th December at the Vintners for our Christmas lunch. Not a lot to say other than there was lots of chat and laughter, not much chance in trying to catch any particular conversation. We were well served by the Vintner, food and staff were excellent. Dinahs will next get together in the New Year

on Tuesday the 5th January 2016. Happy New Year to all friends in the U3A.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Our topic was something I heard on Radio 4, that humans are the only species who are charitable to 'outsiders'. Other animals keep strangers at bay. With all that is going on in the World, we found it hard to credit. But then we thought of the kindness & community spirit in situations like the flooding in Cumbria & also, all of the money raised for charities after disasters & we think that there are an awful lot of very good human beings, as well as some pretty awful ones. We did rather wonder about the money given to animal charities, when some children are suffering so much. There was much exchanging good wishes for the Festive Season & we meet again on January 13th at the Windmill @ 12.30.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



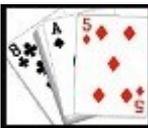
For our December meeting we watched "The Sting". This proved to be a very popular film, and we felt that it fully deserved all the awards that it won. The plot was inspired by real life con men of the 1930s. Although the film was made in 1973 we all felt that it had not dated and was worth watching, particularly for the way that the relationship between Robert Redford and Paul Newman's characters shone through the whole film. We closed our meeting with coffee, tea and mince pies, which nicely rounded off a good year of film viewing.

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 January 12th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

GAMES GROUP

Sue Tringham



At our friendly Games group we play Scrabble, Dominoes and Partners Whist. We are now meeting in the Reception Area of the Methodist Hall at the usual time of 2 – 4 pm on the first and third Mondays of the month. Our next meetings in January will be Monday 4th and Monday 18th. 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



There was no meeting in December. Look for announcements about the future programme in the New Year

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



The final gathering of 2015 almost turned into a Christmas Party. To mark the so called Festive season the Group strove manfully, with supreme effort, to overcome the melancholy that afflicts the grumpy at this time of the year. Dutifully crackers, kindly provided by the Bistrot, were pulled, paper hats donned and cracker "jokes" read out aloud. It seemed the Grumps might be beginning to enjoy themselves. The mood was further enhanced by the consumption of a fine meal. The volunteer Master of Ceremonies, Cyril Willoughby (Grump of the Month), decided that the time was ripe for the main event, a dramatic departure from the norm., namely a rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with the members each encouraged to sing, speak or croak a verse. After a number of false starts and dodgy rehearsals the "final take" produced a nigh on heavenly male voice chorus. It seems that even the Grumps sometimes can be happy!!

Next meeting - Wednesday 20th January 2016 Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre.

Subject - How did you celebrate Christmas when young, to the present day and future trends.

Introduction - ALL.

The Grumpy Old Men wish all our readers a very happy and healthy 2016.

HISTORY GROUP

Mike Hicks



Our December meeting slot was used for a delicious buffet lunch followed by Janet Anslow's alternative style quiz where she provided the questions and the group came to a consensus on the answers. This novel approach was enjoyed by all and raised plenty of laughs.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Janet for the excellent job she has done over the past 6 years in organising the groupa hard act to follow!

Robyn presented her with a beautiful basket of flowers.

Next meeting : 11th Januaryspeaker. Viv Thomas who dropped in before the buffet to say hello and give a taster of his talk. He asked us all to think about questions on flowers in Shakespeare's time to discuss at the meeting.

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 had a good start to our group in September and everyone did some super work. We do have a few spaces for new members. Have a chat with Dorothy Jones at the main meeting. Our first Art meeting is at 10am January 11th in the lounge at the Methodist church.

PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



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

PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY



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

PLAY READING GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



There was no Play Reading in December. We next meet Thursday 21st January 2016 at 10.30 at Sylvia's. Happy New Year to you all.

READING GROUP – MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We enjoyed a lively meeting, the first time in our newish member's new house! The December book, "Stranded" by Emily Barr got worse the more we discussed it. A group of holiday-makers of an adventurous persuasion were stranded on a desert island initially, without access to food, fire or water. The more we discussed the narrative the more incredible became the whole story. We agreed that it did not

merit our recommendation except as an exercise in criticism.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



We held our December meeting at Benson's in town. We enjoyed a delicious afternoon , chatted briefly about our book "VIVIEN'S HEAVENLY ICE CREAM SHOP" By Abby Clements. Two sisters inherited the shop from their aunt in Brighton. The story was light and a very easy read.

READING GROUP - FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read *The Cutting Season* by Attica Locke. She is an American writer and the novel was set in a plantation house in Louisiana (think *Scarlet O'Hara*) but in the present time. A body is found in the grounds and the manager whose family comes from a slave background links it to a murder that took place in her grandfather's time. It had a mixed reception in our group some liked it others found it difficult to come to terms with. The expressions were very American and the ending was too contrived – not a bad book but we thought that it needed some revisions..

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



There was no meeting in December but our next meeting will be the second Thursday in January as usual.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Geoff Bridgewater



We held our annual SNATTs Christmas Social in the New Room again and 34 members had a jolly festive time with lots of laughs. The 'bring and share' afternoon tea was a fantastic spread with a huge choice of delicious 'goodies', organised by Heather. Home made cakes, various sandwiches, stuffed tomatoes, cheese, pineapple and celery, pizzas, sausage rolls, mini pork pies and quiches, stolen cake, various tarts, the list goes on! Many thanks to everyone for their lovely contributions. This year Chris and Bob devised a Quirky Quiz where teams of four competed for a 'valuable' prize of a tin of Quality Street (wow, I hear you say). Such questions as 'name the fourth planet from the Sun' (Mars) and 'what are Santa's and human beards made from' (keratin) were just two of the thirty intriguing questions asked. There was a lot of head scratching and laughing during the quiz. Many thanks to Chris and Bob for their much appreciated efforts. The afternoon was a great success in the run-up to Christmas.

Next month – Friday 15th January in the New Room at 2.00pm. An introduction and DVD by Pam Collins, 'Wild Trinidad and Tobago'.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next Sunday lunch will be on the 7th. February 2016 at the Kings Court Hotel. 12 noon. Names please to Brian Bradley; Tel: 01789 488551.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



SYMPHONY HALL VISIT - 14 JANUARY.

This visit is fully booked. The coach leaves the Leisure Centre promptly at 12-15 & will pick up our Henley group en route to the Symphony Hall.

26th May 2016 2-15pm.

The tickets for the concert and coach will be £35. The travel arrangements are as the above concert. Indeed, to pay for the tickets by the end of March. Please sign up and pay up.

Contact me 01789 204892. Cheques made out to 'Heart of England U3A' & sent to Dorothy Jones.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



We will go to the Belgrade on 20 February to see "The Sisterhood", a Moliere play. The tickets have all been sold for this outing. The cost is £28.00 and the money is due now.

We will leave at the usual time, 12.00 Henley and 12.30 from the Leisure centre. The play is in the small theatre at the Belgrade and we need to note that it starts at 2.15 this time.

WALKING GROUP

Valery Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 13TH January 2016 at 10.00 a.m. and start from Gower Memorial in Bancroft Gardens. This is a five mile walk around Stratford upon Avon on good walking surface. We can park in the recreation car park or use the park and ride

I recommend good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you.

Look forward to seeing you.

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

Stratford	- 27th January	- " Guide Dogs for the Blind"	- Dr. David Mitchell.
Shottery	- 2nd February	- " Origin and Early years of the King's Singers"	- Alastair Thompson.
Dene Valley	- 12th January	- "A Chinese Odyssey"	- Chris Wood.
Alcester	- 2nd February	- "The River Avon"	- Brian Draper .

NON-U3A ITEMS

SPRINGFIELD MIND – Volunteers needed!

Springfield Mind provides support to people experiencing mental health distress, through services that promote prevention, recovery and resilience. If you are interested in more information about volunteering with us please contact Clare Moorman on 01789 298615 or email to clare.moorman@springfieldmind.org.uk

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>GROUP LEADER</u>	<u>USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)</u>
All That Swing & Jazz	Dennis Sully	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	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	Brian Bradley	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>
January 2016	AmDram & Supper Group	April 2016	Discussion Group
February 2016	Creative Crafts Group	May 2016	History Group
March 2016	Film Group	June 2016	The Choir