



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-
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Heart of England

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November 2016 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our talk for November is entitled 'Over 75 Project'. The Prime of Life: 75+ Project is dedicated to helping to deliver proactive services to improve socialisation and isolation, reduce patient dependence on GPs in the ageing population, and increase patient self-care and well being.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for December is Alan Cutler, his topic is Judge & Jury. Alan presents Victorian murder trials after which the jury, the audience, find the accused guilty or not guilty. Would they have sent an innocent man to the gallows, or set a murderer free?

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Jayne Jones

Hello everyone - welcome to our November monthly meeting. Dorothy & I would like to thank everyone for the support that we've received as your new joint chairs - it is much appreciated.

Our AGM in September saw 2 new members join our active committee - David Knight providing technical support for our monthly meetings & Cindy Willoughby who is our 'new members' coordinator.

FAO NEW MEMBERS

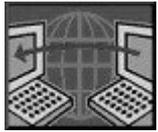
IT was suggested at our committee meeting that we should have a new members informal Tea & Chat meeting. If you have joined Heart of England during the last year do come along to a get together that is being held on Tuesday 15th November at 2.30 pm in the reception area of the Methodist Church. Any new members are welcome to come along for a cup of tea/coffee & a chat. It's an opportunity to meet other new members, get to know some of the committee & group leaders, make new friends & find out more about the varied interest groups that are available for you to join. If you would like to come along please contact Cindy Willoughby at cwil-lo.es@gmail.com. We do hope that you will be able to join us.

NEW YEAR LUNCH 2017

Heart of England U3A has again arranged to celebrate New Year at Le Bistrot Pierre in the Garden Room of the Swan's Nest Hotel on Saturday 21st January 2017 at 12 noon. The price is £17 per person which includes your choice from 3 starters, 3 main courses and 3 desserts and which takes vegetarian and other dietary needs into account if notified with your order. Drinks do have to be ordered separately but it does include a free draw for lunch for two at Le Bistrot Pierre plus a small prize for the winner of a short fun quiz. The booking form with menu choice is available at the next meeting or can be downloaded from our website. Please return your menu selection to the Treasurer's table at the next meeting or send it to Athena Roderick, 17 Gifford Walk, S on A, CV37 9LN. Tel : 01789 551416

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll



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

There are also a large selection of courses offered by **U3A Online** from Australia described as "A Virtual University of the Third Age". Courses are offered for individual study and for groups.

(For an individual - \$25; For an Organisation - \$15.)

The topics include: World Affairs and History; Nature; Writing and Creativity; Lifestyle; Science. (See the notice board for a detailed list) . To find out more about these courses : www.u3aonline.org.au

A course from U3A Online is about to begin - "Property to Partner". See Jayne Jones or Sue Workman for details.

NB The original free Untutored Courses have been downloaded and saved so are available to members. A list of these courses may be found on the notice board.

Courses studied so far: Garden History, Art History, and China History Ancient and Modern and Russian History. A second Garden History Course is being studied.

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

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

CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

At our October get-together we heard from members who had chosen a World Heritage Site to research. Patricia set the scene by preparing handouts illustrating the characters, Pinyin and English for "river", "mountain", "forest" and "lake". We also discussed stroke order for Chinese characters.

Short talks began with Huashan Rock Art comparing it to Aboriginal Rock Art from Western Australia, followed by Dunhuang which Phyllis had visited, the South China Karst and finally the ancient building complex in Wudang Mountains in Hubai Province. Further WHSites will be presented at the next meeting on **Friday afternoon, 18th November, 2.30 to 4.30 in the lounge.**

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.ralph@icloud.com

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett



September's report will be slightly different from usual in that I will tell those who might like to join us, how the group is run. Each month a programme is compiled by one or other of our members; this is comprised of approximately 20 tracks of music. The chosen tracks whether on CDs or LPs are given to Brian (our Group Leader) who then burns them onto a Main disc for use at the meeting. The compiler gives us a short summary of each track (or Maybe not), this can be very informative but also more often than not amusing. There is no pressure at all for you to compile or present a programme but it's much more fun to get a wide variety of jazz. All types are played, it's up to you, it ranges from Dixie, West Coast Modern, British Trad, Big Band, vocalists, what ever is your favourite is welcomed. The programme is split into two halves with a break for coffee/nattering. The compiler does not have to present the programme we have two excellent MC's in Barrie and John. Finally the following is a taster of the September programme :- Beiderbecke, Benny Goodman, Humphrey Lyttleton, Louis Armstrong, Bobby Hackett, Blossom Dearie, Gene Krupa. This was put together by member Geoff and in his absence presented by John Cooper.

We meet on 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



In October we enjoyed a visit to Upton House, where we were given a very informative tour which provided interesting insights into the development of the art collection housed there, and focused on a selection of the many valuable pieces in the collection. We heard about Walter Samuel, the 2nd Viscount Bearsted, and how he built and protected the collection. His collection includes many remarkable gems, including pieces by El Greco, Hieronymus Bosch, Bruegel the Younger, Francesco Guardi, Tintoretto and Jan Provoost, among many others.

In November we will have our annual quiz.

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



Success again! £50 has been sent to the Dementia Café, Shottery, from the sale of our cards. Now we are open to suggestions for another local charity. Our next work-shop will be Nov 25th; new members welcome.

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We have nearly sold all our tickets for the concert on December 16th. However we are repeating the concert at Briarcroft Residential Apartments on December 23rd 2-30pm. You will be most welcome to join us and sing your favourite Christmas carols.



CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming

We opened with Berlioz - Dance of the Sylphs from the opera The Damnation of Faust. Beethoven's Pathetique Sonata and Mahler's Symphony No 5 followed, the fourth Movement Adagietto composed as a love song for his wife. Next Mozart's Rondo a la Turca, the third movement from his Piano Sonata in A major. A contrast in style Mussorsgki's Night on a Bare Mountain celebrating the Witches Sabbath at midsummer. Offenbach's Barcarolle from The Tales of Hoffmann took us to tea. We then heard Girl with the Flaxen Hair from a set of Debussy Preludes for the piano, arranged for the harp and played by Patricia Spero. Another Beethoven Sonata, Moonlight, followed and in contrast Rustle of Spring by Sinding. Then The Humming Chorus from Madame Butterfly, by Puccini based on a play. Finally we were stirred by Wagner - the Overture to the Flying Dutchman.

The November meeting is Monday 21 November. For December we plan to have a combined meeting with Jazz and Rock and Roll at the Methodist church.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



The computer course at the Parish Centre is underway with 12 members attending and several experienced members coming to lend a hand. We all benefit from learning from each other.

This course is covering topics for **tablets and laptops**. If you are able to offer some time and expertise to help please *let Robyn know*. (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

Date for November: Wednesday Nov 23rd, 2.30 to 4.00pm

We hope to continue in the Spring so if interested in joining us please add your name to the list on the notice board table. Dates will be advertised in the December newsletter.

CREATIVE CRAFTS

Tricia Callaghan



At our meeting this month we concentrated on producing items to sell on our stall at the November bazaar. We therefore added to our stock of book folded hedgehogs, gift bags and mini wreaths and made a start on pine cone decorations. As usual it was a fun afternoon with a good mix of help, chat, ideas and laughter all washed down with a good cup of tea/coffee and biscuits! Next month we will be learning how to make a large Christmas wreath using fabric and a polystyrene base. The fabric needs to be pre-cut into small squares and most people came away with some "homework" to prepare this.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

A group of about 12 gathered together in the Holy Trinity churchyard at 10.30am on Monday 10th October for the first meeting. Geoff set out the agenda for the morning—taking photographs around the church and churchyard, in pairs and to some basic rules. This was done and then we retired to Hall's Croft for a coffee in the café. Next time we will look through the photographs taken—members please remember to download them to a USB memory device and bring them along.

Next meeting on Monday 14th November at 10.30. Look for email from Geoff for confirmation and location.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



Here we are again at the Red Lion enjoying a lovely greeting from the staff (could be because they want our business!!) however we like to think it is our wit and charm! Not a lot to say this month, there was so much talking going on it was hard to catch what was being said. However the traffic situation when the cycling was on in town - Shipton road closed caused a big problem

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



As a little light relief from Brexit, we talked about "These We Have Loved". Places & holidays which we remember fondly. Being a well travelled lot, we could have gone on for hours, but we did talk about Edinburgh, pretty fishing villages on the South Coast, Monet's Garden at Giverny & the wonderful 'impression' his failing sight gave to his paintings. One of the group had been entranced by Florence, which most of us knew & admired, then back to the South Coast. Our imaginations were lit up by memories of an elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka & the idea of elephants 'behaving badly' when near water. People who knew the Northern Isles, remembered them as being breath taking. We then visualised Ilkley, The Moors, with or without hats & we all joined this member with her memories of Paris & The Eiffel Tower etc. Some members felt that Paris has lost some of her glory. We were then taken down The Nile, on a beautiful boat, with lovely food & service, followed by a trip to Mallorca, which most of us seemed to know & love. Our final visit in Britain was North Wales & Portmeirion, which brought back memories of The Prisoner, which we mostly didn't understand, but loved, anyway. The session was rounded off in South America, with a trip from Santiago to Machu Picchu, which was magical & a number of members of the group know South America & talked about Lake Titicaca & could have gone on. But then I would have had to spend more time on Google looking up spellings for more names. We meet again on Wed 9th November at The Windmill.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



After the difficult film that we watched in September, we chose an easier one to see in October. We watched "My House in Umbria", starring Maggie Smith and Ronny Barker. This proved to be a popular choice and showed us yet again the superb acting by Smith, well deserving the Emmy Award that she won for the leading actress role. The story had overtones of terrorism and more sinister activities, but this only intruded on the main theme to explain the background to the characters and how they were reacting.

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. We

have space for some more members, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis. Our next meeting will be on November 8th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



We actually managed to meet for one session in October at 2 Guild Cottages. It was a bit snug but everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion! Meeting dates in November will be the 7th and the 21st from 2 – 4pm. For the time being we will continue to meet at 2 Guild Cottages. All welcome!

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzy Genge



It was 'season of mists.....' when we arrived at Batsford Arboretum this month, but, fortunately, the sun came out when we left the café and we could admire the trees. There was some seasonal colour but not all the trees had changed their colour yet. The group had a lovely walk around the arboretum and stopped to look at some great views.

Our next trip is on November 8th, when we shall be visiting New Place garden. Free tickets for this can be obtained from The Birthplace upon showing a utility bill or driving licence (only for CV37 residents). The tickets can be used many times over the next 2 years.

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



“Are some larger charities becoming too political” was the topic considered by the 17 Grumps at the October gathering. Although charities are permitted legally to campaign to achieve their declared purpose they should not undertake political activity not relevant to the charity’s purposes. The Group had considerable difficulty in differentiating between what was campaigning and what was considered to be political activity as by their very nature charities are often trying to generate “change” through influencing opinions of the general public which of course includes politicians. Examples of “campaigns” which have resulted in changes to employment conditions and practises, product design and safety etc., etc. were highlighted. The Grumps concluded that it was not necessarily wrong and perhaps charities should be more political, with a small “p”, to achieve their aims although we should be very wary of them being hi-jacked by ultra extremist factions interested primarily in furthering their own political agenda.

Next meeting - Wed. Nov. 16th Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - Is the press today, particularly investigative journalism, an instrument for good or bad. Intro. - ALL.

HISTORY GROUP

Jean Hicks



This month David Dumper gave us a talk entitled “Plot Lines”.

The 2 main characters being Thomas Combe and William Shakespeare. During the talk David explained Shakespeare’s connections to an assassination attempt on Queen Elizabeth in 1583, Essex Rebellion 1601 and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.

There were many anecdotes to illustrate the talk such as in the Gunpowder Plot when Graunt and his group stopped at Holbeche some of the gunpowder was found to be damp and in a panic they attempted to dry it in front of an open flame! The resulting explosion hurt many of them but mostly Mr Grant whose face was very disfigured and his eyes almost burnt out.

Macbeth was the play Shakespeare wrote following the Gunpowder Plot.

Next meeting November 14th, Speaker: Jim Dobson “ History of Iona & Iona Community.

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



The group have done some super paintings and drawings. We will be displaying our work at the main meeting in January.

Our next meeting is Monday 7th November 10-12 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.

POETRY READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Jennifer Davey

Thinking of the US election and other current happenings, we chose *Power* for the October theme. As usual the selection of poems read was wide - ranging from the Power of the works of man, of the elements, eloquence, the written word and of emotions, also the Power (gained or lost) of kings. A good time was had by all but can you wonder that our theme for November is, *Truth and lies, Honesty and deceit?*

PLAY READING GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



We met on Thursday 20th Oct. After coffee we read "Courting Disaster" a comedy by Margaret Wood. Lots of discussion afterwards. We next get together on Thursday 17th November at 10.30 for coffee at Sylvia's

READING GROUP – MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



This time we read "Dreams of joy" by Lisa See. At least some of us did! We enjoyed it very much and were delighted to read what seemed like a first hand account of 'the great leap forward' 1958-1962 in China.

The family history in which the famine was described was altogether convincing and so much detailed information about China at that time was included that one almost forgot it was the product of tireless research. We would highly recommend any reader with some interest in recent Chinese history to hunt for any of Lisa See's books. (American)

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



This month we read THE WIVES OF LOS ALAMOS by Tarashea Nesbit.

This was the story of the wives of the scientists who were drafted to Los Alamos, New Mexico. The men were on a secret mission in 1943 to contribute their knowledge and skills towards the creation of the most destructive force in the history of mankind, the Atomic bomb. The wives were not involved with this work but stayed in their accommodation looking after their husbands & children. The novel was almost in diary form and the women socialised and gossiped about one another. They were isolated from the outside world. An interesting read.

READING GROUP - FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



Due to a problem with the library this month we decided to read our own books and present them to the group. This proved to be very interesting as the books covered an interesting range and gave us a lot to talk about.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



A programme of records that reached number one in the charts which provided plenty of topics to talk about.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Edwin Lilly



At the meeting on Friday 14th October, Dave Smith gave an illustrated talk on Sir Ernest Shackleton and his early expeditions to Antarctica. His first expedition was as a member of the expedition in "Discovery", 1901-1904, led by Robert Falcon Scott. Much valuable experience was gained but scurvy was a problem and Shackleton was eventually shipped home on a supply ship. His next expedition in "Nimrod", 1907 - 1909, was successful with several firsts - furthest south (88° 23'), approximate position of Magnetic South. Shackleton was not involved in Scott's attempt at reaching the geographical South Pole, which was reached first by Amundsen. Later expeditions will be covered by a future talk. Very interesting, particularly as most of the audience were not aware of the details of Shackleton's life and achievements.

The next meeting will be Friday 11th November. Aline will be presenting a DVD on tall towers - "Big, Bigger, Biggest".

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones

The concert on Thursday 30th November is now full and paid for. Please remember the coach leaves promptly from the Leisure Centre at 12-15pm.

I am now taking names and payment for our concert February 15th 2017.

The programme : Rachmaninov The Rock & Piano Concerto No2
Tchaikovsky Symphony No 6 (Pathetique)

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



The next theatre visit will be to Malvern on 10 December 2016 to see 'Sister Act'. At the time of writing there are just two places left. Please pay up this month as I have to pay the theatre.

Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.

For your diaries, January 28th 2017 at Malvern to see 'The Verdict', a court room drama.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 9th November 2016 at 10.00 a.m. and start from Welford on Avon; Turn left into Barton road opposite the Maypole and turn right into Headland Road to park in this area. This is an easy five mile countryside walk along much improved Avon valley footpath.

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

Stratford - 30th November- "Berkeley Castle"- Charles Berkeley.

Shottery - 6th December – Social Meeting with in-house entertainment.

Dene Valley - 8th November -"Past and present lives on the Grand Union Canal" – Clive Radford.

Alcester - 6th December - "The Swinging Sixties" – Ray Sturdy.

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOTICE- Annual Membership Subscriptions for Heart of England U3A were due on 1 September 2016. The subscription is £16 per person and is due now if not yet paid.

Your annual subscription can be paid in one of three ways.

- Subscriptions can continue to be paid by cash or cheque in the normal way at the meetings or by post to the Treasurer, Sue Tringham, 2 Guild Cottages, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6HD. **Cheques payable to Heart of England U3A**
- Online banking. Bank details are Lloyds Bank, Stratford upon Avon. Sort Code 30 98 26 Account No. 00617394 but **please remember to include your name as reference.**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
November 2016	Card Making Group	February 2017	History Group
December 2016	Dinah's Luncheon Group	March 2017	The Choir
January 2017	SNATTs Group	April 2017	Garden Appreciation Group

GROUP	GROUP LEADER	USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)
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	Aline Cumming	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
Digital Photography	Geoff Bridgewater	To be decided.
Dinah's Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	2nd Wednesday
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Ma- vis Pickett	2nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Games –Scrabble, Dominoes and Cards	Sue Tringham	1st & 3rd Monday 2.00—4.00pm
Garden Appreciation Group	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 Sue Butler	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