



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-

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

Membership Secretary: Sandy Stewart, 181 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7HT

Telephone: 01789 268689 Email: sandy.j.stewart@btinternet.com

August 2017 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for August will be Graham Short. This is his introduction to his talk. "The Hands of Genius. The most amazing and unusual slide show presentation you are likely to see - thought-provoking, awe-inspiring and entertaining!"

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for September will be Andy Smith and he has supplied this information "UNDER THE INFLUENCE : Featuring songs and tunes by artists who have influenced my life and music...everything from Buddy Holly, The Beatles and John Denver – to comedy writer Jake Thackeray. Playing as many instruments as I can, it's a guaranteed fun meeting!"

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

Our next meeting, September 7th, will be our AGM, where we will elect our Committee for 2017/18.

Aline will have some nomination forms at the August meeting. If any member wishes to submit a proposal at the AGM please do so by Monday 14th August. My contact number 01789 204892 or Aline 01789 298357. Meanwhile, if you are staying at home or going away on holiday, enjoy the sunshine. I look forward to seeing lots of happy faces at the AGM.

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

Stratford	- 30 th August	- "Victorian Wild Child."	- Gertrude Bell .
Shottery	- 5 th September	- "How to enjoy Healthy and Wealthy Retirement."	- Roy Wood.
Dene Valley	- 8 th August	- "Mary Quant's Life and Career."	- Ruth Lowe.
Alcester	- 5 th September	- 25 th Anniversary of Alcester U3A.	

PROPOSED CHANGE OF AGM DATE

The Committee intends to put a proposition to the AGM to change the date of our yearly AGMs from September to October. This will give the Treasurer time to prepare the year end accounts so that they can be inspected by a third party before being presented at the AGM.

If you have any concerns about this and would prefer that we didn't change the month, would you let our Chairperson, Dorothy Jones know, either before this year's AGM meeting on Thursday September 7th or at that meeting.

NOTICE FROM WARWICKSHIRE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Warwickshire Home Delivery Library Service provides a free library service to those who are unable to access their local or Mobile Library due to ill health or infirmity. Using volunteers and a van, we deliver books to people in their homes once every four weeks, based on their personal book choices. We offer books in both Large and Small Print and also talking books on compact disc. Customers can borrow as many books as they like and may also request books free of charge. Anyone who feels that they would be eligible and would benefit from receiving the service can contact us on 01926 851031 or by email on mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk

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". The topics include: World Affairs and History; Nature; Writing and Creativity; Lifestyle; Science. To find out more about these courses : www.u3aonline.org.au

Many courses have already been downloaded and saved and may be forwarded to interested members.

The course "Property to Partner" was very successful and it will be repeated in September.

A new course is about to begin: "Kings and Queens of England". This course is intended to present, in an interesting way, facts and opinions about the people who affected the development of England and its system of government in significant ways from the time of the Romans to the 21st century.

Please contact Sue Workman for more information. Sue will forward the units to interested members. (sueworkman44@gmail.com)

These courses are ideal for small study groups or for individual study and are free to members.

NB The original Untutored Courses from National Office have been downloaded and saved so are still available to members. A list of these courses may be found on the notice board. Courses studied so far: Garden History; Art History (5 courses); China History Ancient and Modern; Russian History.

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

The date for our next get-together is Friday 4th August, 2.30 to 4.30 in the lounge.

The main theme for the afternoon, by popular demand, is a repeat of Mahjong when we intend to have 2 tables of players, ably assisted by David and Norma who are providing the Mahjong sets.

We also intend to discuss "What the Papers Say" using clippings collected by members over the past month.

Our get-togethers are usually held from 2.30 to 4.30, Friday afternoons at the Methodist Church. Dates are chosen to suit the majority of members.

New members are very welcome to come along to these enjoyable and varied afternoons.

More information from Robyn Nicoll. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk or David Ralph. david.ralph1@icloud.com

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett



Report of the June 2017 Meeting.

This month's meeting was taken by Geoff under the heading "The Blues". Self explanatory but a diverse group. Jack Teagarden started us off with a lovely 'vamping' sound on "Tailspin Blues. In complete contrast Louis Armstrong came next with "West End Blues". Then Sarah Vaughan sang "Summer Time", The big band treatment followed with Glen Miller and "The St. Louis Blues", after that touch of nostalgia it was bang up to date with Wynton Marsalis and Eric Clapton playing "Kidman Blues". The first half finished with tracks from Bechet, Lyttleton and Peggy Lee.

After the interval (special mention here of Geoff's home baked cake), It was back to "The Blues" with Bechet and "Wild Man Blues", then it was a deep journey into the blues with Dinah Washington and "After You've Gone" followed by "Send me to the 'lectric Chair", Oh boy those two tracks would score Indigo on any blue colour chart. We then went to the opposite end of the chart with Miles Davis and "Summertime", definitely sky blue on the chart."Singing the Blues" came next played by Trumbauer and Beiderbecke, in my ignorance I had never heard of Frankie Trumbauer but, thanks to Geoff and Wikipedia, I now have. It shows how coming to our meetings isn't just to listen to the music but to further our knowledge of our subject. The last two tracks were in complete contrast but a joy to listen to...Wild Bill Davidson with "Wolverine Blues" and Ella Fitzgerald with "Basin Street Blues". Looking at our smiling faces when the meeting ended I don't think we felt in the least bit blue when we left. Thanks again to Geoff and Brian. Our group meets on the **4th Thursday** of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall and we begin at 2pm. Our meetings are all year round and you can be assured that you would be warmly welcomed.

ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins



This month we went to an exhibition at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition, *I Want! I Want! Art and Technology*, was of interest, mainly because it wasn't our usual cup of tea. The pieces delivered their messages through videos or computer games, were constructed using technology or computer graphics, or were related to technology in modern life. While we appreciated the imagination and skill that brought art and technology together in the exhibits, we found few of them personally engaging. One exception, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was called *Esika na Ngayi (My Place)*. By superimposing circuitry graphics over a beautiful, pensive, figure dressed in traditional fabrics, this made the connection between the exploitative mining of coltan, which when refined is used in mobile phones, and the destruction that industry has caused. Our next meeting will be in September.

BRIDGE GROUP

John Yeomans



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

Carolyn Leach



The sale of our cards at the monthly meeting has enabled us to send £50 to "Welcome Here", A local charity supporting refugee families in Stratford. S.P.E A R will be our next venture, helping abused and abandoned animals. Our next work-shop will be on August 25th. Come and join us!

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



At our last two sessions we finished recording our CD; we look forward to hearing ourselves!

Stewart's daughter Juliet and her friend Archie performed in a concert at the Methodist church. They both have amazing voices. Juliet has finished her degree in London and has been offered a place at The Prague Conservatoire. Well done Juliet!!

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



In July we began with the Highgrove Suite, commissioned by the Prince of Wales, composed and conducted by Patrick Hawes, played by the Philharmonia Orchestra and harpist Clare Jones. Each of the four movements was inspired by an area of the Highgrove gardens. It led us through the gardens peacefully.

After tea, Rachmaninov, first the Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini then the first movement of his Piano Concerto No2, the latter played by the Mexico City Philharmonic orchestra and Jorge Luiz Pratz on the piano. Then both movements of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony Played by the Philharmonia Orchestra, an enigma as to why it was never completed. Finally to wake us up we heard the Toccata from Widor's Organ Symphony No 5. These are all played on the organ with no orchestra.

We meet again on Monday 21st August at Bridge Cottage for a recording of the Summer Concert from the Schonbrun Palace in Vienna.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



A course has been arranged after the Summer break at the Parish Centre, Wednesday afternoons, 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

Dates for the Autumn Course are as follows:

Sept 27th, Oct 11th and 25th, Nov 8th and 29th.

Please indicate your interest by signing the sheet on the notice board table.

Several members come to help the "students" and if you are able to offer some time to help during these afternoons it would be much appreciated. Please let Robyn know. (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Tricia Callaghan

No Report or notice this month

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater



The subject for the summer months is "Landscapes". This can include all types of landscapes, including seascapes and lake views. At the last meeting Geoff did show a short training video to help us with formulating our attempts. Results will be reviewed on Monday 11th September. Venue and time to be confirmed nearer the time.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We enjoyed lunch on the 4th July at the Red Lion. As usual, lots of chat about future holidays in Thailand to celebrate a wedding, a trip to Poland, and sailing on the Solent.

Instead of shopping in Stratford : why not try Bourton - on - the Water; it had the thumbs up from a few who had recently made a visit.

Next Dinahs lunch will be on Tuesday, August the 1st at 12.15pm.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



I was away for this session, but Sylvia and Sue took care of it. Thanks to both of you. They used a "Lateral Thinking" box of questions and answers, which I believe led to some stimulating discussion. I think that the idea was quite successful and I will use it again. I think that I will need to find another venue for next month which will be Wednesday August 9th.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



In July we watched the 1956 version of The Man Who Knew Too Much. This is an American suspense thriller film noir directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring James Stewart and Doris Day. The film is Hitchcock's remake of his 1934 film of the same name, which we watched in a previous film group meeting. The film won an Academy Award for Best Song for "Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)", sung by Doris Day.

Our August meeting will be on Tuesday 8th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Hall. We welcome new members.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



We will only have one meeting in August which will be Monday 14th. The late Bank Holiday knocks out the last Monday of the month. Hopefully in September we will revert to meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. For the time being we will continue to meet at 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, from 2 – 4pm. All welcome!

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzy Genge



Our group visited Stanway house this month to see the large fountain in the garden. The afternoon was rather drizzly, but there was a good turnout of people in anoraks and umbrellas, which helped protect from the spray of the fountain. Fortunately, the Jacobean house was lovely and interesting to visit and the cakes in the tearoom were delicious! Next month we shall be going to Bourton House on Tuesday

August 8th.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



"Do we underestimate and undervalue the contribution and value of our Country's youth" was debated at the July lunch meeting resulting in a resounding "no we don't" as, in the main, the discussion was encouragingly favourable and positive albeit based on the somewhat limited experience gained from a relatively small circle of families, friends and acquaintances and not society as a whole. Despite the often hostile national media coverage many youngsters take part in numerous worthwhile and character developing activities. Not surprisingly, considering the demographic of those present, there was a feeling that society was sometimes too preoccupied with the goings on of youth and failed to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution and value the input of senior citizens. However the Grumps believed that the opportunities for young people to realize their full potential were now probably more limited and certainly different from in the past but were confident that our youth will have a lot to offer to the country in the future.

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

Subject - Does society reward the right people.

HISTORY GROUP

Jean Hicks



This month the Group looked at Part 3 of Michael Wood's "In search of Shakespeare...The Duty of Poets" Wood looks at Shakespeare's rise to fame and fortune in Elizabethan London and the disasters in life and love that followed. We learn of the death of his son Hamnet followed by a mid-life crisis ending in a passionate affair with a married woman of dark skin !!

Throughout this erratic period Shakespeare's company rebuilds The Globe- the birth of the modern theatre. We also learn how he was challenged by the new up and coming poets .

In his late 30's we were shown how Shakespeare forged his own path to hit on the true duty of poets " to speak what we feel, not what we ought to say"

No meeting in August. Next meeting: Sept 11th Topic: Part 4 Michael Wood's Shakespeare.

KEEP FIT GROUP

Mary Palmer



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



At our last meeting this term we had our usual session then enjoyed a "bring & share" lunch in Sue Butler's lovely garden. Thanks Sue. Our next meeting will be Monday September 4th.

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 met on Thursday July 20th. After a chat and coffee, we read Act I of "Wait Until Dark" by Frederick Knott, a thriller.

We will not meet in August : Act II will have to wait until Thursday September 21st.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



This month's theme of 'Mistakes and Mishaps' provided good ground - particularly in the 'Love' stakes. A full field of writers made the running and winners ranged from James Fenton, Maya Angelou, Roger McGough, R.S. Thomas, Wendy Cope, Walter de la Mare, Dorothy Parker and Robert Frost. Next meeting is September and the theme - 'Women Poets'.

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We found a lot to discuss in 'A Place called Winter' by Patrick Gale. The book centred on one man, not a very happy one, which oddly starts at the end! The issues explored took place in Edwardian times and explore the early life of a wealthy man living in a prosperous family in Herne Bay. He had a troubled, unhappy childhood with a popular and successful younger brother. He gets married, has a daughter, no job and discovers himself to be homosexual. Realising the impossibility of the situation at that time he departs for Canada as an immigrant. The main part of the book explores his relatively successful experience as a farmer. The contrast, 'we thought the best part of the story, until Bethel looms! The issue of migrants to-day was our final debate! The comments on the back cover were, to us, somewhat exaggerated!

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



The July meeting was cancelled as the majority of the group were either granny sitting, on holiday or not well.

We are looking forward to meeting again at my house ,Wednesday 20th August 2-30pm.

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read 'The Forgotten Summer' by Carol Drinkwater. The basis of the story was quite good but there was far too much description in the book which could have been shortened by at least 100 pages. We also found it difficult to 'warm' to any of the characters. We are not meeting next month as we have opted to read a classic in addition to the set book, which may take a bit longer than usual.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



We had a full programme this month but unfortunately the leader - me- didn't have any glasses so I had to rely on the members for the comments. Luckily it worked well. Next month we are going to have a selection of CDs, records for the member

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Aline Cumming



Inspired by a magazine article, Aline spoke about Open Data, that is data that is available free to anyone with internet access. The argument is that this data is an important resource, as fundamental as power and transport and can generate large amounts of economic value. Data is different from food or manufactured goods as it is not consumed; after it is consulted it is still there for others. Examples such as the Genome Sequence and Transport for London generated huge return on investment. However there are challenges, such as investment, accuracy, maintenance, security and privacy. The subsequent discussion covered a range of topics about computer problems such as scams.

The visit in September to Brandon Marsh will comprise arriving at 10am for coffee and biccies, a talk and a guided walk. Lunch at the restaurant then either wander for a while or pack up and go. We will take cars and arrange lifts. Cost £5.00 pp donation.

Other meetings:-

Friday 11th August - "The Hoover Dam" - talk and DVD followed by "the Principles of Flight" by Geoff during tea.

Friday 8th September—proposed visit to Brandon Marsh nature reserve. Elka and Aline to organise.

Thursday 12th October—rescheduled visit to Acme Whistle Factory.

Details of both visits will be given at the July meeting.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



There will be NO Sunday lunch in August as we shall be away on holiday.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



I have the concert programme for the 2017/18 season. I am looking to hand over the organisation of these visits to a new leader. We could work together with the booking and organising the Autumn Concert.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



On 9 September 2017 we will go to Malvern to see 'Private Lives'. We will leave at the usual times - 12.00 from Henley and 12.30 from Stratford Leisure Centre. The cost is £26.00. Can I remind new members that you need to pay at the same time as you put your name down or send the money to me as quickly as I have to pay the theatre and the coach company a long time before we go on the outing.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks

The Piano Group are not meeting in July and August. However, there should be quite a recital in September when we meet again. We would welcome new players if anyone who plays the piano would like to come along. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 27th September at 10.00am. Side Room 1, Methodist Church Centre.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



There will be **No August walk**; the next walk will be on **September 13th at 10.00** am and start from the Village Hall car park(cost £1 donation) in Ashorne. Tony Whiteley will be our leader. Have a great summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
August 2017	Am Dram Group	November 2017	Digital Photography Group
September 2017	Art Appreciation Group	December 2017	Discussion Group
October 2017	Chinwags Group	January 2018	Grumpy Old Men Group

<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	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	As Announced
Dinah's 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	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
Piano Group	Sylvia Crooks	4th Wednesday 10.00—11.00am
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	Janet Whitfield	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
Scrapbooking Group	Heather Bridgewater	3rd Tuesday 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