



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-

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

# Heart of England

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## *January 2017 Newsletter*

### **TODAY'S MEETING**

Our speaker for January is our own Geoff Bridgewater and his talk is about his family involved in the kinder transport at the start of World War2. "A Viennese Tragedy"

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

Our speaker for January is a representative from Dogs for the Disabled giving a "Volunteer's Perspective".

### **NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**

*Jayne Jones*

Hello everyone. Welcome to our January monthly meeting. I hope that you had a happy Christmas and would like to wish you all a healthy & peaceful 2017. The U3A movement has just celebrated the setting up of the 1000th U3A in the UK. There is incredible energy, enthusiasm and experience across the network which makes the U3A a place 'where people Learn, Laugh and Live' - I think that our Heart of England U3A is a great example.

### **NEW YEAR LUNCH 2017**

**If you fear that you may have left it too late, there is still time to book for our lunch.** It will be on January 21<sup>ST</sup> 2017 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 £17 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 & gluten free options. 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. Please do note that cancellations on the day cannot be refunded as food has been prepared.

### **EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEWSLETTER & MAGAZINE ENTIRES.**

We now have a special email address to which you should send any reports, notices, photographs, etc. for the Newsletter and Magazine. It is a shared email address for both Edwin and Sandy. Just reply to the monthly reminder email and it will come to the correct address.

The address is: [edwinsandy@gmx.com](mailto:edwinsandy@gmx.com)

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

After the Christmas break we will meet on **Friday afternoon, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2.30-4.30 in the lounge.**

We will begin with Patricia continuing to help us with brush stroke writing, followed by a photo presentation of the red rocks and rainbow ridges of Zhangye Dansia discussed last time with Lisal. Then we will complete our World Heritage Sites presented by Su. The photos of the rocks and ridges are truly dramatic.

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.ralph1@icloud.com](mailto:david.ralph1@icloud.com)

## ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett



### Report of November 2016 Meeting

This month's programme was compiled by Barrie and it was 18 tracks of what I can only say was Pure Cool Jazz. He started with the Sy Oliver band playing "Yes indeed" which was followed by tracks from Paul Desmond, Gerry Mulligan, Buddy Grecco, Milt Jackson and Theolonious Monk. All people of peak jazz stature. He then gave us a (How about this track) with Bobby McFerrin and "Thinkin About Your Body" if you haven't heard this look it up!!! The first half was finished with a traditional Big Band performance band of Glenn Miller and "That's a Plenty".

The second half of the afternoon started with Cannonball Adderly playing "Autumn Leaves" which set the standard for the following tracks by Ella Fitzgerald, Bob Brookmayer and Dinah Washington.

Lou Rawls sang "God Bless the Child" and the Billy Taylor Trio played "I Wish I Knew". The program finished with the Miles Davis Quartet playing "Your My Everything". For me personally that was a perfect afternoon of (my being a bit partisan here) my kind of Jazz. Thank you Barrie.

Don't forget, we meet on the **4<sup>th</sup>** Thursday of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall in Old Town, starting at 2p.m.

**Can I wish you all a very Happy New Year from Jazz Group Members.**

## ART APPRECIATION

*Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins*



Great company and great food sums up our Christmas lunch. The Opposition hosted us well and we all enjoyed our get-together. We'll have a mix of topics in January, with two short DVDs, one on modern art and one on detecting forgeries.

We'd like to wish all our U3A friends all the very best for the New Year.

## 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

*Carolyn Leach*



Our next work-shop will be on Jan 27th 12.30- 4.30. At the moment we are looking for new local charities to support so suggestions are 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*



Thank you to everyone who came to our concert. You were a super audience and we enjoyed entertaining you. Stewart is very inspirational and relaxed, we are so lucky to work with such a talented musician. We now have over seventy members, some who have never sung in a choir before and others who are very experienced singers.

We have members from the four local U3As and we are now looking forward to our summer concert.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

*Aline Cumming*



For December we plan to have a combined meeting with the All That Swing & Jazz and Rock and Roll groups at the Methodist church. Report next month

## COMPUTER GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll*



We are taking a break over the Winter but intend to resume in the Spring.

The course will be held at the Parish Centre, 2.30 to 4.00 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays and will cover topics for **tablets and laptops**.

Here are the dates: **February 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> ; March 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>; April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

A few spaces are available and if interested in joining the group please sign the sheet on the notice board table.

If you are able to come as a helper please *let Robyn know*. ([redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk))

## CREATIVE CRAFTS

*Tricia Callaghan*



There was some confusion as to what we would be doing at our last meeting so it was down to "Plan B" and a bit of pot luck. However, a start was made on some pieces of wall art using artificial flowers, picture frames and various bits and bobs. Robyn had asked for all those who had made the Christmas wreaths demonstrated at a previous session to bring them in so that she could photograph them for our

archives and a total of eight were provided. She created a background on which they were displayed and it looked quite stunning.

Finally thanks to Lynda for providing some spiced cordial as an alternative to our usual tea/coffee. It was very 'moreish' and much appreciated.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

*Edwin Lilly*

Members of the Digital Photography Group met in The Garrick for a briefing before venturing out into the streets to take photographs of the Christmas lights. After some good advice from Geoff we went out in small groups for an hour to walk around the streets and take some photographs. Later we returned to the comfort of the Garrick for refreshments and post trip discussion.

We meet at 10.30 am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January in The Lounge at the Methodist Church Hall to discuss the results of the photographic trip.

### **DINAHS**

*Sylvia Crooks*



Dinahs met Tuesday 6th December at the Vintner for a Christmas lunch. There was a lot of laughter and chat from around the table ( it must have been the Christmas spirit ) after pulling our crackers and we chatted about Woman's Hour, genealogy, Drones - a 9 year old request for Christmas !!! News - the village of Conway was left £ 450,000 from a prisoner of war. On a Happy note DINAHS wish all our

friends Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

We next meet Tuesday 3rd of January at the Red Lion.

### **DISCUSSION GROUP**

*Athena Roderick*



Our theme was "The World is changing daily and do we think that much good will come out of it?" We started well with the first comment being that Boris Johnson had told the truth about Saudi Arabia and a bit more honesty from politicians wouldn't come amiss. We did recognise that was not the Government stance, as Saudis are important allies, although we disapprove of arms being sold abroad. But it does provide a lot of jobs. We were concerned by Putin's rise on the World stage and could see that Trump has a point with China nudging closer to USA militarily. We had concerns about the number of strikes and how difficult to decide who carries the most responsibility, although it is always the man in the street/train who suffers. We also talked about the seven most influential women named recently, but we seemed to have different lists. It has to be said, that the Festive Spirit was definitely with us and we were even more talkative than usual. But it is almost Christmas, after all. I wish you all a very Happy Festive Season and a comfortable 2017. We meet again January 11<sup>th</sup> at The Windmill.

### **FILM GROUP**

*Mary Fishleigh*



In December we watched "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". This is a 1975 cult film parodying old science fiction and horror movies. Those of us who had previously seen the stage version thought the film was not as good. Although the film was made 40 years ago we all commented that it did not seem dated. The content was not to everyone's taste but generally was enjoyed. We followed the film with some seasonal refreshments.

At the end of another year we can look back on a wide range of films, including a selection of topics related to Shakespeare in celebration of 400 years since his death.

We still have room for some more new members. Do consider coming along. The next meeting is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January in the Methodist Hall lounge starting at 2pm.

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

*Sue Tringham*



By the time you read this Christmas and the New Year will be over!! Because of the impact of the Bank Holidays we will meet on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017. 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 celebrated Christmas early with lunch at the Stratford Garden centre in Clifford Chambers, on Monday 5th December. The lunch was preceded by a very interesting and entertaining talk to members of the Garden centre about Christmas plants; poinsettia, clematis and orchids to name a few.

The next meeting will be upstairs in Caffe Nero on Tuesday 10th January at 10:30 am, when we shall discuss the year's programme.

## GRUMPY OLD MEN

*Graham Michell*



No report this month as the December meeting took place after the deadline for the submission of reports. However I anticipate that, against our better judgement and inclination, no doubt we will have had to display a jovial disposition in keeping with the generally accepted behaviour at this time of the year but roll on 2017 when once again grumpiness will be allowed to prevail!!

I wish to thank all the Grumps for their support and involvement over the past year with their many, varied and sometimes controversial (and of course "grumpy") contributions at our meetings as befits the philosophy and spirit of the Grumpy Old Men Group.

**Next meeting** - **Wed. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 2017** **Venue** - **Le Bistrot Pierre**

**Subject** - **To be advised.**

## HISTORY GROUP

*Jean Hicks*



Our December meeting took the form of a delicious buffet, followed by David Dumper's quiz which was enjoyed by all.

Next meeting: January 9th.....when David Bell will talk about The Black Country. Start 2 pm

## 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*



We have had a good first year and everyone has done some really interesting paintings. Hopefully you will enjoy looking at our work which is displayed around the hall. We meet fortnightly and encourage and help one another with our drawing and painting.

## 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 15th December at Sylvia's for a mince pie and a wee glass of cherry. Then read a few short Christmas plays. We next meet in the New Year, Thursday the 19th January 2017 at Sylvia's 10.30am for coffee.

Play Reading Group would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy 2017.

### **READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY**

*Dorothy Jones*



In December we read "The Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy" by Rachel Joyce. When the newsletter went to print we hadn't had our monthly meeting but comments from several members of the group have been very positive. The Times critic said "will leave you wide-eyed and wanting to read it all again .....wondrous. I think we all agreed.

### **READING GROUP—FRIDAY**

*Coral Bradley*



We read "The Gathering Storm" (but I can't remember the author). It is a book in two halves as the first part is about growing up in Cornwall before the second war and this is well written. Then she goes on to describe her experiences during the war and by anyone's standard they would have been terrible - being dropped into France and working under cover, getting caught, tortured, escaping and then losing her son - but she almost glosses over these events. There is also the annoying group in the present who have little bearing on the actual story. So we had mixed feelings about this book but the tea and cakes we had for our Christmas meeting made up for the books short comings.

### **ROCK AND ROLL GROUP**

*Coral Bradley*



We had a very successful joint meeting with the All Swing and Jazz Group and the Classical Music Group. Report next month.

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

*Edwin Lilly*



The December meeting on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December was an extended meeting from 1.30 to 4.30pm and was a Christmas Social with a Quiz Everyone brought a contribution for the feast (agreed with Heather Bridgewater to avoid oversupply of mince pies and sausage rolls!). We all had a lovely time and the Quiz was admirably controlled by Bob and Chris Heaps. As usual the prize was a box of chocolates which was then passed around the whole crowd.

Friday 13th January 2017 Talk on "Paint and how it covers a multitude of sins"; organised by Ian.

Friday 10th February 2017 Talk on "The Unbelievable Mysteries of the Universe" given by Geoff.

Friday 10th March 2017 Talk "Say Cheese" by Ian.

### **SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

*Brian Bradley*

No meeting in January. See next month for notice of next meeting.

### **SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS**

*Dorothy Jones*

Our next visit will be Wednesday May 24th May. 2-15pm.

The programme

Mozart Symphony no 31(Paris)

Dvorak Cello Concerto in B Minor

Schumann Symphony No 1 (Spring)

The cost of this visit is £36. This includes the cost of the ticket and return coach to the Symphony Hall. We leave the Leisure Centre , Stratford upon Avon ,promptly at 12-15pm and pick up our Henley members en route.

Payment is now due. Please make the cheque out to Heart of England U3A and send to Dorothy Jones.

## **THEATRE GROUP.**

*Coral Bradley*



We ended our year with a visit to Malvern with a musical and very loud it was too, this was enjoyed by all.

On January 28 we will go to Malvern again to see "The Verdict" with Clive Mantle and Jack Shepherd there are a few seats left and they cost £26.50. Leaving at the usual times Henley 12.00 and the leisure centre 12.30.

Two dates for your diaries:

18 March Malvern "Nell Gwynn" by the English Touring Company who did Anne Boleyn a few years ago, it has many awards and

29 April "Malvern Fracked" with James Bolam and Anne Reid, this is a new comedy.

## **WALKING GROUP**

*Valerie Redfern*



We have had a beautiful walk from Illmington with perfect weather conditions ending up with coffee and mince pies at the Community cafe and shop in the village.

The next walk will take place on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at 10.00 a.m. and start from Wellesbourne Village Hall (behind the shopping precinct in the centre of the village) You can park in the car park behind the Village Hall.

(Please avoid parking in the bays for shoppers on the roadside not only is it affecting shop trade but also there is now a 2 hour parking limit and rumour is the parking attendant enforces on Wednesdays)

It is an easy walk on the flat and generally hard-core (we could take a diversion across the fields if conditions are not too wet). The walk is to Walton Hall and return and about 5 miles or slightly less.

Stout walking shoes or boots recommended and bring a drink and snack for a break up by the lake at Walton Hall.

We can at the end of the walk also visit the cafe in Wellesbourne on the shopping precinct.

The walk leader is Tony Whiteley tel: 01789 471036 email: tonywhiteley@outlook.com

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

Stratford - No information for January. .

Shottery - 7<sup>th</sup> February – "Nicholas Owen – Hide Builder" - Michael Hodgetts.

Dene Valley - No information published. .

Alcester - 7<sup>th</sup> February – "On the Road in North America " – Chris Forse.

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
January 2017	SNATTs Group	April 2017	Garden Appreciation Group
February 2017	History Group	May 2017	Painting & Drawing Group
March 2017	The Choir	June 2017	Film Group

<b><u>GROUP</u></b>	<b><u>GROUP LEADER</u></b>	<b><u>TELEPHONE</u></b>	<b><u>USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)</u></b>
All That Swing & Jazz	Brian Bradley	01789—488 551	4th Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
AmDram & Supper	Geoff Bridgewater	01789—298 059	As Announced
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	01789—263 794 01789—774 712	3rd Friday 2.00pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	01789—748 197	Every Tuesday 2.00pm
Card Making	Carolyn Leach	01789—266 194	As Announced
China Discussion Group	Robyn Nicoll	01789—417 935	See Newsletter
Chinwags Lunch	Aline Cumming	01789—298 357	4th Monday 12.00 noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	01789—267 984 01789—204 892	Every Friday 10.30—12.00 noon
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	01789—298 357	3rd Monday 2.00pm
Creative Crafts	Tricia Callaghan	01789—298 870	3rd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Computers	Robyn Nicoll	01789—417 935	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2.30—4.00pm
Digital Photography	Geoff Bridgewater	01789—298 059	To be decided.
Dinah's Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	01789—416 965	1st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	01789—551 416	2nd Wednesday
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	01789—448 484 01789—298 235	2nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Games –Scrabble, Dominoes and Cards	Sue Tringham	01789—204 295	1st & 3rd Monday 2.00—4.00pm
Garden Appreciation Group	Suzy Genge	01789—261 447	2nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	01789—205 195	3rd Wednesday for lunch
History	David Dumper	01789—550 193	2nd Monday 2.00pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	01789—204 707	Every Thursday 10.00am
Painting/Drawing	Dorothy Jones Sue Butler	01789—204 892 01789—550 771	As Announced
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	01789—269 657	Every Monday 12.15—1.15pm
Pilates - Wednesday	Sue Workman	01789—297 061	Every Wednesday 10.15—11.15am
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	01789—416 965	See Newsletter for dates
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davey	01789—720 478	2nd Wednesday 10.00—12.00noon
Reading - Monday	Phyllis Bailey	01789—509 659	3rd Monday 2.30—4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	01789—204 892	3rd Wednesday 2.30pm
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	01789—488 551	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	01789—488 551	2nd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Science, Nature & All Things Technical	Geoff Bridgewater	01789—298 059	2nd Friday 2.00—4.00pm
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	01789—488 551	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	01789—204 892	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	01789—488 551	As Appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	01789—471 048	2nd Wednesday 10.00am