



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

July 2017 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for July will be Alan Rogers, who has entertained us before. He has called his talk "More tales of a Policemen's Lot".

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

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!"

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

We will hold our AGM meeting in September. We do need several new committee members. If you are interested in joining the committee do have a chat with one of our current members.

As I write this report I have just arrived home from a holiday in Berlin. We found the people very friendly, helpful and very proud of their beautiful city. The buildings were amazing and the food delicious. We met a U3A member from Melbourne and the main highlight of the week.-----we shook hands with Angela Merkel.

OUTING TO CARDIFF

Coral Bradley

The outing to Cardiff will be on Wed 26 July 2017, leaving Henley at 8.30 and the Leisure Centre at 9.00. The cost is £15.00. Some people haven't paid yet. There are a few places left.

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

Stratford	- 26 th July	- "Walton Hall and its Victorian Scandal."	- Lady Elizabeth Hamilton .
Shottery	- 1 st August	- "Folded in Dreams"	- Ted Watson.
Dene Valley	- 11 th July	- " Victoria: A Life in Portraits "	- Gillian White.
Alcester	- 1 st August	- "A School in Sierra Leone. (Waterloo Charity)".	- Margaret Mandell.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF AGM DATE

Our committee is wishing to change the date of our yearly AGMs from September to October. This will make the yearly accounting system easier for our Treasurer, which everybody would want.

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. Thank you.

RECENT VISIT TO BBC STUDIOS IN BIRMINGHAM

Athena Roderick

The SNATTs trip to the BBC Midlands Today Studio was a success and if any U3A members would like to form a small group to visit the studios, I would be happy to help with the information that I have.

PROPOSED NEW FAMILY HISTORY (GENEALOGY) GROUP

Edwin Lilly

If interested please sign the form on the Chair's table and take a leaflet. September is the proposed start and I am asking for an expression of interest. I will be in touch to talk about venue, day, time of meeting.

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 of these courses have been downloaded and saved and a list is being prepared by Sue Workman who will be forwarding the units to interested members in the near future.

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

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

Our last meeting in June was one with a difference. We began by watching a video, "How to use chopsticks", followed by a practical session, each member being presented with a bowl of rice and a set of chopsticks. The outcome had mixed results. Remember – practice makes perfect.

We then attempted to play Mahjong. Most members had not played before so again the results were mixed despite the efforts of Norma and David.

The date and theme for our next get-together has not yet been arranged. 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 May 2017 Meeting.



The May meeting was programmed by member Derek who, unfortunately being indisposed on the day of the meeting, passed on the presentation to our resident MC . Geoff. (pause for applause).

The first half of the programme was a feast of goodies from Big Bands. We opened with "Tangerine" played by the ' Alex Welsh' band with a splendid trombone solo from Roy Williams, then onto 'Ted Heath' with "Lullaby of Birdland" followed by 'Artie Shaw' and "Begin the Beguine" (sighs from the ladies present) then we had Midland based 'Richard Leech Band' playing "At Sundown" featuring another good trombone solo. 'Woody Herman' came next with "Woodchoppers Ball" and the final track first half was "St. Louis Blues" played by the Bateman Brothers Band a unique group who have gained a worldwide reputation for their faithful recreation of the music of Louis Armstrong.

The second half began with a super smooth rendering of "Adios" by the ' Dan Lusher' Band, then we were off on the traditional jazz road with three tracks by cornet players, namely Muggsy Spanier, King Oliver and Bix Beiderbecke. Following these was a beautifully sharp track of 'Kenny Ball' and "Savoy Blues". The afternoon finished with 'Louis Prima' and "Just a Gigolo".

Our thanks to Derek for a programme which bought back such happy memories and to Geoff for the presentation. Don't forget the Jazz Group meet on the **4th Thursday** of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall, we begin at 2p.m. and you are assured of coffee and biscuits in the interval. All are welcome.

ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish /Pam Collins



In June we had a very interesting visit to the Artists' Workhouse in Studley. This was one of the Warwickshire Open Studios (WOS) venues. The Artists Workhouse, formerly a needle factory, is now home to 10 artists. The resident artists were happy to talk to us about their work, which includes distinctive art styles,

fabric and felting work and ceramic design. This lively gallery also hosts exhibitions, workshops and other events, and as part of their WOS display, there was an exhibition of their inaugural open competition on the theme of 'Regeneration'. This included contributions from as far afield as USA, as well as from local artists.

In July we will be visiting an exhibition called 'I Want! I Want!' at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

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 July 28th 12.30 - 4.30. New members welcome.

Has anyone any suggestions for a local charity which we have not supported with the sale of our cards?

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



Our Summer concerts "USA sings USA" were enjoyed by both the choir & audience. We always enjoy singing at Briarcroft, several of the residents sing along with us. Our next choir meeting will be Friday July 7th. Stewart is hoping to record some of our concert numbers and produce a CD.!

Stewart is so inspirational, we are all very aware how lucky we are to have such a talented Musical Director.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



We began with the Overture to Bizet's opera Carmen, followed by Nocturne No 2 by Chopin played by Johyn Ogden. Then we had the Fanfare for the Common Man composed by Copland just after Pearl Harbour as an example of morale boosting and patriotic fervour in USA. From a disc of singing by Lawrence Tibbet, a popular American baritone, of a wide range of music from negro spirituals to popular songs and opera at the Metropolitan Opera House New York, we heard Largo al Factotum from the Barber of Seville, the Song of the Flea by Moussorski and Going Home sung to the theme from Dvorak's New World Symphony. Then it was Mendelsson's Italian Symphony. After tea the first movement of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, Schuman's complete Cello Concerto in which the three movements run into each other, and ended with Sibelius Finlandia. We meet again on Monday 17th July at Bridge Cottage

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



We met on Thursday 15th June and welcomed Claire Smith, a local artist and very creative lady, who introduced us to painting with acrylics. We were given a copy of a very well known painting by Claud Monet en-

titled "Water Lilies" and were informed that we would be producing our interpretation of this on a card 'tile'. Claire provided everything we would need and guided us step by step through the entire session. Needless to say none of us will be giving up the day job!!!! but it was an interesting experience and we had an excellent tutor. Many thanks Claire!,

At our next meeting we will be repeating a project which we tried last month but was missed by some group members. This was modelling with air drying clay and those who tried were keen to have another go, hence the repeat

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 met at the Red Lion on the 6th June, Summer seems to be here at last, great. After an enjoyable lunch we talked about the Choir Concert on the 2nd June : off course!! Also, The upsetting Concert in Manchester : King Charles III a television production, also watch Sergeant Pepper, taking you back to the sixties.

Beware Cold Callers, : Seniors accrue a lot of money during their life, how can they give it away so easily? Here is a joke told by one of us, " How do you know when a politician is lying? : His mouth is moving".

We next meet Tuesday 4th July at 12.15pm. Red Lion again.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



I had offered 'The Election' as a topic, but some members were heartily fed up with it, so we decided to leave it, or so we thought, as we kept returning to it. We talked a lot about schools and how hard it must be for teachers, who have enormous amounts of paperwork and we seriously doubt if most of it is necessary. Classes are usually too large and the inclusion of Special Needs children puts extra strain

on teachers. They need specialist teaching. Added to that, there is the problem of a lack of discipline, because children often aren't getting discipline in the home. We all felt that there have already been so many changes in education recently, that cutting through what is unnecessary to get to what is needed for a happy, healthy and successful younger generation will be difficult, but essential, we felt.

The next meeting will be Wed. July 12 @ El Greco, which has a large, round table.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



For our June film we watched 'Midnight in Paris'. This was written and directed by Woody Allan and is considered to be one of his best films released around that time. We all enjoyed the many sights of Paris that appeared in the film and many of us felt quite nostalgic as we watched the film. However none of us had experienced the time travel that the main character got involved in when he was walking the streets of Paris at midnight. It was interesting to try to guess who the characters were that he met during these travels before their names were revealed— Picasso, Gertrude Stein, Scott Fitzgerald, to name a few. A thoroughly enjoyable film.

We meet on the second Tuesday each month and try to show films which are considered worthy of potential awards, cult films, foreign films or classic ones that are not on current circuits. So you are not likely to be able to see them at the cinema currently. We find it interesting to be able to have a short discussion after the film has finished on what we thought of it – the production, the acting, the music and the story.

The next meeting is Tuesday July 11th at 2pm in the lounge at the Methodist Church Hall.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



Sue's holidays are now playing havoc with the Games Group meetings! We normally meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. However, in July we will meet on Monday 10th and 24th July. For the time being we will con-

tinue to meet at 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, from 2 – 4pm. All welcome!

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzy Genge



The group visited Kiftsgate gardens this month. For various reasons, there was only a small group this time and so we managed to do a quick tour of Hidcote as well. The flowers were gorgeous in both gardens and smelled delightful. Next month will be a visit to Stanway fountain and garden on Tuesday afternoon July 11th

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



“Review of the Election result and What’s in it for us” seemed to be a simple, straight forward and non controversial discussion topic when it was chosen at our May meeting but the unexpected outcome changed all that. It was agreed that the Conservative’s campaign was unimaginative, lack lustre and what policies were included in the manifesto were badly explained and poorly presented. The “presidential style” approach adopted by Theresa May was unanimously criticised and the “strong and stable government” slogan, repeated ad nauseam, became boring and was meaningless to uncommitted voters. In comparison the Labour Party’s campaign and manifesto was considered to be a very energetic, positive and well presented with Jeremy Corbyn’s involvement being very well received. Their promise to an end to austerity was very effective and the pledge to end university tuition fees attracted the high student vote which undoubtedly influenced the result in a number of constituencies. The Group believed that in terms of the number of seats won the Conservatives had every right to form a Government but it was considered that in practice there were no real winners as now we have a hung Parliament with all its uncertainties which will no doubt effect “what’s in it for us”. The Grump of the Month Award for his comprehensive initial analysis and contributions throughout went to Antony Eastaugh who summed up the surprise result as “Labour offered hope and change and the Conservatives didn’t”.

Next Meeting - Wed. July 19th - Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - Do we under estimate and under value the contribution and potential of our Country’s youth.

HISTORY GROUP

Jean Hicks



Our June lecture was given to us by Susan Brock and was entitled "Shakespeare Club of Stratford upon Avon". The talk and many interesting slides were based around Susan's book which she co-authored with Sylvia Morris. We learnt how Stratford took quite a while to get going in its recognition of Shakespeare's status in world literature. It was David Garrick who launched the first festival in 1769. It was not until 1824 that the local group formed the Shakespeare Club to pay homage to the Bard. It also played an important part in saving his birthplace and working towards the preservation of Shakespeare monuments and the grave in Holy Trinity Church. It also influenced the establishment of the Stratford theatre.

Full details of the Shakespeare Club and ongoing work were provided.

Next meeting: July 10th at 2pm

Film: Michael Woods 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



We continue to enjoy our Monday morning sessions and encourage one another to produce some super work.

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



We last met on the 15th June at Sylvia's. After coffee we finished reading "The Unexpected Guest", a Murder Mystery by Agatha Christie. Thoroughly enjoyed by all. The next Play Reading is on Thursday 20th July at Sylvia's for coffee.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



Leaving May's theme of 'Transport' (wagons, 'planes, boats, chariots, etc.) we decided we should stay at 'Home' during June - after all it was the last few weeks of the school term. This covered wishful dreams of Home as well as structures from cabins to mansions, and town and country landscapes. Next month, perhaps influenced by the aftermath of the election, the theme is, 'Mistakes and Mishaps'.

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



Sadly we have little to report this month, Three of us met for a very long and interesting chat covering many subjects. The previous month we were on 'own choice' and apart from a discussion about how much some of us enjoyed Samson's books about events during the reign of King Henry the eighth and our intention to get all members to read 'A place called Winter' by Patrick Gale, about which we have been asked to send a review on it and our discussion, we covered many topics! We would welcome new members to the group !!! and even a potential new leader.....

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Janet Whitfield for Dorothy Jones



As we are still selecting our own books to read, we have had a varied selection to recommend to one another. On the factual side "Citizen Clem" about the life of the Labour Prime Minister, and a book about the involved lives of three anthropologists, were highly praised. Also much admired was the Polish writer Slavomir Rawicz with his true story "The Long Walk" describing his 3000 mile trek to freedom from Siberia. Members who preferred fiction this month chose "A Place Called Winter" and "The Snow Child". Finally, lavish praise was voiced for Andrew Marr's "A Short Book About Drawing". Our next meeting, on 19th. July, will consider our individual choices of Sebastian Faulks novels.

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



This month we read 'Different Class' by Joanne Harris. This follows on from an earlier book with the same characters but that made no difference to us. Everyone enjoyed the book which is set in a Northern Grammar School with the main character as the Latin master. It is a thriller which kept us guessing right up to the end.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



We had an interesting afternoon with David Dumper taking us through some of the concerts he went to when he was a teenager. Then we had a concert of Roy Orbison and guests. We all thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you David.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Edwin Lilly



There was no SNATTs meeting in June. The next meeting will be on Friday 14th July, in the New room at 2.00pm. Aline will give an illustrated talk "The Advantages and Challenges of Open Data".

Friday 11th August - "The Hoover Dam" - Intro 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.

SCRAPBOOK GROUP

Heather Bridgewater

The Scrapbooking Group continues to be a relaxed and friendly get together and all the photo albums are progressing well. Next meeting on 18th July at 2.00pm in the Welcome Area.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next lunch will be on Sunday 2nd. July 2017, at the Navigation, Wootton Wawen. Names please to Brian Bradley, Tel: 01789 488551

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



I have the Concert programme for the 2017-2018 season. I am hoping 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



Our next play is on 22 July 2017 to Malvern. It is 'The Play That Goes Wrong'. This has proved very popular and I have had to get extra seats. Most people have now paid. We leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks

Piano Group met in side room 1 on the 28th June at 10.00am. We each play our latest piece of music, or maybe something we had learnt in the past. The idea is to encourage you to practise the piano and maybe play for family and friends. There will be no Piano Group in July and August. Meeting again on the 4th Wednesday in September, the 27th at 10.00am. Come along if you are interested.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 10.a.m from Dorsington. We will meet by the Church and parking will be organized on the day either by the Church or in private drives.

This is approximately five mile walk and will be led by Kathy Bird

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

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
July 2017	All That Swing & Jazz Group	October 2017	Chinwags Group
August 2017	Am Dram Group	November 2017	Digital Photography Group
September 2017	Art Appreciation Group	December 2017	Discussion 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