



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

June 2017 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for June will be Roy Smart & his topic is "Another Icarus. The Rise & fall of Percy Pincher" If it hadn't been for his untimely death, he might have beaten the Wright Brothers to glory in the air.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

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"

FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

Last week we had a committee/group leaders meeting. We are very fortunate to have so many interest groups and members who are willing to organise these groups. If you are interested in starting a new group, do contact Sylvia or Ruth our Group Co-ordinators and they will be very happy to help.

Meanwhile many thanks to all our group leaders who contribute so much to our U3A.

Also to Edwin & Sandy who edit our monthly newsletter.

OUTINGS—SKITTLE EVENING

Coral Bradley

The skittles evening is 30 June at Welford starting at 7.30. The list for this event is now full but some people still haven't paid. The cost is £13.00. I am unable to be at the main meeting but Sue Tringham will collect money for me or you can send it to me. Cheques made payable to Heart of England U3A.

OUTINGS—SKITTLE EVENING

Coral Bradley

An outing to Cardiff has been arranged for Wednesday 26 July 2017. We will leave Johnsons' yard at 8.30 in the morning and the leisure centre at 9.00. The journey takes just over two hours. Johnsons have agreed that they will get us as close to the centre of the city as they can. There are many attractions in Cardiff; the castle, the art gallery, the docks and some very good shops. We will leave at 4.00.

The cost is £15.00 which covers the coach and a tip for the driver. Names to be taken now.

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

Stratford	- 28 th June	- "Strategic Deception and how it helped win the war." - Hugh Davies.
Shottery	- 6 th June	- "The Life of an Author" (providing you are happy) – Shirley Thompson.
Dene Valley	- 13 th June	- "The Matthew" - Rowan Mackenzie.
Alcester	- 6 th June	- "Military Operational Parachuting". - Mike Milburn.

LOCAL ORCHESTRA NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

A local orchestra is looking for more players, particularly players of stringed instruments (violins, etc.). If you are interested in joining, or for more information, please telephone Edwin Lilly on 01789 204472. or email edwin_lilly@yahoo.co.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 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.

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 & 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.]

A group have just completed a course called 'Property to Partner' which looks at the rights of women from early civilisations to the present day. The course comprises seven units which the participants download, study at home individually and then meet monthly to share findings and talk about some of the issues raised. I am willing to re-start the course and four people have already signed up. I can email the units to you. If anyone else is interested please let me know and we will work out which day to meet. I suspect we will start in the Autumn.

Aline Cumming 01789 298 357 cumming_aline@btinternet.com

CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

At our last get-together, we had a horticultural theme with Norma telling us about the famous botanist and plant hunter, "Ernest Henry (Chinese) Wilson", born in Chipping Campden, who visited China in the early 1900s to hunt for exotic plants to supply the Veitch & Sons Nursery. His first assignment was to find the "Handkerchief Tree"; an example can be found at Hidcote. Lisal then told us about the use of herbs and spices in Chinese cooking leading to a demonstration of the finer points of using chopsticks.

Date for our next get-together: Tuesday, 27th June 2.30 - 4.30, in the lounge.

The theme for the afternoon will be "Chopsticks and Mahjong". We will be attempting to manipulate chopsticks (bowls of rice supplied) followed by a game of Mahjong.

New members would be welcome to join us for an afternoon with a difference.

If you would like to join us, please contact Robyn so that appropriate equipment is to hand.

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 April 2017 Meeting.

The meeting this month was put together by group member Mary Fishleigh and she chose to base her choice from Jazz and Big Band Music featured in Film Scores. The programme began with a 1927 recording of "My Gal Sal" which was featured in 'The Jazz Singer'. This was followed by two 'cool' tracks, Helen Mirrell singing "This Time the Dream's on Me" from the 1941 film 'Blues in the Night' and Father and Son Marsalis playing "Taking a Chance on Love" (interesting point here, there are four more siblings who are jazz players which adds up to six in all !!!). After three more 40's based tracks we arrived at the 50's with Harry James playing "Limehouse Blues" from the film 'Young Man with a Horn', remember Kirk Douglas playing Beiderbeck? 1954 bought us 'The Glen Miller Story' with the band playing "St Louis Blues March. The first half finished with Nat King Cole and "Yellow Dog Blues" from the film 'St Louis Blues.' Once we had been fortified with our usual coffee/tea and (broken) biscuits...Sorry everyone....it was back to our listening. Mary has now reached the 1960's and we heard 'Charles Mingus' play "Jelly Roll" which was quickly followed by the 1972 film 'Lady Sings the Blues' "Too Marvellous for Words" was sung in the film by Diana Ross but here we had the treat of Billie Holliday in full voice. The following track was composed by Theolonius Monk in 1940/41, here its used in a 1986 film "Round about Mid-

night" and played by The Roy Eldridge Quartet. In 1988 a film 'Bird' was made about Charlie Parker with Forest Whitaker in the title role (I recommend it). Here Bird plays "Sepian Bounce". 'Mo' Better Blues' made in 1990 was about a fictional Jazz trumpeter and the track "Knocked out the Box" is played by the Marsalis Quartet. To finish our afternoon of jazz Mary served up the full works with Cleo Laine and James Galway playing and singing "How Where When" or if you prefer Johann Pachelbel (Canon in D Major P.37) All I can say is beat that. Thank you, Mary, for a fascinating afternoon of unexpected interpretations.

The Jazz Group meet on the **4th Thursday** of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall in Old Town beginning at 2p.m. All are welcome.

ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins



In May we went to Compton Verney where we enjoyed an exhibition *Creating the Countryside: Thomas Gainsborough to Today* and a display of portrait miniatures.

The exhibition aimed to demonstrate how art has influenced our vision of rural life. Items were allocated into themes, such as views, work in the countryside, the village, and the pleasures of the countryside, within each of which traditional pieces were displayed alongside modern pieces. There was a very diverse selection of artists and mediums, from Turner to Greyson Perry, from sculpture to corn dollies and from a 17th century 'Claude glass' to a computer game.

The portrait miniatures were selected from a much larger collection loaned to the gallery. With its emphasis on women portraitists, different techniques, and examples of work from the 16th to the 19th century, this display was also of great interest.

Our June meeting will be on the 4th - not the 3rd - Friday (June 23). We will be visiting the Artists' Workhouse in Studley, which is participating in the Warwickshire Open Studios.

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 Friday May 27th 12.30 - 4.30pm. New members welcome. The cash from the sale of our cards at the monthly meeting is being sent to St Basils, Solihull, a charity supporting young homeless people

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We are looking forward to our concert on Friday 2nd June. We have sold all our tickets. If you were unable to buy a ticket come to Briarcroft on Friday 9th June where we will be repeating our programme 'U3A SINGS USA'. You will be most welcome.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



In response to requests our May meeting covered music from Italy and Scandinavia. Italy consisted of baroque and opera. Opera comprised Rossini's Overture to William Tell, then Cav and Pag, namely the Intermezzo from Cavalliera Rusticana and Vesti la Giubba from I Pagliacci sung by Jose Careras. Baroque included Allegri's Misere me sung by the King's College choir, Pastoralle by Corelli and Vivaldi's Concerto for Lute and two violins. The Dance of the Hours by Ponchielli completed Italy.

After Tea we moved to Norway for extracts from the Peer Gynt Suites 1 and 2 and the Holberg Suite by Grieg. Then to Finland for the Karelia suite and the Violin Concerto by Sibelius. A mixed programme with some favourites. We meet again on Monday 5th June at Bridge Cottage as I cannot manage the normal third Monday..

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Robyn Nicoll for Tricia Callaghan

The workshop at the May meeting was to experiment with Air-Drying Clay which we had not used before. We shared a large block of clay and managed to produce many shapes using kitchen cutters and simple templates. Eggs - Angels, trees, hearts, flowers, stars. Items were taken home to dry (24hours) and will be decorated with paints, gilding wax, pens and glitter. We have a tutor coming to our June afternoon who will be supplying everything for the surprise project. Date: **Thursday, 15th June, 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the new room.**

New members are very welcome. Contact Tricia for more information.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



There are 2 more sessions booked before the summer break - **June 28th and July 12th - 2.30 to 4.00 at the Parish Centre.**

We will be arranging another course in the autumn, dates to be advertised in the next newsletter. 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)

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater



We met at Sandy's house on Banbury Road where we reviewed the photographs for the subject "Water". There were many photographs of many aspects of water. Rivers, streams, pools, canals, sea-side, lakes, fountains, rapids, water birds. They were all interesting and I think most of us learned something from taking the photographs and also by looking through other people's attempts. There were some very attractive and creative photographs produced.

The subject for the summer months is "Landscapes". This can include all types of landscapes, including seascapes and lake views. 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 on Tuesday 2nd of May at the Red Lion. Lots of chat as usual, before and during an enjoyable meal. On the menu also: we heard about a visit to Australia to see the family and see how the Grand-children have grown. : Life stories and divorce. : "Line of Duty" a Series that had just ended on Television, very good acting and well worth watching on 'Catch Up'. Riviera Cruises praised and recommended. Also Lochs and Glens a holiday coming up.

We thought we might not get to eat at the Red Lion in June as the Kitchen is having some repairs done soon. However, work will not start until after our next visit, on Tuesday 6th June, 12.15pm.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



We had a change of venue this month which seemed to go down well. As it was Mental Health Week, that was the topic. But, as it was all personal stuff that we talked about, not much to report. There were divided opinions about the benefit of talking, as it undoubtedly helps to unburden oneself when there is a huge problem. But it was felt that too many people were encouraged to go to Doctors with less difficult 'stresses' and this takes up hard pressed resources.

We meet again on the 14th June at the White Swan Hotel @12.30.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



Our film this month was a propaganda film made in 1944 to encourage wartime Anglo-American friendship and understanding. "A Canterbury Tale" is a British film starring Eric Portman, Sheila Sim, Dennis Price and Sgt. John Sweet. It takes its title from The Canterbury Tales of Geoffrey Chaucer, and

loosely uses Chaucer's theme of "eccentric characters on a religious pilgrimage" to highlight the wartime experiences of the citizens of Kent. It is very much a film of its time and was enjoyed by most of the group.

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 June 13th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

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 June we will meet on Monday 5th and 26th June. We will discuss July dates at the June meetings! 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



This group visited Kenilworth castle this month. I was unable to go, but Jan Davey has kindly sent me details of the interesting Tudor garden. There was a glorious perfume from some white peonies and the gardeners had thoughtfully planted up pots of lily of the valley at shoulder level. These tiny flowers produced a fabulous perfume. Our next meeting is on June 13th in the afternoon, at Kiftsgate Court Gardens.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



At the May meeting the Grumps considered a somewhat more serious topic than normal – "Is personal depression inevitable in the modern world?". The members recognised that there is a clear distinction between what is termed "clinical depression" and the sort when we complain that something "is depressing" or "I'm depressed". There was much discussion regarding the change in the attitude towards mental illness, including depression, as in the past it was perceived as a sign of weakness and carried a stigma while today there is a more enlightened approach but still room for improvement. It was felt, particularly for younger people, that the pressure to succeed, fear of failure, unrealistic expectations, insecurity at work and in personal life, parental pressure and world events were conspiring to create very stressful conditions. Severe depression does not respect anybody and the effects are felt in all walks of life. We concluded that personal depression is inevitable and would, if anything, increase in the future. On a lighter note it was suggested that the Grumpy Old Man syndrome is the manifestation of male depression!!

Next meeting - Wed. June 21st. Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - Review of the Election Results and What's In It for us.

Intro. ALL

HISTORY GROUP

Jean Hicks



Our May lecture was given to us by Maggie Wood who was curator of Warwick Museum. She talked about Warwickshire women in World War II and the impact it had on their lives.

Women were called up for "war work" from 1941 and they started to fill jobs previously thought of as unsuitable for women. At first only single women were employed but by 1943 80% of married women were working on land, in factories or in the armed forces.

This obviously changed how women dressed - necessitating the wearing of trousers for the first time.!!

Maggie gave us a lot of wonderful examples of how local women had been very resourceful both personally and in the home during the war years and provided a truly fascinating insight into this period of history.

Next meeting: June 12th at 2pm Speaker: Susan Brock & Sylvia Morris Topic: The Shakespeare Club

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. Last month we enjoyed a group lunch at the Youth Hostel restaurant at Tiddington. The grounds and building are quite spectacular. We plan to have one of our drawing sessions there.

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



Play reading was on the 18th May at Sylvia's at 2.30pm for tea. We read a play by Agatha Christie, "The Unexpected Guest". It had been presented by Peter Saunders at the Duchess Theatre, on the 12th August 1958 with some well known names in the cast of characters.

We next meet Thursday 15th June, 10.30am at Sylvia's for coffee.

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



This month we read *The summer before the War* by Helen Simonson. It is a new book and perhaps should be forgiven for erring on the side of longwindedness! It did give an interesting picture of the social situation in a small Sussex town before and during the war and led us to reminisce on memories of our childhood and tales told us by parents and even grandparents. It was, of course, the First World War in focus,

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



No report this month. New Group Leader is Janet Whitfield who will report next month.

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



Our group read *The Long View* by Elizabeth Jane Howard. This is an unusual book as the first chapter is set in the 1950s and the last chapter in the 1920s so you read backwards. Although the book is well written we all agreed there are no likeable characters in it. It did provoke a good discussion on the different situations that women face when they are not well educated, have no money and a horrible husband. Most women are better off today.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



A successful meeting with some new members - good we like that- and a programme that gave food for thought with the usual likes and dislikes, plenty to talk about.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Edwin Lilly



There was no SNATTs meeting in May.

The next meetings will be:

Wednesday 24th May - the trip to the BBC Studios in Birmingham .
Thursday 22nd June - Please Note—the visit to the Acme Whistle Factory is cancelled.

SCRAPBOOK GROUP

Heather Bridgewater

The Scrapbooking Group continues to be a relaxed and friendly get together and all the photo albums are progressing well. Sadly we have lost Jayne, who will be greatly missed by us all!

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next lunch will be on Sunday 4th. June 2017 and will be at the Stratford Golf Club. 12noon for 12.30pm as usual. Names please to Brian Bradley: 01789 488551.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



We enjoyed our visit to the Symphony hall last Wednesday. I have the programme for the 2017/18 concert 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 an Autumn Concert.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



The next theatre visit is on 22 July to Malvern to see "The Play That Goes Wrong". As I write this, the places have been taken but not everyone has paid yet. The times will be as usual and I will give these in the next newsletter. The cost of this visit is £26.50.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks

We will meet on the last Wednesday in the month 24th May and the 29th June in the Methodist side room 1 at 10.00am for an hour. We will each play a piece of music we have been practising. If you would like to join us please come along or call me Sylvia 01789 416965. Please check the June date nearer the time.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14th June 2017 at 10.a.m from Oxhill. Please assemble by 10.00am in front of the Peacock pub, Oxhill. Please park with consideration in the streets nearby. The walk is easy and around 5 miles. We will have time to reflect on past history of the neighbourhood including slavery, a barbecued saint and a mystical red horse. This walk will be led by Tony Whitely tel. no 01789 471036. I recommend good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you. Look forward to seeing you.

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
June 2017	Film Group	September 2017	Art Appreciation Group
July 2017	All That Swing & Jazz Group	October 2017	Chinwags Group
August 2017	Am Dram Group	November 2017	Digital Photography 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	2nd 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