



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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## May 2017 Newsletter

### **TODAY'S MEETING**

Our May talk is 'Dreaming Since Seven' - Presentation by Multi-genre Author Shirley Thompson, with 11 book titles to her credit, Shirley describes her writing experiences since the age of seven, including readings from 6 of her books.

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

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.

Brian Draper was our speaker for April & he took us from the source of the Avon at Naseby through Warwickshire to Tewksbury & gave us an erudite & very amusing talk which was thoroughly enjoyable

### **FROM THE CHAIR**

*Dorothy Jones*

Many, many thanks to Jayne Jones for her contribution to Heart of England.

Her enthusiasm and input have been much appreciated and enjoyed by all.

We will miss Jayne - but hope she, her husband and family will enjoy returning to Lyme Regis.

Maybe we will arrange an outing to the seaside.!

### **OUTINGS—SKITTLE EVENING**

*Coral Bradley*

Skittles will be on 30 June at Welford Bowling Club. The list is full now and I am awaiting some money from some people. The cost is £13.00 which covers everything except drinks.

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

Stratford - 31<sup>st</sup> May - "The Cathedral Builders" - Keith Cattell.

Shottery - 6<sup>th</sup> June - "The Life of an Author" (providing you are happy) – Shirley Thompson.

Dene Valley - 9<sup>th</sup> May - "Dogs for Good".

Alcester - 6<sup>th</sup> June - "Military Operational Parachuting". - Mike Milburn.

### **SCAMS ALERT FROM WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

From WCC who had received 226 reports of this kind of scam. Friend or foe? Fraudsters are saying they are law-abiding citizens and have accidentally received 'your' personal details. They say that scammers may have your details and they will contact the scammers to rectify the problem and you must open the attached document so that they can help. This then lets in malware. Having up to date virus protection is essential. **But never open unsolicited emails.** Similar scams are being attempted by telephone. They will ask for account numbers and pin numbers to rectify a supposed fault. Do not give pin numbers to callers, telephone or at door, that you do not know.

## 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 underway - "Property to Partner". More courses are in the pipeline. These courses are ideal for small study groups and are free to members. Details to follow.

NB The original 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.

*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*

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## ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

*Mavis Pickett*



### Report of the March 2017 Meeting.

The meeting this month was both compiled and presented by Barrie Burleton under the title of 'Time Marches On'. He began the programme with the Queen of Vocal herself..Ella singing "My Heart belongs to Daddy" and off and on for the whole of this programme we had a romantic theme. Track 2 was "A Fine Romance" played by Dave Brubeck which was followed by "I love Paris" with Lena Horne, then Barrie gave us a "Mood Swing" played by Terry Lightfoot and managed to slip into a Theolonius Monk track and a great "Watermellon Man" by Mongo Santamaria...Look this one up definitely a 'hip swinging' track. A pleasurable part of writing up our group report is the chance I get to re-hear the programme, this month I was given the chance to read up Barrie's prepared script as well it and it certainly gave an insight into the work he put in. Yet again he encouraged us to use our "little grey Cells" as well as our ears. After Coffee and Conversation, as Barrie so elegantly calls our tea and biscuits, it was off on 'Weather Report' with "Birdland" was this Jazz Fusion? Then Lena was back with "It's Alright by Me" followed by Basie getting "Blue and Sentimental" and Buddy Rich offering "Love for Sale", something a bit more robust then with "Shine on Harvest Moon" played by Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster, one saxophone is great but two is even 'greater'. Barrie ended the afternoon with Paul Desmond and Gerry Mulligan (two saxes again) which was (repeating myself..even greater).

Thanks for a **great** (OK I'm finishing) programme Barrie and we certainly look forward to your next one. 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.

## ART APPRECIATION

*Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins*

We went to Warwick for our April meeting. Our main objective was a tour of St Mary's to see, and learn more about, the stained glass there. We all enjoyed the interesting historical insights that our guide gave us. His enthusiasm for the beautiful Beauchamp chapel, in particular, was infectious, and we greatly appreciated being able to see the unusual windows in the vestry as well.

We also visited the newly-refurbished Market Hall Museum, where we found the Sheldon Tapestry, which depicts a map of Warwickshire, particularly impressive. This is the only remaining complete tapestry of four commissioned in the 1580s by Ralph Sheldon, who lived near Long Compton.

Next month we will be visiting Compton Verney.

## 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 is Friday April 28th 12.30---4 30.

New members welcome. Please call me for details

## CHINWAGS

*Aline Cumming*



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

## THE CHOIR

*Dorothy Jones*



Our concert is on Friday June 2nd at 2-30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Our theme is " U3A Sings USA". Tickets will be on Sale at the main meeting. £5 including light refreshments. If you are unable to come on to our main concert we are repeating the same programme at Briarcroft at 2-30pm on Friday 9th June. You will be most welcome.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

*Aline Cumming*



The April meeting was a replay of a concert I went to recently. For a change we heard a complete concerto and symphony instead of the usual excerpts. Beethoven's 'Leonara Overture No 2' (he actually composed four versions) led us in gently then we heard (or endured for some) Shostakovich's second violin concerto composed for and played by David Oistrakh. It is very Russian in style with dissonant harmonies in places.

After tea we enjoyed Beethoven's fifth Symphony, beginning with the notes 'Fate Knocking at the door', which re-occurs throughout the four movements. Beethoven was said to have changed the format of the symphony for ever, moving it into the romantic era.

The May meeting will be Monday 15 May 2pm at Bridge Cottage.

## COMPUTER GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll*



4 more sessions have been booked before the summer break. 2.30 to 4.00 at the Parish Center:

**May 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. June 28<sup>th</sup>. July 12<sup>th</sup>. (Wednesday afternoons)**

**Fee for these sessions - £5**

*If interested in joining us, please sign the sheet on the notice board table or contact Robyn.*

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](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk))

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

*Geoff Bridgewater*



We met at Paul's house in West Street where we reviewed the photographs for the subject "Portraiture". There were many photographs of members' family members and some good results. Some useful comments were made about the poses and composition.

The subject for next month is "Water in all its forms". Results will be reviewed on Monday 8th May at Penny's home, 53 West Street, meeting at 10.25am.

## **DINAHS**

*Sylvia Crooks*



Hello everyone, here we are again reading May Newsletter : time is going so fast when you are having fun. Dinahs met last 4th April at the Red Lion for lunch. Lovely to see everyone, especially Heather, out and about again, looking well.

Chatting about movies we had seen recently, Another Mothers Son : takes place in Jersey during the Second World War, a true story. Also the Viceroy's House, another movie worth seeing.

Brexit of course and the Gibraltar situation. It is all change again : we are now going to have a General Election. It is never dull in politics!!!

The Big Wheel also on the menu as well as the New Menu at the Red Lion.

## **DISCUSSION GROUP**

*Athena Roderick*



There was so much to talk about, that it was a little fragmented. There was Trump & North Korea, with Kevin Rudd's concerns about how China will deal with 'situations' if 2 very volatile leaders decide to go head to head. Trump & Russia & anger with bureaucrats in Brussels for not seeing that Russia's power should have been contained some time ago as Europe depends a great deal on Russian energy. Putin is capable of turning the lights off in Europe. Ukraine was handled very badly. It is thought the BBC is too right wing, but this can be balanced by Channel 4 News, which is far more wide reaching. As always, so much concern about Syria & how will that turmoil ever be resolved. We will meet again on Wed May 10, but I am looking for a new venue. I will let you know if I have any success.

## **FILM GROUP**

*Mary Fishleigh*



In April we watched "What's Eating Gilbert Grape". This was made in 1993 and follows an American single parent family who have a mentally disabled teenage son, Gilbert, who leads them a merry dance. Johnny Depp plays Gilbert and his older brother is played by Leonardo Di Caprio. Both play excellent parts and the interest and action continues through the film. Well worth watching.

We still have room for some extra members, so if you fancy watching some films that are not on general release, cult films, foreign films (with subtitles) or classic films from different genres why not come along on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall Lounge. You will be very welcome.

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

*Sue Tringham*



Bank Holidays play havoc with the Games Group meetings! We normally meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month. However, in May we will only be able to meet on Monday 15 May. Because of my holidays in June we will only be able to meet on Monday 5 June. We will discuss July dates at the June meeting! 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*

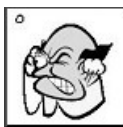


Our group spent a lovely morning at Hidcote this month. After gathering in the café, we strolled around the beautiful gardens. We admired the Spring flowers and views and some hints on photography were given en route by Geoff.

Next month we shall be visiting Kenilworth Castle gardens on May 9th.

## **GRUMPY OLD MEN**

*Graham **Michell***



A relatively smaller attendance than normal of 12 Grumps gathered for the April meeting, a garrulous but somewhat rebellious bunch prone to frequent deviation from the discussion topic "The advantages, benefits and disadvantages of retirement". It became clear that many of the advantages/disadvantages etc., were linked to age and not purely related to retirement. Although retirement, within reason, enabled people to choose what to do (if anything) and when to do it the quality of life was very dependant on good health and financial circumstances. Many of the group admitted that, initially, they missed the camaraderie, human contact and structure associated with working life but agreed, for those who wish to, there are many and varied activities available for retirees. However, for some, retirement can equate to "isolation" which is recognised as a serious and growing problem for the elderly who may not have the confidence to "join in" or access to the facilities to make it possible e.g. lack of rural transport etc. While there are many varied organisations, including of course the U3A, to help the transition from work to retirement more than a few of the group present admitted that it had not necessarily been particularly easy for them and were grateful for the encouragement of others to "take part".

**Next meeting - Wed. May 17<sup>th</sup> - Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre**

**Subject - Is personal depression of some kind inevitable in the modern world.**

**Intro. - ALL.**

## **HISTORY GROUP**

*Jean **Hicks***



Our April lecture was given by our Chairman David Dumper and was an interesting account of Lions International and its local Club Shakespeare Lions in their Centenary year.

Lions Club International is the world's largest service club organisation with 1.4 million members in more than 45,000 clubs on over 200 countries. It's made up of 60% male and 40% female members. Lions have a dynamic history . Founded in 1917 they are best known for fighting blindness but also volunteer for many community projects. The Lions motto is "We Serve". The local club was established in 1967.

The talk was illustrated by slides giving us an insight into David's involvement in the club and the many interesting people that he met such as Jim Lovell the famous astronaut.

Next meeting: May 8th at 2pm

Speaker: Maggie Wood

Topic: Women's Lives in World War II

## **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 are looking forward to having a few sessions painting and drawing outside. Hoping to be inspired by our environment.

## **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, Shotton, 10.15 to 11.15 . For more information call Sue Workman on 297061.

### **PLAY READING GROUP**

*Sylvia Crooks*



We last met on Thursday the 20th April. There were only 4 of us. We discussed the Plays we have bought from Avon Side Players. As you all know A. S. P. Have retired after 50 years of giving Stratford audiences lots of pleasure. However we did sit and chat about so many subjects over a cup of coffee for over 2 hours; so time was not wasted!!

We meet again on Thursday 18th May at Sylvia's for coffee. We will read a Play.

### **READING GROUP—MONDAY**

*Phyllis Bailey*



Our next meeting will take place after the deadline. Next time we will be discussing books we have chosen and in many cases would recommend to other readers. We have enjoyed some very good books recently including 'The Miniaturist' by Jessie Burton which deserves special mention as it is somehow unforgettable. She also wrote 'The Muse' containing something of the same magic!

### **READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY**

*Dorothy Jones*



We are still choosing our own reading books. We held our April meeting after the newsletter went to print. We will report on our favourite novels next month

### **READING GROUP—FRIDAY**

*Coral Bradley*



We read "Dreams of the Good Life" by Richard Mabey. This was advertised as a biography of Flora Thompson who wrote "Larkrise to Candleford". It is not a biography because she was a very private woman and very little is known about her and although he has done some research he wasn't able to give us much more than we already knew. He was much more interested in the people who live in the same places that she lived in and we do not even know if she even knew these people. All together a disappointing book.

### **ROCK AND ROLL GROUP**

*Coral Bradley*



A good meeting, considering it was a holiday period, with plenty of discussion about the programme which was, as usual, varied. Some new members came who were welcomed and we can have even more - just to listen to rock & roll music and reminisce.

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

*Edwin Lilly*



There was no SNATTs meeting in April.

The next meetings will be:

- |                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May | - | the trip to the BBC Studios in Birmingham . |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June | - | a visit to the Acme Whistle Factory.        |

### **SCRAPBOOK GROUP**

*Edwin Lilly for Heather Bridgewater*

Our April meeting was on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at the Methodist Church Centre. We had a good turnout for a holiday period. All managed some useful work learning new skills and making a start on our new scrapbooks. We next meet on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm in the Methodist Church Centre Welcome area.

## **SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

*Brian Bradley*



The next lunch will be on Sunday 7th. May 2017, and will be at Kings Court Hotel, Alcester. Names please to Brian Bradley, Tel: 01789 488551.

## **SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS**

*Dorothy Jones*



I now have two tickets due to a cancellation. ( I filled 2 cancellations but now have 2 more!)

We leave the Stratford Leisure Centre promptly at 12-15pm. The cost of this visit is £36. Contact Dorothy Jones on 01789 204892 if you would like to join us.

## **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*

This newly formed group will not meet until Wednesday the 26th April. So because of the deadline date for the newsletter, I can only tell you we WILL play the piano; and chat about the love of music and the pleasure from playing the piano.

## **WALKING GROUP**

*Valerie Redfern*



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00 a.m. and start from the car park on Dover's Hill Map 151/138397 it is a National Trust Car Park. This is a five mile walk with magical views. The walk will be under the leadership of Pat Cooper

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>
May 2017	Painting & Drawing Group	August 2017	Am Dram Group
June 2017	Film Group	September 2017	Art Appreciation Group
July 2017	All That Swing & Jazz Group	October 2017	Chinwags Group

<b><u>GROUP</u></b>	<b><u>GROUP LEADER</u></b>	<b><u>USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)</u></b>
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	Dorothy Jones	3rd Wednesday 2.30pm
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	2nd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Science, Nature & All Things Technical	Geoff Bridgewater	2nd Friday 2.00—4.00pm
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2nd Wednesday 10.00am