



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

September 2017 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

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

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our presentation for October will be from the Royal Navy Media Team "A Royal Navy Presentation – Come and see what your Navy is doing on your behalf and why it matters".

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

Many thanks to all our members for your warmth and support throughout the year. We have had some interesting and amusing speakers. If you find you cannot hear our speakers clearly do come and sit on the front rows. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings in 2017/18.

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

Stratford	-27 th September	- "Broughton Castle."	- Hon. Martin Fiennes.
Shottery	- 3 rd October	- "The Colours of Africa – A talk on African Textiles".	- Liz Rose.
Dene Valley	- 12 th September	- Annual General Meeting.	
Alcester	- 3 rd October	- "Every Picture Tells a Story (Part 2)"	- Peter Preece.

PROPOSED CHANGE OF AGM DATE

The Committee intends to put a proposition to the AGM to change the date of our yearly AGMs from September to October. This will give the Treasurer more time to prepare the year end accounts so that they can be inspected by a third party before being presented at the AGM. If you have any concerns about this please contact our Chairperson, Dorothy Jones, either before this year's AGM meeting on Thursday September 7th or at that meeting.

CREATIVE WRITING

We have not yet had an interest group on creative writing. The General Manager of Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall is running some workshops on creative writing in October. They will be open to U3A members. The workshops will be run by the poet John Wedgewood Clarke. If you are interested your Newsletter Editor can pass you his telephone number so that you can get more information and perhaps book a place.

OUTING TO WIGHTWICK MANOR

An outing to Wightwick Manor has been arranged for Wednesday 4 October 2017. This is a National Trust property the other side of Wolverhampton. It is not an old house but it is an interesting place inspired by the arts & crafts movement, with William Morris textiles, wallpaper and furniture, and many Pre-Raphaelites paintings and drawings. The family have an unusual history. A talk has been arranged to start at 11.00 but you will also be able to wander round at your leisure afterwards. The gardens are lovely and by then some trees will have started to change colour. The cost is £9.00 for National Trust members and £19.00 for non members. Leaving Henley at 8.45 and the leisure centre at 9.15. If you wish to ring me about this trip my number is 01789 488551.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription is due on 1st September 2017 at the discounted rate of **£14** for **existing** members if paid by or before 6th October 2017. **New** members joining on 1 September 2017 need to pay **£16**. Please read the separate notice included here.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll



There is a vast list of courses available which may be found on the National U3A Web site. For a detailed list, you will need to access the Members' Area by creating a user name and password.

National Web site: www.u3a.org.uk

There are also a large selection of courses offered by **U3A Online** from Australia described as "A Virtual University of the Third Age".

The topics include: World Affairs and History; Nature; Writing and Creativity; Lifestyle; Science.

To find out more about these courses : www.u3aonline.org.au

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

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

A new course is about to begin: "Kings and Queens of England". This course is intended to present, in an interesting way, facts and opinions about the people who affected the development of England and its system of government in significant ways from the time of the Romans to the 21st century. Please contact Sue Workman for more information. Sue will forward the units to interested members. (sueworkman44@gmail.com)

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

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

For more details about courses, please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

[NB: Do look at the National Web site to see all the opportunities and information available to U3A members.]

CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

The date for our next get-together is Friday 8th September, 2.30 to 4.30 in the lounge. Our discussion for the afternoon will be "The Belt and Road Initiative." This is an ambitious campaign to boost trade between China and many countries around the world and is the brain child of President Xi Jinping. The plan is described as "A modern Silk Road". Patricia will help us set the scene with some language and writing.

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

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

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

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett



Report of the July 2017 Meeting.

A Short report this month....The programme was taken by John Cooper and was entitled 'Ten Inches of Jazz'. It took us back to the joys of the 78 r.p.m days of ten inch records, before the 12" LP took over. John gave us a selection of his own 78 r.p.m collection with tracks ranging from 1929 recordings up to 1957. It covered a good range of the New Orleans sound. A quick synopsis of my notes whilst the records were being played were:- Very sophisticated... Fascinating... A free for All...A Sting in the Tail. As you can see he covered a fair range. John made a comment about one of the tracks as 'being a happy sound', I think that would be a good summing up of this month's programme, it was a HAPPY PROGRAMME which was once again enlivened By Johns information both of the tracks and the artists, and a 'toe in the water' of the history of the move from 78 to LP's. Thank you John.

Don't forget the group meets on the **4th Thursday** of each month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall, starting at 2p.m. Why not come and give us a try; you would be most welcome.

ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish /Pam Collins



We did not have a meeting in August. Our 2017/18 programme begins on September 15, with a DVD.

BRIDGE GROUP

John Yeomans



We play in a relaxed atmosphere and are always keen to welcome new members with some experience of the game. If you would like to "try us out" please come as a guest so that you can decide if you would like to join the Group. We meet every Tuesday afternoon for a two 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 Sept 29th. The group is still selling cards on behalf of S>P>E>A>R., a local charity supporting abused and abandoned animals. We have nearly reached our target of £50, so please buy lots at the next meeting!

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



We did not meet in August but will be there on Monday 25th September.

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We have continued meeting and enjoying our singing throughout the summer.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



In August we enjoyed a recording of the Summer Concert from the Schonbrun Palace in Vienna. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra was conducted by Christoff Eschenbach and the Soprano was Renee Fleming. The theme was nursery rhymes.

It opened with the lively Dvorak's "Carnival Overture" then Fleming sang two Arias from his operas, one from Armida the other 'Oh Silver Moon' from Rusalka. Next we heard the Adagio and the Waltz from Tchaikovsky's ballet, "Sleeping Beauty". Fleming then sang two songs composed by Rachmaninov, "Sing not to me" and "Spring Waters". Then the Prologue from the opera "Hansel and Gretel" by Humperdink.

After tea we had John Williams' "Hedwig's Theme" from the Harry Potter film. Then the "Infernal Dance", "Wiedenlied" and the "Finale" from Stravinsky's The "Firebird" brought the programme to a close. However, we heard two encores, "the Dance of the Comedians" from the opera the "Bartered Bride" by Smetana and (the tradition for these concerts) "Vienna's Blood" by J Strauss Jnr..

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.**
The fee for the 5 sessions, depending on numbers attending, is estimated to be £7.00.

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

Robin Nicoll for Tricia Callaghan



Our August workshop focussed on recycling. With the guidance of Sheila G we transformed sturdy carrier bags with Christmas cards and decorations to produce gift bags to display and sell at the Church Bazaar in November. Next meeting on Thursday afternoon, 21st September, we will be book folding to create a Christmas tree. The Crafters are always seeking new projects and would welcome newcomers. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 2pm to 4pm in the new room. Contact Tricia for more information.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Geoff Bridgewater



The subject for the summer months has been "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. Meet at the Bridgewater's house, 21 West Street, at 9.15am. Bring your memory sticks.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



Tuesday 1st August Dinahs enjoyed a mid summer lunch (where has the hot summer gone?) We chatted about Stratford Tennis Club and the Cricket Club. The Cricket Pavilion is also the social club for the Tennis Club. It could make an interesting venue for future events.

The New Hospital was talked about, some members had been shown around and were very impressed. A number of friends would like to do voluntary work at the New Hospital. I should imagine there will be a long list. We talked about Charlie Guard. A long discussion about many rights and wrongs: a heart breaking story. Dinahs meet next on Tuesday 5th September 12.15pm at the Red Lion once again.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick

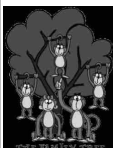


We had a change of venue & moved to The Town House on Church Street. We were delighted with our welcome, the ambience & the food. Everybody agreed that we should meet there every month. So our next meeting will be there on Wed. 13th September.

I started by talking about 'Book of the week' on BBC Radio 4 & how badly Russian women were treated when they returned home after serving at the front line in WW2. They were accused of being whores, as they had been mixing with men. But the men fared no better, as they were supposed to die like heroes, not to be taken prisoners & thus return like traitors. Commentators suspect that Stalin didn't want word to spread that life was better outside Russia. This led to a discussion on how badly we have often treated our returning servicemen & still do, in some cases. But it was also agreed that some German POWs were well treated & married here. We then talked about pleasure & has it been replaced by consumerism. Is enough time taken to enjoy the 'small' things of life, like imagination or do workers spend so much time on techno gadgets that spontaneity is lost. We talked a little about the north/south divide, as it is being reported that 1.2 million more people have died in the north in an equal area since 1965. Since the turn of this century 30% more men in the north between 24 to 36 have died, some of which is called 'by diseases of despair.' We did agree that there are many prosperous areas in the north, but hope that HS2 will help to bring more prosperity & happiness.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Edwin Lilly



This is a new group starting during September. We will be looking at how and why we are researching our family. There are many aspects to the study and we will explore them during the next twelve months and also do some research as well. Bring what you have already been doing in your family history.

Meetings will be:

Tuesday 26th September 2017.	2.30—4.00pm	The Lounge
Tuesday 31st October 2017	2.30—4.00pm	The Lounge NB changed date from earlier email!
Tuesday 23rd November 2017	2.30—4.00 pm	The New Room
No meeting in December		

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



This month, August, we watched an unusual Italian film, *Le Quattro Volte* (the four times). This was based on the theory that there are 4 life phases – human, animal, plant and mineral. It is about life in a remote mountain town. There is virtually no dialogue but the filming is beautiful.

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 September 12th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



The Games Group meet at 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, opposite the Council Offices on the first and third Monday of the month from 2 – 4 pm. In September we meet on the 4th and 18th. For the first hour we have one or two tables playing dominoes while another table plays Scrabble. We stop for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuit and the dominoes players change to a card game, normally partners whist. The Scrabble table continue to play Scrabble!! It's a light hearted fun afternoon. All welcome!

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Suzy Genge



Despite an awful weather forecast, a few of the group visited Bourton on the Hill Garden this month. Very luckily, the forecast was wrong, we had a cloudy visit but quite dry. The garden was gorgeous, full of colour and interesting plants, the old buildings were beautiful and the topiary spectacular. Photographs can be seen in our Magazine on-line.

The visit next month will be to The Almonry in Evesham on the 8th September.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



"Does Society properly reward the right people?". This month's topic, prompted by recent revelations of the pay of some BBC employees, did not ignite the usual animated discussion which is the hallmark of the Grumps' get-togethers. Perhaps this was because the members had difficulty in determining the relative values of the wide range of activities that had to be considered. For instance, at the moment, to the residents of Birmingham is a bin man of more value than, say, the Chief Executive? However the Group were unanimous in their condemnation of the ludicrous salaries paid to professional sportsmen (and some women), particularly footballers, but agreed that this mainly due to "market forces" which also applies to the extreme remuneration to top people in many other work activities. The meeting strongly supported the principal of equal pay for equal work for men and women and welcomed the moves by Government to achieve this. It was pointed out that "rewards" were not limited to only financial considerations but also included such things as "honours", a system much criticised by the Grumps in previous debates.

Next Meeting - Wed. Sept. 20th - Venue Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - Should we, as a Nation, be expected to keep apologising for past actions - Intro. - ALL

HISTORY GROUP

Jean Hicks



There was no meeting in August. **The** next meeting will be on Monday Sept 11th at 2.00pm in Side Room 1.

The Topic will be: Part 4 Michael Wood's Shakespeare.

KEEP FIT GROUP

Mary Palmer



The Keep Fit Class is now full to capacity after a bit of a dip in numbers last year. We have a new instructor who keeps us active and we all think we feel much better for our efforts. A waiting list has now been started if anyone is interested. Please phone Mary Palmer on 204707.

PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP

Dorothy Jones



Our next meeting will be Monday September 18th. Come with plenty of exciting ideas.

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



There was no Play Reading in August. We next meet on Thursday 21st September at 10.30 am for coffee at Sylvia's.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



Next meeting is September and the theme - 'Women Poets'.

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We attempted to read "In the place of Fallen Leaves" but only two members succeeded .The author, Tim Pears, has received very good reviews but for us something was missing!? There seemed no thread to hold on to in the story and it was too easy to give up! However, we enjoyed a lively meeting and welcomed back a treasured member.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



Our next meeting will be at my house Wednesday, September 20th, 2-30pm.

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



As mentioned in our last report, we did not meet in August but read "Bleak House" which we will review next month. We also have to discuss "Ashes of London" by Andrew Taylor, which is set in London immediately after the great fire. More next month.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



I took a lot of CDs to the meeting and members chose what they would like to listen to. It worked very well and most people chose old favourites which we all enjoyed.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Edwin Lilly



Geoff Bridgewater showed the DVD about the construction of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River in Arizona. This was by popular demand. Afterwards he repeated an earlier talk on the Principles of Flight, with some examples from his own flying career as a private pilot and as an instructor. He prefers unpowered flight in gliders as there is more enjoyment than in powered flight. Both agenda items were very enjoyable and attended with great interest from the audience.

The next event is a visit on Friday 8th September to Brandon Marsh. It will comprise arriving at 10am for coffee and biccies, a talk and a guided walk, lunch at the restaurant; then either wander for a while or pack up and go. We will take cars and arrange lifts. Cost £5.00 pp donation.

Other meetings:-
Thursday 12th October—rescheduled visit to Acme Whistle Factory.

SCRAPBOOK GROUP

Heather Bridgewater

Wendy Crawford and Ruth Bartlett have offered to take the load of organising and running the group when Heather needs the help. Dates for the autumn are:

19th September, 17th October, 21st November, 19th December. Meeting at 2.00pm in the Welcome Area.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next lunch is on Sunday 3rd. September 2017 at the King's Court Hotel, Alcester. Names please to Brian Bradley, Tel: 01789 488551. On the 1st. October 2017 we shall be back at the Navigation, Wooton Wawen. I could do with ideas for another venue, preferably in, or near, Stratford.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



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

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



We will go to Malvern on 9 September to see "Private Lives".

Our next visit to Malvern is 21 October 2017 to see Laurence Fox in "The Real Thing" written by Tom Stoppard, it should be very good. Leaving at the usual times, Henley 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at

12.30

Cost to be announced at the next meeting.

Dates for you diaries: 25 November "Driving Miss Daisy" with Sian Phillips and Derek Griffiths
27 January 2018 "Gallowglass" by Ruth Rendell should be good; a thriller.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks

There was no Group get together in August. We next meet in Side Room 1 at 10.00am on Wednesday 27th September. If you have not played your piano for a while, and would like some encouragement, come along and join us.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 10.a.m from Ashorne (near Wellesbourne and the Crematorium. We will meet in the Village Hall where there is parking (contribution to the Village Hall £1 per car). This is an easy five mile walk that will be led by Tony Whiteley. The walk starts with a small hill but is generally on the flat. A lot of history to be found - the plague - an American heiress - adultery and an Admiral of the Fleet - Winston Churchill and a cross dresser". I recommend good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you. Hope you have all enjoyed the summer and 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>
September 2017	Art Appreciation Group	December 2017	Discussion Group
October 2017	Chinwags Group	January 2018	Grumpy Old Men Group
November 2017	Digital Photography Group	February 2018	Computer 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
Family History	Edwin Lilly	4th Tuesday 2.30—4.00pm
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