



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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## ***August 2018 Newsletter***

### **TODAY'S MEETING**

Our speaker for August will be Carolyn McLaughlin and she will be telling us about her work with Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Are we not lucky to have such a marvellous organisation looking after the boats and lives around our coasts.

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

"Our speaker for September will be Ann Rattue, giving us some points of interest about the London Underground."

### **NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**

*Dorothy Jones*

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to our August meeting. Hope you are managing to keep cool and enjoying the heatwave! Our AGM is getting closer and we are keen to encourage more members to be nominated to join our committee next year. If you are interested, have a chat with a current committee member. Also we are still looking for someone to help with editing our Newsletter. Have a word with Edwin to find out more about the role of Editor.

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

Stratford	- 29th August	- "Hitting the Headlines"	- John Butterworth.
Shotton	- 7th August	- "Escape Arts and the Old Slaughterhouse"	- Ali Allen & Karen.
Dene Valley	- 14th August	- "Remembering The Swinging 60s"	- Ray Sturdy.
Alcester	- 7th August	- "Old Pubs and Lost Hostels"	- Richard Churchley.

### **SKITTLES EVENING**

A Skittles evening has been booked for 24 August at Welford Bowling Club. We will start at 7.30. The cost is £12.50 and it is usually a fun evening with plenty of food.

### **AGM MEETING IN OCTOBER—GROUPS GALA**

*Athena Roderick*

This is the August Newsletter, so just 2 months until the Groups' Gala at the AGM. It will be lovely if we have quite a few groups, 'doing their thing', even if only advertising what they do with a pamphlet or 2. It was a lot of fun when we did it before, so we are hoping that it will be fun again. If you would like any help, suggestions, advise, please contact Sylvia Crooks, Ruth Grahame or Athena Roderick. Phone nos. are on the back of this Newsletter.

### **SCAN MEETING**

*Athena Roderick*

See the notice on the Chairman's table about the meeting on Monday 6th August.

## COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

*Robyn Nicoll*



There is a vast list of courses available which may be found via the National U3A Web site.

**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".

The topics include: World Affairs and History; Nature; Writing and Creativity; Lifestyle; Science. *The complete list of courses is on the notice board.*

To find out more about these courses : **[www.u3aonline.org.au](http://www.u3aonline.org.au)**. All the courses downloaded so far are **free** to U3A members. A list of the original courses from National Office may be found on the notice board.

*For more details about these courses, please contact Robyn ([redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk))*

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

## CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll*

Unfortunately the July get-together was cancelled so we will now look forward to enjoying the illustrated presentation on the Terracotta Warriors by David R at the August meeting, following his recent visit to the exhibition at Liverpool Museum.

**Date for next get-together: Friday 24th August, 2.30 to 4.30 in the lounge.**

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

More information from Robyn Nicoll. [redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk) or David Ralph. [david.ralph1@icloud.com](mailto:david.ralph1@icloud.com)

## ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

*Mavis Pickett*



### Report of the June 2018 Meeting

Barrie took the July programme with the vigour expected of him! The first five minutes we were given a masterclass on the West Country Dialect and Accent, illustrated by "Thee Bist" (look it up on Wiki). We then got going with John Dankworth and "Experiments with Mice" a very useful track because it gave examples of different band approaches to the tune but all played by the Dankworth orchestra, so we had, Billy May, Benny Goodman, Glen Miller, Gerry Mulligan and Stan Kenton, all arranged by Bill Finnegan. After that it was full speed with tracks by Chris Barber, Ted Heath and Billy May, the first half finishing with Dinah Washington and "Is you Is or Is you Ain't my Baby".

After the break it was back to the West Country with 'Adge Cutler' and "Vortitis Industrial". OK I know we are off our comfort zone but what Barrie says goes !! Back to earth but still in the West Country "South Rampart Street" was played by Acker Bilk. The second half of the programme ranged from Mick Mulligan through Sy Oliver (not Vic Oliver), Quincy Jones, Terry Lightfoot, the Duke and to finish on a lovely hot Summers afternoon "The Green Leaves of Summer" played by Kenny Ball.

Barrie it was a great, one might say, eccentric programme which we all immensely enjoyed, as I would say in my accent "Babby that wur a bostin afternoon"

We welcome new members to our meetings which are held on the **4th Thursday** of the month in the Lounge of the Methodist Church Hall. Starting at 2p.m.

## ART APPRECIATION

*Marian Heads/Jean Hicks*



On Friday 20th July members of the Art Appreciation group enjoyed a trip to Moreton in Marsh where we visited four colourful galleries. We were impressed by the quality and variety of work on display and fascinated by the metal sculptures. We would particularly recommend the Arboreal exhibition at the John Davies Gallery which continues until early August. In other galleries there were also ceramics and bronzes to admire as well as a wealth of original paintings and prints--a veritable treasure trove.

## BRIDGE GROUP

*John Yeomans*



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. The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed, without the strictures of a formal Bridge Club. We have room for a number of new players and if you would like to "try us out" you would be very welcome. If you wish, you can start as a guest while you decide if you would like to join

the Group.

### **CARD MAKING**

*Carolyn Leach*



Every last Friday of the month the group meet and enjoy another new card making method. The sale of these cards has just raised £50 for Valerie Redfern's Butterfly Tree charity in Zambia. At the last general meeting we had a very interesting talk on Barnardo's, so we now hope to send our next donation to their local Independent Visitor fund.

### **CHINWAGS**

*Aline Cumming*



Please contact Aline on 298357 for details on meeting place and times.

### **THE CHOIR**

*Dorothy Jones*



We are meeting at intervals during the summer. Next month we will start back to regular meetings.

### **CLASSICAL MUSIC**

*Aline Cumming*



The suggested theme for July was Flowers, stretched to include Trees. We began with the Rose Adagio from Tchaikovsky's ballet Sleeping Beauty then Der Lindenbaum by Schubert and Where Corals Lie from Elgar's Sea Pictures sung by Janet Baker. Roses again in Rosen auf den Suden by J Strauss (very characteristic of Vienna) and Pavarotti singing The Flower you threw me from Bizet's Carmen. Mayerl's Marigold and Debussy's L'Après Midi d'un Faune (left over from June) took us to tea.

From the Nutcracker ballet we had Waltz of the Flowers and Sibelius' Suites gave us Aquilegia and when the Mountain Ash is Blooming. We walked to the Paradise Garden with Delius and on the Banks of Green Willow with Butterworth, saw the Rose Softly Blowing by Spohr (whose music has not survived) and heard the Flower Duet from Delibes' gloomy opera Lakme. Macdowell's To a Wild Rose, the fifth movement of Dvorak's Cypresses and finally cheered up with Grainger's Country Gardens.

We will not meet in August but our next meeting will be 17th September.

### **COMPUTER GROUP**

*Robyn Nicoll*



We are planning a course in the Autumn, beginning at the end of September and concluding before Christmas. The dates booked at the Parish Centre from 2.30 to 4.00. (Wednesday afternoons)

**Sept 26th; Oct 10th and 24th ; Nov 7th and 28th.** We will be joined by some students from the Computer Group at KES who have offered to come along to help us so we will be able to offer one-to-one assistance if required.

Please add your name to the list on the notice board table if you would like to join us and state what equipment you will be bringing and what topic/s you would like to cover.

*For more information about the Computer Group please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)*

### **CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP**

*Robyn Nicoll for Tricia Callaghan*



At the July workshop, the group turned their hands to making paper flowers using crepe paper, florist wires and tape. An attractive assortment of roses, peonies, poppies, and carnations was produced.

The next workshop: Thursday, 16th August, 2.00 to 4.00 in side room 1; Topic to be decided.

New members are welcome to join us for craft, chat and a cuppa and may find out more by contacting Tricia or Robyn.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP**

*Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater*



The next meeting will be on Tuesday August 28th at 9.30am at the Townhouse again. Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick or let me have them earlier if possible. The current subject is

# DINAHS



We also chatted about Future Learn on line, great way of studying a subject. I think we all decided the heat was getting to all of us. **Next Lunch will be on Tuesday 7th August 12.15pm at the Red Lion.**



about the future of an institution which has served us well. We also feel that a way to curb 'Health Tourism' should be found, as this is seriously unfair and isn't what we feel the country's money should be spent on.

We are 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. There is a break during August and our next meeting is Tuesday 25th September, 2.30—4.00pm in The Lounge.

Our next meeting will be September 11th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church. New members are welcome.



The Games Group meets on the first and third Mondays of the month from 2 – 4 pm at 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, opposite the Council Offices. We had a break in July but hope to meet on Monday 6th August and Monday 20th August. 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 change to a card game, normally partners whist. The Scrabble table continue to play Scrabble!! It's a light afternoon. All welcome!

years ago and had a great time, despite the heavy rain! A good chance to replace any herbs that have died whilst you were on holiday! A great range of different mints on offer and we may manage the extra walk through the grounds this time.

### **GRUMPY OLD MEN**

*Graham Mitchell*



At the July meeting, by unanimous decision, the Grump of the Month Trophy was awarded to Derick Phillips for his introduction to this month's topic "Are regional accents ruining the English language" a presentation which also earned him a spontaneous round of applause from the members. Derick maintained that the increasing use of presenters, actors and contributors on radio and TV with very extreme regional accents together with sloppy pronunciation and grammar is having a very negative effect on what is a beautiful language and often making it incomprehensible to the majority of the population. There was general agreement that "moderate" regional accents enhanced the language and there was definitely no desire to go back to "old style" BBC accents or indeed copy Royalty "speak". The very vocal gathering supported Derick's assessment that these very extreme accents were being forced upon us in a mistaken attempt at political correctness towards minorities while discouraging to some extent "middle English" which is understood by all.

**Next meeting - Wed. 15th August - Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre**

**Subject - The NHS at 70 - Is it fit for purpose or have our demands and expectations now become both unreasonable and unsustainable.**

### **HISTORY GROUP**

*David Dumper*



At our meeting in July the first part of a documentary on the history of Bletchley Park was shown as a follow up to the visit and talk in May by Betty Webb. There will be no meeting during August when we take our summer break. We will resume in September with the final part of the Bletchley Park documentary.

### **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.

### **OUTINGS GROUP**

*Coral Bradley*



The outing has been booked for 2 October at Attingham Park. This is a National Trust property so for members of NT the cost will be £13.00, If you are not a member of NT the cost will be £24.50, We leave Henley at 8.30 and the leisure centre at 9.00 to get to Attingham for 11.00 and we will have a short talk then. We will leave at 4.00.

### **PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP**

*Dorothy Jones*



We are now having a short break until September. Hopefully we will be out and about with our sketch-books and also visiting the local Art exhibition at K.E.S this month.

### **PILATES GROUP - MONDAY**



Weekly at St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Shottery, 12:15 to 1:15. For more information call Sylvia Kentish on 263794. The session is full at the moment.

### **PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY**



Weekly at St Andrew's Parish Centre, Shottery, 10.15 to 11.15. For more information call Sue Workman on 297061.

## **PLAY READING GROUP**

*Sylvia Crooks*



We met in July at Sylvia's for coffee and chat. We then read Scene I Act II of "Fresh Fields" by Ivor Novello, a comedy. We look forward to reading again on Thursday 16th August 10.30am.

## **POETRY READING GROUP**

*Jennifer Davey*



Last month the subject was 'Favourite Poems' so the choice was boundless. The work of nearly thirty poets represented five centuries of poetical observations on the world the human race has created for itself! Irony, sorrow, laughter, anger, joy, faith - each had its place. Many thanks to Emily Bronte, Richard Lovelace, John Masefield, Dorothy Parker et al. After such a feast one poem does linger in my mind, that is Roger McGough's 'Three rusty nails'. Next month we propose to delve into King James' Bible - from the rich language of 'The Song of Solomon' to the story telling of the Apostles.

## **READING GROUP—MONDAY**

*Jackie Biggs*



We read 'The Forgotten Summer' by Carol Drinkwater, the actress best known for her role in 'All Creatures Great And Small' and for her autobiographical books about owning an olive farm in the south of France. It is the story of the wealthy Cambon family, where no one is quite who they first seemed to be, full of family drama and mystery, a literary, well-researched exploration of love, searing grief, hatred, deceit, joy and despair - in other words, a perfect summer read. Beginning at the grape harvest, the narrative jumps in time between the family's wealthy Colonial past in Algeria and the future rebuilding of the family fortunes after tragedy. The book is full of over-egged descriptions of the sensory haven of fragrant olive groves and rich food. We felt that the denouement was rather too contrived to be credible but, nevertheless, we all enjoyed it!

## **READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY**

*Judy Jones*



This month we chose Elif Shafak's novel, 'Three Daughters of Eve'. A thought provoking read leading to some searching discussions on "Religion" and politics. For our August meeting we have decided to each choose a book we love and would recommend the rest of the Group to read.

## **READING GROUP—FRIDAY**

*Coral Bradley*



We have had some problems in getting a book lately so the library just picked one for us. It was a collection of short stories called 'All Beloved Ghosts' by Alison Macleod. Only one of the group managed to read all the stories and the general impression of them was that they were strange. We will not have that author again.

## **ROCK AND ROLL GROUP**

*Coral Bradley*



An interesting meeting with a couple of 'new' songs and plenty of discussion. I have made an error about the date of the next meeting so we decided to cancel it we had already agreed to cancel September as so many people are away, so our next meeting will be in October. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

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

*Mike Genge*



This month we made a trip to the Mechanical Music Museum at Northleach. We met up for tea/coffee and delicious cakes in their café and then enjoyed an extended guided tour of the exhibits. Our guide was very knowledgeable and entertaining and we all had a very enjoyable and informative experience. Some of the group continued on to the Northleach Prison, which was about 440 yds away, for lunch at their café, while others stayed at the MMM. Next month we will have a talk on the Hadron Collider at Cerne, the Swiss/French research project under the Alps. Friday 10 August at 14.00.

## **SCRABOOK AND PHOTO ALBUM GROUP**

*Ruth Bartlett & Wendy Crawford*



Come and create an innovative collection of whatever you want to display. Meetings will be: Tuesday 18th September, Tuesday 16th October and Tuesday 20th November 2.00pm in the Welcome



area at Methodist Church Centre.

### SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

*Brian Bradley*



The next Sunday lunch will be on the 5th August 2018 at the Stratford Oaks Golf Club. The address is Bearley Road, Snitterfield, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0EZ. You will find this on the Snitterfield to Bearley Road about a 3/4 mile past Snitterfield village and near the Gliding club. Please don't mix this up with the Stratford Golf Club which is one of our usual venues.

This will be our first visit and it has been well recommended.

### SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

*Marjory Fraser*



The next matinee concert is on **Thursday 13th September**. Two of my favourite pieces of music which I have been to see many times before and they never fail to thrill

**Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 2.**

**Dvorjak New world Symphony**

I still have a few tickets left for this concert and am always glad to have a reserve for last minute cancellations. I am still awaiting payment from some people!

**November 27th Brahms Piano Concerto No 2, and Tchaikovski The Nutcracker'.**

I have had many requests for a concert led by the new female conductor MIRGA GRAZINYTE-TYLA. I say new, but this is her 3rd season with the orchestra and she has signed up for three more years. However, because of her popularity I can only get circle tickets. It is one level up but there are 2 lifts. I hope this is acceptable. Please let me know asap

### THEATRE GROUP.

*Coral Bradley*



A reminder that 'Matilda' at Birmingham Hippodrome will be on 29 August leaving Henley at 12.00 and the leisure at 12.30. All tickets for this have been sold.

On 22 September we will go to Malvern to see 'Wipers Times', a comedy set in the First World War, written by Ian Hislop. The cost is £30.00 leaving at the usual times 12.00 from Henley and 12.30 from the leisure centre.

### PIANO GROUP

*Sylvia Crooks*



Piano Group met Wednesday 18th July in the Side Room 1, Methodist Church Hall.

We are a small group of 8, not all women; if you chaps think to yourselves, it is all women; think no more, we have a lovely chap who has joined us.

We then have Coffee, biccies and a chat afterwards. Words of encouragement to keep playing, and maybe entertain your family and friends. **Next get together is Wednesday 15th August 10.00am Side Room 1 Methodist Hall.**

### WALKING GROUP

*Valerie Redfern*



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 8th August 2018 at 10.00 am and start from Packwood House. We have permission to park in the car park but please, if you are a member of the National Trust bring your membership card and have it scanned; if you are not you still have permission to park.

This is a five mile walk two canals and Packwood House it has lovely scenery and also bring a drink with you. I recommend good walking shoes or boots. Fred and I are organizing this walk but we need someone to organize the September walk please.

You can have food and drinks at Packwood house after the walk.

### HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS AT MONTHLY MEETING

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
August 2018	<b>Bridge</b>	September 2018	<b>Pilates</b>	October 2018	<b>History</b>

<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	Marian Heads Jean Hicks	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 , 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	Sylvia Kentish	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	Jackie Biggs	3rd Monday 2.30—4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	Judy 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	Mike Genge	2nd Friday 2.00—4.00pm
Scrapbooking Group	Wendy Crawford Ruth Bartlett	3rd Tuesday 2.00—4.00pm
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Marjorie Fraser	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2nd Wednesday 10.00am