

Web Address:www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

# Heart of England

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## December 2018 Newsletter

#### TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for December will be Martin Lloyd and his subject is "Passports, Assassins, Traitors, Spies", which is a historical narrative which keeps the audience spellbound.

#### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Cat and David look forward very much to telling you all about the Tasmanian Devil and the great efforts which are being made to save this iconic animal from extinction. Be prepared for a few surprises in their presentation.

#### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

#### Dorothy Jones

It is hard to believe that in twenty days we will be celebrating Christmas Day. Most families with Turkey and trimmings, though I will probably be feasting on Nut Roast. However, a very merry, healthy Christmas to everyone. Hopefully we can wrap up warm and enjoy the Winter Sunshine and Local Countryside PS We have reserved the front rows for members who are having difficulty hearing our speakers.

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

Stratford - 19<sup>th</sup> December – Members Christmas entertainment.

Shottery – 2019 programme not available.

Dene Valley - 11<sup>th</sup> December - "Bidford-on-Avon Morris Men Dance Traditions" - Phil Taylor.

Alcester – Next meeting will be held in February.

#### NEW YEAR LUNCH

We will again be holding our lunch to celebrate New Year at The Sports Club, Swans Nest Lane, SOA, CV37 7LS on Saturday 19th January 2019 at 12 noon. There is parking available in the Sports Club car park; the payment of £1 can be made at the parking meter inside the club house. The price this year is £19 per person which includes your choice from 3 starters, 3 main courses and 3 desserts and which takes vegetarian and other dietary needs into account if notified with your order. Drinks do have to be paid for separately at the bar. There will be a short fun quiz, with a prize for the winner. The menu and booking form is available at the next meeting or can be downloaded from our website. Please return your menu selection, preferably with a cheque made out to HOE U3A, to the Treasurer's table at the next meeting or send it to Athena Roderick, 17 Gifford Walk, S O A ,CV37 9LN. Tel : 01789 551416. Looking forward to seeing you there. It is a really good way to start our year off.

#### NEW YEAR LUNCH

The U3A 2019 Diaries will be on sale at the December meeting. These 2019 Diaries are maroon/dark red and the price has increased to £3.00 – still a bargain!

They can be found on the Treasurer's table at the back of the Methodist Hall.

#### COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nícoll

The National Office no longer have links to web sites offering courses but there is a vast list of free courses available via the internet. E.g. Open Learn from the Open University.

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. Some of these courses have already been studied and are saved for the future use. To find out more about these courses : www.u3aonline.org.au/content/our-courses All the courses downloaded so far are free to our U3A members.

The original courses offered by National Office were downloaded and saved and are available to individual members or to small groups. A list of these courses may be found on the notice board.

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

#### **CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP**

The topic discussed at our November get-together was Daoism/Taoism introduced by Patricia. This religion dates from 400BC and is followed still today in China. We will discuss other religions permitted in China in the new year. We will be having a light-hearted meeting in December where the theme will be Fun and Games which will include tables playing Mah-jong and/or Chinese Checkers to be held on

#### Friday afternoon, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 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 or David Ralph: david.ralph1@icloud.com

#### ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

#### Report of the October 2018 meeting.

This month's title was "From the Archives" and it was a programme that had been compiled by the founder of our group Dennis Sully in 2010. Dennis was a passionate devote of the Big Band Sound and I expected this programme to be devoted to that theme...surprise surprise he started off with Georgie Auld playing 'Blue Lou' but then changed

track and we had "Esquire Jump" played by Coleman Hawkins, "When I fall in Love" Miles Davis and the Lester Young Quartet and "Just You Just Me" interspersed was a solo vocal from Louis Armstrong (no trumpet in sight) and Stephane Grappelli with "Jive Bomber". He got back to the Big Band sound to finish the first half with The Big 18 playing "Summit Ridge Drive". After refreshments we had the pleasure of meeting a number of artists that most of us hadn't heard of. He began with Bill Tole and his Orchestra playing "You Brought a New Kind of Love to Me" then "Secret Love" with the Earl Warren Quartet" followed by the Marty Paich Octet playing "Take the "A" Train" and Rey DeMichel and his Orchestra giving us "The Continental". He also managed to slot in The Great British Jazz Band, Bix Beiderbeck and the Stan Getz Quartet. To finish he wrong footed us again with a recording of the Joe Loss band playing "Can't Take my Eyes Off You" so proving that a dance band can feel perfectly at home with jazz and Big Band.

Yet again, don't forget we meet the **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church; we begin at 2pm why not come and try us out!!!

NB: THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS.

It will be the Annual Three Group meeting .. the Jazz Group, the Rock and Roll Group and the Classical Music Group.

### ART APPRECIATION

Our November meeting was spent studying a number of famous paintings through the eyes of Professor Kloss (on DVD). He drew our attention to fascinating details and points of interest, explaining the significance of certain symbols. The lecture ended with a comprehensive interpretation of Botticelli's "Primavera." The next meeting will be at 12.30 on Friday 21st December at The Opposition for our

annual get-together and Christmas lunch.

#### **BRIDGE 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. 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"

John Yeomans

Marían Heads/Jean Hícks







#### Robyn Nícoll

Mavís Píckett

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.

NB. There will be no play on the 25<sup>th</sup> December or 1<sup>st</sup> January.

#### CARD MAKING

Robyn Nícoll for Carolyn Leach

Alíne Cumming

Dorothy Jones

Robyn Nícoll

Trícía Callaghan



No Report this month.

#### <u>CHINWAGS</u>



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

### THE CHOIR

We have sold all our tickets for our Christmas concert, December 1st. Stewart has been away for a few Choir meetings. However, two of our talented members, Jill Dyall & Cyril Willoughby have taken our rehearsals. A big Thank You to Jill on the keyboard and Cyril directing!

#### CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming At the November meeting we watched and listened to the last part of Disney's Fantasia. We began with the Dance of the Hours from Ponchielli's opera La Gioconda, (with no reference to the opera's story.) Then it was Night on the Bare Mountain by Mussorgsky, a portrait of a midsummer night when the

witches sabbath is held and the dead rise out of their tombs, until the church bell sounds for the first service of the day and they swoop back to their graves. This segues into Gounod's Ave Maria with the monks processing to church.

After tea we went back to the beginning of Fantasia as not everyone had seen it. We had the Toccata and Fugue by J S Bach, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, and the Sorcerer's Apprentice with Mickey Mouse getting into trouble with the Sorcerer's wand.

For December we are repeating the idea of a mixed programme from Jazz, Rock and Roll and Classical Music in the Lounge at the Methodist Hall on Thursday 20 December at 2pm.

As I shall be away in January and February, Classical Music will next meet in March.

#### COMPUTER GROUP

The Autumn Computer Course held at the Parish Centre has been completed. We hope to offer another course in the Spring if members are interested, on Wednesday afternoons, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the month. The members who attended received valuable help from our experienced members and from the students from KES; we hope to take advantage of them again next year.

If interested in joining us in 2019, please add your name to the list on the notice board table. For more information about the Computer Group please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

#### CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

At our November meeting we concentrated on making/completing items for our stall at the Christmas Bazaar so bags were decorated, crackers assembled, boxes filled and prices agreed. Here's hoping for a profitable event! NOTE: we are moving! With effect from the new year the crafters will be meeting at Briar Croft on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 2 .00pm to 4.00pm This move has been prompted by dwindling numbers in the group plus various health problems and will, hopefully, make things a little easier.

#### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The next meeting will be on Monday 10th December at 10.00am at 18 West Street. Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick, iPhone, iPad, tablet, etc.. The current subject is "Close-ups" - whatever takes your fancy—portraits, still life, flowers, animals and birds. You can always bring an Xmas treat if you wish.

### Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater

Copy via email to EdwinSandy@gmx.com for next Newsletter by Sunday 23rd December 2018



#### Copy via email to EdwinSandy@gmx.com for next Newsletter by Sunday 23rd December 2018

We met in November at the Red Lion, lots of chat before ordering our meal! As we do.

A couple of familiar faces could not make it. After an enjoyable meal; we talked about the bad influence of advertising on television, Panorama, about Universal Credit. Working, when young, for a Holiday company abroad: memories of the past.

We next meet on Tuesday 4th December for our Christmas lunch at 12.15pm in the Red Lion. DINAHS wish you all a Healthy Christmas.

#### DISCUSSION GROUP

In Athena's temporary absence, I have stepped into her shoes and agreed to run the group for a while. Nine of us met-up at the Red Lion and enjoyed wide ranging opinions on a range of current affairs topics, such as, would you believe, Brexit, the rudeness and deviousness of politicians towards Theresa May especially. The self seeking invective from Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbin managing to sit on the Brexit

fence. Far right politics around the World. Trump's peculiar behaviour and Prince Charles 70th birthday and his taking over more of the Queen's duties, were all discussed. With our humour, common sense, and well-reasoned opinions - if we can solve the problems, why can't our politicians?

We are taking a break in December. January's meeting TBA

#### FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

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. Our last meeting was Tuesday 27th November. We lookat at Record Keeping for the Family Historian. There will not be a meeting in December. Any future meetings in 2019 will be announced in the January Newsletter.

FILM GROUP

5. 4 A

#### Mary Físhleigh

Edwin Lilly

After a technical hitch at the November meeting we could not watch the planned film. However we did have a copy of Cabaret available and starring Liza Minelli. She is a very talented lady. It was enjoyable and certainly a lively film . We found it quite thought provoking with its undertones of Nazi hatred in Germany during 1939.

We strive to watch an eclectic set of films in order to meet our aim for the group 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 more members, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis. Our next meeting will be on December 11th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church when we will be having a little Xmas cheer to start the festive season off.

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

With Christmas upon us there will only be one date in December. We will meet at the usual time, 2 - 4 on Monday 3rd December in the usual venue, 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, opposite the Council Offices. I will try and make it a festive occasion!! Scrabble players will probably want to play Scrabble but we might try the Mexican Train Game which is dominoes based. Let's see!!! We may well not stop for tea/coffee but maybe something

else! Hopefully it will be a light hearted fun afternoon.

#### GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

We had a lovely morning at Batsford Arboretum this month. Although a lot of the leaves and colour had disappeared in the wind last week, there were still some pretty ones left and, of course, the evergreens stood out more. William, the dog, also enjoyed himself and was very well behaved.

Next month is on Monday 3rd December at Stratford Garden Centre, Clifford Chambers, where we shall go to a talk on Christmas Pot plants.









### Sue Tríngham

Suzy Genge

#### Sylvía Crooks

Athena Roderick

#### GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



After a break in October due to the non availability of the venue normal service was resumed in November with a nearly record 19 Grumps attending the lunch meeting when the discussion topic was "Austerity" – harsh nation wide economic measures. Despite the claims of the PM and the Chancellor that Austerity was over the Group was adamant that it was still very much alive as many people on low

incomes were continuing to struggle every week to make ends meet. Public services were severely stretched, running out of money and trying to do too much for an ever increasing population with too little resources. The gap between "the haves and have nots" is growing wider with an increasing miss match in the incomes of the top (often obscenely and unjustifiably high) and the bottom with, reportedly, 4 million people below the relatively poverty line and no doubt feeling the negative effects of austerity considerable more than the rich and even the, so called, middle class. The Grumps recognised that the Country could not live beyond its means and perhaps if people were prepared to moderate their expectations and demands relative to their standard of living the need for continuing austerity would gradually disappear. The Group were reminded that many present had experienced and survived (real) austerity during and for some years after the Second World War with rationing of food, clothes and fuel etc., and reduced availability (but in truth non-availability) of luxuries and consumer products (another dictionary definition of austerity). Perhaps when compared with that era the well worn saying "you've never had it so good" comes to mind with what is considered as austerity today.

Next meeting - Wed. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> - Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre. Subject - T.B.A Festive attire will be permitted and is encouraged!!

#### **HISTORY GROUP**

Davíd Dumper

Mary Palmer

Dorothy Jones



In November we welcomed David Eastwood back who this time gave a photographic presentation and talk on the antiquities of Persia modern day Iran. We also welcomed two Iranian ladies who confirmed a number of items mentioned by our speaker. David's photography is stunning and one was left at the end of the talk with the realisation that this was truly a cradle of civilisation predating the Greek and Roman

Empires. David is repeating his talk he gave our group in 2017 on Syria to our main meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Our next meeting on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> is our annual Christmas Party. Instead of a speaker we will share party food and refreshments and partake in an informal quiz (general knowledge not history).

Our January meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 will be a fun 'Warwickshire Quiz' where you can form teams of 3/4 on the afternoon. There will be no meeting in February (being the one month in 2019 we have not been able to secure a room), and then on 11 March we will resume as normal with a programme for the remainder of 2019.

#### KEEP FIT GROUP

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

We have had an enjoyable term and are looking forward to our Christmas Lunch at Alveston Youth Hostel, after our last meeting 17th December.

#### **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

Sylvía Crooks



We met on Thursday 15th November, after coffee we read 'The Browning Version' by Terence Rattigan. We are not meeting in December (not enough days in the week).

We will meet again January 17th 2019: afternoon for tea 2.00pm. Committee meeting in the morning.

#### POETRY READING GROUP

In November's theme we discovered 'song and music' to be firmly linked to poetry - particularly in sixteenth to twentieth century works. 'Colours' however, enhanced early love poesy but painted descriptions in later nature poems. For December we anticipate a cornucopia under the banners of 'good will to all men' and 'celebration' before withdrawing for our annual Christmas luncheon at the Oppo!

#### **READING GROUP-MONDAY**

#### Jackie Biggs

Judy Jones

Jennífer Davey



This month we read "Three daughters of Eve" by Elif Shafak. It begins with Peri, an upper middle-class Turkish woman, who, on her way to a dinner party, is robbed by a beggar who steals her designer handbag. The shock prompts her to think back to her childhood in a family split between the secularism of her Westernised father and the devout Muslim faith of her mother. She recalls her time at Oxford University with a charismatic philosophy professor and her two friends Mona, a Muslim feminist, and Shirin

a non-believer.

The book describes life in modern-day Istanbul where religion and secularism, politics and terrorism are in conflict. Not everyone in the group finished the book but we all enjoyed reading it.

#### READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Our novel this month was "As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning" by Laurie Lee. At the age of 19 Laurie Lee walked to London and then travelled through France and Spain, mainly on foot with a blanket and his trusty violin. Everyone in our group enjoyed reading the novel. "Beautifully descriptive," "A Charming read" "Flashes of Humour"

#### READING GROUP—FRIDAY

We read The Muse by Jessie Burton. The story goes from the 1960s in London back to 1930s in Spain. Events in Spain affect what happens in London and it is possible to draw comparison between the two main girls. It was an interesting read after getting into the story.

#### ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Almost a disaster as I forgot all my notes and the programme but thanks to a bit of guesswork and the help of Colin all was saved. We had a programme of very early rock and roll and some new items to discuss.

Next month we meet on 20 December with the Classical music and the jazz group.

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



This month we had a very entertaining and enlightening talk on West Midlands Wildlife from Mike Wilkes, who is a professional nature photographer and speaker. Mike has also hosted tours in Greece, Africa and the Galapagos based around nature and photography.

His pictures of wildlife from the midlands were stunning and cleverly intertwined with a narrative to cover how the shots were taken. Most enjoyable.

Next month we will have our annual tea party and quiz hosted by Bob and Chris Heaps. The 2019 calendar is starting to fill nicely and we hope to have more entertaining and Informative <u>Science Nature and</u>

#### **Coral Bradley**

Mike Genge

Coral Bradley

#### All <u>Things</u> <u>Technical</u> talks next year.

Geoff Bridgewater will be arranging a Vist to Bletchley Park in April. Hopefully on the 2nd Friday as usual. Places will be limited so look to future notices and emails.

#### SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

The next lunch will be on the 2nd. December 2018 at the Stratford Golf Club. Names please to Brian Bradley on 01789 4898551.

There will not be a lunch in January.

#### SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

VIENNESE NEW YEAR concert on January 6<sup>th</sup>, starting a little later at 3pm. The coach will leave the leisure dentre at 1pm and at Henley for 1.30. Ring me if interested; I MAY have returns.

I will be taking names and cheques for the next concert on WEDNESDAY MARCH 20TH. Smetana the bartered bride/ Shostakovich piano concerto no2 and SCHUMANS Rhenish symphony no 2.

I hope you all enjoyed the concert in November, I welcome any feedback or suggestions for future concerts. HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

#### THEATRE GROUP.

🟹 On 8 December we go to Malvern Theatre to see The Nightingales. We will leave Henley (Johnsons yard) at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. All the tickets have been sold and almost everybody has paid thank you -it makes the job easier.

### PIANO GROUP

We met in November on Wednesday 21st. An enjoyable morning listening to a rendition of pieces of music we individually played. A chat and coffee completed a good morning.

We next meet on Wednesday 19th December 10.00am. In the Side Room 1, Methodist Church Hall. If you would like to join us give Margaret Dews a call on 01789 209900.

#### WALKING GROUP

The next walk will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>TH</sup> December 2018 at 10.00 am and start from Ilmington, We can park on the roadside near the community café this is one of our favorite walks with stunning views and we can have a good coffee at the end of the walk and even a mince pie to start the Christmas spirit.. The walk will be led by Sandy Stewart.

I recommend good walking shoes and bring a drink with you. Look forward to seeing you

### A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	GROUP	MONTH	<u>GROUP</u>
December 2018	The Choir	January 2019	Garden Appreciation	February 2019	Painting & Drawing





Out to

LUNCH!

Coral Bradley

Sylvía Crooks

## Valeríe Redfern

Brian Bradley

Marjory Fraser

GROUP	GROUP LEADER	USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)
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