



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

# Heart of England

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## February 2018 Newsletter

### TODAY'S MEETING

Hitting The Headlines. John Butterworth, who was a journalist for 44 years, an editor for 28 years and was awarded the MBE for services to journalism and charity in 2008, will talk about the joys of being an editor of four papers, plus running his own newspaper.

### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for March will be Rod Pomery and his subject will be " The History and Importance of Trees & Woodlands". Very much in the news at the moment, with the Government encouraging the planting of woodlands, close to towns, to help the environment, etc. It should be interesting.

### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

*Dorothy Jones*

On a wet and windy Saturday we held our New Year Lunch at the Sports Club, Swan's Nest Lane. However, once inside, all was warmth, friendship and super food. Pete the manager, Carl the chef and all the staff treated us to a delicious lunch.

Many thanks to Athena and Sue for organising this enjoyable occasion.

We look forward to the next one!

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

Stratford	- 28 <sup>th</sup> February	- “The Dead Sea to Damascus”	- Peter Berry.
Shottery	- 6 <sup>th</sup> February	- “The Nurse who changed Guinea-Bissau”.	- John Butterworth .
Dene Valley	- 13 <sup>th</sup> February	- “ Mary Quant - Part 2.”	- Ruth Lowe.
Alcester	- 6 <sup>th</sup> February	- “Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s Ship – The Great Eastern.”	- Andrew Lound.

### U3A DIARIES

The U3A 2018 Diaries will be on sale at the next meeting until the stock is exhausted. These 2018 Diaries are china blue and the price has increased to £2.50 – still a bargain! They can be found on the Treasurer’s table in the Welcome Area.

### STAR GROUP

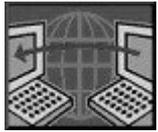
*Aline Cumming*

In common with other U3As, the Committee have agreed to start a Star Group, inviting our members to put their names down if they would be willing to help with events or stand in when someone is away. Sylvia Crooks and Ruth Graham will keep the list. The type of help that might be needed is occasional, such as taking names for a visit or welcoming members at the door or putting out chairs or helping the Treasurer. Please give Sylvia or Ruth your name and contact details (phone and/or email).

Thanks to the three who have already signed up.

## 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)

"Kings and Queens of England" is well underway as is the repeat of "**Property to Partner**". Both of these courses were downloaded from U3A Online by Sue Workman and were forwarded to members by email.

To contact Sue Workman for more information: ( [sueworkman44@gmail.com](mailto:sueworkman44@gmail.com) )

A member is interested in one of the original courses from National Office - "Creative Writing Fiction". "Creative Writing Poetry" is also available. Is anyone interested in joining her? If so, please sign the sheet on the notice board table. This course could begin in March.

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*

We enjoyed an entertaining afternoon at our January meeting. To celebrate The Year of the Dog, Patricia had prepared paints, paper, brushes and illustrations for us to attempt our own interpretation of a dog adding the characters for Dog and Happy New Year. To conclude the afternoon, we played Chinese Checkers, a new experience for most of the group.

At our next meeting we will be discussing Chinese Opera and will watch a short production. (25 mins.)

**Date for next get-together: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 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 December 2017 Meeting, 'A Christmas Miscellany'

When I write this, Christmas seems long gone, but I'll give you a final taste of the festive season and a farewell to 2017. The programme was our (now) annual 'get together' with the other music appreciation groups and was led by Coral, Aline and Geoff. And each presenter played ten tracks in groups of five. Doing the math of this (not my strong point) this equalled a marathon session of 30 tracks played over the afternoon. I'm not going to attempt to itemise the treasures on offer, it would take up the whole of this News Letter, suffice to say it contained some gems.... "Pine Top Boogie" sung and played by Cleo Brown (look it up!) Blue Berry Hill with Fats Domino, Winter from "The Four Seasons", Bix Beiderbecke and "At the Jazz Band Ball" a lovely harp track "Cantique de Noel" and the 'Helly-Hutchinson' "Carol Symphony" to finish off the afternoon. With that and mince pies and coffee it was a lovely intro to Christmas.

However, its now 2018 and we are raring to go on another year of our music. Why not come and give us a try in whatever group might interest you. The jazz group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church and we begin at 2pm.

## ART APPRECIATION

*Marian Heads/Jean Hicks*



The art appreciation members would like to thank Pamela Collins and Sylvia Kentish for running the group so successfully for the past 5 years.

Marian Heads (a member of Stratford U3A) and Jean Hicks are the new group leaders. The meeting on 19th January was kindly hosted by Jackie Daniels and we looked at a DVD about Dora Carrington (1893-1932) a painter and decorative artist who was associated with the "Bloomsbury Set". She was an accomplished painter of both portrait and landscape. Next meeting: hosted by Marian on 16th February

## 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. If you are a Bridge player and would like to "try us out", we would be very happy for you to come as a guest, so that you can decide if you would like to join the Group.

## CARD MAKING

*Carolyn Leach*



The monthly sale of our cards is now intended for W R A P. Warwickshire Reminiscence Action Project, widely used in care of the elderly. Our next workshop will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 12.30 -4,30. New members always welcome; phone me for details.

## CHINWAGS

*Aline Cumming*



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

## THE CHOIR

*Dorothy Jones*



We have had two sessions since our Christmas break and have welcomed six new members. Stewart is always very enthusiastic and patient. His leadership and music always lifts our spirits.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

*Aline Cumming*



Our January meeting comprised some English composers chosen by Sue Scanlan. We began with 'Spem in Alium' by Thomas Tallis (sixteenth century) then moved into the seventeenth century with 'Agnus Dei' by William Byrd and the 'Rondeau' by Henry Purcell. Hubert Parry took us into the nineteenth century with 'Jerusalem' and I was glad. Then Elgar brought us into the twentieth century with the 'Pomp and Circumstance March'.

After tea we heard the entire set of Elgar's 'Enigma Variations', identifying the subjects of some of them culminating in the 'Finale' which represented Elgar himself. It was a delightful and varied programme.

There will be no meeting in February (I shall be in New Zealand) but our next is March 19<sup>th</sup>, when Sue will present some more English composers.

## COMPUTER GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll*



We are taking a break over the winter months and aim to offer another course in spring. We will give general help if required and will also offer a particular topic. The proposed topic for the next course is "Photo Management" which will include photo editing, creating folders, sending photos via the internet, visual presentations.

**Several members have signed up and there are more spaces available. Please sign the sheet on the notice board table if you would like to join us.**

Sessions will be held at the Parish Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

The dates will be advertised in the next newsletter and all those interested will be contacted.

For information about the Computer Group please contact Robyn ([redbird22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:redbird22@hotmail.co.uk))

## CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll for Tricia Callaghan*



At our January meeting we planned our projects for the coming year. These include 2 knitting projects - hats for premature babies and twiddle muffs for people with dementia. We will be trying some new techniques - needle felting and making corn dollies. We will have our usual themes for Easter and Christmas with a long list of ideas for those. We also hope to arrange a special afternoon with an experienced tutor. We welcome new members to join us for our productive and enjoyable afternoons.

**Next workshop - Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, in side room1 from 2pm to 4pm** when we will start knitting the hats for babies.

## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

*Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater*



The current subject, to be reviewed at the February meeting, is "The Festive Season". Put whatever spin on the subject that you fancy. Could be decorations, parties, wrapped pile of presents, Santa Claus, or something else. The next meeting will be on Monday February 12th at 9.30am Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick. Also bring your camera or smartphone as the second half of the meeting will be a sortie out into the town to photograph some of the buildings.

## DINAHS

*Sylvia Crooks*



We met on the 2nd January, our first lunch in 2018. Lots of Christmas stories were told over a lovely meal. Microwave puds easily made : treacle, pineapple, chocolate; it only takes 2minutes.

Scam about inheritance tax and problems with B.T. Only one person had made a New Years resolution. How many of you readers made resolutions. Although I did hear that a "Dry January" was very popular.

We meet again on Tuesday 6th February at the Red Lion, 12.15pm.

## DISCUSSION GROUP

*Athena Roderick*



This month we went to Café Rouge and the food was lovely, as were the conversations. Unfortunately, the acoustics were against us, so we just had separate conversations. We will be going to The Red Lion on the 14th February to see if a suitable area for our discussions can be found. They always make us welcome there.

## FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

*Edwin Lilly*



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. We have had two very good meetings and I hope you are all getting something useful from them. Please let me know if you are not getting anything out of the meetings. The meeting in January was about Parish Registers and other Church Records.

The next meetings are:

Tuesday 27th February 2018; Tuesday 27th March. All 2.30—4.00pm in The Lounge.

## FILM GROUP

*Mary Fishleigh*



Success! In our January meeting we watched the film 'The Chorus', which was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. It is a charming French film with subtitles about a very austere school for "difficult" boys and how a new master managed to bring discipline and respect to the pupils by creating a choir.

We are now looking forward to further interesting and praiseworthy films during the coming year.

Why not join us and come along on the second Tuesday of each month and watch films that are worthy of an award, cult films, foreign films with subtitles, classic films but not ones that are on general release now. So you will not see films that are on at a cinema at present. We have room for new members, if you are interested to join us please contact Mavis or Mary. We would love to see you at our meetings.

The next meeting is on 13 February at 2pm in the Methodist Hall lounge.

## GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

*Sue Tringham*



It would be good to welcome some new people to the Games Group that meets at 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, opposite the Council Offices, on the first and third Mondays of the month from 2 – 4 pm. In February we will be meeting on Mondays 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 continues to play Scrabble!! It's a light hearted fun afternoon. All welcome!

## GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

*Suzy Genge*



A surprisingly sunny visit was had this month to Jephson Gardens in Leamington Spa. It was a cold day and so our group were very pleased to loiter in the Temperate House after viewing the Sensory Garden outside. There were some interesting tropical plants on show, including some spices and a loquat tree.

Fortunately, most of them were labelled with their names. We also saw where the elephants would come down to drink in the river in Victorian times.

Next month's visit is to Hill Close gardens to see the snowdrops on Tuesday 13th February.

## GRUMPY OLD MEN

*Graham Mitchell*



At the first gathering of 2018 the Grumps exercised their grey matter considering and offering solutions to the problems of Britain in Crisis. According to politicians (mainly Opposition), local government officials, the media, numerous experts and Uncle Tom Cobley and all, every aspect of life in this Country is in crisis. With true dedication the Group tackled the task but, even with their combined and considerable experience and knowledge, they had to concede that there were no easy solutions to overcome the many problems affecting us. However it was felt that the word "crisis" was over used for dramatic effect and not every difficulty should be deemed a crisis. There was general agreement that, in particular, public and social services, the NHS and housing had been put under considerable stress by the significant increase in the population over recent years without the availability of adequate finance to meet the expectations and greater demands created. Just throwing money at the problems was not believed to be the answer and co-operation from all political parties to long term planning policies rather than forever promoting their own ideology was essential to achieve positive long lasting improvements. The meeting concluded that undoubtedly there was room for considerable improvement in the overall management of the Country's affairs but, although it could be political suicide, the Government (of whatever colour) must have the courage to increase general taxation to "balance the books". Unpalatable though it may be, the population have to accept that if they want more they will have to pay more!

**Next Meeting - Wed. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre.**

**Subject - Classical, Traditional, Modern? (Lateral thinking will be needed in your preparations for this!)**

## HISTORY GROUP

*David Dumper*



Our speaker in January, David Ball of Dene Valley U3A gave an illustrated talk on the history of Wellesbourne. Originally there were two communities on either side of the River Dene, Wellesbourne Hastings to the north and Wellesbourne Mountford to the south. It was first recorded in 862 as Wallesburam, and our speaker explained that 'Welles' is synonymous with the Principality and may have derived from it being on the sheep driving road to east and south of England from Wales. The celtic translation of Wales is 'Foreigner'. The two old parishes merged into one and the parish registers give an insight to the lives of the ordinary folk who have inhabited the village during the past 450 years. Examples were given along with many photos of historic buildings within the community.

At our next meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> David Dumper will give an illustrated talk on 'Stratford upon Avon the first 150 years and John de Hatton its most famous son before 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*



We were all pleased to meet up again after Christmas and have a good chat. After coffee we decided to start work!. We are a supportive group and are always happy to give advice to one another !

## PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



Weekly at St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Shotton, 12:15 to 1:15. For more information call Sylvia Kentish on 263794.

## 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 on the 18th January at 2.00pm at Sylvia's house where we finished reading "Pools Paradise", a Farce by Philip King. So very funny. I must say our readers made an excellent job with the accents. It would be amazing to see it performed on the stage. We next meet on Thursday the 15th February at Sylvia's at 10.30am for coffee.

## POETRY READING GROUP

*Jennifer Davey*



In January we were still looking back to Christmas and our theme, therefore, was 'Gifts'. Mathew II gave us the Wise Men, also the parable of the talents - and the reflection that over the centuries sometimes 'money', sometimes 'abilities' seem more appropriate. From Carol Ann Duffy's Valentine of an 'onion' to the priceless gift of 'The Green eye of the Little Yellow god' and onwards through gifts of the Natural world (Robert Louis Stevenson) to intangible gifts of company and hope. February is a month away but March we shall look at 'Buildings' - be they of bricks and mortar or of friendship.

## READING GROUP—MONDAY

*Jackie Biggs*



This month we read The dust that falls from dreams by Louis de Bernieres, a family saga covering three neighbouring families' lives from the death of Queen Victoria until the 1930's. The atrocities of war are described in minute historical detail, rats, lice and all, and the huge social changes affecting the main characters following the First World War are clearly depicted. The book was split into over a hundred short chapters and jumped between the different characters and locations. Those who managed to finish it enjoyed the book but the rest of us gave up due to the time pressures over the holiday period!

## READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

*Judy Jones*



Our pre-christmas "Afternoon Tea" was great; lovely food and interesting. Christmas readings ranging from Alison Uttley's 'Little Grey Rabbit' to Shakespeare. This month we have read "The Silk Factory" by Judith Allnatt. What a lot of research must have gone into the writing of this book - very interesting and informative. Some of us found the two interwoven stories a little confusing, but overall an enjoyable read.

## READING GROUP—FRIDAY

*Coral Bradley*



This month we read 'The Essex' Serpent by Sarah Perry. This book has rave reviews and although we quite liked it there were several points that we questioned. The novel tells the story of a woman who becomes a widow after a bad marriage to a violent husband. It is set in London and Essex in 1891. The widow fantasises about becoming a new Mary Anning so she abandons her widow's clothes and goes to Essex where there are rumours of an enormous snake. There she falls in love with the local vicar who has a sick wife. The story had potential but the main character is not a person whom we liked and some of the events described were unlikely to have taken place at that period in time.

## ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

*Coral Bradley*

We had some new tracks this month, well, new to us, along with some old favourites. It was pleasing to see the room was nearly full and we always welcome new members, just turn up. If you have any particular artiste or song you would like to hear let us know and we will try to provide it.



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

*Genge*

*Mike*

The next meeting will be on Friday 9th February at 2.00pm in The New Room at the Methodist Church Centre. The subject of the talk, to be given by Mike Genge, will be The Government Fuel Pipeline and Storage System.

**SCRAPBOOK GROUP**

*Wendy Crawford & Ruth Bartlett*

We met as usual in the Welcome Area on Tuesday 16th January. Some useful work was done interspersed with conversation. Next meeting will be Tuesday 20th February, 2.00 to 4.00pm.

**SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP**

*Brian Bradley*



The next lunch will be on the 4th February 2018 at the Navigation, Wooton Wawen.

**SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS**

*Marjory Fraser*



Thank you to CBSO supporters for your cheques and good wishes. The February concert will soon be with us. we meet 12.00 to 12.15 at the Leisure Centre and 12.30 at Henley.

I am now taking names and cheques for a concert on May 2nd which features Prokofiev violin concerto and Sibelius 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two great favourites.

**THEATRE GROUP.**

*Coral Bradley*



On 3rd March we will go to Malvern to see 'Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde'. It stars Phil Daniels and is based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. The cost is £27.00 and we will leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.

For your diaries, we go Malvern on 14 April to see 'A Street Car named Desire' by Tennessee Williams with a recommended age limit of 14+, so we should be OK and 'Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain' with Robert Powell and Liza Goddard on 26 May. Usual times but as yet no costs ready. The money is now due for 'Matilda' as I have to pay early for that; the cost is £62.00.

**PIANO GROUP**

*Sylvia Crooks*

We met on Wednesday 17th January at one of the group's home. Each in turn played a piece of music, hopefully this will give us confidence to play for family and friends. We chat about the different pieces we have chosen to play. A cup of coffee and biccies, kindly provided by our host, were enjoyed. We had a new member come along, and play for us, she has just joined the U3A.

If you would like to join us ring Sylvia Crooks, number in the Newsletter.  
We next meet on Wednesday 28th February at 10.00am in Side Room 1.

**WALKING GROUP**

*Valerie Redfern*



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>TH</sup> February 2018 at 10.00 am. The walk starts from Ilmington. We can park by the Community café where we will meet. This is a five mile walk on good surfaces for this time of the year and the views are stunning, we just need a lovely sunny day!!!!

Our walk leaders will be Malcolm and Elaine Burden and we look forward to seeing you.

I recommend good walking shoes and that you bring a drink along with you.

**HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
February 2018	Computer Group	May 2018	Dinah's Luncheon Group
March 2018	Rock & Roll Group	June 2018	Card Making Group
April 2018	Walking Group	July 2018	SNATTs Group

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)</u>
All That Swing & Jazz	01789—488 551	4th Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
AmDram & Supper	01789—298 059	As Announced
Art Appreciation	01789—774 090 01789—415 260	3rd Friday 2.00pm
Bridge	01789—748 197	Every Tuesday 2.00pm
Card Making	01789—266 194	As Announced
China Discussion Group	01789—417 935	See Newsletter
Chinwags Lunch	01789—298 357	4th Monday 12.00 noon
Choir	01789—267 984 01789—204 892	Every Friday 10.30—12.00 noon
Classical Music	01789—298 357	3rd Monday 2.00pm
Creative Crafts	01789—298 870	3rd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Computers	01789—417 935	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2.30—4.00pm
Digital Photography	01789—298 059	As Announced
Dinah's Luncheon	01789—416 965	1st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	01789—551 416	2nd Wednesday
Family History	01789-204 472	4th Tuesday 2.30—4.00pm
Film Group	01789—488 484 01789—298 235	2nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Games—Scrabble, Dominoes, Cards	01789—204 295	1st & 3rd Monday 2.00—4.00pm
Garden Appreciation Group	01789—261 447	2nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men	01789—205 195	3rd Wednesday for lunch
History	01789—550 193	2nd Monday 2.00pm
Keep Fit	01789—204 707	Every Thursday 10.00am
Painting/Drawing	01789—204 892 01789—550 771	As Announced
Piano Group	01789—416 965	4th Wednesday 10.00—11.00am
Pilates - Monday	01789—263 794	Every Monday 12.15—1.15pm
Pilates - Wednesday	01789—297 061	Every Wednesday 10.15—11.15am
Play Reading	01789—416 965	See Newsletter for dates
Poetry Reading	01789—720 478	2nd Wednesday 10.00—12.00noon
Reading - Monday	01789—550 953	3rd Monday 2.30—4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	01789—509 022	3rd Wednesday 2.30pm
Reading - Friday	01789—488 551	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	01789—488 551	2nd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Science, Nature & All Things Technical	01789—298 059	2nd Friday 2.00—4.00pm
Scrapbooking Group		3rd Tuesday 2.00—4.00pm
Sunday Lunch	01789—488 551	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	01789—204 820	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	01789—488 551	As Appropriate
Walking	01789—471 048	2nd Wednesday 10.00am