



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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## *January 2018 Newsletter*

### **TODAY'S MEETING**

Our speaker for January is Alan Cutler talking about "The Imortal Case - Another Notorious Trial".

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

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.

### **NOTES FROM THE CHAIR**

*Dorothy Jones*

Happy New Year !. I do hope everyone had a jolly Christmas and that we will have a healthy 2018. Athena has an interesting programme planned for us and we are looking forward to our New Year Lunch on Saturday January 20th.

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

Stratford - 31<sup>st</sup> January – Graham Sutherland Curiosities. . .  
Shottery - No details for 2018.  
Dene Valley – No information for 2018. . .  
Alcester - 6<sup>th</sup> February - "The Great Eastern"-Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Ship. - 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.

### **NEW YEAR LUNCH**

If you fear that you may have left it too late, there is still time to book for our lunch. It will be on January 20th 2018 at The Sports Club, Swan's Nest Lane, gathering in Reception for midday, starting lunch at 12.30. Don't forget to pick up your name card in Reception so that you can put it on the table of your choice. Committee Members will be meeting and greeting and are there to provide help with seating arrangements.

Price this year is £18 per person, cheques made out to HOE U3A and handed in at the January meeting or sent to Athena Roderick 17 Gifford Walk, SOA. CV37 9LN. This includes the staff tip and a raffle prize. There will also be a quiz with a small prize. As always, there are 3 courses, each with a choice from 3 dishes, including vegetarian & gluten free options. All great value and a really good way to start off our year. Come and join us and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Please do note that cancellations on the day cannot be refunded as food has been prepared. There is plenty of parking at a cost of £1.

## 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".**

Is anyone interested in joining her? If so, please sign the sheet on the notice board table. This course could begin early in the New Year.

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 our December get-together had to be cancelled due to the weather conditions.

The January meeting will be held on **Friday afternoon, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2.30 to 4.30** in the lounge. We will begin with brush painting led by Patricia followed by Fun and Games. Mahjong and Chinese Checkers are on the agenda. (By the way, Chinese Checkers was invented in Germany in 1892)

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 November 2017 Meeting.**



This month's meeting was presented and compiled by group member Sue Tringham and as she said in her introduction 'included a mixture of musicians who are still alive and those no longer with us'. The programme kicked off with The John Petters Trio playing "Running Wild", the next track was by a group called 'Hot Fingers' who aim to create the French Coffee House sound of Django Reinhardt, it worked so well I felt the urge to do a short demo of l'apache dancing I did however restrain!! Artie Shaw brought us down to earth with "Streamline". Sue then followed with a number of performers that were unfamiliar to most of us. Ben Holder (violinist), John Softley (guitar and banjo), The Antique Siix Jazz Band and the Pro Bono Band (usually featuring two trombones). It was a first half which gave us a tantalising insight into the more recent groups around.

After the usual refreshments, the second set began with the 'Just a Job Jazz Band' playing "Undecided" We then had another John Petters track but this time featuring his band with Val Wiseman singing and Nick Dawson on the piano. This was followed by a look back in time with tracks from Bix Beiderbecke, Jelly Roll Morton, Glen Miller and Willie 'the lion' Smith. Sue's favourite jazz instrument is the clarinet so what a better way to end than Acker Bilk and "A-Rovin" followed by Julian Bliss with "After You've Gone".

Thank you Sue for a very enjoyable afternoon. If you would like to join us we meet the **4<sup>th</sup>** Thursday of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Old Town starting at 2.p.m.

## ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins



This month we returned to The Opposition for our Christmas lunch. As usual, this was a most enjoyable event, with excellent food and much chat and laughter.

In January we'll be viewing a DVD, as well as discussing options for our future programme.

## **BRIDGE GROUP**

*John Yeomans*



"Our first meeting in 2018 will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, from 2.00 to 4.30 pm in the Methodist Hall Side Room 1, next to the kitchen. We are extending play to two and a half hours, following our recent two hour sessions. 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*



We have had a very happy and successful year, meeting on the last Friday of every month in the New Room. We have now sent over £4000 to various local charities since we began. Thank-you to all the U3A members who have bought our cards. We are always looking for a new local charity to support. Let's hope 2018 is a happy and healthy one for everyone.

## **CHINWAGS**

*Aline Cumming*



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

## **THE CHOIR**

*Dorothy Jones*



We are looking forward to our first meeting on Friday 12th January. Our Christmas concert was very successful. Thank you to everyone who came to support us and joined in singing some of the carols. We also enjoyed entertaining the residents at Briarcroft Apartments.

## **CLASSICAL MUSIC**

*Aline Cumming*



This month we join up with the jazz and classical music but at the time of writing we have not had our meeting.

## **COMPUTER GROUP**

*Robyn Nicoll*



We will be taking a break over the winter months and aim to offer another course next year if members are interested. 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.

Please indicate interest by signing the sheet on the notice board table.

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*



Our first meeting for 2018 will be held on **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2pm to 4pm, side room 1.**

We will be planning our projects and workshops for the next year.

The combined Craft/Card stall set up at the Church Bazaar in November donated £100.50p to the Church Fund and another £33 was raised selling the left-overs at the December monthly meeting.

Thanks to all members who supported this worthwhile venture.

## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

*Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater*



The current subject, to be reviewed at the January 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 January 8th Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick.

## DINAHS

*Sylvia Crooks*



Dinahs met on December the 5th in the Red Lion for their Christmas lunch. John and Alistair really looked after us; the large oval table was lovely with crackers and poppers. The Prosecco was opened and poured; of course lots of chatter and laughs. After our meal we did manage to chat about Imperium at the Swan Theatre, well worth a visit. Jeremy Vine's book, a buy for Christmas. Mindfulness, a Future Learn course on line. Also customer care at Marks & Spencer. We all meet again on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 wow! Red Lion 12.15pm. DINAHS wish all our friends a Happy and Healthy 2018.

## DISCUSSION GROUP

*Athena Roderick*



I started by having a "Blue Peter" moment, because, instead of giving Cards, I gave sparkly wine bottle sleeves and demonstrated how I thought they could be used for twigs, tall flowers or even as a gift of a bottle of wine for a friend. So we started with laughter. We talked about Christmas's past and my memory of my brother and I waking my poor father early one Christmas morning with John wearing a home made cowboy outfit and me wearing an Indian squaw outfit. We, of course, were shooting imaginary guns and wailing as we had seen Red Indians doing on film. My father was not pleased. David remembered that a neighbour's child was staying over Christmas and he had a very noisy dynamo torch in his stocking which was hanging from his bed. Irresistible in the early hours. It appears that David's father was not pleased to be woken early. Rety remembered having Christmas in Australia and spending the traditional lunch sitting under a working hose pipe to keep cool. Sylvia remembered when a very large turkey was put into an AGA cooker to roast 'slowly' overnight, but in the morning it was burnt to a crisp. Sue told us that turkeys were taken to bake houses to cook, which was a lovely old way of doing things. So, we enjoyed our lunch and wished each other "All the very best for 2018".

## 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 next meetings are:

Tuesday 23rd January 2018; Tuesday 27th February 2018; Tuesday 27th March. All 2.30—4.00pm in The Lounge.

## FILM GROUP

*Mary Fishleigh*



Unfortunately we had to cancel the meeting in December due to the severe weather conditions. We did our best to contact as many members as possible and for those we missed we put a notice on the door of the hall. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience our decision caused but we did not want people to put their safety in jeopardy trying to go out when it was so cold and icy.

Our next meeting will be on January 9th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church and we promise to have mince pies as we had to miss out this month.

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.

## **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 Mondays of the month from 2 – 4 pm. In January we will have only one meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018!! 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!

## **GRUMPY OLD MEN**

*Graham Mitchell*



An almost genuine sense of jollity and enjoyment pervaded the final meeting of 2017 attended by 19 Grumps. From the mass pulling of Christmas crackers to the last slurp of coffee there appeared to be a determination to enjoy the occasion and dispel the gloom created by the events of 2017. There was a distinct feeling of bonhomie amongst the members and even the performance of "Cinderella – The Drama" by The Grumpy Thespian Society was enthusiastically embraced by all!? Quite what created this unusual atmosphere of sweetness and light is a mystery. Could it be the excellent repast provided by The Bistro coupled with the company of like minded souls or perhaps it was relief that there were only a few days to go before Christmas 2017 was over and then we could revert to our normal grumpiness.

Anyhow, while this cheerful mood is upon us the Grumps would like to wish all our readers a happy and healthy 2018.

## **HISTORY GROUP**

*David Dumper*



Due to snow and ice the December meeting was cancelled. Our next meeting is on Monday Jan 8 2018 when David Ball from Dene Valley U3A will give an illustrated talk on the 'History of Wellesbourne.'

## **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 enjoyed our Christmas lunch at Alveston Y.H.A., a lovely way to finish 2017. We are looking forward to our next meeting Monday January 8th. Hopefully we will produce more "masterpieces" this year.

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

## **PLAY READING GROUP**

*Sylvia Crooks*



Play Readers met 16th November. After coffee, we started reading a play by Philip King "Pools Paradise", a farce. Most enjoyable, as all Readers were great at playing their parts. We next meet on Thursday 14th December, 10.30am at Sylvia's for coffee and mince pies.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all our Friends in the U3A. And A HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

## **READING GROUP—MONDAY**

*Jackie Biggs*



This month we read 'The words in my head' by Guinevere Glasford, a novel about the relationship between Rene Descartes, the French philosopher, and the Dutch maid Helena during his stay in the Netherlands when he fathered her two children. The book also describes her efforts to learn to read and write at a time when working class girls received no education. The description of life in 17th century Holland was well written and reminded one of our group of 'The girl with the pearl earring'. A most enjoyable read!

## **READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY**

*Judy Jones*



No report this month but look for information by email about a meeting in January.

## **READING GROUP—FRIDAY**

*Coral Bradley*



We did not have a book from the library this month so we read our own books and talked about them. It was very interesting with a varied collection of books to discuss over tea and cake.

## **ROCK AND ROLL GROUP**

*Coral Bradley*

This month we join up with the jazz and classical music but at the time of writing we have not had our meeting.

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

*Geoff Bridgewater*



The SNATTs Christmas Social and Quiz was held on Friday 8th December. There was slightly less members present than in previous years but we still managed eight teams. The winning teams comprised the immediate past Group Leader, Geoff Bridgewater, and the new Group Leader, Mike Genge, both ably supported by their respective better halves. All had an enjoyable time and we look forward to moving forward next year with renewed interest under our new leaders. No meeting scheduled for January. Look for information about the February meeting.

## **SCRAPBOOK GROUP**

*Wendy Crawford & Ruth Bartlett*

The December meeting was cancelled as it conflicted with the Choir Concert. Look out in January for information about future meetings as a room booking has been requested but not yet confirmed.

## **SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP**

*Brian Bradley*

There will be no Sunday lunch in January. The next lunch will be on the 4th February 2018 at the Navigation, Wooton Wawen.

## **SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS**

*Dorothy Jones*



Marjorie Fraser, one of our relatively new members, has volunteered to organise these visits. Many thanks Marjorie! We have booked two concerts for 2018. The first concert is Thursday 15th February 2-30pm. The programme includes a short overture by Pax, Grieg's Piano Concerto and Elgar's Symphony No 1. The cost of this visit will be £38. This includes concert ticket, return coach to Symphony Hall & tip for the driver. We will leave the Leisure Centre promptly at 12-15pm and pick up our Henley members



at Johnson's depot en-route to Birmingham. Please send Cheque for £38, made out to Heart of England U3A, to Marjorie Fraser

54 Saffron Meadow. Stratford upon Avon CV37 6GD. Tel, 01789 204820. PAYMENT FOR THIS VISIT IS NOW DUE  
Our next visit will be May 2nd . The price and arrangements are the same as the February visit. Marjorie has the programme and is now taking names and payment.

### **THEATRE GROUP.**

*Coral Bradley*



On 27 January we will go to Malvern to see 'Gallowglass'. This is an adaptation of a Ruth Rendell story. At the time of writing there are two places available at a cost of £26.00 each. We leave Henley at 12.00 and the leisure centre at 12.30.

The next play at Malvern is 'Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde' on 3 March. Cost to be announced at the January meeting. I have managed to get some ticket for Matilda! This will be at the Birmingham Hippodrome on 29 August. It is a matinee and the cost with a coach will be £62. I have 20 tickets. Names to be taken at the January meeting.

### **PIANO GROUP**

*Sylvia Crooks*

Piano Group did not meet in December. Our next 'recital' is on Wednesday the 17th January at the home of one of our members, 10.00am. We cannot manage to hire the room with piano at the Methodist Hall. If you would like to join us please ring Sylvia. Number in the Newsletter. Piano Group wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2018.

### **WALKING GROUP**

*Valerie Redfern*



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>TH</sup> January 2018 at 10.00 am, we will play safe and walk from the Gower Memorial in Bancroft Gardens, Fred will lead the walk. This is an easy five mile walk on good surface not too far to travel and hopefully we will have good weather.

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>
January 2018	Grumpy Old Men Group	April 2018	Walking Group
February 2018	Computer Group	May 2018	Dinah's Luncheon Group
March 2018	Rock & Roll Group	June 2018	Card Making 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	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	Geoff Bridgewater	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