



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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Heart of England

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July 2018 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

There is a change of speaker for July, as a problem occurred for Roy Wood. So, our speaker will be Alan Cutler and his topic will be "Every Child Matters". It sounds like a very heart warming talk.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

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.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

Hopefully everyone is enjoying this lovely sunshine and finding time to sit out in the garden or go for a walk in the countryside. Our county is living up to its name "leafy Warwickshire". If you are going away on holiday have a super time and come back refreshed and revived.

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

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|----------------------|
| Stratford | - 25th July | - "The Mitford Sisters". | - Diana Alexander. |
| Shottery | - 7th August | - "Escape Arts and the Old Slaughterhouse" | - Ali Allen & Karen. |
| Dene Valley | - 10th July | - "Darjeeling Railway." | - David Barrie. |
| Alcester | - 7th August | - " Old Pubs and Lost Hostelries" - | Richard Churchley |

SKITTLES EVENING

There will be a skittles evening on 24 August at Welford Bowls Club starting at 7.30. If you have not been before you will find that it is a very friendly evening and not too competitive. The cost will be announced at the meeting. Book up early as we only have 25 for the evening so that everyone has a chance of 3 attempts to win.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF OUR U3A GROUP

Your Newsletter Editor has enjoyed doing the job for six years or so and is looking to hand on the role to a successor. It is a creative role with no great technical knowledge of computers or printing required. If you can use a word processing software (such as Microsoft Word) and an email service or software then you will do fine in the role. If you are interested please contact the current editor for further information about how the role is run at the moment and how it could run in the future. He can provide you with a written description of the role and how it may be shared across two or three people. We need at least two people for this role to cover for holidays, illness, etc.

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

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

"Kings and Queens of England" has been completed. The repeat of "Property to Partner" has also finished.

"Creative Writing Fiction" from the original list of courses has begun and "Creative Writing Poetry" is also available. 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)

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

CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

At our June get-together, we shared our research on "Chinese Women Artists" with examples from the 11th to the 20th Centuries with illustrations via the monitor and printed examples.

Date for next get-together: Friday 20th July, 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

Mavis Pickett



Report of the May 2018 Meeting

Did you know that apart from Mother's Day, May plays host to 17 other memorial days. Amongst which are 'Hug your Cat Day', 'Lost Sock Memorial Day' 'Awareness of Scurvy day' (much supported by Pirates).

I think this last May we should have had a 'Geoff's Programme Day' to celebrate the great programmes he produces. This month was no exception we launched into "Hindustan" with 'Wild Bill Davison' followed by tracks from Buddy Rich, Scott Joplin, Count Basie, Harry James, 'Bix' with "Sorry", a touch of Stan Kenton' with "Invention for Guitar and Trumpet" and finishing the first half with 'Benny Goodman' and "Dixieland One Step". After our usual 'noisy nattering' over coffee and biscuits it was back to 'Henry 'Red' Allen and "Aint Misbehavin" followed by another 9 tracks which ranged from 'Beiderbecke through Earl Hines, 'Erskin Hawkins', 'Jimmy Lunceford', 'Sidney Bechet,' and 'Tommy Dorsey' and finishing on a high note with 'Bix' playing us out with "Riverboat Shuffle". "Going by the tapping of feet it was a very Successful programme.

Thanks go to all those members who produce a programme for us, it's not easy as I know from experience so once again THANKS TO YOU ALL

We welcome new members, (no you don't have to produce a programme) we meet the **4th Thursday** of the Month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall starting at 2.p.m.

ART APPRECIATION

Marian Heads/Jean Hicks



In June the Art Appreciation Group visited Upton House. We learned how Lord Bearsted made it his country home in 1927 and set about establishing it as a perfect residence for his family's extensive art collection. **I will email members regarding plans for next month's meeting on 20th July.**

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



In June we didn't sell as many cards as usual, due to less people attending the monthly meeting. Nevertheless, together with the previous months takings, we were able to send £50 to Edwards Trust, a local branch of the charity supporting children and families facing loss and surviving bereavement.

Our next workshop will be July 27th 12 30 – 4 30pm. New members welcome.

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We have had a three week break from Choir. We have missed our singing and our friends. We look forward to our next sing-a-long.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



The theme for June was animals, which was stretched to include insects, birds and fish. We began with the Overture to Die Fledermaus (bat) by the younger Strauss, then the duet from Bizet's the Pearl Fishers. Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev, the piece to teach children about the orchestra followed then the Flight of the Bumble Bee, from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera about the prince who changed into a bee in order to fly like the wind. Vaughan Williams' Lark Ascending and Schubert's Trout Quintet, the Swan from Saint-Sens' Carnival of the Animals and La Paloma (dove) took us to tea. The Overture to the Thieving Magpie, then John Tavener's contrasting settings of Blakes' Lamb and Tiger were followed by Tchaikovski Dance of the little swans from the ballet Swan Lake, the Gadfly suite by Shostakovich and finally On hearing the first cuckoo in spring by Delius. **Our next meeting is July 16th, and will include music on a flower theme.**

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



We are planning a course in the Autumn, beginning at the end of September and concluding before Christmas. The dates will be advertised in the next newsletter and we will hope to continue to hold our sessions on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons at the Parish Centre from 2.30 to 4.00.

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



The Group enjoyed a productive and enjoyable afternoon making pompoms at the June workshop. Rabbits, hedgehogs, a large owl and standard pom-poms were produced quickly and simply using plastic makers and a pair of sharp scissors. Facial features were added using felt and googly eyes.

Next workshop: Thursday, 19th July, 2.00 to 4.00 in side room 1; Topic – Flower Making.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater



Six members of the group met on Monday 14th May at the Town House for coffee and biscuits. We viewed the photographs of Spring that we had produced. There were some good shots despite the lack of proper Spring weather. Several features of Stratford were brought to light. The next meeting will be on Monday August 13th at 9.30am at the Townhouse again. Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick. The next subject is "Summer Holidays" - whatever takes your fancy—beach, countryside, picnics, garden parties. I have received several memory sticks with chosen images for the AGM presentation and I hope to have a sample presentation to show at the meeting.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



Here I am telling you about Dinahs enjoying their lunch at the Red Lion on the 5th June. The longest day will have passed when you read this, wow!! Time seems to go so fast, I think it is because we are all so busy and enjoying ourselves; that is my definition.

We chatted about trauma problems at home for one of us. Problems with Ryan air and on board luggage. The movie Chesil Beach, and Love Island! Seemingly more people applied to go on Love Island, than the people that applied to get into Oxford and Cambridge. Also one of our Ladies is writing short stories, very interesting.

We next meet on Tuesday 3rd of July at the Red Lion at 12.15pm.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Our topic was "The World has changed a great deal since we were youngsters. Do we like the changes in literature, entertainment, fashion, etc & what would we prefer" Quite a wide ranging subject. We felt that putting Shakespeare in modern dress often didn't work unless very well done with proper regard to the text.

It is a pity that so much is lost on the stage and TV because of poor diction. Books seem to keep up a pretty high standard and the Scandi Noir in books and TV has brought new energy it seems. There were divided opinions on fashion, although most agreed that fashion on the streets is inclined to be all grunge. But it was said that our fashion industry is very successful and the clothes for the Royal Wedding were stunning. Views on Modern Art were mixed. We felt that the cult of celebrity has a lot to answer for and programmes like Love Island have certainly 'lowered the tone'. But we ended on a more positive note, as one member said that many families are trying hard to deal with obesity and to lead 'greener' lives, which must bring improvements in the long run.

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

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



At our June meeting we watched a Japanese film which told a funny story of an uptight Japanese worker whose midlife crisis takes him on a journey of personal discovery in a Tokyo dance class. The members broke in to applause at the end of the film, so yet another success.

We will be taking a break for the summer with no meeting in July or August and will restart in September. Enjoy the summer weather.

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

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



Normally 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. However, in July there will be no games and we will start again 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 players change to a card game, normally partners whist. The Scrabble table continue to play Scrabble!! It's a light hearted fun afternoon. All welcome!

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

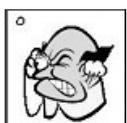
Suzy Genge



Our group visited Sudeley castle gardens this month. There were lots of beautiful roses in bloom and some lovely scents. We admired the enclosures of exotic pheasants and managed a quick tour of the castle. Our next trip is to Cotswold lavender near Broadway on July 10th.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



The June meeting attracted a somewhat smaller number than usual as holidays, illness, and various other commitments reduced the attendance. As the Grump who volunteered to introduce this month's discussion topic was also indisposed it was necessary to change the subject at short notice to "Does the car/vehicle you drive reflect your personality". It was agreed that this did not figure with our earliest cars as having "a set of wheels" was the be all and end all. However many of the Grumps felt that over subsequent years their choice of vehicle did "say something" about them personally and the lifestyle as portrayed by the image promoted by the manufacturers. In contrast, now the priority is on practicality with simply getting from A to B in as much comfort as possible, ease of accessibility (no more low slung sports cars or hot hatches) and uncomplicated driving (automatics rather than manual gear change) etc., etc. Many of the gathering, while appreciating the design features of the modern car which assist the more mature driver, declared themselves often baffled by the proliferation of the many buttons, knobs, levers and touch screens that are apparently necessary to get the vehicle to perform.

Next meeting - Wed. July 18th - Venue Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - Are Local accents ruining the English language. - Introduced by Derek Phillips.

HISTORY GROUP

David Dumper



Our speaker in June was David Dumper whose illustrated talk 'In the name of God Amen' gave an overview of historic Wills & Testaments from 14th century to the current day. David's speciality is the Tudor & Stuart period. The second part of his talk described with examples their importance in the context of social, economic and local history.

His first example was William Shakespeare and what could be interpreted from his bequests, which then led to the will of Thomas Combe 1657 who had been bequeathed Shakespeare's sword a very personal item. In Combe's will made 40 years later leaves little doubt he did not get on with his elder brother who lived at the College opposite Holy Trinity.

His second example was the will of Thomas Smith of Petworth who died in 1579 containing many references to ironworks & blast furnaces, Smith being part of a Sussex cartel manufacturing canon and other ordinance during the 16th century. Other items in Smith's led our speaker connect to such diverse subjects as the 'Wicked Bible' of 1631 and more recently 'Winnie the Pooh' and the Rolling Stones.

Our meeting in July will be the first part of a documentary on Bletchley Park following up on the visit by Betty Webb at the May meeting. There will be no meeting during August, but we will resume in September with the second 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



An outing is being arranged for 2 October 2018. It will be a National Trust property and details should be ready for the meeting.

PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP

Dorothy Jones



Several members of our group have visited Warwickshire Open Studios. Over 270 artists were exhibiting their work.

PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



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

PLAY READING GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



We met at Sylvia's for coffee and chat, before reading Act I of "Fresh Fields", a comedy by Ivor Novello. We look forward to getting together on Thursday 19th July 10.30 am.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



No report this month

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Jackie Biggs



We all very much enjoyed "Nutshell" by Ian McEwan, the writer of "Atonement" and many other acclaimed novels. It is an ingenious rewrite of Shakespeare's Hamlet as a murder story in which a foetus is detective and possible victim. Trudy and her lover, property developer Claude, plan to poison her husband John, Claude's brother, and inherit his multi million pound London house. The action is narrated by the unborn child in graphic detail in a story full of elegant plotting, suspense, brilliant characterisation and a chilling awareness of just how unpleasant people can be in the pursuit of money. An enjoyable read!

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Jean Hicks



This month the group read novels by Victoria Hislop. The books included 'The Island', 'The Sunrise', 'The Thread' and 'Cartes Postales'. We all thought her research into Greek Culture and history was meticulous but also enjoyed how she managed to thread love stories and family sagas throughout her stories

Next Meeting July 18th 2:30pm

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



We had a varied programme with some new artists that provoked some interesting discussions; we also had some old favourites. New members always welcome, come and relive your youth.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Suzy Genge for Mike Genge



The SNATTS meeting in June was a very interesting and thought provoking talk on 'Biofuels for Transport' from Aline Cumming. Aline explained what Biofuels are and discussed their use for transport vehicles; cars, buses, haulage, trains, aircraft and shipping. There was much discussion of the pros and cons of the use of these fuels versus their fossil counterparts and the use of solar and wind energy for electricity generation for powering vehicles.

The next meeting will be on July 13th when we will be visiting the Mechanical Music Museum and the Prison at Northleach.

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



There is no Sunday Lunch in June but in July it will be at the Navigation. Please let Brian know as usual, 01789 488 551.

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

Not to be missed, but I will need names and payment asap, as the date for payment is **July 19th**.

£40 this time each for ticket and coach.

I have some other provisional ideas in mind for the new season and would like your comments and names if interested please. **Thank you for your support.**

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



For your diaries, the next theatre trip will be on 22 September 2018 to Malvern to see 'The Wipers Times'. This is comedy about soldiers who found a printing press during the First World War and printed their own newspaper that was different to the 'official' one. Costs to be announced next month.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



The Piano Group met on Wednesday 20th June in one of group's cottage. The group has 2 new members which is good. After playing there was coffee and a chat. It is lovely to hear other pieces of music, we are encouraging each other to keep playing the piano; maybe you learnt to play a long time ago, or just starting to learn; come along and join us. There is time for coffee and a chat afterwards.

We next meet on Wednesday 18th July at 10.00am in Side Room 1 in the Methodist Hall.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 11th July 2018 at 10.00 am. Details have not been finalised before publication date. An email will be sent and you can check with Val and Fred if you have not heard anything.

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> |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| July 2018 | SNATTS | August 2018 | Bridge | September 2018 | Pilates |

| <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 |