



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-

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Heart of England

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June 2018 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our Speaker for June will not be Andrew Lound, as he will be promoting his book in America. Fortunately, Susan Pope has made herself available & her talk is "Medieval Music - I will perform on about 10 instruments including recorders, bagpipes, guitar, shawm and crumhorn. It is an illustrated talk in pictures and music and will cover how we know what we know and instruments/music available in medieval/renaissance times." Sounds interesting.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for July will be Roy Wood and his topic "How to enjoy a Healthy and Wealthy Retirement".

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

I have been updating the list of U3A groups in our area. I realised how many groups Heart of England have. We are very lucky to have a loyal band of hard working group leaders. Thank You ! Also many thanks to Cindy Willoughby for organising a meeting for New Members. We do hope they will join some of our groups and enjoy being members of Heart of England.

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

Stratford	- 27 th June	– “Anglo Saxon Britain”.	- Richard Denning.
Shottery	- 3 rd July	– “Warwickshire & Solihull Blood Bikes Service”	- Martin Young.
Dene Valley	- 12 th June	- “History of Potting.” (Hands on)	- Annette and John Christophers.
Alcester	- 3 rd July	– “Teller of Tales for Adults”	- Cat Weatherill.

ADVANCE NOTICE ABOUT NEXT AGM IN OCTOBER 2018

As the October Meeting will be the AGM, we will be holding a Groups' Gala at that Meeting instead of having a speaker. So, we are suggesting that, at the Group Leaders' Meeting on Thursday May 17th, the Group Leaders come up with some suggestions for what would make an entertaining hour to show off what some of our Groups are doing. It isn't possible to showcase all of the groups, because some just aren't possible for show casing. But it would be good if it was a light-hearted and fun meeting in October.

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.

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

Our topic at our May get-together, "Trade War with the USA – Who will be hurt the most?", revealed unexpected conclusions, some in favour of the USA's stance whose aim is to remove unfair trade practices and tariffs which put American companies at a disadvantage. We plan to return to this topic in 6 months to assess the effects, if any, on countries around the world.

Our next topic: "Chinese Women Artists." (The group is planning an outing to the Ashmolean Museum in September to visit the exhibition - "A Century of Women in Chinese Art".)

Date for next get-together: Friday 15th June , 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



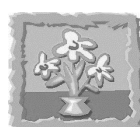
Report of the April Meeting

The April programme was put together by myself (can you have nepotism of yourself?) Anyway I'm here this month both as compiler of the programme and as a reporter. We began in an upbeat mood with Tony Bennett "Striking up the Band" with Count Basie. Continuing the 'upbeat' theme Larry Elgart followed with "Frim Fram Sauce", the Big 18 then took over with their version of "Tuxedo Junction" and Doc Severinsen gave us a powerful version of "St. Louis Blues" The first half finished with Ted Heath and Edmundo Ros battling it out on "Friendship" (I'd say the result was evens).

After our usual 'conversational' coffee break it was back to the programme (much to my relief no one had left in the interval). Pearl Bailey and Hot Lips Page opened the second half with "Ain't She Sweet" then we had two more artists on the same track with Shelley Manne and Andre Previn playing "Show Me". John Dankworth, Don Lusher, Kenny Ball and Acker Bilk shared the next track playing "Swonderful". Charlie Parker got a look in with "The Song is You" and Dinah Washington sang "I'll Close my Eyes". The afternoon finished with Bunny Berrigan playing and singing "I Can't Get Started". I hope there was something in the programme for everyone. My thanks to Edna for presenting the programme. Don't forget we meet on the **4th Thursday** of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome to come and give us a try.

ART APPRECIATION

Marian Heads/Jean Hicks



At the May meeting of the Art Appreciation group we enjoyed the hospitality of Jackie Daniels and a DVD about William Morris, a fascinating and multi-talented man. After commenting on his life and work we looked at further illustrations of his artistry brought by various members. Next month we plan to visit Upton House where there is an excellent gallery.

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



This month the sale of our cards went to “Beat” a local charity for people with eating disorders. Next month we hope to support “Edwards Trust” Based in Edgbaston, The charity works with bereaved parents and children. Recently we have made so many cards that another outlet has been found. Stoke on Trent Hospital is now selling them for Cancer Research UK. Our workshops are always the last Friday of each month in the new room, 12 30- 4 30pm, new members always welcome.

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We always enjoy our weekly choir meetings and get very excited when we have an audience. Thank you to everyone who came to our concert, Stewart always plans an enjoyable programme and we realise we are so lucky to have such a talented Musical Director. We also had a second concert at Briarcroft.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



Our May meeting included some DVDs from operas. We began with the Overture and first scene from Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strauss, first performed in 1911. The Marshalin and her page boy are interrupted by her cousin Ochs and the page boy hides by dressing as her maid. Next we had the first scene from The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart. Figaro and Susanna are engaged but his master the Baron is trying to seduce her. Figaro works out how to trick the Baron. After tea we had Maria Callas singing in concert, first the Habanero from Bizet’s Carmen then Casta Dive from Bellini’s Norma, a favourite of hers. The Opera-Ballet Los Indes Galantes by Rameau was first produced in 1735 but is quite modern and we saw a brief extract with a commentary. Finally the first scene from Un Ballo di Maschera by Verdi. The Baron accepts pleas from his people in the court; meanwhile a group of conspirators plot to assassinate him, eventually at the masked ball. Our next meeting is June 18th, and will include music on an animal theme.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



The Spring Computer Course is underway at the Parish Centre on 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons – 2.30 to 4.00.

Dates for June: **June 13th and 27th.**

We would welcome more helpers to join us for the sessions.

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

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Tricia Callaghan



The Group enjoyed an arty afternoon in May with the help of a tutor, Clare Smith, who supplied all the equipment needed to complete the project. The artist studied was Elizabeth St Hilaire, from Florida, and the group created a painting – a mixture of collage and acrylic paint – with amazing bright and colourful results.

For our next workshop, we will be making pompoms with a difference – a craft made quicker and easier with the use of plastic pompom makers. (Goodbye to pieces of cardboard)

Do come along if interested on **Thursday, 21st June, 2.00 to 4.00 in side room 1.**

Our June meeting will have a different subject due to the unfortunate cancellation of the needle felting we were going to try. Instead we will be having a “Pom Pom” afternoon when we will endeavour to produce all manner of creatures etc. using woollen Pom poms.

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. Also, please choose your 6 or 8 shots that you would like to contribute towards the Group Presentation for the AGM. Put them on a memory stick.

DINAHs

Sylvia Crooks



Dinahs had lunch at the Red Lion on the 1st May. Lots of chat as usual before and during an enjoyable meal. Lots said about politicians we do not like, although it is just politics in general.

We have lost trust in what we are told by politicians, and the media seem to make things worse with their doom and gloom questioning.

The royal baby's name, Louis, was mentioned. One of us had heard about a bet of £25 put on with the name of Louis and they won £4000. Very nice! Also one of our Dinahs had been knitting hand puppets for traumatised children: happy face on one side and a sad face on the other. How great was that!!

We next meet on Tuesday 5th June, Red Lion at 12.15pm.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Our topic was, "If children are living at home, while already earning wages, should they have to pay rent and take on other responsibilities". We all agreed that young people should learn, early in life that 'nothing is for nothing'. We usually had to earn our pocket money by doing chores, which was an early start in learning the value of things, a good learning curve. So we felt that young adults should pay their way and, possibly, help out with some chores, depending on circumstances. It does mean, that when independence is gained, the 'cost of living' doesn't come as such a shock. We felt it was a good idea for parents who could afford it, to put that money aside, so that it could be returned to the young person when needed. For parents who themselves are struggling, then negotiation is the best bet. It was nice if children stayed as friends and their company was often welcome.

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 April was about Record Offices and LDS Offices.

Future meetings are: Tuesday 26th June and Tuesday 25th September. All 2.30—4.00pm in The Lounge. We shall take a break during the summer while, hopefully we have some pleasant weather and can get out and enjoy it. Look forward to the autumn with renewed interest in Family History.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



At our May meeting we watched another old black and white film, Dark Victory, a 1939 American film starring Bette Davis, George Brent, Humphrey Bogart, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Ronald Reagan, Henry Travers and Cora Witherspoon. Socialite Judith Traherne lives a lavish but emotionally empty life. Riding horses is one of her few joys. Told she has a brain tumour by her doctor, she decides to have surgery to remove the tumour. Judith realizes she is in love with Dr. Steele, but more troubling medical news sabotages her new relationship, and her second chance at life. This was definitely a 2 hanky film, but very good and everybody enjoyed watching it.

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. Our next meeting will be on June 12th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church. After this we will be taking a break for the summer with no meeting in July or August. We will restart on 11th September.

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 May and June because of Bank Holidays and my own holidays, we will only meet once in each month. Therefore Games will meet on **14th May and 4th June**. 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 meeting this month was cancelled due to holidays etc. We shall be going to Sudeley Castle on Tuesday June 12th.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



As the discussion topics had been somewhat serious so far this year it was decided that May's subject should adopt a lighter tone and so it proved to be as the members revealed what "I'd be lost without.....". As well as the predictable suspects such as the car, spectacles, hearing aids (and teeth!??) etc., the availability and close proximity of "comfort stop" facilities took centre stage. It became obvious that many of the Group felt strongly on this matter and despite the valiant efforts of the Chairman to broaden the discussion the gathering seemed obsessed with sharing their experiences of national and even international "comfort stops" they had visited. This choice clearly illustrated that to those of a certain age it is just little things that mean a lot to the quality of life.

Grumps please note that you've had your bit of fun and next meeting "normal service" will be resumed!

Next meeting - **Wed. June 20th** - **Venue** - **Le Bistrot Pierre**

Subject - **Are local accents ruining the English language.** **Introduction** - **Derek Phillips.**

HISTORY GROUP

David Dumper



Our speaker in May was Charlotte Vine-Stevens, aka Betty Webb, who talked about her time at Bletchley Park during World War II and then responded to the many questions asked by her audience. Betty arrived at Bletchley Park in 1941 wearing an ATS uniform and ended her time there within the Japanese section transcribing messages. She was seconded after VE Day to continue her work at the newly built Pentagon in Virginia and spent five months there until after the Japanese surrender. As with Jonathan Dudley last month she came with copies of her memoir which were signed and sold to appreciative U3A history members. Our speaker on June 11th will be David Dumper whose illustrated talk 'In the name of God Amen' gives an overview of historic Wills & Testaments from 14th century to the current day. David's speciality is Tudor & Stuart wills and the second part of his talk describes with examples their importance in the context of social, economic and local history. As a taster he will explain how the will of Thomas Smith of Petworth, who died in 1579, connects with the printing of the King James Bible, Winnie the Pooh, and the Rolling Stones.

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 continue to enjoy our Monday morning sessions. We are hoping to take advantage of this sunny weather and do some drawing and painting outside.

PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



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

PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY



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

PLAY READING GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



We met at Sylvia's for tea this time as the Group Leaders and Committee meeting took precedence in the morning. We read short plays and chatted about life stories, as we all have a story to tell!! We next meet on Thursday 21st June, 10.30am for coffee; the summer solstice or the longest day, so make the most of it.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



Since we had covered 'minerals' (*buildings*) and 'vegetables' (*trees*) in March and April, 'animals' seemed an appropriate subject for May. These ranged from grasshopper and bee, via crab, oyster and trout, through snake and toad, not forgetting pigeon, seagull, parrot and hen (lots of birds), on to mouse and mole, badger and rabbit to end with kitten and lion, cow and gnu! Some twenty-four different species - but no horse! Next time we tackle 'Words, Books and Letters'.

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Sylvia Crooks for Jackie Biggs



We read 'Where My Heart Used To Be' by Sabastian Faulks. It tells the fictional life story of Robert Hendricks, covering the first and second world wars. Well structured going full circle, learning about his fathers death. Robert Hendricks is a Psychiatric Doctor, so we read how he is affected by the Psychiatric profession. The way he told about what happened to his fellow officers after the war made for a fully rounded novel.

We all read the book but we thought it more a mans book, as it tells some heart breaking stories about the two wars. However, It was a good read.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Judy Jones



In contrast to February's choice of "any book by Margaret Forster", greatly enjoyed by most of us , this month we chose Richard Mabey's 'Dreams of a Good Life'. Only one of our group found it "a really good read " – the rest of us struggled to finish it. **Please note, our next meeting is on Tuesday, June 19th.**

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We went back to the classics this month and read Thomas Hardy's 'Woodlanders'. Most enjoyed it although found it had too much description in it. It does bring out Hardy's feelings about keeping to the state that one was born into - except for him. However he does know what it like to live in a small hamlet where everyone knows you.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



A great programme from Mary Fishleigh and Tony Whitley. Mary looked at rock & roll as depicted by the BBC and Tony looked at the war in Vietnam and how that affected rock & roll. Different, and very enjoyable thank you both.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Suzy Genge for Mike Genge



At the meeting on May 2nd, which was a guided nature walk through Snitterfield bushes, there was a problem with weather, guides, etc. A second walk was being offered by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, but I have not heard when it is due to be implemented.

SCRAPBOOK GROUP

Wendy Crawford & Ruth Bartlett



At our meeting on Tuesday 15th May 2018 we were a small group of 6. We did some work and had plenty of chat. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19th June in the Welcome Area, 2.00 to 4.00pm.

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



We enjoyed our final concert of the season on 2nd May. Thank you to all of the supporters for putting up with me on my first year. The journey home was interesting!

I have not as yet received the new program but hope that we will start again in September.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



There are no further visits planned at the moment as I can't find anything that I think we would like. Just watch this space.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



We met on Tuesday 22nd May at the Shottery Church Hall, at 2.00pm. A change of venue, we are still in a learning curve. Finding the right venue with piano, also length of time we have together is important. In the Shottery Church Hall, we hired the room for one and a half hours, so had time for a coffee and chat, which was good.

We next meet in the Methodist Church hall side room 1 at 10.00am 27th May.

If you would like to join us please come along. Tel. No. Is in the Newsletter.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 10.00 am and start from Bidford on Avon. We can park in the free car park just off the roundabout going towards the river and this is where the walk will start from. This is a shorter walk than usual approx. 3 ½ miles along the riverside, with some excellent views and we hope that we will have a good weather. Our walk leader will be Pat Cooper,

You can have a coffee, or a pub lunch even, after the walk. I recommend good walking shoes and that you bring a drink along with you.

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS AT MONTHLY MEETING

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
June 2018	Card Making Group	September 2018	Pilates Group
July 2018	SNATTs Group	October 2018	History Group
August 2018	Bridge Group	November 2018	Creative Crafts 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	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