



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

# Heart of England

Newsletter Editor: Edwin Lilly, 9 Addison Drive, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7PL  
Telephone: 01789 204 472. Email: Edwin\_lilly@yahoo.co.uk  
Membership Secretary: Sandy Stewart, 181 Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7HT  
Telephone: 01789 268689 Email: sandy.j.stewart@btinternet.com

## March 2018 Newsletter

### TODAY'S MEETING

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.

### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for April will be Howard Drury & his topic will be "John Massey's Garden at Ashwood Nursery, which is a plantsman's garden in the West Midlands." The on-line photos are very colourful, so it promises to be a lovely talk.

### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

*Dorothy Jones*

I had a very enjoyable visit to the Symphony Hall last month. Many thanks to Marjorie Fraser for volunteering to take over the organisation of this group. If you are interested in starting a new group, please speak to either Sylvia Crooks or Ruth Grahame, our group co-ordinators , who will be very happy to help you.

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

Stratford	- 28 <sup>th</sup> March	- AGM & Members Quiz.	.
Shottery	- 6 <sup>th</sup> March	- AGM & “Ecuadorian Wildlife, Cloud Forest and Galapagos”	- Mike Wilkes .
Dene Valley	- 13 <sup>th</sup> March	- “Gold, Ghosts, Graveyards of Australia.”	- Ron Gallivan.
Alcester	- 6 <sup>th</sup> March	- AGM.	

### 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. So, can you put your heads together in your groups, to see what you can do and then let us know at the May Group Leaders' Meeting.

### STAR GROUP

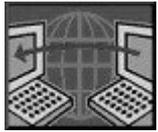
*Aline Cumming*

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) )

"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](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*

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

**Date for next get-together: Friday 2nd 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 the January 2018 meeting.**



Group member Barry opened his presentation with his usual trick of 'making us think'. This time his programme was headed by an anagram==**Music Haydn's butler ordered to welcome the king** (6,3,5).

**.H.../.N./..U..** Once that was solved the programme commenced, he chose The Blues to base his

choice around beginning with George Melly and "Kingdom Coming" followed by a hugely diverse range of blues treatment, it covered all genre of jazz and swing ranging from Duke Ellington to Marsalis and Clapton, then on to Chet Baker, Anita O'Day, Dave Brubeck, Chris Barber, Slim Harpo (no not one of the brothers) but a leading exponent of 'swamp blues' style. Where does he find these tracks? Nina Simone, Humphrey Littleton, Dizzie Gillespie and he finished with Glen Miller and Orchestra playing "Farewell Blues" .

Thank you Barry for a dip into the blues. OH! The answer to the above was **Rhythm and Blues**, and for once a fair number of us GOT IT.

Our next meeting will as usual be on the **4<sup>th</sup>** Thursday of the month in our usual venue of the Lounge of the Methodist Church Hall, Old Town starting at 2p.m.

## ART APPRECIATION

*Marian Heads/Jean Hicks*



The Art Appreciation group met on Friday 16th February to consider what makes great art. After a short introduction to Professor William Kloss's ideas on how we should look at paintings, we watched a DVD of his lecture "The Majesty of Duccio and Giotto". He concentrated on two composite works: The Maesta Altarpiece in Siena and The Arena Chapel in Padua. Afterwards we discussed the lecture and made plans for future meetings.

## 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*



Last month £50 was sent to W R A P from the sale of our cards. Warwickshire Reminiscence Action Project, a very valuable service in residential and dementia homes. Our next charity will be "Molly Olly" A local branch of the charity which tries to provide the wishes of children who have a terminal illness.

Our next workshop will be Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> 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 now have 80 members in the choir and at the moment we are not able to take new members. We have now started practising for our next concert, Friday 18th May, 2-30-4-00pm, in the Main Hall.

Tickets £5 are now on sale.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

*Aline Cumming*



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

## COMPUTER GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll*



Dates have been booked for the Spring Computer Course as follows. (Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 to 4.00 at the Parish Centre.)

**April 25<sup>th</sup> ; May 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> ; June 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.**

We will give general help if required and will also offer a particular topic. The proposed topic for this course is "**Photo Management**" which will include photo editing, creating folders, sending photos via the internet, visual presentations.

The fee for the 5 sessions will be £8 which will cover the hire of the room and will be required in advance. Payment may be made at the monthly meeting or by sending a cheque to R.P. Nicoll, 165 CV37 7HT. (Cheque payable to Heart of England U3A.)

Spaces are available so please sign the sheet on the notice board table.

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

## CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

*Robyn Nicoll for Tricia Callaghan*



At our February afternoon the clicking of needles could be heard as members completed tiny hats for premature babies, supervised by Lynda. The hats will be sent to the unit at the local hospital.

Easter will be our theme for the next meeting. We will be making baskets from square card, adding decorations and filling the baskets with Easter eggs. These baskets would be ideal gifts for family and friends.

Members are welcome to join us for this simple project. Please contact Tricia if interested.

**Next workshop – Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, in side room1 from 2pm to 4pm.**

## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

*Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater*



Six members of the group met on Monday 12th February at the Town House for coffee and biscuits We discussed the topic that we used over the Christmas period, but most members had not done much for it due to lack of time with all the festivities happening. We next talked about photographing Stratford buildings. Geoff drew our attention to some of the features to be found, including the fact that many buildings in High Street through to Church Street are still half timbered in their core with a later façade added to

modernise the appearance. We finished the meeting with a look at some of the buildings along Church Street and High Street and taking a few photographs. The next meeting will be on Monday March 12th at 9.30am Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick.

### DINAHS

*Sylvia Crooks*



We met on Tuesday the 6th Feb at our usual venue. Lots of chat about 100 years since the vote for Women, even then it was for over thirties and the wealthy. The Radio 4 program Womans' Hour had a vote for: the Woman that had made a major contribution for Women. The winner was 'Dame Millicent Fawcett' : a British Feminist, Intellectual; a Political Union Leader and Writer.

One of Dinahs was showing us the twiddle muffs she was knitting for people with dementia, also trauma teddys for ambulances. She is one of the ladies in the Creative Crafts Group doing productive work. A Thailand wedding is coming up soon for one of us, lots of excitement.

A plan was mentioned called Home Share; a young person to come and live with an elderly person for a small rent. Maybe a good idea for some.!!

We next meet Tuesday 6th March at the Red Lion 12.15pm.

### DISCUSSION GROUP

*Athena Roderick*



As something a little different, I used a box of 'Lateral Thinking' cards, hoping that this would stimulate some different ideas. There were questions and answers. Unfortunately, we all wanted to know the answers, before we gave much chance to Lateral Thinking. So there wasn't much discussion. I will try to come up with a stimulating topic for our next meeting on March 14th at The Red Lion.

### 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*



Christmas came a bit early, or was it a bit late, this month as we started with tea and mince pies. Then we watched the film that we had planned to have in December but had to cancel due to the weather. 'Death Becomes Her' proved to be an interesting film due to the special effects which were very advanced at the time of production in 1992. Bruce Willis, Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep starred in the film. They all produced a good performance but we felt that Bruce Willis was particularly good.

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 March 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 March 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*



No report this month. Next meeting on Tuesday 13th March 2018.

## GRUMPY OLD MEN

*Graham Mitchell*



Regrettably no report of the February meeting as it took place after the Editorial deadline for March newsletter contributions. However I am confident that there will have been the usual animated gathering as the members considered the discussion topic (requiring some lateral thinking) "Classical, Traditional, Modern?". Also I have it on good authority via the numerous social media platforms used by the Grumps and postings on my Facebook account and Twitter feed that grumpiness has been much in evidence during February as they were required to take part in rituals such as Pancake Day and Valentines Day but giving up for Lent any of the few pleasures still available for us of advancing years was definitely a no go area!

**Next meeting** - **Wed. March 21<sup>st</sup>** - **Venue: Le Bistrot Pierre**

**Subject** - **To be advised.**

## HISTORY GROUP

*David Dumper*



Our speaker in February, David Dumper gave a talk on 'Stratford the first 150 years'. In 1198 the bishop of Worcester lord of the manor of 'ufera stretforde' gave permission for the building of a new town on his land. Within 3 years it was constructed laid out in a grid pattern of streets which survives today. A charter to hold a weekly market was granted and over the next 150 years the population attracted many from the surrounding hinterland expanding the population to well over 1,500 at the time of the Black Death in 1348.

One of the families attracted to the town in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century were from Hatton between Alveston and present day Hampton Lucy. At the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century 3 grandsons of Thomas de Hatton (first recorded in 1256) would each be educated at Oxford all becoming bishops. The most famous of the three John de Stratford (alias Hatton) who died in 1348 would become a courtier, outlaw, bishop of Winchester, Chancellor of Edward III and finally Archbishop of Canterbury. During his first term as Chancellor he divided Parliament into two house 'Commons' & 'Lords' and founded the court of Chancery all of which exists today.

At Stratford he built a chantry in the south aisle of the parish church and began an endowment to fund the priests therein which became known as the College estates. In 1553 it was merged with the Guild estates and is now part of the income stream of today's Stratford Town Trust. Finally in his will he made arrangements for a permanent structure to be built opposite the church to house the warden and priests. The building stood on the land where, as U3A members, we meet for our monthly meeting now the site of the current Methodist church

Our next meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> Janet Anslow will give a talk on the Bronte family

## 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 and hope to have another mini exhibition later in the year.

## PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



Weekly at St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Shottery, 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 15th February, after coffee we read act I of 'Wishing Well' a comedy by E Eynon Evans. A small group this month as it coincided with the CBSO. We have so many choices in Heart of England U3A, it is great, we are lucky.

We next meet on Thursday 15th March 10.30am at Sylvia's for coffee.

## **POETRY READING GROUP**

*Jennifer Davey*



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*



We read The noise of time by Julian Barnes, a compelling novel about art and power, courage and cowardice, full of black humour, irony and cynicism in a fictionalised account of Shostakovich's relationship with Stalin during the Soviet era. It is a fascinating insight into the mind of a brilliant composer forced to compromise his principles and creativity in order to survive the corrosive effects of the totalitarian regime on his and his family's life.

This report was written before our meeting in order to meet the deadline. I really enjoyed the book and am looking forward to hearing from the rest of the group!

## **READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY**

*Judy Jones*



No report this month as most members away or busy.

## **READING GROUP—FRIDAY**

*Coral Bradley*



We had a book of short stories this month written by Alexander McCall Smith. He took the idea of looking at some photographs of people he didn't know who had lived a long time ago, so would all be dead by the time he saw them, and made up a story about them. They were all love stories but not at all conventional. It was enjoyable.

## **ROCK AND ROLL GROUP**

*Coral Bradley*



Tony Whitely gave us a great programme of rock music, pointing out that many of the artists were dead now. It was all great fun, thank you Tony.

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

Suzy Genge for *Mike Genge*

This month, our new organiser, Mike Genge, gave us a talk about the previously secret network of oil pipelines laid across the UK. As he had worked with these for several years, I should have known more about them, but I was interested to hear many facts for the first time.

Next month, on Friday March 9th, we shall be having a talk from The Mole Man ( about moles!). Remember to book for the guided walk through the Spring woodlands on May 2nd.

## SCRAPBOOK GROUP

Wendy Crawford & Ruth Bartlett



Our meeting in February is after the deadline for the Newsletter as we meet on Tuesday 20th February. The next meeting will be Tuesday 20th March 2018 in the Welcome Area, 2.00 to 4.00pm.

## SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Brian Bradley



The next Sunday lunch is on the 4th. March 2017 at the King's Court Hotel, Nr. Alcester. Names please to Brian Bradley Tel: 01789 488551. The following month we will be at the Stratford Golf Club. This will be on the second Sunday, the 8th. April 2018, due to the first Sunday being Easter.

## SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Marjory Fraser



Feb 15th concert began with an overture to a picturesque comedy by bax. Short but great fun. , The highlight of the concert for me was the Greig piano concerto played by Freddie Kempf. A heartrending performance which took my breath away and brought a tear to my eye. Almost impossible to follow this but, after the interval, we were given Elgars first symphony, written quite late, at the height of his fame, but one that I didn't know. I think that everyone enjoyed the day. Thank you for coming and sharing such a wonderful experience.

The next concert is on May 2nd and features Strauss, Prokofiev and Sibelius piano concerto. There are 8 tickets remaining. Payment required March 1st please.

## THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



Our next theatre visit will be on 14 April 2018 to see 'A Streetcar Named Desire'. There is an age recommendation of 14 for this play so we may need to be broad minded. The times are as usual - 12.00 from Henley and 12.30 from the leisure centre. The cost is £27.00. A reminder to say that on 26 May 2018 we go again to Malvern to see Robert Powell and Liza Goddard in 'Sherlock: The Final Curtain'. I have a ticket left to see 'Matilda' at the Hippodrome in Birmingham on Wednesday 29 August 2018. Cost is £62.00.

## PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks

As this goes to press on the 18th February Piano Group do not meet until Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to playing then.

We meet in March on Wednesday the 28th. At 10.00am.

## WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018, starting at 10.00am We meet in Shipston-on-Stour at the public car park by the River Stour bridge. It has usually been a free car park. We return to the same place at the end of the walk and there are plenty of places in Shipston for a coffee or lunch afterwards. This is a mostly level walk along hard surfaces (good at this time of year with the weather conditions) with little traffic except where we cross the A3400 road.

I recommend good walking shoes or boots, waterproofs and that you bring a drink (hot or cold) with you.

## HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

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