



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

November 2018 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our Speaker for November will be Christine Cluley; her talk will be:- Compton Verney - The history, gallery and park today, and exhibitions and events.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for December will be Martin Lloyd and his subject is "Passports, Assassins, Traitors, Spies", which is a historical narrative which keeps the audience spellbound.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

I do hope you are enjoying the Autumnal weather, the trees are quite spectacular at the moment. Many thanks to everyone who came to our AGM. I do hope you enjoyed the Groups Gala. We are so lucky to have so many dedicated group leaders. If you wish to start a new group, have a chat with Sylvia Crooks or Ruth Grahame and they will help you.

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

Stratford	- 28 th November	– “Dickens’s Christmas Stories”	- Keith Hooper.
Shottery	- 6 th November	– “I was a Forger in my younger life”	- Graham Short.
Dene Valley	- 13 th November	– “The History of Kay’s Catalogue”	- Bernard Mills.
Alcester	- 6 th November	– “Coughton Court and the Gunpowder Plot”	- Philip Bowen.

NEW YEAR LUNCH

We will again be holding our lunch to celebrate New Year at The Sports Club, Swans Nest Lane, SOA, CV37 7LS on Saturday 19th January 2019 at 12 noon. There is parking available in the Sports Club car park; the payment of £1 can be made at the parking meter inside the club house. The price this year is £19 per person which includes your choice from 3 starters, 3 main courses and 3 desserts and which takes vegetarian and other dietary needs into account if notified with your order. Drinks do have to be paid for separately at the bar. There will be a short fun quiz, with a prize for the winner. The menu and booking form is available at the next meeting or can be downloaded from our website. Please return your menu selection, preferably with a cheque made out to HOE U3A, to the Treasurer’s table at the next meeting or send it to Athena Roderick, 17 Gifford Walk, S O A ,CV37 9LN. Tel : 01789 551416. Looking forward to seeing you there. It is a really good way to start our year off.

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

A reminder about the forthcoming "Welcome to New Members" meeting in the reception area at 2.30pm on Wednesday, November 14th. Any new members who have not been to such an event are welcome. Committee members and Group Leaders are also asked to come and welcome the new members.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION 2018 (GDPR)

Please make sure you read and take home the single page notice. Please look out for further announcements.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll



The National Office no longer have links to web sites offering courses but there is a vast list of free courses available via the internet. Eg Open Learn from the Open University.

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: u3aonline.org.au/content/our-courses

All the courses downloaded so far are **free** to our U3A members.

The original courses offered by National Office were downloaded and saved and are available to individual members or to small groups. A list of these courses may be found on the notice board.

For more details about these courses, please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk)

CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

The group were entertained at the October get-together by members who had visited the exhibition of Chinese paintings from the 20th Century held at the Ashmolean Museum. We heard about the artists, most still at work in China and other parts of the world. We saw some examples of their art via the monitor and discussed the techniques and products used. Most works were done using ink and colour on paper; also Figure Painting using colour washes, Paper Cutting and Embroideries on Silk.

The topic for our next together is "Taoism" and will be on **Friday afternoon, 16th November, 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 September 2018 meeting.



The programme this month was a rerun of one Geoff presented in June of 2017. It was entitled 'The Blues'. Suffice to say it comprehensively covered a wide range of both tracks and Artists. These ranged from Bechet/Beiderbecke through to Marsalis/Clapton and Miles Davis taking in vocals from Armstrong, Washington and Fitzgerald. If you are a lover of 'The Blues' look this programme up, it's worth it.

Don't forget we meet the **4th Thursday** of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall in Old Town, we begin at 2pm and you even get coffee and biscuits. Come and join us and bring your kind of jazz for us to enjoy.

ART APPRECIATION

Marian Heads/Jean Hicks



Our October meeting was kindly hosted by Jackie Daniels. We had a light hearted art related quiz which generated much head scratching for answers and plenty of laughter.

Our next meeting is on 16th November.....a DVD continuing with The World's Greatest Painting series.

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

Robyn Nicoll for Carolyn Leach



Recycling has been our focus during this year and this continued at our October workshop when we used old Christmas cards to create new ones to stock Carolyn's table. These bargain cards were very popular at the last monthly meeting.

The November workshop will be held on Friday 30th at 12.30 to 4.30 in the new room.

All proceeds from the sale of cards at monthly meetings are given to local charities.

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We are now selling tickets for our Christmas Concert. Friday 21st December 2pm-3-30pm . Methodist Church Hall, Tickets £5, inc Light refreshments. Come along and listen to the choir and join in singing Carols.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



At the October meeting we watched and listened to the first part of Disney's Fantasia. It was illustrated by cartoons, though not ones which a conventional musician would perhaps choose. It began with the Toccata and Fugue by J S Bach, with frost fairies and blossoms. Then we had Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, based on the scene at the Christmas Party but with mushrooms rather than people for the Turkish dance. This was followed by the Rite of Spring by Stravinsky, illustrating the history of the Earth. After tea we heard three movements from Beethoven's sixth symphony, the Pastoral. The cartoons were based on classical Greek scenes with winged horses, centaurs and Dionysius imbibing.

We meet again at Bridge Cottage on Monday 20 November for more fun with Fantasia.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



The Autumn Computer Course is underway at the Parish Centre.

Remaining dates: Nov 7th and 28th. (Wednesday afternoons) 2.30 to 4.00.

Members have brought laptops, tablets, phones and a list of topics needing help and advice.

Students from the Computer Group at KES have come along to help us, and their input has been invaluable helping members to solve specific problems. We hope to arrange another course in the New Year.

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

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Robyn Nicoll for Tricia Callaghan



The Christmas theme continued at our October meeting when we converted CDs into attractive decorations using paint, peel offs and glitter. We will be concentrating again on Christmas gifts at the November meeting, preparing our stall for the Methodist Church Bazaar on Saturday 24th November.

Date of next meeting: Thursday afternoon, 15th November, 2.00 to 4.00 in side room 1.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater



The next meeting will be on Monday 10th December at 10.00am at 18 West Street. Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick, iPhone, iPad, tablet, etc.. The current subject is "Close-ups" - whatever takes your fancy—portraits, still life, flowers, animals and birds. You can always bring an Xmas treat along with your memory stick, iPhone, iPad, tablet, etc, if you wish.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



Here we are, 2nd October Dinahs meeting for lunch, Christmas is just around the corner, where has this year gone? Lots of chat as usual before and during an enjoyable meal. Lots of opinions about programmes watched on television, Bodyguard, Killing Eve, and Strangers. Well you do get sick of Brexit!!!

A visit to Cheltenham amazed one of us because of the many choices of shops, and the lovely architecture. We are going to have to do our Christmas shopping out of Stratford because of the lack of shops; or on line as lots of people are choosing to do. Health care of course was on the menu, it seems to be a post code lottery when it comes to health care: we are lucky to be living in Warwickshire.

We next meet for lunch on Tuesday 6th November 12.15pm at the Red Lion.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



We talked about Life After Brexit next March and will the younger generations be able to deal with the problems that will probably come, whatever the decision. We know that we are a resourceful people and great survivors, life will go on. We are..... mostly, 'hopefully optimistic'. But we feel pretty angry with most of our politicians for putting party/self first, while they didn't know or apparently care, what an upheaval the Referendum would cause and so, were not able/willing to inform the UK of the consequences. As a result, the next generations will have to clear up the mess left by the politicians, who like David Cameron and George Osborne will be settled in a comfortable retirement. We think that the next generations are a bright lot and pretty responsible, as it is not the majority who cause problems, but unfortunate youngsters from sink estates, who spend time in prison, with little backup, or who suffer from mental health problems, again because there is insufficient back up. Governments have been inclined to put 'sticking plasters' over these problems and we hope that a new set of politicians will think differently and will set about making a more equal society.

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. Our next meeting is Tuesday 27th November, 2.00—3.30pm in The Lounge.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



In October we watched the film Yentl. This was a musical drama starring, directed, co-written and produced by Barbra Streisand. Set in 1904, the young girl, Yentl, is being brought up in an oppressive community that did not allow her to pursue her religious education – picture books are for girls and religious books are for boys!! She rejects this gender role by dressing up as a boy in order to continue her studies.

During the last 12 months we have shown a wide variety of films including a Japanese comedy, “Shall We Dance”, and “Miss Potter”, the biography of Beatrix Potter, plus some oldies, “Dark Victory” from 1939 and several Laurel and Hardy black and white short films from their early career. Other films were, “The Pianist”, “Death Becomes Her”, “The Chorus”, “The Hundred Foot Journey” and “Sleepy Hollows”.

The coming year will have an equally eclectic set of films in order to meet our aim for the group 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 more members, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis. Our next meeting will be on November 13th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



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. 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



We were lucky to have a lovely sunny morning at Baddesley Clinton this month. The group went to see the Dahlias, a fabulous border full of these, with different flower shapes and a rainbow of colours.

Thank you to Heather for finding a 'pop up' gardener who gave us a great talk about the vegetable plot and the story of the Dahlias.

The next meeting is Tuesday November 13th at Batsford Arboretum. Look out for my email to the group for arrangements.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



There was no meeting of the Grumps in October as their usual venue, Le Bistrot Pierre, was declared out of bounds due to major refurbishment work. Perhaps this enforced, temporary, pause in proceedings is a blessing in disguise as it will enable the members to recharge their batteries (literally so for those with Pacemakers) in preparation for their high octane contributions at the November gathering. Gentlemen gird your loins and prepare yourselves for the next instalment of the saga that is the Grumpy Old Men Group!!

Next meeting - **Wed. Nov. 21st.** - **Venue** **Le Bistrot Pierre**

Subject - **To Be Advised (or more probably, as is customary, "Whatever takes your fancy").**

HISTORY GROUP

David Dumper



Our speaker in October was Mark Boulton regarding the Elsamere Trust in Kenya of which he is a trustee. The trust operates from the site previously the home of Joy & George Adamson whose story was portrayed in the film 'Born Free'. Mark's illustrated his talk with photos from the Adamson photographic archive which he has possession of but then expanded this with his own colour photography of Kenyan wildlife and the work of the Elsamere Trust which is one of conservation of habitat and wildlife and future sustainability of what is now a fragile environment.

Our speaker is November in David Eastwood. You will recall last year David gave us a wonderful photographic journey of the antiquities of Syria pre-civil war. This time his photography will depict said antiquities of Iran (Persia) with a background to that ancient nations past.

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 meet fortnightly and are a self- help group. We hope you enjoyed looking at our Art work at the AGM.

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 on the 18th October at 2.00pm. We finished reading "Fresh Fields" a comedy by Ivor Novello, first produced on 5th January 1933. Enjoyed getting into the character of the period, well we tried our best. Very good.

The next get together will be 15th November 10.30 for coffee at Sylvia's.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



October's poems proved as varied and entertaining as usual. Now, leaving that theme of 'farewells and endings' we are travelling onwards to 'music, colours and singing.'

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Jackie Biggs



We read Alexander McCall Smith's book 'Chance developments, five unexpected love stories created around old black and white photographs of unknown people in unusual situations'. The stories describe the transformative power of love in different forms, not all reciprocated, inspired by W. H. Auden's lines "If equal affection cannot be, then let the more loving one be me." An ex-nun suddenly inheriting lots of money, an old lady in Tuscany recalling her youth, a ventriloquist with a live dummy, an Edwardian lady with a beautiful car with an admirer and a soldier about to go to war are the subjects of the separate tales. We all enjoyed the book finding it rather charming and very readable. The ventriloquist reminded us of Peter Brough in Educating Archie on the radio in our youth. We would definitely recommend the book as an undemanding pleasant read.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Judy Jones



Last month we decided to each choose a favourite poem to read during our October meeting. Janet delighted us with her poem by Sir John Harrington, an Elizabethan Courtier (He also invented the Water Closet – perhaps while waiting for inspiration?) We also enjoyed Sir John Betjeman's poem, Joan Hunter Dunn - reminding some of us perhaps of misspent youth at the Tennis Club.

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



No report.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



No report

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Mike Genge



For October we had a fascinating and informative talk from Sandy's husband, Colin Stewart about his, and others', vision of the future of transport. Looking to establish what would be possible versus what people wanted by 2050, Colin's talk ranged from flying taxicabs to moving railway platforms (so that trains didn't have to stop!). His audience was fully engaged as evidenced by the number of questions Colin had to answer at the end of his talk and over tea afterwards.

Next month, November 9th, we are looking forward to learning about bird photography from a professional photographer and speaker; Mike Wilkes.

SCRAPBOOK AND PHOTO ALBUM GROUP

Ruth Bartlett & Wendy Crawford



Come and create an innovative collection of whatever you want to display. The next meeting will be: Tuesday 20th November 2.00pm in the Welcome area at Methodist Church Centre.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Marjory Fraser



TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

Concert is fully booked. I do have reserve names if there are any cancellations.

SUNDAY JANUARY 6th - VIENNESE NEW YEAR

I still have 14 tickets left to sell so I need names and cheques straight away please if interested. The bill is due on 11th November so please pay by then.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



No report or notice.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



Our recital this month was on Wednesday 17th October 10.00am in the Side Room 1 Methodist Church Hall. Meeting once a month is very encouraging to keep playing the piano. It is so easy to let other things come first: being retired of course we get involved with so many things.!!!

Coffee and a chat afterwards.

If you would like to join us give Margaret Dews a call on 01789 209900.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



We had a beautiful walk from Snowhill on October 10th 2018; glorious sunshine, plenty of hills giving us amazing views across the Cotswolds, perfect day for walking with very good company.

The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14TH November 2018 at 10.00 am and start from Alcester, we can park on the roadside near Alcester Football Ground in Oversley Lane, Oversley Green (GR 093 571)

This is a five mile easy walk around Alcester and Oversley Green and we will stroll past attractive thatched cottages.

I recommend good walking shoes and bring a drink with you. There are plenty of places to drink and eat after the walk. Look forward to seeing you.

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>
November 2018	Creative Crafts	December 2018	The Choir	January 2019	Garden Appreciation

<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