



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

October 2018 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

No speaker for October. After the Annual General Meeting proceedings, the rest of the meeting will be a Groups' Gala. Many of the groups will be showcasing what they do and what members who join that group can expect. It may be advertising what they do with a pamphlet or 2 but it might be something a bit more active!. It was a lot of fun when we did it some years ago, so we are hoping that it will be fun again.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

Hello Everyone and a very warm welcome to our AGM. We do hope you will enjoy our Groups Gala. We have 37 interest groups and Sylvia and I have planned a programme which represents many of these groups. We also have some amazing displays of cards, crafts, paintings and digital photography. A special thank you to all our group leaders for their enthusiasm and hard work. If anyone would like to start a new group, Sylvia and Ruth are here to help you.

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

Stratford	- 31 st October	– “Songs of the people”	- Richard Churchley.
Shottery	- 6 th November	– “I was a Forger in my younger life”	- Graham Short.
Dene Valley	- 9 th October	– “A Tale of Two Castles – Kenilworth and Warwick”	- Sylvia Pinches.
Alcester	- 6 th November	– “Coughton Court and the Gunpowder Plot”	- Philip Bowen.

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A - THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE

The annual subscription is due on 1st September 2018 at the discounted rate of **£14** for **existing** members if paid by or before 4th October 2018. Subscriptions paid after 4th October must be at the rate of **£16** per member. **New** members joining on 1 September 2018 need to pay **£16**.

If you wish to continue having the Monthly Newsletter sent by post please add £6 to your subscription.

1. Subscriptions can continue to be paid by cash or cheque in the normal way at the meetings or by post to the new Membership Secretary, Mrs Sandy Stewart, 181 Banbury Road, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 7HT. **Cheques payable to Heart of England U3A.**
2. **Online banking.** Bank details are Lloyds Bank, Stratford upon Avon. Sort Code 30 98 26 Account No. 00617394 but **please remember to include your name as reference.**
3. Subscriptions can also be paid over the counter in person at any Lloyds Bank quoting the Sort Code 30 98 26 Account No.00617394 and **your name as reference.**

If you have any concerns please contact a Committee Member.

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

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

A few of us visited Oxford's Ashmolean Museum on 12th September to view the exhibition : "Chinese Women Artists from the 20th Century." There was a variety of art work- Ink and Colour on paper, Figure Painting using colour washes, Paper Cutting and Embroideries on Silk.

This visit will provide the topic for our next get-together on **Friday afternoon, 12th October, 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 August Meeting

The August programme was a John Cooper production he took the 'hook' of Swing giving us a potted history of the Swing Era which stretched (approximately) over ten years 1935—1945.

The development of Swing coincided with the emergence of the 13 piece dance bands which led to the bands of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Jimmy Lunceford et al. To illustrate John played a variety of tracks, "Goody Goody" from Benny Goodman, "Rhythm is our business" Jimmy Lunceford and finished the first half with "Fools Rush in" played by Tommy Dorsey, featuring a very young Frank Sinatra. After the interval Basie led us into the second half with "Basie Boogie", in this half John showed the variety of band leaders that embraced the style, after Basie we heard Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Gene Krupa, Woody Herman, Les Brown and Stan Kenton, as you can see a completely diverse group of leaders all playing Swing but all in their own way. And the way was extended by the small groups that were within the large bands such as Artie Shaws Gramercy Five, Woody Herman and the Herd and Tommy Dorsey and the Clambake Seven. Thank you John for a very informative afternoon, it sent me to my copy of the New Grove Dictionary of Jazz to get even more information.

A reminder to you all, we meet the 4th Thursday of each month in the Lounge of the Methodist Church Hall, starting at 2p.m.

ART APPRECIATION

Marian Heads/Jean Hicks



The September meeting of the Art Appreciation group was held at "Nature in Art" (Twigworth) where we enjoyed a fascinating demonstration and explanation of the art of lace making. On display were some superb examples of lace from several countries and styles, ancient and modern.

We also viewed the exhibition by the Fosseyway Artists which included oil paintings, watercolours, sculptures and textile and mixed media pictures. In another gallery we saw a woodcarver at work creating contemporary wood sculpture inspired by nature. Finally, there was the sculpture garden with its array of weird and wonderful animals, some easily recognisable, others assembled from such items as motorcycle parts and garden tools. Altogether a varied and interesting day.

Next month we have our annual quiz so please, members, start thinking about your three art-related questions.

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



Christmas is coming so the group were busy making cards at the Septemer workshop to stock Carolyn's table. The October workshop will be held on Friday 26th 12.30 to 4.30 in the new room, when the Christmas theme will continue.

All proceeds from the sale of cards at montly 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 rehearsing for our Christmas Concert, Friday 21st December, 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Tickets, £5, will be on sale at our main meetings in November and December. Come and join us, enjoy singing some carols and a mince pie.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



The theme for our September meeting was the Seasons. We began with Vivaldi's 'Spring (all movements)' then 'Rite of Spring' by Stravinsky, Eric Coates' 'Fresh Morning from his Springtime Suite' and 'May Song' by Granados arranged for and played on the harp. We moved to 'Summer' by Vivaldi then Delius, 'Summer Evening'. After tea Vivaldi brought us into 'Autumn', followed by the 'Autumn Adagio' by Glazunov, and 'Concert Study – Autumn' by Cecile Chaminade, a rare lady composer and pianist of the Victorian era. Finally, Vivaldi took us into 'Winter'.

We meet again at Bridge Cottage on Monday 15 October.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



The Autumn Computer Course is underway at the Parish Centre, 2.30 to 4.00.

Remaining dates: Oct 10th and 24th ; Nov 7th and 28th. (Wednesday afternoons)

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 so we are able to offer one-to-one assistance.

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

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Tricia Callaghan



Christmas is coming and the craft group are thinking of what we can make for sale at the bazaar this year. With that in mind we spent our latest meeting making icicles using kitchen foil and glitter. These proved very successful though somewhat messy with glitter and look quite realistic when hanging and viewed in the light. Our Christmas theme will continue next month when we will be decorating CDs for more hanging decorations.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater



The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 15th at 10.00am, at Geoff & Heather's home. The current subject is "Close ups" - whatever takes your fancy—people, pets, animals, bits of building, still life, what ever. The rolling presentation is finished and can be seen at the AGM and, probably, at the next

meeting.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



September 4th was our 10th anniversary celebration Lunch. After an enjoyable lunch we chatted about lunches and venues past. Also fashions we have worn in the past. Grandchildren worry a few of us, when to stop giving money to Grandchildren? The trouble is, we feel; "thank you's" have gone out the window. Blown away in the wind of time.

We did feel sorry for Ant and Dec. Because of Dec's problems they are not working together, losing two and a half million each.!! We next meet for lunch on Tuesday 2nd October, 12.15 pm at the Red Lion.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Our topic was :- holidays we have enjoyed and places we would like to visit in future. We are a well travelled group and the stories were all very interesting. A family visit to Cuba, so much enjoyed, that it was repeated and then other SAGA trips followed. A little boy, covered in oil and tar on the Weymouth beach, resulting in sunburn. He was taken again to the seaside and was car sick. A wonderful cruise on the Nile. The boat was comfortable, with terrific food and service. Recently, a trip to USA on QM2, to be treated like royalty. Then a 13 hour rail trip to Toronto, rather tiring. Then staying with the family in Qwelph. She would like to take the Rocky Mountaineer Train. Who wouldn't? Our next holiday was around the Holy Land Area including Sea Of Galilee, Garden of Gethsemane, etc. This fulfilled a childhood wish. Next, we were told of a visit to China, interesting and exciting 25 years ago. And a visit to Russia 3 years ago. Much to see and the people were welcoming. We heard about a visit to Berlin when the wall was going up. Followed by a trip to Vienna, which, of course was marvellous. We heard about a trip to Cairo, which included a visit to Aswan Dam and a bomb going off in the hotel. Then a trip to China, just before Tiananmen Square, with a visit to The Great Wall and The Terracotta Army. Also, visits to Italy, Lake Garda, Rome, Venice. Another remembered her first exciting trip to USA, to Phoenix, The Grand Canyon, Tombstone, Hoover Dam. She is looking forward to visiting Croatia. There was then the tale of a trip in 1959, by a newly qualified driver, through Paris, Nice, Cannes to Alesia. The good looking French women left quite an impression on the young lad. Our last traveller told of back packing to India, to Mumbai, Calcutta, Varonnesi. 1st Class travel on the trains was marvellous & the delicious food gave no tummy problems. There was a visit to Mother Teresa's Orphanage. Another of her trips was to the Amalfi Coast and visits to The Riviera and Pompeii & Herculaneum. But there was a general consensus that travel has become really hard work. But we all have wonderful memories.

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 23rd October, 2.30—4.00pm in The Lounge. Please bring along any family history problems and we may be able to help you find a way through.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



At our September meeting we watched Sleepy Hollow. This film was released in 1999. It was directed by Tim Burton and starred Johnny Depp, Michael Gambon, Christina Ricci and Miranda Richardson. There were many other faces that we recognised in supporting roles. The film is described as a gothic supernatural horror film or a fantasy adventure film. It turned out to be a mixture of both descriptions and was very fast moving with lots of horse chases and ghosts. A very typical Tim Burton film.

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 more members, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday October 9th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



In October there is a change in the weeks we will meet. For October only we will meet on the second and fourth Monday, i.e. 8th and 22nd. Games will be in the usual venue 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 had a visit to Mill gardens in Warwick this month, with a coffee in St Nicholas Park first. The garden is at the bottom of Warwick castle walls, near the river and is small but beautiful. Next month we shall be visiting Baddesley Clinton gardens on Tuesday 9th October to see the dahlias display.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



The discussion topic for the September meeting was "The State of the Nation – now, 5 years time, and further in the future". In his opening remarks the Chairman challenged the members to adopt a positive approach despite the dominant negativity in their genes and an ability to find fault with everything being part of their DNA. Out of their normal comfort zone this confounded and confused those present and rendered them almost speechless. However, this condition was short lived and the gathering was very soon in full voice giving their views and opinions on a variety of subjects and successfully managing to avoid anything to do with the actual discussion topic. Thus, the usual conviviality was achieved and the Grumps went home from their monthly outing in a reasonably contented frame of mind.

TO ALL GRUMPS – PLEASE NOTE **THE OCTOBER MEETING IS CANCELLED** DUE TO MAJOR REFURBISHMENT AT BISTROT PIERRE.

NEXT MEETING - WED. NOVEMBER 21st - VENUE - LE BISTROT PIERRE

Discussion Topic - To be advised.

HISTORY GROUP

David Dumper



At our meeting in Sept the final part of a documentary on the history of Bletchley Park was shown as a follow up to the visit and talk in May by Betty Webb.

Our speaker in October will be 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 talk includes some history of the Adamson tenure but is mainly a panorama of his stunning wild-life photography linked to the work of the trust.

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 were all happy to meet up again after our Summer break and have welcomed two new members. We hope you will enjoy looking at our drawings & paintings.

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 20th September in the afternoon because of a committee meeting in the morning. This happens often so we have decided to change our meeting time to afternoons' at 2.00 pm. We did read more of "Fresh Fields" a comedy by Ivor Novello. Next get together will be Thursday 18th October 2.00pm at Sylvia's for tea.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



The POETRY READING group meets each month on the 2nd Wednesday at 10.00 am for two hours. We read published poetry (NOT our own) on a theme agreed the previous month. The interpretations of the themes are wide!

Last month we were discussing the subjects and ways-of-portrayal in women's poetry. As you can imagine, dates of publication played a big difference, particularly in male edited anthologies! An interesting and laughter-filled session.

This month's theme is 'leave taking, divorce, endings, farewell', it might sound sad but I expect more laughter than tears. The venue is The Windmill, 22 Church Street. We have the room to ourselves, and the only expectation (cost) is that we purchase a cup of tea, coffee, cold drink, etc. It is a relaxed, friendly occasion - a gathering of 6/7 friends for chat about the world as represented by poetry - at least that is what we tell ourselves. New members are always welcome."

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Sylvia Crooks for Jackie Biggs



We read this month, "The Watchmaker of Filigree Street" by Natasha Pulley, it is her debut novel. It takes place in London in 1883. The lives of three characters become entwined. Nathaniel, who works in the Foreign Office, a Japanese watchmaker, and Grace Carrow, a young girl who is studying at Oxford University. The story tells about the early Irish Independence, Japanese history and culture. Also lots of predictions from the watchmaker make this a complex read about fantasy and clairvoyance. Do not think we could recommend this book, however the consensus was it was a good but complex read.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Judy Jones



No Report this month

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Brian Bradley



We read 'The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy' by Rachel Joyce. This is a book that the author says is a companion book to her other book 'The Incredible Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. It is better to read that book first. Both books are very enjoyable and we would recommend them.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



We did not meet in September but look forward to October when things return to normal.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Mike Genge



For our September meeting Geoff (Bridgewater) returned for an all-encompassing talk on 'The State of Our World'. He covered cosmology, geology, palaeontology, meteorology, and anthropology, and all 'stations' in between. It covered the lifespan of the planet for the past 13.8 billion years and also looked into our future.

Geoff always gives very good value with his well informed talks and this was no exception; he spoke for over an hour to an enraptured audience.

In October 12th we have the return of Colin Stewart who will discuss the Future of Transport. As a former Director of Arup, the company who designed much of our and other countries transport infrastructure, his suppositions and forecasts will be better informed than most.

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 16th October and Tuesday 20th November 2.00pm in the Welcome area at Methodist Church Centre.



SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Brian

Bradley

The next lunch will be on Sunday the 7th. October 2018 at the King's Court Hotel. Names please to Brian Bradley
Tel: 01789 488551

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Marjory Fraser



Our first concert of the season on September 13th was wonderful as usual. A sublime performance of 'Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Symphony' by a young 21 yr old pianist called Jan Lisieci. we won't forget him.

The second half was the serenely beautiful 'New World Symphony' by Dvorak..So lovely.

Do you, like me, always watch the new year concert from VIENNA? Would you like to do the one from our very own CBSO? A CONCERT OF STRAUSS AND HIS FRIENDS ON A SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY AT 3PM...The coach would leave the Leisure Centre at 1 pm and Henley at 1.30.

If you would, please let me know as usual.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



No report or notice for October.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



The Piano Group met on Wednesday 19th September at 10.00am in Side Room 1 in the Methodist Church Hall. Once again, we each in turn played a piece of music. This time we had a duet played which was 'fantastico'! It is such a good thing to do, it encourages you to keep practicing.

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

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 10th October 2018 at 10.00 am and start from Snowhill public car park; it is just past the National Trust Car Park; Malcolm and Elaine Burden have very kindly agreed to lead this walk

This is approx. five mile walk with some stunning views and the occasional hill. Bring a drink with you and I recommend good walking shoes or boots.

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>
October 2018	History	November 2018	Creative Crafts	December 2018	The Choir

<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	3rd Thursday 2.00pm
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