



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-

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Heart of England

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September 2018 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

"Our speaker for September will be Ann Rattue, giving us some points of interest about the London Underground."

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

No speaker for September. The Annual General Meeting next month will take the form of a Groups' Gala. It will be lovely if we have quite a few groups, 'doing their thing', even if only advertising what they do with a pamphlet or 2. It was a lot of fun when we did it some years ago, so we are hoping that it will be fun again. If you would like any help, suggestions, advice, please contact Sylvia Crooks, Ruth Grahame or Athena Roderick, Dorothy Jones, Athena Roderick, Edwin Lilly, or any member of the committee.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dorothy Jones

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to our September meeting. We must make the most of this lovely weather before darker evenings and colder weather set in. Do hope everyone has had an enjoyable Summer. We are still looking for some-one to help with editing the newsletter. I'm sure we all enjoy reading it! Next month will be our AGM when our groups will entertain us.

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

Stratford	- 26th September	- "Amy Johnson"	- Roy Smart.
Shottery	- 2nd October	- "A recital: with or without students"	- Audrey Douglas.
Dene Valley	- 11th September	- "Mel Harvey – the acclaimed comedy magician and entertainer".	
Alcester	- 2nd October	- "Hide and Seek"	- Peter Preece.

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.

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.

OUTINGS GROUP TO ATTINGHAM PARK—SEE PAGE 5

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

At the August get-together, we were entertained by David R's presentation of the Terracotta Warriors following his recent visit to the exhibition at Liverpool Museum. In 1974, farmers digging to find water found pieces of pottery and within a few years the full extent of the tomb of the First Emperor was exposed. This included 8,000 warriors, 40,000 bronze weapons, horses, chariots and many more life-sized figures. It is thought that much more will be discovered in the years to come.

A group of us will be going to the Ashmolean Museum on 12th September to view the art works of Chinese women artists from the past 100 years. 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



There is no report for this month. Look for future reports in the next issue.

We welcome new members to our meetings which are held on the **4th Thursday** of the month in the Lounge of the Methodist Church Hall. Starting at 2p.m.

ART APPRECIATION

Marian Heads/Jean Hicks



After the August break the Art Appreciation group will meet again on Friday 21st September at the 'Nature in Art' venue at Twigworth. Timings and lifts to be arranged nearer the date.

BRIDGE GROUP

John Yeomans



We meet every Tuesday afternoon for a two and a half hour session, starting at 2.00 pm in the Methodist Hall, Side Room 1, next to the kitchen. The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed, without the strictures of a formal Bridge Club. We have room for a number of new players and if you would like to "try us out" you would be very welcome. If you wish, you can start as a guest while you decide if you would like to join the Group.

CARD MAKING

Carolyn Leach



There is no report for September. Please look in future issues of the Newsletter for future information. Every last Friday of the month the group meet and enjoy another new card making method.

CHINWAGS

Aline Cumming



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We have had several meetings during the Summer and have sung some jolly songs. When we return this month we will be looking at Christmas Music !!!.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



Classical Music did not meet in August. Next meeting Monday 17th September.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



Book now for the Autumn Computer Course, beginning at the end of September and concluding before Christmas. The dates booked at the Parish Centre from 2.30 to 4.00 are:

Sept 26th; Oct 10th and 24th ; Nov 7th and 28th. (Wednesday afternoons)

The Fee will be £8/£10 depending on numbers attending.

Members may bring laptops, tablets, phones and a list of topics needing help and advice.

We will be joined by some students from the Computer Group at KES who have offered to come along to help us so we will be able to offer one-to-one assistance if required.

Please add your name to the list on the notice board table if you would like to join us and state what equipment you will be bringing and what topic/s you would like to cover.

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

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Tricia Callaghan



No report for the August meeting. Next meeting in September.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Edwin Lilly for Geoff Bridgewater



The next meeting will be on Tuesday August 28th at 9.30am at the Townhouse again. Please bring your photographs on a USB memory stick or let me have them earlier if possible. The current subject is "Summer Holidays" - whatever takes your fancy—beach, countryside. picnics, garden parties. I have received several memory sticks with chosen images for the AGM presentation and I have put together a presentation to show at the meeting.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



Hope you are all coping with the heat. Not all of us managed to make our lunch on the 7th August. Some on holiday, and for some, too hot to venture out in the mid-day sun.

Lots of chat as usual about property abroad, lots of people selling before Brexit, sorry I mentioned the word!! The housing situation: the selling of council houses; what happened to the money?

Our next date at the Red Lion is 4th September 12.15pm.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Our topic for this month was:- Books, plays, films, radio, TV. What did we read and watch, what did we learn from them and have our tastes changed? Our reading was much the same for all of us, Rupert Bear, Famous Five, Biggles, Comics and the good always won. We used libraries, which were wonderful. Then there was Jane Austen,

Dickens, Shakespeare. Some of our tastes changed, but we still tend to like a 'good' hero. Scandi noir has changed things, but we still mostly don't like our mystery stories to be too gruesome. We listened to radio, Uncle Mac, then Dick Barton etc. Then there was TV. Again, in the early days, heroes were good and mostly kind. Most of us had been lucky enough to see grand theatre productions and still enjoy them. Oliver, Evita, musicals. We tended to think ourselves lucky to have such a wide range of both entertainment and education at our fingertips and are concerned that many of today's children haven't the inclination to widen their horizons as we were encouraged to do. We finished by swapping book titles, recommended by other members which was great. P.S I have started reading The Citadel again and it is still wonderful.

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 25th September, 2.30—4.00pm in The Lounge. We will be looking at current research of a Victorian family, where movement after jobs was required, there was some tragedy and yet the family prospered through hard work and perseverance.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



The next meeting of the Film Group will be on September 11th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church. 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.

New members are welcome, so if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis.

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. In September we will meet on Monday 3rd and Monday 17th September. 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 visited the National Herb Centre near Banbury this month. Fortunately, the weather was good so we could have a leisurely look around at all the plants, after some good coffees and teas outside the cafe. There were several plants that we liked the look of for our gardens and quite a few purchases were made. Some of our own herbs had died in the harsh winter, as well as shrubs that had not survived the hot summer!

We saw some plants that could be used for dyeing cloth eg. woad, that were of interest to our weaver and we were interested in the medicinal plant section.. Some of the group went for a short stroll around some demonstration gardens showing the herbs and other plants in situ.

Next month's visit is to Mill Garden, Warwick, on 11th September.

GRUMPY OLD MEN

Graham Mitchell



At their August meeting the Grumps again tackled a topical discussion subject – “The NHS at 70. Is it fit for purpose or have our demands and expectations now become unreasonable and unsustainable”.

It was agreed that, from its inception 70 years ago when the aim was to provide basic free health care for all, with the unimaginable advances in medicine, the NHS was now expected to treat and cure every medical condition no matter how complicated and provide care from the cradle to the grave. The Group felt that generally the NHS was doing a pretty good job with the available resources although most members had had poor experiences particularly with availability of GP appointments and hospital treatment lead times. The considerable increase in the population, an aging population, financial constraints, poor management and the numerous changes introduced by political parties has resulted in a shortage of medical staff in all areas and the Service is now close to breaking point. For the NHS to meet the ever increasing demands the Grumps were unanimous that the many short comings must be addressed with the utmost urgency and will only be sustainable in the future if people are prepared to pay more (preferably “ring fenced”) for the health care they expect and received. As patrons from its

beginnings and products of the good health care provided the Grumps expressed their heartfelt thanks to and for the National Health Service and long may it continue.

Next Meeting - **Wed. 19th September** **Venue** - **Le Bistrot Pierre**
Subject - **To Be Advised.**

HISTORY GROUP

David Dumper



At our meeting in July the first 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. There will be no meeting during August when we take our summer break. We will resume in September with the final part of the Bletchley Park documentary.

KEEP FIT GROUP

Mary Palmer



The Keep Fit Class is now full to capacity after a bit of a dip in numbers last year. We have a new instructor who keeps us active and we all think we feel much better for our efforts. A waiting list has now been started if anyone is interested. Please phone Mary Palmer on 204707.

OUTINGS GROUP

Coral Bradley



On 2 October there is an outing to Attingham Park. This is near Shrewsbury and is a National Trust property. It is an old house with attractive gardens. There is a place for eating and it possible to take a packed lunch.

We leave Henley (free parking) at 8.30 and the leisure centre at 9.00. When we arrive at Attingham we will have a short talk about the house. If you are a National Trust member the cost is £13.00 and if you are not a National Trust member it will be £24.50.

If you are interested please contact Coral Bradley on 01789 488551.

PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP

Dorothy Jones



We are looking forward to meeting up again after our Summer break and hopefully we will have some master-pieces to show 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 cancelled our play reading in August, not everyone could make it. We next meet Thursday 20th September at 2.30pm at Sylvia's for afternoon tea. Change of time because of Committee meeting in the morning.

POETRY READING GROUP

Jennifer Davey



Poetry in James VI Bible proved to be an extensive topic, not least because poetry, like beauty, is fascinatingly subjective! Prepared passages gave way to animated discussions and a good time was had by all. Next month's topic we return to female poets - an attempt to ignore the sprinkle of too-well-known

poems selected by male editors for anthologies. Is 'fe-male' poetry, 'wo-men's' thoughts merely extensions/ answers-to 'male' writings and 'men's' subjects or is it an exploration into new lands?

READING GROUP—MONDAY

Jackie Biggs



We opted to choose our own book to read this month instead of ordering one from the Library. This resulted in a wide range of subjects including fantasy, biography, historical fiction as well as novels set in Baltimore, Wales and Italy. Next month we revert to our normal practice and discuss Natasha Pulley's 'The Watch Maker of Filigree Street'.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Janet Anslow for Judy Jones



This month we were asked to choose a book or books, we could recommend and valued. The range was astonishingly diverse, and provoked an entertaining afternoon. They varied from two books cherished for fifty or more years, political memoirs, history books, two just published novels based on the "Book of Exodus" and books of reminiscences. We had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Next month we tackle "Noon in Paris, Eight in Chicago" by Douglas Cowie.

READING GROUP—FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read First Impressions by Charlie Lovell. This book was hardly credible. It told two stories one that Jane Austen did not write her novels and the other set in modern times as a girl set out to disprove the story about Jane Austen. Both stories were thin and rather silly.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



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

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Mike Genge



We all had to sit up straight for our August talk when a young physics teacher, Matt MacMorland, came to give us some real science about the giant at Hadron collider at CERN on the Franco/Suisse border near Geneva.

There was some lively discussion about the value of this pure research, although there are some very tangible developments which have come from there, including the popularisation of the world wide web.

Next month Geoff Bridgewater will be back to give us a talk on the state of everything in his talk entitled "Snapshot of our World". If anyone can condense this topic to about an hour, Geoff can. **Friday 14 September at 14.00**

SCRABOOK AND PHOTO ALBUM GROUP

Ruth Bartlett & Wendy Crawford



Come and create an innovative collection of whatever you want to display. Meetings will be:

Tuesday 18th September, Tuesday 16th October and Tuesday 20th November 2.00pm in the Welcome area at Methodist Church Centre.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Brian Bradley



Our next lunch is on Sunday the 2nd. September 2018 at the Stratford Golf Club. Our October meeting will be on Sunday the 7th. October 2018 at the Kings Court Hotel. Names please to Brian Bradley on 01789 488551.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Marjory Fraser



I am very much looking forward to the concert on THURSDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER. - RACHMANINOV and DVORAK'S 'NEW WORLD'. Just to remind you that we board the coach at the rear of the leisure centre at 12 midday and pick up from Henley Johnsons depot at 12.30pm.

I will be collecting cheques please at the next meeting for the following concert BRAHMS AND TCHAIKOVSKY. For this concert On TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER I have 6 tickets left at £42.00 each.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



Our next theatre outing will be on 22 September 2018 to Malvern to see 'Wipers Times'. There is one ticket left costing £30. Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the leisure centre at 12.30.

PIANO GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



Piano Group met Wednesday 15th August in Side Room 1 at the Methodist Church Hall. 10.00am.

In turn we played a piece of music, very enjoyable. Every time we meet we are learning from each other. We then enjoy a cup of coffee, biccies and chat.

Next recital is Wednesday 19th September 10.00am same place. 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 12TH September 2018 at 10.00 am and start from Clifford Chambers Church. You can park by the Church, Elspeth and Ainsley have very kindly agreed to lead this walk

This is an easy five mile walk into beautiful Warwickshire countryside passing through the picturesque village of Preston on Stour. 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>
September 2018	Pilates	October 2018	History	November 2018	Creative Crafts

<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