



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England

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

Newsletter Editor: Edwin Lilly, 9 Addison Drive, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7PL
Telephone: 01789 204 472. Email: Edwin_lilly@yahoo.co.uk
Membership Secretary: Sue Tringham, 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HD
Telephone: 01789 204 295. Email: suetring@tesco.net

August 2016 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker today is Graham Sutherland. His talk is entitled "More Tales of Extraordinary People".

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

We have a change to our programme for September. Our Speaker will be Mike Watkins and his subject "Titanic, Things You Didn't Know".

CHAIRMAN'S AUGUST JOTTINGS

Geoff Bridgewater

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to our August monthly meeting. I trust the warmer weather, sitting in the garden, enjoying the sunshine whilst sipping Pimms is suiting you. I wont remind you that the days are already getting shorter!

As my time as Chairman is drawing to a close, I have been reflecting on the past three years and, without any doubt, have really enjoyed everything that the role has 'thrown' at me. It has helped that I am a natural busybody, I suppose! Before I disappear into the shadows of obscurity, can I remind you that *today* is the last opportunity for any further nominations for election to the 2016/17 Committee.

Next month's monthly meeting, on September 1st, will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting and any issues you might have can be raised under Any Other Business.

NEW GROUP—DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Geoff Bridgewater

In addition to modern compact digital cameras, with the increasing popularity of using mobile phones and tablets (such as the Ipad) to take really good photographs, I am considering the formation of this new group to help stimulate your creative juices, and to view, edit and store your best results, in an friendly group environment. It will initially be limited to 12 people, so please let me know if you are interested.

SCAM ALERT

Warwickshire residents have reported receiving unexpected phone calls from someone falsely claiming to be calling from the Telephone Preference Service. The caller claims to be phoning to update credit/debit card details. **NEVER** give unexpected/cold callers your personal or financial information and **NEVER** reveal your card PIN number to anyone.

The Telephone Preference Service is a free to register service (the official central opt out register on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls). It does not require your card details and will never ask for them.

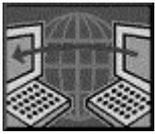
Information from Warwickshire Trading Standards

Make a scam complaint to Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

Warwickshire Trading Standards Website Facebook Twitter

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll



There is a vast list of courses available which may be found on the National U3A Web site. For a detailed list, you will need to access the Members' Area by creating a user name and password. **National Web site: www.u3a.org.uk**

The Australia U3A offer a large selection of topics which may be studied individually or in a small group as we have done previously but with an annual charge to sign up. (For an individual - \$25; For an Organisation - \$15.)

The topics include: World Affairs and History; Nature; Writing and Creativity; Lifestyle; Science. (See the notice board for a detailed list)

NB The original free Untutored Courses have been downloaded and saved so are available to members as before. A list of these courses may be found on the notice board. These courses may be forwarded to members via e-mail or transferred to a memory device. These courses are ideal for a small group to study together.

Courses studied so far: Garden History, Art History, and China History Ancient and Modern and Russian History. A second Garden History Course is being studied.

For more details about 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.]

THE CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

We look forward to meeting Hu again, a Chinese student studying at the Shakespeare Institute until September. He will be completing his previous talk by showing us photos and we will conclude with a Q&A session.

Next meeting: Friday afternoon, 5th August, 2.30 to 4.30 in Side Room 1.

Our get-togethers are informal and varied consisting of a short language/practical session led by Patricia Wy, followed by discussion of the chosen topic often accompanied by a photo presentation and concluding with "what the papers say".

If you would like to join us, please contact Robyn.

More information from Robyn Nicoll. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk or David Ralph. david@ralphhome.com

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett



Report of the June 2016 Meeting.

Firstly I would like to thank Derek Phillips for stepping in at short notice to put

Together this month's programme. He made sure we were all awake and alert with His first track of Stan Kenton with "Peanut Vendor" which one comment was 'wow A cacophony of sound.' We then had "Snag it" played by Humph and 'Marcheta'. Played on this occasion by both of the Dorsey Brothers. Derek then did his devious device of presenting us with a number of tracks but played not by the groups we would expect but by others, so we had Mood Indigo not by Ellington but by Woody Herman with a beautiful solo by Lionel Hampton...another example was "And the Angels Sing" played in this instance by Ziggy Elman and not Goodman.

Also in the first half was another Wootton Wawen recording by John Everett with Vocalist Roy Ingram.

After our half time break we were in for a tour de force with Artie Shaw and "Concerto La Clarinet, this was met with a stunned silence and then APPLAUSE so thank you Derek for introducing the whole group to that track.

After that there was "Muscrat Ramble," "Dardanella" played by George Huxley. Oscar Peterson with "My Heart Stood Still" after other tracks we were treated to Bix Beiderbecke and "At the Jazz Band Ball" The afternoon finished with our own 'home grown' Humphrey Littleton and "Treasure Island". Thank you yet again Derek and you got our vote >>get it?

If you are interested in joining us you would be most welcome, we meet on the **4th** Thursday of the month in the lounge of the Methodist Church Hall in Old Town starting 2p.m.

ART APPRECIATION

Sylvia Kentish / Pam Collins



In July we visited the Court Barn Museum in Chipping Campden. This small, but very interesting museum celebrates the arts and crafts movement and displays lovely items crafted by local designers. We saw displays on the work of nine key members of the Guild of Handicrafts, including silver work, etchings and illustrations, stained glass and pottery, as well as an exhibition of Frank Brangwyn's work *A Mission to*

Decorate Life, which explored the connection between this artist-craftsman and Chipping Campden. There will be no meeting in August.

BRIDGE GROUP

John Yoemans



We play in a relaxed atmosphere and are always keen to welcome new members with some experience of the game. If you would like to "try us out" please come as a guest so that you can decide if you would like to join the Group. 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.

CARD MAKING GROUP

Carolyn Leach



Our next work-shop will be on August 26th. card sales have enabled us to send £50 to "Echoes" at Shakespeare Hospice, supporting children and families. The next local charity will be "Sunny Side Up" a group providing activities and help for elderly people.

CHINWAGS

Belinda Sylvester



We are still at Le Bistro Pierre where good food, chat and laughter are on the menu.

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We have had a 3 week break but will be back in fine voice from 5th August.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



We met in June for another selection from Valma Rose's gift including Beethoven's Overture to Egmont, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 2, Dvorak's String Quartet in A, some tracks sung by Bryn Terfel including Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart, Racmaninov Rapsody on a Theme of Paganini and finally a duet from the Magic Flute by Mozart.

At the July meeting we started with Cesar Franck's Sonata in A, fourth movement, transposed for the cello played by Jacqueline du Pre and Barenboin, then the 6th (Organ) Symphony by Saint-Sens, with the organ of Westminster Cathedral. Dvorak's String Quartet in F was played by the Hagen Quartet, followed by an unseasonable Prepare thyself Zion from Bach's Christmas Oratorio with the alto sung richly by Janet Baker. A symphony by Vaughan Williams, Petrushka by Stravinsky and Sound the Trumpets by Purcell took us to tea. Then the Largo from Vivaldi's Concerto for Lute and Violins, the Moonlight Sonata by Beethoven and a Satie Gymnopedie.

We are not meeting in August and we want to decide whether we change the meeting day from September.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



A course of 5 sessions has been booked at the Parish Centre beginning on 14th September.

This course will again cover topics for **tablets and laptops.**

These are the dates booked: Sept 14th and 28th. Oct 12th and 26th. Nov 23rd.

If interested in joining for this short course, please sign the sheet on the notice board table.

The cost for the 5 sessions will be £7.00.

More experienced members give their time to help the "students" and this has been greatly appreciated. If you are able to offer some time and expertise for the next course *please let Robyn know. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk*

CREATIVE CRAFTS GROUP

Robyn Nicoll Tricia Callaghan



The July meeting was well attended and we enjoyed learning about needle lace making from Mary Fishleigh.

This is apparently a very old craft which uses only needle and thread and one simple stitch to create the most beautiful, delicate pieces of work. The efforts of the group did not exactly make it to that level but the examples provided by Mary were stunning.

The afternoon went very quickly and we all took home our sampler packs to continue trying to master this craft. Many thanks to Mary for sharing her knowledge with us and for the excellent kits she provided for us all.

No decision yet as to what we may do next month but our thoughts are starting towards Christmas and what we may be making for the annual bazaar.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We last met for Lunch on the 5th July at the Red Lion. After an enjoyable meal, we chatted about politics. What else is there at the moment, it is all very exciting. Each day there are more surprises; not only in Britain but across the pond! Advice when abroad do not wear expensive jewellery; it is enticing and encouraging thieves. One of us had a necklace grabbed from her as she walked. Double glazing, Pilkington glass, and Ilkley Moor Bar Tat Grammar school, were mentioned as Alan Titmarsh went to said school, also Grandchildren of one of us. It is amazing what crops up in conversation. We also talked about Tom Hiddleston. Next lunch will be on the 2nd of August at the Red Lion again, 12.15pm.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



We started off with what Gary Gibbon reported on Channel 4 News as the summing up of Chilcot :- Lessons should be learned which are "don't go to War without challenging the Intelligence and don't go unless it is clear what can be achieved." We had no problem with the 2nd, but some felt that Intelligence was so mixed, that it must have been hard to sort the veracity. We didn't all agree with that idea. The Referendum. Our overriding view was that all the loud mouths and clever clogs should shut up and let everybody get on with it, as we usually do as a resourceful nation. We hope that the fishing industry will benefit and that 'TM the PM' will be able to keep her word to look after the poor in society better, to bring us together as a much more equal society. Cameron's words on that subject were rather empty. We felt that it was our generation who betrayed The Commonwealth and we are heartened that many from there, have already said that they will do whatever they can. We are concerned for our youngsters, but hope that they will see this as an opportunity to 'go forth and do their best', as generations of Brits have done before them. I think that we mostly felt that Labour is in such a mess, best to leave it alone. The same applied to China and the American shootings. We all agreed that we are living through very interesting times.

The next meeting will be August 10th at The Windmill.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



In June the group had a second attempt to watch the French film Manon de Sources. This time the equipment did not let us down and we were able to watch the complete film. Although the ending is quite sad we all agreed that it is a good film and made a nice pairing with its sister film Jean de Florette which we had seen previously.

July saw us watching the 1997 version of Man with the Iron Mask starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Gerard Depardieu, John Malkovich and Jeremy Irons. This was a truly swash buckling film about the aging four Musketeers and their efforts to restore order to France.

Our August meeting will be as usual in the Lounge in the Methodist Hall at 2pm on Tuesday 9th August. New members are very welcome.

GAMES GROUP—SCRABBLE, DOMINOES AND CARDS

Sue Tringham



There will not be a meeting in August but we resume in September.

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Jayne Jones



July saw our group visit the Cotswold Lavender Farm, Broadway. The weather was not very kind to us so we took the opportunity to descend on the lovely tea rooms! We can thoroughly recommend the lavender cake - delicious!

We also called in at Snowhill Manor Gardens for a couple of hours. Home of the Charles Wade eclec-

tic collection of thousands of objects. With a break in the weather conditions we managed to look around the garden and the Priest's house where Wade lived. The garden was laid out by Wade working in close collaboration with the Arts & Crafts movement architect Baillie Scott.

For our August outing on Tuesday 9th August we are heading to Mill Dene Garden, Blockley Nr Moreton-in-Marsh. Please see the Chairman's notice board for details of our 2016 programme or email me - jaynejones303@gmail.com

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



At a hot July meeting an almost full house of 18 grumps gathered for lunch and to chew the fat over this month's discussion topic "Is pollution the inevitable outcome of a consumerist society and if so how can it be contained". The eagerly awaited and much postponed introduction by Stuart Andrews, our Grump of the Month, was thought provoking and highlighted the many forms of pollution all around us. He maintained that almost every human and animal activity produced some sort of pollution which was exacerbated by naturally occurring phenomena. Undoubtedly consumerism and the vast quantity of waste resulting from it were clearly visible evidence but insidious forms such as light pollution, radiation, chemical and noise are important contributors to the overall problems. In general discussion the Group supported Stuart's assessment and prediction that the situation would undoubtedly become worse in the future as less developed countries strove to achieve a higher standard of living and the world's population increased. The Group expressed dislike of one type of pollution in particular – noise – illustrated by Bill Jessup, with commendable grumpiness, by his condemnation and irritation caused by inappropriate and antisocial "belly laughter". The members concluded, sadly, that unless there was a radical change in the behaviour and aspirations of the population world wide effective containment would be impossible and the problem of pollution would only get worse. It is an indisputable fact, that with regard to us humans, we create pollution from the day we are born, right through life, until and including when we eventually "pass over to the other side".

Next meeting - Wed. August 17th - Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - What will the younger generation regard as the main legacy left to them by our generation.

Introduction by Stan Snook.

HISTORY GROUP

Jean Hicks



July's talk was given to us by Mike Ledgard where we learnt of his experiences as a National Trust Guide at Woolsthorpe Manor, Snowhill and Halls Croft. He gave us a short history of the three houses:- Woolsthorpe is the birthplace and family home of Sir Isaac Newton
Snowhill Manor was bought in 1919 by Charles Wade to house his wonderful eclectic collection .
Halls Croft was home to Susanna and John Hall and the oldest part of the house dates to the early part of the 16th century. He then went on to describe the role played by the guides in these houses which he was able to illustrate with some amusing anecdotes.

We do not meet in August

Next meeting is on 12th SeptemberRichard PearsonBoys of KES during the World Wars

KEEP FIT GROUP



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 have had a break during July & August but will be resuming our Monday morning 5th September.
If you wish to join us we meet in the Methodist Lounge alternate Mondays 10am-12noon.

PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



Weekly at St. Andrew's Parish Centre, Shotton, 12:15 to 1:15. For more information call Gill Ganner on 269657.

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 Thursday 21st July. After coffee we finished reading "Top Girls" by Caryl Churchill. It had been a 111 act play so we discussed how we felt about the first act, which was so different from the next 11 acts. We next meet on Thursday the 18th August at Sylvia's for coffee.

READING GROUP – MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We enjoyed a lively gathering despite the heat and all 7 members were present. Most of us had read 'A Song for Issy Bradley' by Carys Bray which provoked a noisy discussion with little approval of the story or its subject. We would not recommend it. We did learn about the inside experience of the Mormon faith and the lives of its adherents within a family context. Since the author claims to have been raised in a Mormon family there is no doubt her descriptions are authentic, but somehow it had little appeal with our group.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



We had free choice reading in July ,but after catching up with family and holiday news we had little time to discuss our books. However we would all recommend the novels we chose:

ELIZABETH'S WOMEN by Tracey Borman ONE GOOD TURN by Kate Atkinson THE GOLDEN EGG by Donna Leon and THE PIANO TEACHER by Janice Y K Lee. Our next meeting is 24th August .

READING GROUP - FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read "Beatrice & Benedick" by Marina Fiorato. It is set in the time of Queen Elizabeth and so brings in many things that happened at that time, like the Armada. The main characters live in Sicily and the things that happen to them are often from the plots of Shakespeare's plays. In fact we learn that Shakespeare didn't come from Warwickshire but from Sicily and requests were made to the present Queen and Tony Blair to recognise this. The book we well written and the group enjoyed it.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



We met as usual on the second Thursday of the month and enjoyed a selection of rock & roll music with a good discussion on the merits of various artists. New members always welcome, you only have to listen.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Aline Cumming



For July we watched a video called "The Gods Must Be Crazy". It was a comedy, but also tackled the effect of modern life on a primitive tribe of bushmen in the Kalahari Desert who have had no contact with outsiders and no concept of possession. It presented from the view of the bushman the activities of 'civilised man'. A coco cola bottle dropped from a plane was the gift of the gods and it was followed by a clown of a researcher whose Land Rover had no hand brakes, an American School Teacher, and the kidnapping of children by a terrorist (remember Boko Haram?) rescued by the clown with police assistance. There were beautiful scenery, birds, animals and villages contrasted with guns. The bushmen's language was interesting. We had no time to discuss the anthropology and the philosophical questions that it raised, but we enjoyed the

comedy.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next lunch will be on Sunday 7th August 2016 at the Stratford Golf Club. Names please to Brian Bradley Tel: 01789 488551.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



Our next visit will be Wednesday 30th November.

The programme— Dvorak Three Slavonic Dances
Brahms Piano Concerto No 1
Sibelius Symphony No 5

The cost of this visit is £36 . This includes the concert ticket and return coach to the Symphony Hall , Birmingham. Jayne Jones will have the list at the main meeting.

Please send your cheque made out to HEART OF ENGLAND U3A to Dorothy Jones.

We leave the Stratford Leisure Centre at 12-15 pm and pick up our Henley group en route to the Symphony Hall.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley

Our next theatre trip will be to Malvern Theatre on 20 August to see Sam West in "Present Laughter". We leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure centre at 12.30 the cost is £32.00.



In October we will go to Malvern again to see Robert Powell and Liza Goddard in Alan Ayckbourn's "Relatively Speaking" on 29 October, usual leaving times. Cost to be announced at the meeting.

WALKING GROUP

Valery Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 10th August 2016 at 10.00 a.m. and start from Bidford on Avon. We can park in the free car park in the centre of Bidford just off the main Stratford Road. This is a just under five mile easy walk most of it is on good surface.

I recommend good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you.

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

Stratford	- 31st August	- "Worcester Cathedral and its royal connections"	- Robinson Handel.
Shottery	- 6th September	- "The Life of an Author" (providing you are happy)	- Shirley Thompson.
Dene Valley	- 9th August	- "Gardening for Wildlife"	- Chris Edwards.
Alcester	- 6th September	- "To see the beginning of time"	- Andrew Lound.

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
August 2016	Reading Groups	November 2016	Card Making Group
September 2016	Rock & Roll Group	December 2016	Dinah's Luncheon Group
October 2016	Walking Group	January 2017	SNATTs 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	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	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	Belinda Sylvester	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	To be decided.
Dinahs Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	2nd Wednesday
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	2nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Games –Scrabble, Dominoes and Cards	Sue Tringham	1st & 3rd Monday 2.00—4.00pm
Garden Appreciation Group	Jayne Jones 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 Lynette Forsdyke-Crofts	As Announced
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	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	Phyllis Bailey	3rd Monday 2.30—4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy 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
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2nd Wednesday 10.00am