



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England

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February 2013 Newsletter

TODAY'S SPEAKER

This month Alan Winterburn will be talking to us about "Cotswold Curiosities". The stories will be about another, less well known side to some Cotswold villages and towns, opening our eyes to some hidden areas.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our Speaker for March is Anne Halsey. Her topic is The Baldwin Boat Trust, which is a Charity started by Anne's husband for the benefit of disabled and or elderly people.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Welcome to our February meeting.

Having missed the last meeting, I was unwell on Saturday 19th January and so missed the New Year Lunch as well.

Despite the snow I was delighted to hear 80 of you did make it and it was another great success. Thanks must go to Athena for all the work in arranging this annual event.

David Sladden

DENE VALLEY U3A

Geoff Bridgewater, our Vice-Chairman, has been asked to give his excellent talk again about his Austrian Jewish heritage – 'A VIENNESE TRAGEDY' – to the Dene Valley U3A general monthly meeting on Tuesday 12th February in St Peter's Church, Wellesbourne. It's a really interesting but poignant family story, including their involvement with the Holocaust and the Kindertransport Scheme. Heart of England U3A members and guests are very welcome to attend.

NEW YEAR LUNCH

Everybody had a great time and, despite rather poor weather, most people were able to get to it. I think that the only really unwell and those living in "outback" places were not able to attend. And what a shame, as they missed a treat. The food, the setting, the staff and company were all really, really great. I think that everybody will agree that Pierre's Bistro is the place to go for next year's New Year Lunch.

Notice – There are 17 people to have a refund, as Pierre's very kindly didn't charge us for people who didn't attend. Can as many as possible pick up refund cheques of £12.50, which is what Pierre's charges us, at the February meeting. Thanks

Athena

COURSES ON-LINE FROM NATIONAL OFFICE



Note: There is no charge for Untutored Course access to U3A members. Members will at first need to register at National Office for verification of membership.

National Web Site. www.u3a.org.uk Go to "Create an Account"

A list of the courses may be found on the notice board and all have been downloaded over the past 2 years so if members prefer to bypass National Office, 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.

For more information, please contact Robyn - redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

EQUIPMENT

A fully automatic 35mm Slide Projector with two slide magazines and wireless remote control. This is available for group members to use. If you would like to borrow this item, please contact Ron Castleton on 01789 205878.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The China On-Liners

We completed the course from National Office at our get-together at the end of January and many of us agreed how interesting we found the units devoted to The Modern History of China and would like to learn more. We are planning to access the on-line course from the Australian U3A - "China in Transition from Mao to Now" and also to begin learning Mandarin with the help of one of our members and the Internet. The BBC have produced excellent free language courses for beginners. Do join us at our next meeting on **Friday 8th February, 2.30 - 4.30pm in the Annexe.**

Robyn Nicoll

Art Appreciation Group



Having postponed once, we eventually decided to cancel our January meeting, due to the weather conditions. Our next meeting is on February 15th. We meet at Stratford Station at 10.15am to catch the train to Snow Hill, Birmingham, where we'll be going to the Birmingham Art Gallery exhibition: *Revealed: Government Art*. For more information contact Sylvia (01789 263794) or Pam (01789 774712).

Pam Collins

All Swing and Jazz Group

Report of the December 2012 Meeting



This meeting was a real 'Opener' for the Christmas Season. It was entitled 'Some Whacky Compositions and Others' and it certainly lived up to its name. choice of music and the fun we all had. We started with a few "Others...", "Jingle Bells" by the Roy Budd Trio, "Canadian Sunset" played by Peter Matz and "Falling in Love with Love" by Bill le Sage and the Ronnie Ross Quartet, with a great sax solo by Ronnie Ross. Then in quick succession we had tracks from Henry Allen and his All Stars, Bobby Hackett and Jack Teagarden and the Newport Youth Band (composed of 14 – 18 year old player). Just before the interval 'Whacky' kicked in with "Yelping Hound Blues" and "Who Cut the Gorgonzola" played by Will Bradley and his jazz octet. Oh the sophistication of the lyrics!!!

The interval was a noisy, happy gathering before we settled to a couple of classic tracks, but not in the usual style. We had "Take the A-Train" played by The Walker Jazz Band and "Clementine" by The Frankie Capp Percussion Group. Then it was back to 'Whacky' with "Big Nose Kate" played by the Fleet Street and Tin Pan Alley Darts Team with the vocal by (we think) Acker Bilk. After that it was a smooth path of delights, The Concord All Stars played "I Love Being Here With You!", with Ernestine Anderson on vocals, Buck Clayton and Ruby Braff played "Love is Just Around The Corner" and then it was one delight after another, we had "Farewell Blues" with Eddie Lang and Joe Venuti, "Blues in the Night" with Clyde McCoy and a lovely oldie "Change Partners" by the Joe Loss Band sung by 3.Chick Henderson (excuse me whilst I swoon - such a lovely manly voice). The afternoon finished far too quickly with the "Theme from Shaft" by Eric Winstone Band and rounded off with "Sleigh Ride" by Eddie Sauter/Bill Finegan.

Thanks to Dennis for a lovely Box of Delights for Christmas, and also to all of you who turned out on a wet afternoon. We look forward to the next meeting will 24th January 2013 at the usual venue The Lounge of the Methodist Church Hall, Old Town at 2pm.

Mavis Pickett

Big Band Swing & Jazz.



Only a few people turned up to our meeting in December so Tony played a short selection of jazz loosely associated with Christmas and we ate the mince pies with our tea whilst watching the tree lopping in Trinity Church grounds and decided to call it a day.

Not much luck with our January meeting either. Unforeseen circumstances meant that the meeting had to be cancelled at short notice. We look forward to our next meeting, which is on Tuesday 26th February 2013, 2pm–4pm Methodist Hall.

Sue Tringham

Bridge Group



The Bridge Group is friendly, sociable, and keen to encourage new members. We also offer encouragement to "rusty" ex- players. The Group meets every Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 in the Methodist Hall Side Room next to the kitchen.

John Yeomans

Chinwags



We will have met on 28th January at Cafe Rouge. For february we are making a change and meeting on 25th February at the Oppo in Sheep Street, 12 noon. Please let me know if you are coming or not.

Belinda Sylvestor

The Choir



It was great to meet after Christmas and we were all in fine voice. However, because of the snow , we had to cancel our meeting on Friday 18th. We are looking forward to meeting on the 25th. I am sure we will all enjoy our singing.

Dorothy Jones

Classical Music Group



This Interest Group is at present in abeyance. If anyone is interested in organising a group, a number of former members will be interested in joining you.

Aline Cummings

Computer Group at Stratford School.



The courses for Beginners and Improvers are underway. Beginners are receiving one to one help and Improvers have chosen topics or problems to be solved. eg address labels, on-line shopping, Powerpoint presentations, producing tables. Due the numbers attending, the cost of this course has been kept to £12.

Dates in February: February 14th and 28th,

Please contact Ron or Robyn for further information or to join a group for specific help.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our January meeting was very successful. We were able to plan our projects for the year and complete the current project of a Welcome Bag. Everyone agreed the Welcome Bag was very useful as well as being decorative. Many thanks to Carolyn for bringing in the pattern.

Our next meeting will be on February 21st in the Annexe, 2 – 4pm.

Roma Rudd.

Card Making Group



The next local charity to receive a donation from the sale of cards will be the Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary based in Nuneaton. Our next workshop will feature Cards for Men and Kids and will be held in the **Annexe on Friday 15th February from 12.30 to 4.300 pm..** New members welcome, call me for details. Carolyn 01789 266194

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs



We did not meet in January as the first Tuesday is New Year's Day. Tuesday 5th February will be our next lunch at The Encore, at 12.30pm.

Sylvia Crooks.

Discussion Group



Discussion Group met at the Windmill. We Started by talking about plays, Merry wives at RST, which was excellent it was said. Some are going to see The Magistrate, which is being shown in cinemas. Then Films, Quartet, also well received & Les Mis, coming soon & Argo, Ben Affleck's film.

Then we changed topic & talked about "Inside Health" - Dr Mark Porter's series & this one about people over 75, when admitted to hospital may be screened for dementia. We had many concerns, not least because of shortage of funds & also the thought that worrying about anything is the worst thing for dementia. But we thought that, in time, screening would bring benefits. Next meeting will be Wed 13 Feb @ Windmill.

Athena Roderick

Family History Group



We usually meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at Stratford High School at 3.45pm for 4.00pm during term time. We primarily use the Internet to research using Census returns and birth, marriage and death indexes, and there is always someone on hand to offer encouragement and advice. I also have lots of resources gathered over many years of research which I am happy to share. We share a room, and costs with the Computer Group. New members to this group are always welcome. Feel free to ring me if you have any questions. Next meeting is 28th February.

Sue Ocock

French Conversation – New Group

There is a young lady who has lived in this country a little while, but who would love to share her knowledge of France with other people. It would be relaxed, no verbs etc. just speaking as we do when we visit a foreign country on holiday. We would probably meet for elevenses at a quiet café, so not expensive. It would be ideal to chat about it over tea at the March meeting.

Athena Roderick

Grumpy Old Men Group



"Not the job for me" was the opinion expressed by most Grumps during the discussion of January's topic "Would you want to do the Prime Minister's job?" As one of the few who would, Robert Chorley (Grump of the Month) outlined his top, but possibly controversial, policies (of a very long list) to get the Country moving in the right direction. Energy - proceed with nuclear as the only practical long term option. Food - reinstate and actively support GM research to avert the inevitable future global food shortages. The Church - sort out the conflicts within the Church of England as it is rapidly becoming irrelevant and, as a result, our way of life is in danger of being adversely influenced by non-desirable elements. Press Freedom - for a limited period ban politicians and civil servants from contacting the media, thereby ensuring that they are getting on with the job, rather than making grandiose statements and pronouncements about things that are not actually happening or realistically likely. Like the few others who would do the job, he would take only it on with a very large parliamentary majority. Most of the "No" camp felt it was impossible for the PM to introduce his own policies as he was always having/ to try and please and battle with too many other interested parties, notably the Civil Service and the EU. Therefore, there would be very little job satisfaction to attract them.

Next Meeting - Wed. 20th February. 2013. Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre.

Subject – Is the Honours system fit for purpose? Introduced by Geoff Bridgwater.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We are now back from the Christmas break, fully refreshed and raring to go! We next meet on 28th January, with a group of hopefully augmented to 10 Ringers. WE STILL HAVE ROOM FOR MORE - DO COME ALONG AND GIVE IT A TRY. THE ONLY QUALIFICATION IS THE ABILITY TO READ MUSIC (EVEN IF A LITTLE RUSTY). If at all interested please contact Ron Castleton on 01789 205878, or by email ron.castleton@tiscali.co.uk. WHY NOT COME ALONG AND GIVE IT A TRY!!

History Group



At our January meeting the scheduled speaker was unable to come and we were fortunate that Robin Sankey, one of our favourite speakers, came to talk about Rudolf Hess. We oldies remembered the bare bones of the story – Hess, the Deputy Fuhrer of Germany, crash-landed near the Duke of Hamilton's home in Scotland on 10th May 1941, was interned for the rest of the war and, after being tried at Nuremberg in 1946, was sentenced to life imprisonment and died in Spandau prison in 1987, where he had been the only prisoner for some years.

Robin told us that Hess was a cultured man, an ace-fighter pilot in WW1, who had been in the same prison as Hitler for a brief period in the 1920s, had supposedly contributed to Mein Kampf and had trained Hitler how to speak in public. However, his story from 1941 was full of unanswered questions - why exactly had he flown to Scotland, why were RAF planes not scrambled as Hess approached the coast, why was he reportedly seen in Caithness when he was supposed to be interned in Wales. Then there was a mystery surrounding the flying-boat accident in which the Duke of Kent was killed. Records were suppressed and the only survivor of the accident could not be interviewed. It was not until 1969 that Hess agreed to see his family and he did not apply for a relaxation of the rules governing his imprisonment until he was 85. There were even questions about his identity and his suicide. A fascinating story.

At our next meeting on 11th February, Jennifer Stone is going to talk about "Women in the Theatre". All welcome.

Sheela Burchill

Keep Fit Group



Who is brave enough to come and join us at Keep Fit on Thursday mornings at 10.00 am in Shottery Church Hall. Contact Mary Palmer on 01789 204707 or Joy Baylis on 01789 266661.

Mary Palmer

Opera Group



Unfortunately, the weather beat us and the meeting for 23rd January at Sandra's had to be postponed. We will meet at Sandra's on 27th February.

Alan Howland

Pilates Group



Every Monday at St. Andrew's Parish hall Shottery between 12:15 and 1:15. For more information contact Gill Ganner.

Play Reading Group



We did not meet on the 17th January, not enough voices for *Hobson's Choice*. We will have to catch up in February; date to be decided.

If you would like to join us please ring Sylvia on 01789 416965.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry and Prose

A small number of us met for our January meeting. It proved to be a rewarding afternoon with readings and poems from Shakespeare's *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Richard II* and the *Merchant of Venice*, *Corinnae Concubitus* from Marlowe, *Inviting a Friend to Supper*, *Songs to Celia* from Ben Johnson, *All the World's a Stage* from Sir Walter Raleigh. Our next meeting will be on 13th February.

Ann Davies

Reading Group – Monday



So far the snow scared us home bound. Our New Year Lunch was cancelled and plans are in the hands of the Snowman.

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



Our book this month was “A Visit from the Goon Squad” by Jennifer Egan, the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2011. We cancelled the January meeting because of the weather; however, I gathered a few reviews from members over the phone. “Readable”, “It reminded me of ‘Six Degrees of Separation’”, “Not my cup of tea”, “I didn’t like the language”, “Started reading but couldn’t finish it”. However, the critics said “A work of imagination, energy and charm”; “Exceptional ... A delight to read”. Were we reading the same novel?

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group – Friday



We were unable to meet this month so we discussed the book over the telephone. We read The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson. We all enjoyed the book and said that we would try to read the other two books that he wrote. The story had some interesting twists and turns and was well translated. None of us knew much about the Nazi Party in Sweden during the Second World War and this is something that would be worth investigating.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



We met as usual on the second Thursday of the month and listened to a selection of Rock and Roll music. A large number were produced in the 1960s, which for many people in the group, was the 'real' Rock and Roll period, although I think we also have to listen to later songs to see how the genre progressed. We have room for more people if any new members would like to join us.

Coral Bradley

Science and Nature Group



On 11th January we viewed a DVD on Sir Isaac Newton obtained by Geoff from America. (nothing was available in the UK, which is a disgrace in itself). Newton has been regarded for 300 years as the founder of modern physical science. He went to Cambridge where he went on to produce his favourite work “Principles of Natural Mathematical Philosophy”. This showed how a universal force, gravity, applied to all objects in all parts of the Universe. He was also an astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist and theologian. In his later life he was a member of parliament and Warden of the Royal Mint.

Future meetings:-

³⁵₁₇ February 8 – DVD and discussion --- The History of Metals

³⁵₁₇ March 8 – Talk on 'The History of the Stratford Canal'. By Clive Henderson (ex chairman of the Inland Waterways Association).

Sandra Sladden

SPANISH.

Several members have expressed an interest in learning basic Spanish. Do we have anyone within our Heart of England Group who is able to lead this group? Contact Dorothy Jones 01789 204892 (Muchas Gracias)

Sunday Lunch Group



The next lunch will be on Sunday 3rd March at the Henley Golf Club. Names please to Brian Bradley: 01789 488551

Brian Bradley

Theatre Group.



On 23rd February 2013 we will go to the Belgrade in Coventry. We are actually in the studio theatre so this will be rather intimate. We will leave from Johnson's Yard, Henley, at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre in Stratford at 12.30. The play starts at 2.45pm It does so we shall have a short while to do something else in Coventry if you so wish. My phone number for the day is 07818 820207. On 30th March we will go to Malvern to see The Pitmen. This has had rave reviews. It tells the story of a group of miners who started art appreciation classes and then went on to become painters themselves. It changed their lives. The cost is £31.00 and there are a few places left. Put 18th May in your diaries to see The Woman in Black at Malvern. I will start to take names and money in March.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



The next walk will be on **Wednesday 13th February 2013 at 10.00 a.m.** and will start from the Bridge Free Car park in Shipston-on-Stour (by the river). This is a five mile walk on good surface for winter months. I recommend good walking shoes and that you also bring a drink with you, as there is nothing on the way. Allow three hours plus traveling time. There are plenty of cafes in Shipston if you want a coffee or snack after the walk. Look forward to seeing you.

Valerie Redfern

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT

THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2-15pm . – Our visit on 21st March is almost full – We have just a few seats left - Thank you to everyone who paid up so promptly. Contact 01789 204892.

THURSDAY 9th May 2.15pm - Think of “dances in the sunlight” - sun kissed, glorious celebrations of Italy! Our next concert will be **Viva Italia** - Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Strauss. I am now taking names and money for this concert; we have to pay for the tickets two months in advance. The cost of this visit is £26 .This includes the concert ticket and return coach to the Birmingham Symphony Hall. The coach will leave Stratford Leisure centre at 12-30pm. Cheques made payable to Heart of England U3A and sent to Dorothy Jones at 14 ASCOT CLOSE Stratford upon Avon CV37 9FN by 7th March 2013. Telephone 01789 204892

Dorothy Jones

WHAT'S ON IN U3A LOCALLY

Dene Valley	12th February	“A Viennese Tragedy, The Father Daughter Story”	Geoff Bridgewater
Shotton	5 th March	AGM & “Velvet Glove”	Margot McCleary
Stratford	27 th February	“The Navy in Nelson's Time”	David Swain

The closing date for material for the March 2013 Newsletter is Sunday 24th February.

Group	Group Leader	Contact Telephone	Usual Meeting date (Monthly)
All Swing and Jazz Group	Dennis Sully		4 th Thursday 2 - 4pm
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins		3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Tony Badham		4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bridge	John Yeomans		Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Lunch Group	Belinda Sylvester		4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones		Every Friday 11.45 for 12 noon,
Classical Music	Aline Cumming		2 nd Tuesday 2.30 pm
Creative Crafts	Roma Rudd		3 rd Thursday 2 – 4 pm
Computer Group	Robyn Nicoll		2 nd and 4 th Thursday – 4 - 6pm
Dinahs Luncheon Group	Sylvia Crooks		1 st Tuesday for Lunch
Discussion Group	Athena Roderick		2 nd Wednesday
Family History – Genealogy	Sue Ocock		4 th Thursday – 4.00 pm
Grumpy Old Men Group	Graham Mitchell		3 rd Wednesday for Lunch
Hand Bell Ringing Group	Ron Castleton		Alternate Mondays 10am
History Group	Janet Anslow		2 nd Monday – 2.0 pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer		Every Thursday am
Opera Group	Ann McNeill		4 th Wednesday, 2.00pm
Pilates Group	Gill Ganner		Mondays – 12.15-1.15pm
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks		-see Newsletter for dates -
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davy		2 nd Weds. 10 – 12 am
Poetry & Prose Appreciation	Anne Davies		As appropriate
Reading Group – Wednesday	Dorothy Jones		3 rd Wednesday 2.30 pm
Reading Group – Monday	Phyllis Bailey		3 rd Monday–2.30-4.30pm
Reading Group – Friday	Coral Bradley		As appropriate
Rock & Roll Music Group	Coral Bradley		2 nd Thursday – 2 – 4pm
Science & Nature Group (incorporating Bird Watching)	Geoff Bridgewater		2 nd Fridays 2 - 4pm (or as announced)
Sunday Lunch Group	Brian Bradley		As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins		As appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley		As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern		2 nd Wednesday 10.00am

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS. 2013

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>Group</u>
JANUARY	Grumpy Old Men Group	JULY	Keep Fit Group
FEBRUARY	Monday Reading Group	AUGUST	Bridge Group
MARCH	Bird Watching Group	SEPTEMBER	Creative Crafts Group
APRIL	Family History & Computer Groups	OCTOBER	The Choir
MAY	Big Band Music & Jazz Group	NOVEMBER	History Group
JUNE	Dinah's Lunch Group	DECEMBER	Pilates Group