



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Website address:-

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Heart of England

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January 2015 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for January is Helen Munro & her subject is "Town Trust . Who we are & what we do".

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

The speaker for our February Meeting is Alan Rogers MBE. "A Policeman's Lot" A talk based on humorous anecdotes of the 33 years of my police service.

CHAIRMAN'S JANUARY JOTTINGS

Geoff Bridgewater

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to our January monthly meeting. Yes, I know it's not warm outside but I hope that you all feel warm 'inside'! It's a new year, spring is hopefully just around the corner and we're all going to have a lovely 2015 with the Heart of England U3A.

If you were at our December monthly meeting, you will have been fortunate to see me lose the last shreds of my dignity in 'the coat of many colours'! Well done to Tricia, Robyn and all the ladies in the Creative Crafts Group for their great efforts in knitting and selling the squares, making up the fabulous coat and then raising £100 for Stroke Services at Warwickshire Hospitals Trust. Well done also to Carolyn and everyone in the Card Making Group who are also doing so well for local charities, in their new location in the Welcome Area.

NEW YEAR LUNCH - SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY 2015

There is still a little time to book for our New Year Lunch. There will be menus available at the January Meeting & we will then need to give the order to Bistrot Pierre as they will have to order provisions in good time.

Pierres Bistrot, Swan's Nest Hotel gathering in Reception for midday, starting lunch @ 12.30. Price this year is £14 (cheques made out to 'HOE U3A' & handed in at the meeting or sent to Athena Roderick) which includes the staff tip & a raffle prize of lunch for 2 at Pierres & also a quiz, with a small prize.

It is a really good way to start off our year. Come & join us.

THE MAGAZINE

Edwin Lilly

The Autumn edition is completed. This edition is for October/November/December and is available to view or download on the website. The next edition will be Winter 2015 and cover January, February, and March. I hope to have a report of the New Year Lunch within a few days of the event. I would welcome any contributions from members in the form of photographs and/or text.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll



NB - On-Line Course material is being updated and will not be available to members for a short time. The 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. The Russian History Course is being studied at the moment.

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

[National Web Site. www.u3a.org.uk Do look at the site to see all the opportunities and information available to U3A members.]

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

THE CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

The group will be taking a break over Christmas and will meet again on **Friday afternoon, 16th January in side room1, 2.30 to 4.30**. Our topic will be "The Great Wall of China", prompted by seeing the photos taken by Sandy and her husband when they visited China recently. We hope to watch again the excellent programme shown on Channel 4 recently. 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

Dennis Sully

Report of the November 2014 Meeting.



Our November 2014 meeting began with a swinging Billy May number "No Strings", which jollied things along. Geoff Love and His Ragtime Band entertained us with "Temptation Rag". I worry sometimes when playing Geoff Love, for his other name was "Manuel of The Mountains", nuff said!!.

However I was reassured with Lu Watters Yerba Buena Jazz Band playing "Sunset Café Stomp". We drifted into a 1920s theme with Joe Loss and His Orchestra playing "Charleston", followed by a couple of numbers from the Andrews Sisters Album "The Dancing 20s". Alex Welsh and Benny Goodman entertained us, and then onto the interval with George Melley singing "Aunt Hagar's Blues. After suitable refreshments a Continental French Group Les Cinq Modernes played "Alouette". Oscar Pettiford playing a Cello as a jazz instrument played "My Little Cello". Then followed tracks by Bob Wallis and His Storyville Jazzmen, Humphrey Lyttleton, Alvino Rey (playing a steel guitar), Harry South and His Stereo Brass played "Scarborough Fair", and Red Allen All Stars played "Frankie and Johnny". Finally The Walker Jazz Band ended our meeting with "Teddy the Toad".

Our next meeting is on Thursday 22nd January 2015 at 2pm to 4pm in the Lounge of the Methodist Church, Stratford upon Avon.

AMDRAM & SUPPER GROUP

We had a very enjoyable evening in December when we dined at The Kingfisher fish restaurant in Ely Street and then went to the Bearpit Theatre at the United Reform Church for a performance of "Vicar of Dibley".

Our next event will be on the 14th March when we will see a performance of "The Lady Killers". Drinks and dinner will precede. Keep an eye on the Newsletter and your email Inbox.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Sylvia Kentish & Pam Collins



In December we enjoyed a very pleasant lunch at the Bistrot Pierre as our Christmas get-together. On January 16, 2015 we will meet to see, and discuss, an art-related DVD.

Best wishes for the Christmas season and for the new year from both of us.

BALLROOM DANCING

John B Barker



We completed the Autumn session of Dance meetings on December 16th when we took on the challenge of learning "Rumba One" which is a modern sequence. Everyone got the routine and no doubt will improve their performance when we restart our dance sessions in the New Year.

We will start on Jan 21st at 10.30am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10 sessions finishing on June 3rd. As previous we will start by paying into the Dance fund £10 each, as we are committed to a total of £180 for the hire of the hall.

At the January monthly meeting we are asking members to sign up for the dance classes and pay the fee.

During the last year we have had 18 or so members attending and most of the members have been present on each occasion. But we have a very large hall at our disposal so we have room for many more dancers; everyone is WELCOME to enjoy 90 minutes of fun, fellowship and good strict tempo music with the added attraction of Tea/Coffee, Biscuits in the break time. If you are solo do come along; you do not need a partner.

BIG BAND, SWING AND JAZZ GROUP

Sue Tringham



We had thought that after his operation Tony might not be able to do a programme for our very last meeting but, what a trouper, he put together a selection that had food or drink in their titles!! Honey, Coffee, Rye, Bean, Marmalade, Potato, Sugar, Peanut, T-Bone, Pomme, Gin, Apples, Cherry, and Buttermilk. How about that!

We made it a social occasion with some lovely Christmas fare and expressed our appreciation to Tony.

BRIDGE GROUP

John Yeomans



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 2.15 pm in the Methodist Hall Side Room 1, next to the kitchen.

CARD MAKING GROUP

Carolyn Leach



At our last workshop we were very happy that our efforts during the year had generated over £600, all of which supported various local charities. Our next workshop will be on Jan 9th. All new members welcome, just call me for details. Carolyn Leach 01789 266194

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 enjoyed our Carol concert at Briarcroft in December. We are looking forward to our next concert on Friday 20th March, 2pm at the Methodist Church. Tickets £4 will be on sale at the main meeting. We have a super programme with songs you will all remember and enjoy, so buy your tickets early!

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



We met in December for a programme with a Christmas theme compiled by Aline. We began with the "Procession" and three other pieces from Britten's "Ceremony of Carols". Next we heard Bach's "Sleepers Awake", then the "Shepherds' Hymn" from Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. Handel's Messiah gave us "The People who walked", sung by Bryn Terfel, and "Unto Us a Child is Born" with the full choir. Emma

Kirkby sang "Che Sara" with the London Baroque Ensemble by Alessandro Scarlatti, Adam's "Cantique de Noel" was played on the Harp and we heard "Exultate Jubilate" by Mozart. .

After tea we heard three pieces from the end of the first act of the Nutcracker Suite and finished with the first and final Movements of the Hely-Hutchinson Carol Symphony.

In January we meet on Monday 12 January for a selection of favourites by Rita and will decide about February and March. Happy listening in 2015!

COMPUTER GROUP AT STRATFORD SCHOOL.

Robyn Nicoll



Computer sessions will not be held during the Winter.

We hope to resume in March so if interested in joining the group, please sign the sheet on the notice board table. You will be contacted as soon as arrangements are finalised. Proposals to change the venue and time for sessions are being discussed.

Members of the group are given one-to-one assistance to solve problems and are helped to increase knowledge and confidence. Members bring their own equipment: lap-tops, i-pads, tablets. A list of topics which have been covered are displayed on the notice board.

(Offers to help at the sessions would be greatly appreciated and names may be added to the list)

Please contact Robyn for further information. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk.

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Editor fir Tricia Callaghan



No report this month. Next meeting should be Thursday 15th January but do keep in touch with your Group leader.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



On the 2nd December it was, Welcome Vintners for our Christmas lunch. After a hearty meal and lots of chat: something women can do well; chat that is. We pulled crackers and told jokes. Mind: When is a boat like a pile of snow? When it's a drift. You can see the calibre. What about "What am I"?

I never was, am always to be. No one ever saw me, nor ever will, and yet I am confidence of all, to live and breathe on this terrestrial ball.

We next meet on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at the Red Lion. Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

(The answer is "I am tomorrow")

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be at The Windmill on Wednesday 14th January @ 12.30.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



Unfortunately we had to cancel the December film showing. All should return to normal in January. The January meeting will be on Tuesday 13th in the Lounge as usual. We will be starting 30 minutes later than normal at **2.30pm**.

Happy and healthy New Year to all our members.

GAMES GROUP

Sue Tringham



We continue to have a lively group playing Dominoes (fives and threes), Whist and Scrabble. I am hoping that some of our group will teach us some new card games in the New Year. We meet in Side

Room 1 of the Methodist Hall on the first and third Mondays of the month from 2 – 4pm. We welcome new members so just turn up.

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



Despite Colin Robberts suitably grumpy introduction to our pre Christmas meeting topic "What I want for Christmas" in which he highlighted the outrageous excesses and demands of the now over commercialized, so called, Festive Season he spoilt his chances of claiming the final Grump of the Month Award of 2014 by suggesting that, although a forlorn hope, society's "want" should be better conditions for the disadvantaged among us rather than the gratifying of the "wants and desires" of those that probably already have more than they need. Colin voiced the thoughts of most grumps present that, other than our youth, at our advanced years we don't really need anything!! Although he did hint at something called "a tin plate - 00 gauge layout". We were reminded of a comment of Frank Sinatra, which undoubtedly applies to all the group, - "What I want for Christmas is NEXT Christmas". Grump of the Month was awarded to the Chairman for his grumpiness throughout the meeting as he struggled to bring order from chaos (including vigorous bell ringing) culminating in grumpily declaring "All I want for Christmas is for it to be over!". A sentiment obviously shared by most present as they nodded in agreement (or were they just about to slip into their afternoon naps).

Finally a really big thank you to all the Grumps for their support in attending the monthly lunchtime meetings during 2014 and in particular to the brave souls who "volunteered" to introduce our varied discussion topics. Here's to the continued success of our Group and (completely out of character for a Grumpy Old Man) I wish you all Good Health and Happiness in 2015.

Next Meeting - Wed. 21st Jan. 2015 Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - My Favourite Book or Author - Introduced by Derek Phillips.

HISTORY GROUP

Sheela Burchill



Our December meeting was preceded by a buffet lunch, ably organised by Robyn and Rita, which we all enjoyed. Our speaker was Jen Stone, who runs the 'Shakespeare Aloud' group at Shakespeare's Birthplace which performs extracts from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets to visitors. - 15 to 20 times a day to 130 nationalities. On one day there were 3,200 visitors and the group, which normally numbers three, were performing for 8 hours. Jen, who does a lot of work with schools, described how they entertained a group of French schoolchildren (not very interested in Shakespeare) by getting them to join in a dance. Then there was the Japanese choir, always immaculately dressed, who sang 'Danny Boy'! Some of the highlights of 2014 were welcoming Michael Higgins, the President of the Irish Republic, taking part in a Tudor feast at Mary Arden's House which was cooked by competitors in a Celebrity Master Chef programme for the BBC, and Jen herself acting as godmother at the christening in Holy Trinity Church of the daughter of one of the descendants of Joan Hart, Shakespeare's sister. Incidentally, there is only one reference in Shakespeare to Christmas, which occurs in the first scene of Hamlet when Marcellus says 'Some say, that ever 'against that season comes wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated, the bird of dawning singeth all night long ...so allow'd and so gracious in the time'.

On Monday 12th January Norma Hampson, always informative and entertaining, is going to tell us about the Visitors' Book at the Birthplace. A reminder: anyone is welcome at our meetings provided you are willing to pay £1 towards our costs.

KEEP FIT GROUP



The Keep Fit Group has shrunk and we would like some new members. It is not like school and we have a great time exercising our mouths as well as our bodies. Everyone works at their own level and Debbie, our tutor, is excellent. The cost is approx. £4.50 per session payable at the beginning of the month. If you would like to come for a taster ring Mary Palmer on 204707. Thursday mornings at 10.00 am in Shottery Church Hall.

PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



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

PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY



Weekly 10.15 to 11.15 at St Andrew's Parish Centre, Shotton. For more information call Sue Workman on 297061.

PLAY READING GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



We met on Thursday 18th December at Sylvia's for a chat, coffee, sherry, stollen and mince pies and good company were the play for today.

Thursday 22nd January 2015 will be our next Play Reading. Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

READING GROUP – MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We, or rather two of us read 'Running the Rift' by Naomi Benaron. It was a beautiful story set during the Rwandan genocide in the early nineties. Unusually, it did, in my opinion, live up to the praise of the journalists. It seemed that other group members found it too harrowing and gave up quickly. The story focused on a young athlete whose goal was to run at the Olympics. The amazing beauty of the country as well as the richness of the culture made a lasting impression.

READING GROUP – WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



Our book in December was "THE MOON FIELD" by Judith Allnatt. The novel is set in the first World War and follows a young postman from Cumberland when he enlists as a soldier. We found the novel an easy read but the descriptions of the trenches were quite harrowing. We would recommend the book to other groups. We enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at Bensons Tea rooms which we would also

recommend!

READING GROUP – FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read The Olive Route by Carole Drinkwater. She discovered that there are some olive trees still alive that are over 6,000 years old and decided to travel around the Mediterranean basin to try to discover how and when the olive trees were spread to various countries there. On the way she looked at the remains of their civilisations and what was happening now –well 2005. The book was very interesting except she spent a lot of time taking photographs and there is not a single one for us to see.

ROCK & ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



We didn't meet in December so there is nothing to report. Because the main meeting for January has been changed to the second Thursday in the month we will not meet in January either. Our next meeting will be in February – hopefully.

SCIENCE, NATURE & THINGS TECHNICAL GROUP

Geoff Bridgewater



Our December meeting was on Friday 12th December, when Geoff teased us with his "fiendishly easy quiz" !! We managed 8 teams of 4 or thereabouts and competition was fierce to win the box of Quality Street, which was then to be opened and shared with all the members present. There were 35 questions on such science related topics as Geology, Mathematics, Astronomy, Chemistry, Geography. Winning team were the "elf team", comprising Ian, Dave, Edwin and Brenda, who achieved a collective score of 32. Close second were a team comprising Sarah, Heather and Athena, who achieved a score of 29.

Afterwards, we all tucked into a buffet that we had all contributed to.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next lunch will be on Sunday 1st. February 2015, at the Navigation Inn, Wootton Wawen. Names please to Brian Bradley; Tel: 01789 488551.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT 19TH FEBRUARY 2015 2-15PM.

Dorothy Jones



This visit is now fully booked and paid for; many thanks for paying on time!

REMEMBER We are leaving the Leisure centre at 12-15pm and picking up our Henley members en route to the Symphony Hall Look forward to seeing everyone.

The next date for your diary is May 6th 2015 2-15pm. I will be taking names and cheques; £32 for this visit at the main meeting. See page 8 for contact details for Dorothy.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



Our first outing of the year is to The Belgrade Theatre on 21 February 2015 to see an Agatha Christie play – "And Then There Were None". There are several well known actors in the play. The cost will be £32.00. Starting as usual 12.00 from Johnsons Yard and 12.30 from the Leisure Centre. This does give us plenty of time before the play starts but I think it is important to stick to our usual times. I have reserved several plays at Malvern. So watch this space for dates.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



The walk in December was a very pleasant walk, all on hard surfaces. We walked about 5 miles, starting in Wellesbourne, and walking a circular route out to Walton Hall. We stopped for a drink and a mince pie (courtesy of Fred) by the lakeside in the grounds of Walton Hall.

The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 10.00.am, starting from Bancroft Gardens, Gower memorial, Stratford upon Avon. We can park in the recreation ground.

This is a medium five mile walk on good surfaces for the time of the year and we will be able to burn off a few of the excess calories collected over the festive season

Allow three hours plus travelling time. Please bring a drink with you and also good walking shoes are recommended.

A Happy New Year to you all.

WHAT'S ON - MONTHLY MEETINGS AT STRATFORD, SHOTTERY, DENE VALLEY & ALCESTER U3A

Stratford - 2015 Programme not advertised yet.

Shottery - 2015 Programme not advertised yet.

Dene Valley -13th Jan. - "The History of Malta" - Colin Searle.

Alcester - 3rd. Feb. - "Life in the Music" - Andy Smith.

Group	Group Leader	Usual Meeting Day (Monthly)
All That Swing & Jazz	Dennis Sully	4 th Thursday 2.00 - 4.00 pm
AmDram & Supper Group	Geoff Bridgewater	As Announced
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	3 rd Friday 2.00 pm
Ballroom Dancing	John Barker	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday 10.30 - 12.00
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.15 pm
Card Making	Carolyn Leach	As Announced
China Discussion Group	Robyn Nicoll	4 th Friday 2.30 - 4.30 pm
Chinwags Lunch	Belinda Sylvestor	4 th Monday 12.00 noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	Every Friday 10.30 to 12.00
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	3 rd Monday 2.00 pm
Creative Crafts	Tricia Callaghan	3 rd Thursday 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Computers	Robyn Nicoll	2 nd & 4 th Thursday 4.00 - 6.00 pm
Dinahs Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1 st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	2 nd Wednesday
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	2 nd Tuesday 2.00 pm
Games	Sue Tringham	1 st and 3 rd Mondays 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	3 rd Wednesday for lunch
History	Janet Anslow	2 nd Monday 2.00 pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thursday 10.00 am
Opera	Aline Cumming	4 th Wednesday 2.00 pm
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	Mondays 12.15 - 1.15 pm
Pilates - Wednesday	Sue Workman	Wednesdays 10.15 - 11.15 am
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	- See Newsletter for dates -
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davey	2 nd Wednesday 10 - 12 noon
Reading - Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3 rd Monday 2.30 - 4.30 pm
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3 rd Wednesday 2.30 pm
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	2 nd Thursday 2.00 - 4.00 pm
Science, Nature & Things Technical	Geoff Bridgewater	2 nd Friday 2.00 - 4.00 pm (or as announced)
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	As appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2 nd Wednesday 10.00 am

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
		June 2015	History Group
January 2015	Film Group	July 2015	All That Swing & Jazz
February 2015	Creative Crafts	August 2015	Art Appreciation
March 2015	Choir	September 2015	Bridge
April 2015	Ballroom Dancing Group	October 2015	Science & Nature
May 2015	Dinahs Luncheon	November 2015	Computers