



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

Heart of England

Newsletter Editor: Edwin Lilly, 9 Addison Drive, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7PL

Telephone: 01789 204 472. Email: Edwin_lilly@yahoo.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Sue Tringham, 2 Guild Cottages, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HD

Telephone: 01789 204 295. Email: suetrin@tesco.net

June 2015 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for June will be Susan Marshfield and her talk is entitled "You can choose your friends, but..."

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for July will be Adam Pearce and his subject is Bob Dylan. We will hear about his early years in Minnesota and then on to New York. It was in these years that he made his most enduring albums, with famous tunes such as "Blowing in the wind" and "Times they are a changing."

CHAIRMAN'S MAY JOTTINGS

Geoff Bridgewater

Hello everyone and a very warm welcome to our June monthly meeting.

The year is racing by and I'm already thinking about our forthcoming AGM, now only three months away on the 3rd of September, and the possible structure of our next committee. Except for an occasional enthusiastic newcomer, the same 'old' names seem to be re-elected to the committee each year. Whilst there is a real benefit from their experience, there must also be a 'line of succession' to ensure a healthy future for our Heart of England U3A. At the AGM we are already planning to nominate Jayne Jones as the new Joint Vice-Chair, jointly with Aline. Jayne will also then take on the role of Business Secretary, as Sue Ocock is stepping down as an officer. Jayne is a terrific example of a relatively new member, who is really enthusiastic and wants to be involved. Great!

I know I regularly raise this subject, but can I urge you to seriously think about joining us on committee and pick up a Nomination Form from the Chairman's table, or even just come over and have a chat.

It may interest you to know that the 3rd of September is also the date that WW2 broke out and also the date of our wedding anniversary – I can assure you that there is no connection!

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

Stratford	-24th June	- "The Amish People "	- Ronald Gallivan .
Shottery	- 7th July	- "Favourites of Old Time Music Hall"	- David Fairhurst .
Dene Valley	- 9th June	- "The Great Fire of Warwick "	- Gillian White .
Alcester	- 7th July	- "Love Letters "	- Gabriell Leese .

MEMORY COURSE—TO BE RUN IN AUGUST

Athena Roderick

Our first Memory Course finished recently and the course members said that they found it useful and interesting. You will also find a little more about it in the Winter 2015 edition of the Quarterly Magazine on the HOE website, it is the last report (key CTRL +END to find it)

I am starting to get the second Memory Course together. If anybody else is interested, let me know, as some people may have to drop out because of other commitments. Getting 2 hours in the same morning for 4 weeks won't be easy, especially as a room will have to be booked.

If you are interested, please be in touch with me or with Edwin, who has offered to take care of the administrative side of things.

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

We will be meeting on Friday afternoon, 5th June, in side room 1 from 2.30 to 4.30. Our topic for discussion will be "Rights and Responsibilities of the average Chinese citizen".

This discussion group developed following the coverage of two on-line courses studied over 3 years and a desire of the group to continue to follow their interest in China past and present. These get-togethers are informal and varied consisting of a short language session, followed by a discussion of a 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 April 2015 Meeting

The meeting started on a 'cool' finger snapping note with Henry Mancini and his Orchestra playing "Walkin' Bass, shades of his film and TV series sound. This was followed by The Pygmy Jazz Band a Swedish trad/swing band producing lots of foot tapping from the group. "Wade in the Water" was next with Ramsey Lewis, a Gold Disc recording with an unusual hand clapping background. Then it was on to Bud Shank playing a lovely Alto Sax arrangement of "Smoke gets in your Eyes". The Reuben Reeves Pioneering Big Band gave us "Poppa Scag Stomp" (interesting vocal here !!!). Next it was Dennis fantasy time, imagine him as a dashing Sailor listening to Doris Rhodes singing "The Lorelei", enough said. The first half was completed with a lovely swinging version of "You Brought a New Kind of Love" played by the Skelton/Skinner Allstars. Set, This took us up to coffee and cakes in celebration of Dennis's 80th Birthday. The Second half started with "Bluesette played by Doc Severinsen, an interesting track in that Severinsen plays two trumpets by means of 'over-riding'. Then it was on to Dick Charlesworth and His City Gents with "Bluebells Good-bye" a good solid trad jazz track. In complete contrast next was the Louie Bellson Big Band with "The Diplomat Speaks". "Four Brothers" came next first in a Woody Herman version then in a vocal version by The Manhattan Transfer. The penultimate track was Hank Crawford with "Mr Chips", I think I would term this as jazz/funk. Lastly Dennis's Birthday meet was played out by the Skelton/Skinner Big Band playing "What is this thing called Love". Thank you once again Dennis for introducing us to some unknown names... The Pygme Jazz Band/The Pioneering Big Band and Hank Crawford. Our next meeting will be on the 25th of June in the Lounge of the Methodist Church Old Town, starting at 2p.m.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Sylvia Kentish & Pam Collins



Our May meeting was a visit to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery for their exhibition, *Love is Enough*. This exhibition brought together work from William Morris and Andy Warhol. We learnt more about both artists, and found that they had much in common, guided by four themes:

Hopes and fears for art - both artists were activists in their own way, in the art world and in the wider world;

A factory it might be - both artists moved towards mass production, with studios that became almost industrial;

As a result of our Spring Concert we sent donations to The Methodist Church Restoration Fund and The Meningitis Now Charity. - £365 to each.

We have now started a new programme, welcomed some new members and Stewart continues to inspire us with his enthusiastic musical direction.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



Once again we met at Bridge Cottage for Howard's choice recorded on DVD. We started with Elgar's Cello Concerto. It was not the familiar Jacqueline du Pre performance, the soloist was Alisa Weilerstein while the Berlin Philharmonic was conducted by Barenboim: an interesting different interpretation. In lighter mood this was followed by the Don Juan Overture by Richard Strauss, played by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andris Nelsons (now moving to Boston). After tea we heard another complete performance, Mozart's Piano Concerto No 20, played with feeling by Mitsuko Uchida with the Berlin Phil conducted by Simon Rattle. Borodin's Polvstian Dances finished the afternoon brightly, played by the Berlin Phil conducted this time by Seizi Ozawa. A most enjoyable programme, thanks to Howard.

We meet again at Bridge Cottage on Monday 15 June for Howard's choice. Anyone interested in joining us please ring 01789 298 357 for directions.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



Our first 2 sessions at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre were very successful and we will continue to meet there for this course. Members came with laptops and or ipads and all were able to link to the wifi system.

The following dates have been booked.

Wednesday afternoons: June 10th and 24th; July 8th. from 2.30 to 4.00.

We hope to continue offering courses after the summer break.

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

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Robyn Nicoll on behalf of Tricia Callaghan



Members spent a productive afternoon at our May meeting on Thursday 21st covering coat hangers. Some used fabric and others knitted covers using attractive lace lengths. The completed project provides a useful addition to any wardrobe.

We meet again on Thursday, 18th June, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The project planned is to make Polly Dollies from wool with instructions provided by Sheila Giles. Members are welcome to join us. Please contact Tricia Callaghan for more details.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We met last 5th May in the Red Lion. Lovely to see everyone again, the months are just whizzing by, we all seem to be very busy: which is very good for us mentally and bodily. After an enjoyable meal, we chatted about holidays: Shanklin on the Isle of White, Australia and Italy, Spain and Portugal. A long week-end at Port Solent was on the menu for one of us. The Railway was discussed again, also the Election on the 7th!!!

Our next lunch is on Tuesday 2nd June at the Red Lion 12.15.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Our topic was the General Election and it was the noisiest meeting we have had so far. We hoped that 'Benefits Tourism' would be stopped as promised and that the Tories would be kinder to people who are not lazy, but just incapable. Convicts who have benefited from 'courses' in prison should be supported once outside, to stop re-offending. We wondered if changing boundaries would be a good thing and would this eventually bring about a federal Britain. We felt that 'the Tablet of Stone' was a big mistake and also, would David Milliband have been better than his brother. The big worry with Labour is that they overspend

massively, as Gordon Brown did. After all, we can all do that, especially with somebody else's money. Whoever had formed the Gov. it is always going to be a fight about staying or leaving Europe and on what terms would we stay? Some felt that Nicola Sturgeon would be a good sharp kick to Westminster and others were not impressed.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



As "Death of a Salesman" is being performed at the theatre in Stratford, we decided to show the 1985 film version of this play starring Dustin Hoffman, Kate Reid, John Malkovich, Stephen Lang and Charles Durning. The director of the film, Volker Schlöndorff was nominated for an Emmy award for this film. Although the story is rather sad, the members enjoyed it for the great acting and for some of the home truths on how we deal with difficult relationships. For those of us who are able to attend the theatre performance it will be interesting to compare the stage and film versions.

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. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Mary or Mavis.

Please note, **our next meeting will be on June 23rd** at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church. This is one week later in the month than usual.

GAMES GROUP

Sue Tringham



We had a full house for our only meeting in April with one table of Scrabble which then changed to dominoes, and two tables of dominoes and partners whist. We will be unable to meet in May because of the Bank Holidays but we will be meeting on Monday 1st and 15th June at the Methodist Hall. We play in Side Room 1 from 2 – 4pm.

We welcome new members so just turn up. Our next meeting is on Monday 1st June.

GARDENING GROUP—NEW

Sandy Stewart

A few members met on 12th May for a chat & looked round a garden. All who have expressed an interest have each other's contact details. I propose a visit to Hidcote on Tuesday 9th June - it opens at 10.00am. The garden was recently listed in The Times as one of the top 20 to visit at this time of year. If anyone is interested they should contact others in the group - I will be away.

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



We were pleased to welcome two potential new members to our May gathering resulting in a healthy attendance of sixteen. Somewhat surprisingly, our discussion on "Forecasting the future of the UK post the Election" did not generate the heat of debate anticipated. Perhaps this was due to there being very little of consequence to us personally as the effects of the Government's policies would be felt some years into the future. However, inevitably the Grumps expressed their opinions on a wide range of issues, such as proposed constituency boundary changes (very much in favour of the Conservatives); austerity; cost cuts (mainly affecting the less well off resulting in a more unfair society); changes to the voting system; the Scottish question and the influence of the SNP; the Conservatives' promises (where's the money coming from); the EU referendum (the general population must have unbiased factual information in order to make a properly informed decision); Ed's "Pillar of Pledges" and of course the NHS. All things considered the 2015 election did not appear to stir the Grumps to a high degree of emotion and one member declared that what had excited him most were Nicola's high heels!!

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

Subject - To be advised.

HISTORY GROUP

Sheela Burchill



At our meeting in May Delia Garratt spoke to us about 'Primitive Methodism in the 19th Century', particularly the work of the travelling and local preachers. Many of the working classes did not attend church, believing that the services were for the middle classes. The Primitive Methodists wanted to reach the working classes by preaching a simple gospel message in a manner they would understand. Circuit committees organised highly detailed "preachers' plans" setting out where they would be on particular days, usually Sundays. A Typical plan would involve having 1 to 10 engagements over a 13-week period. Travelling preachers were paid but local preachers, who could be farmers, miners, or fishermen, were not. A certain amount

of administrative skill was required so this gave an opportunity for the local preacher to “better” himself. No transport was provided so they had to walk miles from one engagement to another. Women were appointed as preachers and, like most, lived among the local community.

In Warwickshire Joseph Arch, founder of the National Agricultural Labourers’ Union, was a Primitive Methodist preacher.

On Monday 8th June we are going to see the film of Hardy’s “Far From The Madding Crowd”, which was made some years ago and starred Alan Bates and Julie Christie. All Welcome.

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.

OUTINGS

Coral Bradley



We are going to Gloucester on 12 June 2015. We leave Henley (Johnsons yard) at 8.30 and the Leisure Centre in Stratford at 9.00 and arrive in Gloucester at 10.30 where will have coffee in the Cathedral. Guides will meet us at 11.00 and take us on a walk around Gloucester pointing out many historical sites. We will have two hours in the city centre for lunch, shopping or a visit to the Cathedral – all are close together. Then we meet at 2.00 to visit a Roman site under Boots which will be lead by a member of the museum staff and that will conclude with tea and cake. The coach will pick us up at 4.00.

The walk around Gloucester will be accessible to all and I am assured that we just have a few steps to go down to the Roman site.

The cost of the visit is £24.50 and this includes; the coach, morning coffee, the tour guide, the Roman site and tea and cake in the afternoon and a tip for the driver.

There are six places still available.

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 May. After coffee and a chat, we settled down and read Act 11 of “For Better For Worse” a comedy by Arthur Watkin.

Next get together will be Thursday 18th June, Sylvia’s house 10.30 for coffee.

READING GROUP – MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We read and enjoyed “The Light of Amsterdam” by David Park and recommend it without reservation. The three groups who went there as strangers for a short trip were described with great skill and depth as were their differing experiences. It had the look of 'not put downable' quality. The fault we agreed about was an unsatisfactory ending. The writer is great on character but a bit less so on plot.

READING GROUP – WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



Our book last month was “The Hand That First Held Mine” by Maggie O'Farrell. The book had very good reviews but our group had mixed thoughts; several members really enjoyed the novel, others found the plot difficult to follow. We also read books of our own choice. This is always interesting as we have such a diverse selection of books, followed by intellectual discussion!

SCIENCE, NATURE & THINGS TECHNICAL GROUP

Edwin Lilly



Our May meeting was a visit to the Glass Festival at Stourbridge on Saturday 30th May and a report will appear in the Magazine and the July Newsletter as the trip was after the Newsletter deadline. For our July meeting a visit to the Midland Air Museum and to the Electric Railway Museum is proposed for Friday 10th July. Both are located near Coventry Airport. Check emails for details.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next Sunday lunch will be on the 7th June 2015 at the Stratford Golf Club. Names please to Brian Bradley, Tel: 01789 488551.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



The next visit to the Symphony Hall Concert, Thursday, September 24th, 2-15pm.

SIBELIAS	“Finlandia”
RACHMANINOV	“Piano Concerto No 3”
NIELSEN	“Symphony No 4”

The total cost of the visit £34. This includes concert ticket, return coach to Symphony Hall and tip. We will travel to Birmingham by Johnsons coach, leaving the Stratford Leisure Centre promptly at 12-15pm, picking up our Henley members at Johnsons Depot en-route to Birmingham. Please send cheque £34, made out to Heart of England U3A, to Dorothy Jones as soon as possible.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



Our next visit to Malvern is on 27 June 2015 to see The Business of Murder. The actors are well known as soap stars it is a psychological thriller which has had a successful nine year run in the West End. The cost is £28.00 and we will leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. There are a few places still available for this visit.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfern



There will be no walk in June as many of the walkers are on holiday, including ourselves. Normal service will be resumed in July when we will start from the car park adjacent to Tesco in Stow on the Wold. Please check for emails from Fred and Val.

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>GROUP LEADER</u>	<u>USUAL MEETING DAY (MONTHLY)</u>
All That Swing & Jazz	Dennis Sully	4th Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
AmDram & Supper	Geoff Bridgewater	As Announced
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	3rd Friday 2.00pm
Ballroom Dancing	John Barker	1st & 3rd Wednesday 10.30—12.00
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 Thursday 2.30—4.00pm
Dinahs Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Athena Roderick	2nd Wednesday
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	2nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Games	Sue Tringham	1st & 3rd Monday 2.00—4.00pm
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	3rd Wednesday for lunch
History	Janet Anslow	2nd Monday 2.00pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thursday 10.00am
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 & 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

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
June 2015	History Group	September 2015	Bridge Group
July 2015	All That Swing and Jazz Group	October 2015	Science, Nature & A T T Group
August 2015	Art Appreciation Group	November 2015	Computer Group