



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England

Website 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: Brian Bradley, 7 Appleby Close, Gt. Alne, Alcester, B49 6HJ
Telephone: 01789-488 551 : Email: brianbradley@uwclub.net

June 2013 Newsletter

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for June will be Graeme Porter and he will talk about Upton House. "Upton House, the Bearstead Family and what the house has to offer today."

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for July will be David Bartley and his topic is "Black Country Poetry and Banter", which is self explanatory.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

David Sladden

Welcome to our June meeting and, as I am unable to be with you, my thanks to Geoff for hosting this meeting.

On the 21st June there will be a Committee meeting at 1.00 pm at the Methodist Hall.

On the same day, the 21st June, there will also be a meeting for all new members who have joined in the past year. This will be at 2.30 pm, also at the Methodist Hall.

I have sent out invitations to this, but if you have not received one please accept my apologies and let me know. I would like as many new members as possible to join us to meet members of the Committee and to find out more about U3A.

Coral Bradley

SUMMER OUTING - FRIDAY 26 JULY 2013

Laycock Abbey is a National trust property with a historic village where Cranford was filmed and the abbey where Harry Potter was filmed. There is also a permanent museum showing the work of William Henry Fox, a pioneer in photography. Cameras are a must for this outing. There are places where you can buy lunch or you can take a picnic.

The cost for National Trust members is £14.00 and for non-members £23.10. We will leave Henley at 8.30 and the Leisure Centre at 9.00. There are a few seats left.

WHAT'S ON IN U3A LOCALLY

Stratford: 26th June – "The Italian Renaissance" - Dr. David Lines.
Shottery: 2nd July - "The Dowager Duchess" - Sherell Cunningham.
Dene Valley: 11th June – "An Inspector Calls" - David Howe.

DENE VALLEY OUTING

Dene Valley U3A some spare seats for their trip to London on Wednesday 12th June. Cost is £16.00. Contact Sandra Whiteley on 01789 471036 or look at their website.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll

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 Website: www.u3a.org.uk Go to create an account. A list of courses may be found on the notice board and all have been downloaded over the last 2 years so, if members prefer to bypass National Office, courses may be forwarded to members via e-mail or transferred on a memory stick. These courses are ideal for a small group to study together. If interested in seeing all the courses on offer from U3A down under, go to the National Website (as above), click on "On-Line Courses", then "UK course list" which gives a link to "U3A Online Inc.!. 40+ courses are listed with a summary of each course. There is a fee to get access to these courses.

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

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

THE CHINA ON-LINERS

Robyn Nicoll

We will be meeting on Friday, 14th June to discuss the 4th Unit which has covered the reforms (?) introduced by the Chinese Communist Party from 1949 reflecting Mao's personal ideologies and the impact these had on the lives of the people.

We also include a short language session led by Patricia Wy and during the coffee break, swop articles found in the newspapers. There is never a shortage of press clippings about China.

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

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Sylvia Kentish



Our monthly session was held at Phyl's house. We enjoyed watching a DVD on Paul Cezanne's life and works of art; his paintings were wonderful, his life was very sad and complicated. Thank you Phyl for our afternoon tea; very much appreciated.

ALL SWING AND JAZZ GROUP

Mavis Pickett

Report of April 2013 meeting



This month's meeting was led by Geoff and entitled 'A little bit of this and a little bit of that', and a great mixture it was, starting with a joyful Benny Goodman track "Bugle Call Rag" which was followed by tracks from Mead Lux Lewis, Ziggy Elman and then Ella and Louis "Dreaming a little dream of me". Then it was back to Big Band Time with 'The Duke' playing "It 'Aint got that Swing" (which it certainly had) and then two superb tracks (OK I know I'm biased) of Bobby Hackett playing "Royal Garden Blues" and Coleman Hawkins with "Honeysuckle Rose". The first half concluded with one of Geoff's favourite artists - Buddy Rich "Winning the West".

After our refreshment interlude it was straight into Bix Beiderbecke "At the Jazz Band Ball" which was followed by "St. James Infirmary Blues" played by Hugh Laurie - you can't say this group 'aint topical as this coincided with the release of Laurie's second album. After that it was one great name after another, we had Bunk Johnson playing "Dark Town Strutters Ball", Gillespie with O'l Man Rebob" Basie with "Oh Red" and Harry James with "Feet Draggin Blues". It was an afternoon of great sounds which ended with Buddy Rich playing "West Side Story", a track which was nearly 8 minutes long but which enthralled us all.

Our thanks to Geoff for some inspired choices.

Our next meeting will be on the 27th June in the Methodist Church lounge, Old Town at the usual time of 2pm.

BIG BAND MUSIC AND JAZZ GROUP

Sue Tringham



At our Big Band, Swing and Jazz group meeting Derek entitled his presentation of 20 numbers 'Classic Jazz' and it was, opening with Acker Bilk's Marching through Georgia. It was a wide ranging programme with lots of interesting information about the famous and not so well known musicians and their instruments. Our presenters put lots of research into the

presentations and we never cease to be amazed at the history of jazz through the ages. Who has heard of Willie the Lion Smith, pianist and composer born in 1897? Amazing! The Antique Six, a local band now disbanded. Red Nicholls, born 1905, a trumpet player who style has been compared with Bix Beiderbecke. Did we know that Benny Goodman, born 1909, was the first white bandleader to adapt and popularize the jazz style? Harry James was a fine jazz improviser and jazzed up Carnival of Venice, a Viennese waltz! Richard Leach was a trombonist who learned his early work with Pete Allen and then toured round the world. We finished with an old favourite, Chris Barber and his Band playing Down by the Riverside.

We listen to a wide range of jazz and big band swing. Please come and join us. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Hall from 2-4pm.

BRIDGE CLUB

John Yeomans



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.

CARD MAKING GROUP

Carolyn Leach



It was a record turnout at our last workshop. Robyn showed us how to make a "Stretch" card. It was quite time consuming but well worth the effort! On May 31st we are having a day doing our own projects. Our next workshop will be on Friday 5th July. Come and join us. For further details call, Carolyn on 01789 266194.

CHINWAGS

Belinda Sylvester



We shall be meeting twice in June. 3rd and 24th. I shall look forward to meeting you all at both lunches at 12.00 for a good chat.

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We have a few tickets left for our concert "LETS SING THE MUSICALS" on Friday 28th June 2-30--4pm at the Methodist Church Hall. Tickets £3 on sale at the main meeting or phone Dorothy Jones 01789 204892 to reserve. Please come and join us and enjoy our singing followed by tea and cakes.

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

Aline Cumming



Calling all classical music lovers! Following a six month break, the revived Classical Music Group will meet at Bridge Cottage, Warwick Road, on Monday 17th June at 2.30pm for a programme put together by Gwyn Bevins.

COMPUTER GROUP AT STRATFORD SCHOOL.

Robyn Nicoll



The summer computer course is underway concluding on 11th July. We will resume after the summer holidays and would welcome any suggestions for topics to cover.

Beginners receive one to one help and Improvers may choose topics or problems to be solved. eg address labels, shopping on-line, power point presentation, producing tables, digital camera skills, internet research.

Please sign the sheet on the notice board table if interested in joining a course in the autumn and to add topic suggestions. (Note: The school now offers wireless connection for laptops, i-pads, smart phones etc. so members may bring their own equipment to the class)

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Roma Rudd

Our May meeting was well attended and very productive. We were all busy helping out the 'Transition Stratford Plastic Challenge,' by making strong fabric bags from recycled materials. These bags will be given away at the Stratford River Festival in July to promote plastic bag reduction. Everyone was kept very busy



either cutting, ironing or sewing the bags. Time passed quickly and a number of the members went home with a few more bags to sew up.

We would like to thank everyone who supplied us with their unwanted material; it was all put to good use. Our next meeting will be on the Thursday 20th June. The project will be Jewellery making with teacher Sarah James from Purple Pepper who will bring everything that is required and the cost will be approx. £15. To make a necklace. Everyone is welcome to join us. I am sure it will be a productive and fun afternoon.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



Tuesday 7th May was Dinah's lunch date this month, at the Dirty Duck. We all enjoyed our meal; will certainly visit again sometime. My sister was staying with me and joined us for lunch. She travelled from Newcastle to Leamington Spa, taking 4 hours; I thought that was good: "Do we really need high speed trains"? We chatted about rail travel and Senior Citizens' Railcards, Heather's holiday in Toronto: sounds great. Good News: Stratford Hospital is to be re-developed! Also the advancement of Stem Cells and A&E being over-worked and undermanned. Tumeric tablets: an article in the newspapers said Michael Caine's wife Sakira has given him Tumeric tablets for 30 years to keep Alzheimer's at bay. He is 80 years old and has "a memory like a computer" as a result: quote. (It could a little late for us!!!). Helen Mirren as The Queen, and Scotland's independence was also mentioned. We next meet on Tuesday 4th June at Le Bistro Pierre.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



Held at my house, as it was the second anniversary of the Group. Elka provided the topic which was about our response to Telemarketing. Elka has some sympathy for the people trying to sell as it is a job. On the whole, I think the rest of us were not inclined to be sympathetic, as it has increased, it is difficult to stop and so many people have been conned and hurt. Most felt it isn't the best way to buy. We chatted about other things whilst eating lovely food brought by the other members. Thanks everybody. Next meeting is at the Windmill on 12th June at 1.00pm.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Sue Ocock



The next meeting will be Thursday 27th June when the computer group will be meeting. Beginners welcome and tuition can be given. Let us help you with any difficulties or "brickwalls". Meet at Stratford High School 3.45 for 4.00pm.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



At its second meeting the group watched the French comedy film "Diner de Cons". This was a film adaptation from a stage play. It raised plenty of laughter and everyone coped very well with the sub-titles. We had a short discussion about the quality of the principle actors and how it contrasted with the way a British play adaptation would probably have been made.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th June in the Lounge at 2pm in the Methodist Hall.

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Athena Roderick



We met at Geoff's house where he provided croissants and coffee, (ooh la la!!), On Tuesday 21 May. Just 6 of us met, including Dounia, our French lady. We started in french with our names, where we live and then went on to important things in life - such as how to order in a restaurant, how to greet strangers and friends, etc. It was a very useful meeting and we will be meeting again on Tuesday 11th June at 10.00am at Lynn's house in Bidford. Lifts available

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



A somewhat reduced group of Grumps gathered for their May lunchtime meeting to reveal "who they would like to be if not themselves". While some declared they had not been sufficiently influenced by anyone in particular for them to wish to be anyone else, most would have liked to

share, if perhaps only for a shorttime, the experiences of people associated with activities or interests about which they were passionate. These ranged through sport, authors, poets (Wordsworth), actors (Errol Flynn/Roger Moore), radio/TV broadcasters (Andrew Marr/Jonathan Agnew), outdoor activities (Scouting/Baden Powell), botany/plant collecting (Joseph Banks-founder of Kew Gardens) and music. It was his love of jazz and swing music that persuaded Derek Phillips that he would have liked to have been Benny Goodman, the "King of Swing". A good choice which won Derek the 'Grump of the Month' award.

Next meeting - Wednesday 19th June. Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre.

Subject - In, Out or Shake it all about - The EU referendum - how would you vote and why? Introduction - Derek Phillips.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - THE GRUMPS ARE RECRUITING! If you would like to join the Group please contact Brian Bradley or Graham Mitchell.

HAND BELL RINGING

Ron Castleton



We are continuing to make progress, albeit rather slow, as we are searching for a stable group of at least 6 or preferably 8 members, which allow us to dedicate specific bells to ringers. We still have room for more ringers. Our Next meeting is on Monday 3rd June and then on 17th June. Please contact Ron Castleton on 01789 205 878 or ron.castleton@tiscali.co.uk.

HISTORY GROUP

Sheila Burchill



In May we saw the film "Brassed Off" which was made in 1996 about the year 1992. The miners' strike had ended with their defeat in 1984 and many coal pits were threatened with closure. In the town of Grimley in Yorkshire the local brass band, which was largely made up of miners, was endeavouring to keep going despite the anxiety of not knowing whether their colliery would close. They were not united; some wanted to keep fighting while others wanted to accept the redundancy payments on offer. The film was funny, poignant (particularly Stephen Tompkinson who played the part of a miner dressing up as a not very entertaining clown in grotesque make up and silly shoes to earn some money for his family), uplifting and depressing all at the same time. Although the film ended on a high note with the band winning the National Championship at the Albert Hall, the uncertainty about their future remained. On 10th June Geoffrey Lees, who was the Mayor of Stratford twice, is going to tell us about his experiences in the Far East. All welcome.

KEEP FIT GROUP

Mary Palmer



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.

OPERA GROUP

Alan Howland



The next meeting of the Opera Group will be at Pam and Alan's on Wednesday 26th June.

PILATES GROUP - MONDAY



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

PILATES GROUP - WEDNESDAY



Weekly 10.30 to 11.30 at St Andrew's Parish Centre, Shotton. For more information call Sue Workman on 297061.

PLAY READING GROUP

Sylvia Crooks



We met at Gwyneth's on Thursday 16th May. We read "Time Being", a ghost story. Also "Keep Fit Class", a comedy, both being short plays by Carol Reeve. Next meeting will be Thursday 20th June. If you would like to join us please ring Sylvia on 01789 416975.

READING GROUP - MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We or, actually, one of us read Jason Elliott's "An Unexpected Light.. Travels in Afghanistan". I dipped into it and enjoyed it. It was written during the Russian occupation. We look forward to the publication of Hosseini's new book..following the famous Kite'Runner - he is an Afghan; it will be up to date!! Only four of us met but we had a super afternoon at a fantastic barn conversion with a garden which would win a prize at Kew!

READING GROUP – WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



Our book this month was "A Room Swept White" by Sophie Hannah. The main theme was about miscarriages of justice involving cot deaths-----mothers wrongly accused of murder. We all approached the novel with interest as it was a poignant subject, however we were very disappointed. We thought that the author introduced too many characters and consequently it was very confusing to follow the theme. We wouldn't recommend the novel to other readers. The best part of the session was the ginger biscuits which Gillian's 3 year old grand-daughter made for us.

READING GROUP – FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read "The Sea" by John Banville. Our hearts sink when we see that our book for the month has won an award; we know that it will be awful. This month was no exception. There was no plot and the main character was a horrible little boy who grew up to be a boring, self centred man. As usual, we ask ourselves how these books win awards. We have lost a couple of members so have some vacancies. If anyone would like to join us they would be welcome. Although we often have boring books, we are a lively group and always find plenty to discuss.

ROCK & ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



Tony Whiteley gave us a delightful programme in two halves. The first half included music that was not so well known to all of us and in the second half he showed us some films that reminded us what rock and roll was all about. A long showing of Elvis Presley was almost more than one of our members could manage; she was in second heaven. Thank you Tony.

SCIENCE AND NATURE GROUP

Sandra Sladden



On the 14th May we went by coach to South Kensington to visit the museums. It started with us pulling up outside the Natural History Museum. What a stunning building. It was being invaded by what looked like children from every school in the country. The Science Museum held many of us enthralled with the wonderful displays of engines from steam to jet, plus @Flying the the Red Arrows' in a flight simulator. Also enjoyed in these vast halls - Computing, Medicine, Telecommunications, Exploring Space, Agriculture, Flight and many more. There was also a special exhibition "The Multiple Lives of Alan Turing". He is generally known for his wartime code breaking exploits at Bletchley Park, but he was also a brilliant mathematician who initiated the start of computing. The V & A stood up to its reputation as the world's greatest museum of art and design with "Treasures of the Royal Courts". This exhibition celebrates 500 years of the relationship between the English monarchy and

Russian Tsars and features 150 objects from Royal Portraits, Jewellery and luxury goods, which reflected the close relationship between them. We all had an amazing day, except for our poor backs and feet.

Our next meeting is a prestigious talk "The Global Warming Standstill and the End of Climate Hysteria" to be given by Dr Benny Peiser, Director of The Global Warming Policy Foundation. The talk will take place in the Methodist Hall front lounge on Tuesday 18th June at 2.00pm. There will be a charge of £3.00 per person.

SPANISH CONVERSATION

Dorothy Jones

We had a successful first meeting of the Spanish group and met Lise who will teach us and be our group leader. We are all looking forward to our next session. Muchas gracias Lise.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Brian Bradley



The next Sunday Lunch is on Sunday 7 July at Henley Golf Club. Names please to Brian Bradley: 01789 488551.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



At the moment we do not have any plays booked. Malvern does not have any that we would like and I can't see any others around at this time. I am on the look out for a good play and will let everyone know when I find one.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfiern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 10.00 a.m. and start again from the Gower memorial in Bancroft Gardens. This is an easy walk of about 4 and half miles and I suggest you allow about 2 and half hours.

I recommend good walking shoes as the first part is a little muddy and that you bring a drink with you as there is nothing on the way.

We will be parking in the recreation ground as usual or you can use park and ride.

Group	Group Leader	Usual Meeting Day (Monthly)
All Swing & Jazz	Dennis Sully	4 th Thursday 2 - 4pm
Art Appreciation	Sylvia Kentish Pam Collins	3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music and Jazz	Tony Badham	4 th Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Card Making	Carolyn Leach	As Announced
Chinwags Lunch	Belinda Sylvestor	4 th Monday 12 noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	Every Friday 11.45 for 12 noon
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	
Creative Crafts	Roma Rudd	3 rd Thursday 2 - 4pm
Computers	Robyn Nicoll	2 nd & 4 th Thursday 4 - 6pm
Dinahs Luncheon	Sylvia Crooks	1 st Tuesday for lunch
Discussion	Sue Tringham	2 nd Wednesday
Family History - Genealogy	Sue Ocock	4 th Thursday 4.00pm
Film Group	Mary Fishleigh Mavis Pickett	2 nd Tuesday 2.00pm
Garden History	Katharine Stuart	Tuesdays as announced
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	3 rd Wednesday for lunch
Hand Bell Ringing	Ron Castleton	Alternate Mondays 10am
History	Janet Anslow	2 nd Monday 2.00pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thursday 10am
Opera	Sandra Sladden	4 th Wednesday 2.00pm
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	Mondays 12.15 - 1.15
Pilates - Wednesday	Sue Workman	Wednesdays 10.30 - 11.30
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	- See Newsletter for dates -
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davy	2 nd Wednesday 10 - 12noon
Reading - Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3 rd Monday 2.30 - 4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3 rd Wednesday 2.30pm
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	2 nd Thursday 2.00 - 4.00pm
Science & Nature (Incorporating Bird Watching)	Geoff Bridgewater	2 nd Fridays 2.00 - 4.00pm (Or as announced)
Sunday Lunch	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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
		July 2013	Keep Fit Group
		August 2013	Bridge Group
		September 2013	Creative Crafts Group
		October 2013	The Choir
		November 2013	History Group
June 2013	Dinahs Lunch Group	December 2013	Pilates Group