



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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

Heart of England

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October 2015 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for October is David Close. The talk is 'The Discovery and Restoration of Chedham's Yard'. David has been involved in the project right from the start so has a very detailed knowledge of all things Chedham's!

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for November is Richard Churchley talking about " Surnames, their history & meanings."

CHAIRMAN'S OCTOBER JOTTINGS

Geoff Bridgewater

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

I would like to remind you that renewal of your subscription for this new year, 2015/6, was due from 3rd September and, if you haven't already paid, in order to take advantage of the £2 discount, should be paid by the 1st October monthly meeting. For new members and renewals for existing members after that date, your full subscription is £16. Sadly, your membership would lapse and you will have to re-apply for membership if it remains unpaid after the January 7th monthly meeting. The good news is that over half of our members have already renewed and we also have several new members already. An especially warm welcome to them and I look forward to meeting you all and sincerely hope that you will enjoy the 'fun and friendship' of the Heart of England U3A for many years to come.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Subscriptions can continue to be paid by cash or cheque in the normal way at the meetings or by post to the Treasurer, Sue Tringham, 2 Guild Cottages, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6HD. Please make cheques payable to "Heart of England U3A".
2. Online banking. Bank details are Lloyds Bank, Stratford upon Avon. Sort Code 30 98 26 Account No. 00617394 but **please remember to include your name as reference.**
3. Subscriptions can also be paid over the counter in person at any Lloyds Bank quoting the Sort Code 30 98 26 Account No.00617394 and **your name.**

NEW YEAR LUNCH

Athena Roderick

Heart Of England U3A has again arranged to celebrate New Year at Le Pierre Bistro in the Garden Room of the Swan's Nest Hotel on Saturday January 23rd 2016 at 12 Noon. The price is again extremely good value at £15 per person which includes your choice from 3 starters, three main courses, & 3 desserts, which take vegetarians into account. It doesn't include drinks, they have to be ordered separately, but it does include a Free Draw for a lunch for 2 at Le Pierre Bistro plus a prize for the winner of a short fun quiz. The booking form plus menu choice is available at this meeting or can be down loaded from our website. Please return your menu selection to the Treasurer's table at the meeting or send by post to Athena Roderick, 17 Gifford Walk, SOA, CV37 9LN 01789 551416.

MEMORY COURSE

Athena Roderick

Memory Course. For those of you who are patiently waiting for the next Memory Course, my apologies that it is taking so long. It is proving to be a busier year for me than I had expected.

2016 DIARIES

Sue Tringham

The U3A 2016 Diaries will be on sale at the monthly meetings. This year they are a very smart 'Colombia Green'. They are still at the bargain price of £2! They can be found on the table at the back of the Hall where Norma and Sue sit.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Robyn Nicoll

Access to On-Line Courses has been updated and is different from our original method. All details may be found on the National Web site. The Australia U3A offer a large selection of topics which may be studied individually or in a small group as we have done previously but with an annual charge to sign up. (For an individual - \$25; For an Organisation - \$15.)

The topics include: World Affairs and History - 10 courses; Nature - 5 courses; Writing and Creativity - 12 courses; Lifestyle - 11 courses; Science - 11 courses. (See the notice board for a detailed list)

NB The original free Untutored Courses have been downloaded and saved so are available to members as before.

A list of these courses may be found on the notice board. These courses may be forwarded to members via e-mail or transferred to a memory device. These courses are ideal for a small group to study together.

Courses studied so far: Garden History, Art History, and China History Ancient and Modern. The Russian History Course has recently been completed.

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.]

THE CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

Our next get-together has been arranged for Friday afternoon, 2nd October, 2.30 to 4.30 in side room 1. Our topic for research and discussion is - "How has the slowdown in China's economy affected other countries around the world." Our get-togethers are informal and varied consisting of a short language/practical session led by Patricia Wy, followed by discussion of the chosen topic often accompanied by a photo presentation and concluding with "what the papers say". If you would like to join us, please contact Robyn.

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

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP

Dennis Sully



Report of August 2015 Meeting

Our August 2015 meeting was well attended and we got off to a swinging start with "Time on my hands" played by Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt. A lyrical Mel Torme and George Shearing sang and played "This is the Army". Chris Barber's Jazzband with Otilie Patterson sang and played "Kansas City". The Song Spinners a tuneful vocal group reminded us of a 1943 hit "Commin' on a wing and a prayer". Other talented artists like Les Brown and His Band of Renown, Al Cohn and Zoot Sims, Bob Crosby's Bob Cats and dear Ella Fitzgerald entertained us and Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra swung us into the tea/coffee interval. After a chatty tea break Harry Edison and His Orchestra had us tapping our feet to "Hollering at the Watkins". Doctor Billy Dodd and His Swinging All Stars played an early version of Basin Street Blues. Count Basie and Hot Lips Page brought us more up to date with "Blues with Lips". Artie Shaw and His Orchestra with vocalist Imogene Lynn, Paul Desmond and Jim Hall; Tony Crombie and The Flamingo All Stars and others played and swung us to our final number "I Love Paris" played by The Laurie Johnson London Big Band in just 1min 35secs. So we had an enjoyable musical afternoon. Our next meeting is on Thursday 26th November 2015 at 2pm in The Lounge of The Methodist Church, Stratford upon Avon.

ART APPRECIATION

Pam Collins



At our September meeting we had our annual quiz. Each member contributed questions, which meant that we all learnt from each other, and we enjoyed the discussions that were generated. Rita Bassett and Judith Fogg shared the kudos of having the highest score.

We are going to the Nature in Art Gallery at Twigworth for our next meeting.

BALLROOM DANCING

John B Barker

Due to the lack of support, regrettably the Ballroom Dancing group sessions have been cancelled.

BRIDGE GROUP

John Yoemans



We play in a relaxed atmosphere and are always keen to welcome new members with some experience of the game. If you would like to "try us out" please come as a guest so that you can decide if you would like to join the Group. We meet every Tuesday afternoon for a two and a half hour session starting at 2.00 pm in the Methodist Hall Side Room 1, next to the kitchen.

CARD MAKING GROUP

Carolyn Leach



Another good afternoon at September's meeting. Card Sales enabled 拢50 to be sent to Macmillan Home Care. Thanks to everyone for their support. October 23rd will be our next work-shop

CHINWAGS

Belinda Sylvester



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



Our Christmas concert in the Methodist Church Hall is Friday December 18th at 11am-12-30pm. Tickets £5-00 , to include drinks and snacks are now on sale .

We will also be performing the concert for the residents at Briarcroft Residential Home on Friday 11th December. We look forward to seeing everyone as we always appreciate our audience!

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



The date for September is after the newsletter copy date. We will watch two of the Pappano's Classical Voices programmes and if popular the other two in October..

We will usually stay with the third Monday at Bridge Cottage as before.

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



The computer sessions at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre are underway with members bringing lap-tops and tablets/ipads. A variety of topics have been requested by the "students" including: getting to know your new tablet or laptop, management of photos from camera to computer, word processing, tables and spreadsheets, advanced emailing etc. **Sessions booked in October - 14th and 28th -**

2.30pm to 4.00pm.

More help for the "students" would be greatly appreciated. Please let Robyn know if you could offer some time and expertise during the afternoons. redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Tricia Callaghan



Work continues on items for the Christmas bazaar and this month we made hanging decorations from old CDs and also created the 'Forest of Wesley' a group of Christmas trees made from cleverly folded paper. This will hopefully continue to grow as members make even more trees at home.

We also learned that we have been given another large quantity of lavender. Rather than more small bags this will probably be used for making a few cushions/pillows.

Next month's project is as yet undecided but will hopefully produce more bazaar items.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We last met on the 1st of September at the Red Lion again. There were 10 of us this time, very noisy, lots of chat; could not catch all that was said!! One of us had been to a Geordie Wedding, the colour scheme was purple, black and white: gothic style I think. Charlecote Mill was said to be well worth a

visit. Talked about diabetes, and would you give your baby the Meningitis jab? No one came up with a definite answer.

We meet again on Tuesday the 6th October at the Red Lion again. Not long until Christmas, wow : Where has the year gone!!

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



The topic "Is it worth sacrificing our privacy in the cause of security" which was deferred from last month, was disposed of in a couple of minutes as people felt that, if you have nothing to hide, what is the problem? The idea that it might be a slippery slope into a "1984" situation was not felt to be likely. Obviously, the situation of the refugees was much on our minds & the sympathy that we felt for them.

But we have no idea how the situation can be solved. We did wonder where so much money being paid to traffickers was coming from. We also felt that Europe should be asking, with a coordinated voice, of African Governments, where all of our charitable money is, as it hasn't been spent on the people to whom we sent it. We were glad that money normally sent out in aid will now be used to help refugees. We all agreed that it is a dire situation.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



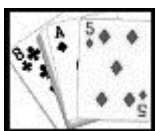
In September we watched the film "Shanghai", an espionage thriller starring John Cusack and Hugh Bonneville among several Chinese and Japanese actors. The acting and cinematography was very good, generating an excellent feeling of Shanghai in 1941. The setting was just before the attack on Pearl Harbour when the city was divided into segments for Japanese, Chinese, Brits etc. It proved to be a very blood thirsty portrayal of the spy story. We began to wonder whether there would be any-

body left alive by the end of the film! Good news for members – the October film is a much more gentle one. We meet on the second Tuesday each month and try to show films which are considered worthy of potential awards, cult films, foreign films or classic ones that are not on current circuits. So you are not likely to be able to see them at the cinema currently. We find it interesting to be able to have a short discussion after the film has finished on what we thought of it – the production, the acting, the music and the story. We have room for more members, so do come along and join us in our next venture into the film world.

The next meeting is Tuesday 13th October 2pm in the lounge at the Methodist Church Hall.

GAMES GROUP

Sue Tringham



At our friendly Games group we play Scrabble, Dominoes and Partners Whist. We are now meeting in the Reception Area of the Methodist Hall at the usual time of 2 – 4 pm. Our next meetings in October will be Monday 5th and Monday 19th. We contribute £2 for our pay and play sessions which include tea/coffee and biscuits! We welcome new members so just turn up.

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP

Jayne Jones



The group spent a lovely morning exploring Suzy's garden at Clifford Chambers. What a great garden! Some of us came home with blackberries & rhubarb from Suzy's garden to make pies and crumble. It was an opportunity for us to have a discussion & plan some outings for the next few months over a cup of tea & cake. Many thanks Suzy for your hospitality. Future programme is:

Tuesday October 13 - Upton House & Gardens, Near Banbury

Tuesday November 10 - Batsford Arboretum

Tuesday December 8 - Charlecote House

If anyone is interested in joining the group please feel free to contact me on 01789 290883 or by email to jaynejones303@gmail.com

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



At the September gathering the Grumps considered the question "Has the printed daily newspaper had its day?" and concluded that while its future was secure in the short term the prospects for the medium term and beyond were decidedly dodgy. The trend is undoubtedly for people, particularly the younger generation, to now obtain information traditionally provided by printed newspapers via numerous alternative ways. This was reflected within the group as, perhaps somewhat surprisingly, a majority of the 17 members present declared that they "read" a newspaper on their tablets (electronic not stone!!), smart phones or other gismos. It would appear that we are at a cross over point where the convenience of light, portable hand held devices is favoured over the more tactile experience associated with printed papers which is still enjoyed by some of us "diehards". It seems inevitable that the electronic revolution and economic forces will indeed lead to the demise of our much loved dailies in the not too distant future.

Next meeting - Wed. 21st Oct. Venue Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - Are we enjoying life in this technological age. Introduction - All Members.

HISTORY GROUP

Sheela Burchill



At our September meeting Michael Hodgetts gave us a talk on priest-holes, with particular reference to Nicholas Owen (1563 - 1606) who was known as the "master builder". During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I the penalties against Catholics had increased; the Mass could not be legally celebrated in public or in private and to hear the Mass was a felony punishable by heavy fines and jail. If a Catholic priest was discovered saying Mass he would be imprisoned and, if charged with treason, could suffer the horrific death of being hanged, drawn and quartered. So hiding-places where priests could be concealed were constructed in various houses throughout the country. Nicholas Owen, who served as a lay brother to the Jesuit priest, Father Garnet, designed and constructed hiding-places so skilfully that it is likely some still remain uncharted today (discoveries were made as late as the 20th century). Because of the need for secrecy there is little documentation about them and Michael has done a considerable amount of research to establish which priest-holes were devised and built by Nicholas Owen. It was essential that each hiding-place should be different lest the discovery of one would lead to the discovery of others. Inferior ones could be detected by walking around the outside of a house and seeing the distortions in the building. In our local area Baddesley Clinton and Harvington Hall provide some of the best examples. Nicholas Owen died under torture in March 1606 without ever revealing any details of the priest-holes he had built.

At our meeting on Monday, 12th October, Dr. Robert Bearman is going to tell us about Marie Corelli.

KEEP FIT GROUP



The Keep Fit Class is now full to capacity after a bit of a dip in numbers last year. We have a new instructor who keeps us active and we all think we feel much better for our efforts. A waiting list has now been started if anyone is interested. Please phone Mary Palmer on 204707.

PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP

Dorothy Jones



We had our first meeting on Monday September 7th. We had an enjoyable morning and everyone produced super drawings. At the moment we have a waiting list. We meet fortnightly and we are looking forward to our next meeting.

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 last met on Thursday 17th September at Sylvia's. After coffee we read Act I of "Joking Apart", a play by Alan Ayckbourn.

The next meeting will be Thursday the 15th October, 10.30am.

READING GROUP – MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



September meeting is after the deadline date. A report will feature in next month's Newsletter.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



This month we decided to choose our own reading book and it resulted in an interesting selection of novels and an informed discussion. Among the chosen books were "This Boy" by Alan Johnson, his story of his childhood; "Corduroy" by Adrian Bell, a story of farming in the 1930's.

Our book this month is "Instead of a Book" by Diana Athill. Sounds interesting!

READING GROUP - FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



At our meeting we continued to discuss the book that we have had for three months "The History of the World in Twelve Maps". We all found it a fascinating book with some chapters harder to read than others and we agreed it is a book to have on one's book shelf.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



Our usual group met and listened to some old and some not so old rock & roll music with welcomed comments. November will be a free for all so get out your old EPs, LPs and any other rock you can find.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Geoff Bridgewater



Despite several members of the SNATT group being away on holiday, we had an excellent turnout for Ian Roberts extremely interesting illustrated talk on 'Bridging the Gap' – the methods man has employed throughout history to 'get to the other side' by using bridges and tunnels to travel across deep chasms, over rivers, and through difficult mountainous terrain. He explained the variety of bridge types and styles utilised, and the principles of bridge construction whether it be a simple flat bridge between piers across a gap to the hugely complicated structures, either under tension or compression, or both, and magnificent suspension bridges supported by vast cables, that are crossing ever greater distances. The ex-schoolmaster in him couldn't resist setting a problem solving test and a 'round the world' bridge recognition quiz afterwards! A thoroughly enjoyable and edifying afternoon was had by all.

Friday 9th October - "The Mountains and Volcanoes of New Zealand" Aline Cumming

Friday 13th November - "Fred Dibnah Day" Geoff Bridgewater

Friday 11th December - "Xmas Social and Quiz" Bob and Chris Heaps. 'Bring and share' afternoon tea to be organised by Heather Bridgewater.

All meetings in The New Room at the Methodist Church Hall at 2.00pm except for the December meeting—1.30pm

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley

There will be no meeting in October.

The next lunch will be on Sunday the 1st. November at the Navigation, Wooton Wawen.
The December lunch will be at the Stratford Golf Club.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



The next visit is Thursday 14th January 2016.

PROGRAMME: Ravel Mother Goose Suite
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 4
Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade

The cost of the visit is £34, this includes concert ticket and return coach to the Symphony Hall. The coach will leave the Stratford Leisure Centre at 12-15pm.

I need to pay for the tickets by mid November so please sign up and pay as soon as possible.

Please send a cheque £34 made out to Heart of England U3A to DOROTHY JONES.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



Our next venture will be to the Belgrade in Coventry on 7 November 2015 to see "Flare Path" leaving at our usual time- 12.00 Henley and 12.30 the Leisure Centre. It doesn't take us that long to get to Coventry but if we keep changing the times we won't know where we are.

Some people still haven't paid and I will not be at the October meeting; please send the money to me £31.00 cheques made payable to Heart of England U3A. My address is 7 Appleby Close Great Alne, Alcester, B49 6HJ. If you need to ring me my number is 01789 488 551 and I will be home after 4 October 2015.

WALKING GROUP

Valery Redfern



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14th October 2015 at 10.00.am and will be led by Malcolm and Elaine Burden. We start from the public car park at Snowhill. It will be a medium walk of just under 5 miles with a slightly hilly section at the start. The rest is very pleasant with some beautiful views.

I recommend good walking shoes and that you bring a drink along with you. Waterproofs may be a good idea although we do not usually experience rain on our walks. National Trust members can access the café at Snowhill Manor for lunch after the walk.

WHAT'S ON – Monthly Meetings at Stratford, Shotton, Dene Valley and Alcester U3As.

Stratford	- 28th October	- "Solo Across Africa"	- Fran Sandham
Shotton	- 6th October	- "Bamboos & Megaphones - A Message from Hermes"	- Eleanor Allitt
Dene Valley	- 13th October	- "Ye Spies of Olde England"	- Hugh Davies
Alcester	- 6th October	- "The recreation of the gardens of Hanbury Hall"	- Neil Cook

SKITTLES EVENING

Coral Bradley

This will take place on 30 October 2015 at Welford on Avon at 7.30pm. Currently, there are 5 places available. Not everyone has paid so I would be grateful for cheques made payable to Heart of England U3A for £12.00 per person sent to me at 7 Appleby Close, Great Alne, Alcester, B49 6HJ .

<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
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.00pm
Card Making	Carolyn Leach	As Announced
China Discussion Group	Robyn Nicoll	See Newsletter
Chinwags Lunch	Belinda Sylvester	4th Monday 12.00 noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones	Every Friday 10.30—12.00 noon
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	3rd Monday 2.00pm
Creative Crafts	Tricia Callaghan	3rd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Computers	Robyn Nicoll	2nd & 4th Wednesday 2.30—4.00pm
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
Garden Appreciation Group	Jayne Jones Suzy Genge	As Announced
Grumpy Old Men	Graham Mitchell	3rd Wednesday for lunch
History	Janet Anslow	2nd Monday 2.00pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thursday 10.00am
Painting/Drawing	Dorothy Jones Lynette Forsdyke-Crofts	As Announced
Pilates - Monday	Gill Ganner	Every Monday 12.15—1.15pm
Pilates - Wednesday	Sue Workman	Every Wednesday 10.15—11.15am
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	See Newsletter for dates
Poetry Reading	Jennifer Davey	2nd Wednesday 10.00—12.00noon
Reading - Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3rd Monday 2.30—4.30pm
Reading - Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3rd Wednesday 2.30pm
Reading - Friday	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Rock & Roll Music	Coral Bradley	2nd Thursday 2.00—4.00pm
Science, Nature & All Things Technical	Geoff Bridgewater	2nd Friday 2.00—4.00pm
Sunday Lunch	Brian Bradley	As Appropriate
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones	As Appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As Appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2nd Wednesday 10.00am

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
October 2015	Science, Nature & A T T Group	January 2016	AmDram & Supper Group
November 2015	Computer Group	February 2016	Creative Crafts Group
December 2015	Pilates Group	March 2016	Film Group