



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England

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September 2013 Newsletter

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for September will be David Tideswell with the subject "Friendly Garden Robin, the natural and non natural history of our Robin Redbreast"

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for October will be Graham Sutherland with a talk "Stand and Deliver! Selected notorious highwaymen from the 17th to the 19th Century".

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER.

Membership fees are unchanged at £16.00 for 2013 - 2014 and are due from 1st September 2013. If paid on or before the 3rd October meeting a £1 discount (Pay £15.00) can be taken. Any fees not paid by Thursday 5th December, membership will automatically lapse and, if required, will have to be applied for. Anyone that requires a paper copy of the Newsletter to be posted to them, please add £4.00 to their membership fee to cover postage.

Renewal forms will NOT be required unless you have changed your contact details. Envelopes for subscriptions are available at this meeting. Subscriptions can be paid at this meeting or sent to either Brian Bradley (address above) or to the Treasurer, Sue Tringham.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Welcome to our September meeting which will be preceded by the Agm.

As I will be finishing my term as Chairman at the AGM, my final comments must be to thank you all for the support you have given Heart of England U3A. I am sure this will continue and that your enjoyment of U3A will carry on.

On a personal note, thank you for your cards, emails and good wishes during my recent stay in hospital. Your support was a great help to Sandra and myself during a difficult time.

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

Stratford:	25 th September -	"Antarctica's Forgotten Hero"	Angie Butler
Shotton:	1 st October -	"Lifting The Curtain"	Ruth Copeman
Dene Valley:	10 th September -	"AGM - Heart of England U3A Choir - Let's Sing a Song"	
Alcester:	1 st October -	"Ancient Stories: Inanna and her descent into the underworld"	
		Eleanor Allitt	

FAIR TRADE STALL

There will be a Fair Trade stall at the October meeting on 3rd October.

Coral Bradley

OUTINGS

1st November 2013 SKITTLES EVENING Welford Bowling Club 7.30pm

Party is limited to 30 to ensure a pleasant evening with plenty of skittles. Cost is not available at time of going to press and will be announced later.

COURSES ON-LINE-FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

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

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

A list of the courses may be found on the notice board and all have been downloaded over the past 2 years so if members prefer to bypass National Office, courses may be forwarded to members via e-mail or transferred to a memory device. These courses are ideal for a small group to study together. Courses studied so far: Garden History, Art History, and China History Ancient and Modern. A course on Russian History is available so let Robyn know if interested in that one.

Courses are also offered from the Australian U3A. (there is a fee to register and a charge for courses) If interested in seeing all the courses on offer from U3A down-under, go to the National Web site (as above), click "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.

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

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Robyn Nicoll

THE CHINA ON-LINERS

At our meeting on Friday afternoon, 2nd August, after our usual discussion on the unit researched, we were joined by Nicky who has been living in Beijing with her husband and 2 young children for 8 years. We were interested to hear firsthand what life is like in China today so we bombarded Nicky with many questions. The smog poses many problems particularly for young children who are confined to indoor activities at school and at home. Health services leave a lot to be desired. We all agreed that we would not be emigrating there in the near future. Looking ahead to September, Friday 6th, we will be welcoming Page for afternoon tea. She will be telling us about "Traditional Chinese Medicine". Anyone interested in this short talk is invited to join us for afternoon tea. We meet from 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the lounge.

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

Dennis Sully (Mavis on Holiday)

ALL SWING & JAZZ GROUP



The weather for our 25th July Thursday meeting was very hot and humid. I played a number by Alex Welsh and His Band entitled "Down among the Sheltering Palms". Given how hot and humid it was that afternoon and the fact that we were on Church premises, we felt the title should have been "Down among the Sweltering Psalms"!! Our meeting went well with Jools Holland playing an unusual arrangement of Tuxedo Junction. Pete Fountain played a 'cool' "Shrimp Boats", and Bob Cooper played a frenetically fast arrangement of "Strike up the Band", which had a melody in there somewhere. Artists; Red Norvo; Conte Candoli; Benny Carter; Ted Heath and others played us to the tea interval. With much waving of hand held fans we began our second half. Jools Holland/Chris Barber/Guy Barker took our attention with "Anglegrinder Blues", Huey Morgan had us swinging to "Fly me to the moon" and Tutti Camarata gave us a trombone version of "The Theme from the Pink Panther". Yank Lawson; Bob Haggart; Ben Webster; George Wettling's Jazz Band and others took us to the end of a very well attended meeting. Our next meeting is on Thursday 26th September 2013.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



The Art Appreciation Group will meet again on Friday 20th September, after a break of 2 months. We'll meet at a member's home to watch a film on the Rojksmuseum, Amsterdam. Please call either Sylvia Kentish (01789 263794) or Pam Collins (01789 774712) for more information, and/or if you are interested our group.

Pam Collins

BIG BAND MUSIC AND JAZZ GROUP

Sue Tringham



It was my turn to put together the programme at our Big Band, Swing and Jazz group meeting! I thought I would feature jazz musicians who are still alive and in the main I achieved this. We have such talent around but of course traditional jazz is only just keeping alive and our very talented musicians cannot hope to achieve the greatness of Barber, Bilk, Ball, Melly, etc. Nowadays we find that the jazz players move between groups on a very flexible basis which makes for interesting listening at live concerts. North Cotswold Jazz hold live jazz sessions once a month through the

winter at the The Sheldon Bosley Hub in Shipston which enables me to buy cds of current jazz musicians. Another source of material is John Petters who is actively involved in keeping traditional jazz alive. At the Cork Jazz Festival several years ago I came across the Roaring Forties. George Patterson is the lead singer with an amazing backup of piano, drums, saxophone and double bass. I also heard the Dixieland Crackerjacks, a Dutch group, at the Cork Jazz Festival. Carl Sinclair is an amazing jazz pianist. He brought the house down with his playing and enthusiasm at Shipston. Most of these names can be Googled and their music played on the internet.

As you can see 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



Our next workshop will be on September 13th in the lounge at the Methodist Church. The project will be set by Robyn with materials provided. New members will be welcome. For further details call, Carolyn on 01789 266194.

CHINWAGS

Belinda Sylvester



On 29th July we had a very enjoyable lunch. Discussion was about wind turbines. The next meeting is on 26th August. Look forward to seeing you.

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We are looking forward to our next choir meeting as we have had a break for 4 weeks. Hope everyone is in fine Voice! We have been invited to sing at Dene Valley's AGM on Tuesday 10th September. Thank you everyone who came to our summer concert. After we had paid expenses We were able to give The Methodist Church a cheque for £510 for the Renovation Fund.

A date for your diary: Christmas Concert on Friday 13th December, 11am - 12.30. More details later.

CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

Aline Cumming



Once again at Bridge Cottage in August we met for a random selection of pieces as our intended programme was not ready. We began with Beethoven (Howard's suggestion) and heard the third movement of the Emperor Piano Concerto No 5, soloist Emil Gilels, then the overture to Die Fledermaus, by Johan Strauss II played by the Munich Radio orchestra conducted by Placido Domingo. Aline suggested Mozart and played the first movement of the Clarinet concerto soloist M Taillard with the Concerto Koln, followed by 'Onaway Awake Beloved' from Hiawatha's Wedding Feast by Coleridge-Taylor. After tea and chat we listened to Kathleen Ferrier singing 'What is Life' from Orfeo ed Euridice by Gluck and finally Malaguena by Sarasate played by Itzhak Perlman. No theme to the choices but some pleasant moments.

Next month we meet at Bridge Cottage on Tuesday 17 September at 2pm, PLEASE note change of day.

COMPUTER GROUP AT STRATFORD SCHOOL.

Robyn Nicoll



We hope to resume courses after the summer holidays, if sufficient numbers of members are interested, and offer a list of topics suitable for beginners and improvers. See the list on the notice board table.

We plan to hold 5x 2hour sessions starting on Thursday, 26th September. Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 4pm to 6pm. Please sign the sheet if interested in joining us in the autumn, adding the topic of choice.

The Computer Group and Family History Group share the room so a course for FH research is added to the list with specialist help given by Sue Ocock and Edwin Lilly.

(Note: The school now offers wireless connection for laptops, i-pads, smart phones etc. so members may bring their own equipment to the class. Several members volunteer to help at the sessions and can therefore provide one-to-one assistance if necessary)

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

Roma Rudd



Our August meeting had a good turn out and our project was making a Rose out of material and a twig.. We were guided by Trisha who supplied the materials and instructions. All the roses were different and everyone seemed pleased with the finished results.

At our next meeting in September the project will be painting on pottery. We have Nina from Creative Spirit Studio coming along to share her expertise with us. She will be bringing along a variety of plates, mugs and bowls for us to choose from. The cost will depend on what is chosen and will vary from £8 – £14. Because we are members of U3A she will not be charging for her time and tuition. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 19th September. Everyone is welcome to come along and create a masterpiece!

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We met at the New Inn, Clifford Chambers, on the 6th August. The Dirty Duck was too busy with tourists, which is good news for Stratford. We had a lovely meal, lots of variety at a reasonable price.

Lots of talking as usual: lab growing food, by way of a burger. There are other ways of making a burger from soya, quorn, and pulses. Ragwort seeds blowing around, cattle eating them making them ill. Gold linseed on cereal is good for the digestion. England winning the Ashes is great news and disappointment when visiting the Globe Theatre. The actors not projecting their voices, making it hard to hear. Also a tip from Norma: senior ladies wanting to cross the road, stand next to a pretty girl in a short skirt, it works every time.

We next meet on 3rd September at the New Inn again.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



The topic for our Discussion. Group was Trolling, very much in the news. It appears that bullying is rife in many areas and our consensus was that “Human Rights” has gone too far as it appears that many parents opt out of disciplining and guiding their children. The daughter of one of our group has been told off for “interfering” in her daughter’s rights by overseeing what the child is watching on TV and Ipad, etc. Who is supposed to set standards, we wondered. The next meeting will be at the

Windmill on Wednesday 11th September at 1pm.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Sue Ocock



The Computer Group and Family History Group share the room at The Stratford School so a course for FH research is possible with specialist help given by Sue Ocock and Edwin Lilly. Meetings on 2nd and 4th Thursday at 3.45pm for 4.00pm. First meeting of new term is Thursday 26th September.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



This month we watched Distant Voices, Still Lives. This 1988 British film was written and directed by Terence Davies, based on the memories of his mother, sister and brother of life in Liverpool during the 1940s and 1950s. It was filmed as disjointed scenes and frozen tableau, much like our memories with appropriate music and songs. This was interesting and generated lots of comments afterwards. We all found it interesting and could relate to much of the pre television family life, except the violent father. But, some of us didn’t agree with the critics who described the film as Britain’s forgotten masterpiece, which came third in a poll of the 100 greatest British films.

We have room for more people and can promise an enjoyable and thought provoking program. Our aim 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.

The next meeting will be on 10th September at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

GAMES GROUP



Five of us got together on Monday 31 July afternoon 2 – 4 for dominoes and whist at my cottage in Church Street. It was a sociable couple of hours of games playing with Peter helping our new players. Monday afternoon seems to be a good time and in September I hope we can set up a timetable of sessions! For anyone else who would like to join the group my details are on the newsletter or see me at the monthly meeting.

Graham Mitchell

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP



Before discussion commenced on August's lunchtime meeting topic - "Wine Women and Song - How was it for you?" - a guarantee of anonymity was given to all speakers due to the possible sensitive nature of the personal experiences revealed. Therefore the notes for this newsletter, by necessity, are somewhat briefer than normal. Suffice to say that all the Grumps seem to have "done alright" through their formative years thanks to a heady mixture of wine (more accurately beer or cider as wine was not readily available and too expensive for us impecunious youths) and rampant testosterone. The "song" part of the subject was covered by reminiscences about singers and performers and bands enjoyed - topped by one Grump who, to the envy of most present, had been at a Live performance by the Glen Miller Band while on leave in London. The Group considered that they were still "doing alright" but inevitably, some fifty or sixty years on, anno domini had caused their priorities to change.

Next meeting : Wednesday 18th September. Venue - Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject: Growing Old Gracefully!! Introduction by Brian Bradley

Ron Castleton

HAND BELL RINGING



As we reported in the July Newsletter, The Hand Bell Group is facing a crisis!!! We urgently need a stable (regular attendance) group of people to come EVERY TWO WEEKS, which will allow us to allocate one bell specifically to each ringer, which makes it much easier to progress onto greater things. We very much regret to say the if we do not get enough regular ringers, then we will have to close down the Hand Bell Group. Please do come along if you can now or have ever read music and give it a try. It can be great fun, being part of a friendly, welcoming group of U3A members. Contact Ron Castleton on 01789 205 878 or ron.castleton@tiscali.co.uk. To talk things over.

HISTORY GROUP

Sheila Burchill



On Monday 9th September Tony Whiteley is going to show us a film starring Morgan Freeman which tells the story of how Nelson Mandela used the Rugby World Cup to unite the country to support the South African Team.

Mary Palmer

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 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, Shottery. For more information call Sue Workman on 297061.

PLAY READING GROUP



We met on Thursday 15th August at Gwyneth's. We read the Act 1 of "Time Murderer Please" by Charles Raymond Dyer. It was a comedy thriller. Look forward to meeting again on Thursday 19th September.

POETRY READING - WEDNESDAY

Jennifer Davey



Our next meeting will be Wednesday 11th September. The subject is "Disaster - international and domestic, tragic and comic. I am sure that, as usual, we shall have a good mix of poetry. Hope to see you all; newcomers also welcome.

READING GROUP - MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We all managed almost all 605 pages of "Gillespie and I" by Jane Harris. It was a surprise to notice it was only published in 2011 as it had a strong whiff of genuine Victoriana. It was about a brilliant artist in Scotland whose work somehow got destroyed despite the the writer's best efforts. It provoked a lengthy discussion without much admiration for the complicated plot or characters. In fact it took considerable effort to read to the end. As usual, we all had our own tales to relate.

READING GROUP - WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



This month we all enjoyed our book "A Gathering Light" by Jennifer Donnelly. It lived up to the Guardian review This is a wonderfully rich and beautifully written book. It was set in rural America in the early 20th century. Mattie, an 18 year old is torn between familial responsibilities, her desire to go to New York and become a writer, and the excitement of her first romance. We were all happy with her final decision, off to college in New York. Thank you Sheela for the yummy biscuits.

READING GROUP - FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We read "Love in The Present Tense" by Catherine Ryan Hyde. It is set in America and is about a small boy whose mother is killed and he grows up with people who befriend him. Some of the group liked the book, others found it too sentimental and confusing as it dodged from one person to another.

ROCK & ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



Colin Taylor from Alcester U3A presented the programme this month, where we listened to various songs written by the same duo and then we watched a film made in the 1960s featuring well known singers and actors of the day. Thank you Colin

SCIENCE AND NATURE GROUP

Geoff Bridgewater



On August 11th Geoff and Heather held a Garden Party at their house. Eighteen of us gathered in their pretty paved garden to discuss our thoughts and beliefs on the creation of our planet and was there a Creator. This was a very lively debate ranging through the Big Bang Theory, Natural Science, Darwinism, The Universe, God and was there some sort of "Controlling Force"

Our next meetings:-

September 18th - Lecture cancelled due to Presenter being absent.

September 27th - a visit to the Cotswold Water Park birdwatching in the morning and Chedworth Roman Villa in the afternoon and a pub lunch. Bob & Chris Heaps to organise.

SPANISH CONVERSATION

Dorothy Jones

We continue to enjoy our fortnightly Spanish meetings. Lise, our teacher, says we are making progress. Hopefully we will soon be able to go into a Spanish restaurant and order a 3 course meal. We always have a good laugh at our mistakes. Thank you Lise.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

Brian Bradley



The September lunch will be at the Stratford Golf Club on Sunday 8th September. **Please note that this is the second Sunday of the month, not the first.**

The October Sunday Lunch will be at Kings Court on 6th October 2013.

Please ring Brian Bradley: 01789 488551 if you would like to come to either of these days.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



12 October 2013: Birmingham Rep - "Twelve Angry Men" with Martin Shaw. All tickets for this production are sold.

Please note - leaving the leisure centre at 12.00 and then Henley at 12.30. This is a change from our usual arrangement

9 November 2013: Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, to see - "The Mouse Trap" - no names for the cast. There are a few tickets left for this at a cost of £39.00. Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30

VISIT TO THE BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL

Dorothy Jones

Thursday 10th October 2.15pm This is our first concert in the new season and the programme looks very exciting. It includes Haydn, Beethoven, and Mozart.

The cost of this visit will be £30, to include concert ticket and return coach fare to Symphony Hall. **PAYMENT IS NOW DUE.** I have a few tickets available.

The coach will leave Stratford Leisure Centre at 12.30. We then proceed to Birmingham and pick up our Henley/Claverdon group at 1.00pm at Johnsons Depot. Note the slight change! Please pay by cheque, made out to "HEART OF ENGLAND U3A" and send to Dorothy Jones. Telephone 01789 204892.

Concert dates for 2014: 13th March and 15th May.

WALKING GROUP

Valerie Redfiern



The September walk will take place on Wednesday 11th September 2013 at 10.00am. Start point will be in Ashorne and will be an easy going walk of five and half mile walk. We meet at Ashorne Village Hall Car Park. We can park at the Village Hall, making a small contribution to the Hall which Tony will collect on the day. Good walking boots or shoes are recommended. Also bring a drink as there is nothing on the way. The walk will be led by Tony and Sandra Whiteley.

ARCHIVES

Edwin Lilly

I am not receiving very much for the archives and would love to have more reports, photographs, etc, recording the happenings in our U3A. Items about summer trips, field trips. Even an annual report (need not be long, can be handwritten) can give a flavour of your group's activities.

Group	Group Leader	Usual Meeting Day (Monthly)
All That 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	3 rd Monday 2.00pm
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
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 Davey	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 - 2013</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>MONTH - 2014</u>	<u>GROUP</u>
		January 2014	All Swing & Jazz
		February 2014	Art Appreciation
September 2013	Creative Crafts Group	March 2014	Rock & Roll Music
October 2013	The Choir	April 2014	Classical Music
November 2013	History Group	May 2014	Chinwags
December 2013	Pilates Group	June 2014	Sunday Lunch