



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Web Address:-
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Heart of England

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September 2015 Newsletter

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker for September comes highly recommended by one of our own members & he is Laurence Thatcher on the topic of "Roman Alcester."

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

David Close, a volunteer at Chedham's Yard, will be speaking about '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 about Chedham's Yard!

CHAIRMAN'S AUGUST JOTTINGS

Geoff Bridgewater

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

The meeting will commence with our AGM, where you will get the opportunity to elect your new Officers and Committee for the forthcoming year and to approve the Financial Report for the year ended 31st July 2015. Despite my best efforts, nominations for new committee members are a rare occurrence, only one this year, and I consider it really important to maintain 'the line of succession' with some new faces, with new ideas and with lots of energy! So, why not get involved, I'm confident that you would enjoy it?

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription is due on 3rd September at the discounted rate of £14 if paid on or before 1st October 2015.

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.**

If you have any concerns please contact a Committee Member.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP—ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Anyone interested in joining a possible new group to learn Italian language—probably more at the beginner level than advanced—please contact Norma Hampson to register interest. Email norma.hampson@btinternet.com

GWYNETH BEVINS

Sadly Gwyneth one of our U3A founder members died in a Birmingham hospital on 23rd July after a short illness. Gwyn and her late husband, Bev, were instrumental in setting up many of our groups and we will remember them with great affection and respect. Aline Cumming and Margaret Barnett represented our U3A at the funeral service and we collected £75 which we sent to Macmillan Cancer Care, the family's chosen charity.

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 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.]

THE CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP

Robyn Nicoll

Patricia got us in the mood for our discussion on Chinese Culture by providing brushes, paint and pictures to copy using the traditional brush painting technique. (with varying degrees of success) It was fun to try this skill and to appreciate the benefits of concentration and learning something new.

Our discussion on Chinese Culture proved very interesting with the main focus on Music and instruments with examples shown on slides and You-tube videos.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday afternoon, 4th September, in the new room from 2.30-4.30. Our topic for discussion will be "Traditional Clothing and Costumes" and we will be showing some examples of our research on screen. 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 the July 2015 Meeting by Dennis Sully.

Our July meeting was very well attended and we made a good musical start with the Claude Bolling Big Band playing "Sixteen Men Swinging". Pee Wee Hunt and his Band got feet tapping with "Twelfth Street Rag". A 1933 composition called "Pink Elephants" was interesting, as was "Star Eyes" from an album called Supersax plays Bird. Jimmy Smith playing the Hammond B-3 Electric Organ played "The Sermon" but regretfully no one was converted. Dave Grusin played "East St Louis Blues" and singer Lena Horne enchanted us with "Let Me Love You". Music played by Coleman Hawkins and Ben Webster, and Eddie Condon and His AllStars took us to the interval. After a chatty tea and coffee break Gene Krupa and His Orchestra played "How High the Moon" followed by Warne Marsh Quintet playing "Ben Blue". Music played by Lou Donaldson, Bud Powell Trio and The Brede Big Band kept our feet tapping. Ruby Braff and George Barnes entranced us by playing a delightful arrangement of "Love Walked In". Our programme ended with the BBC Big Band playing that delightful standard "Chattanooga Choo Choo". Our next meeting is on Thursday 24th September 2015 at 2pm to 4pm in The Lounge of the Methodist Church.

PAINTING/DRAWING GROUP

Dorothy Jones



We will have our first meeting in the side lounge on Monday September 7th. We have 12 members who have shown an interest so, hopefully, we will make a good start and have an enjoyable morning.

ART APPRECIATION

Pam Collins

We had no meeting in August. In summary, during 2014 to 2015 our group continued to divide its monthly activities between several interesting visits to galleries and a variety of at-home meetings. We look forward to more of the same during the next year.

BALLROOM DANCING

John B Barker



The ballroom dance group will commence on Friday September 18th. 2.30pm at the Holy Trinity Community Hall. We are inviting and will welcome new members to our existing group for twice monthly meetings September through to December. The hall has been reserved for 7 sessions at a cost of £10 per member which is payable in September.

Since we started the Ballroom Group in April 2014 we have danced basic steps in most modern rhythms and included a few sequence dances.

We are a self help group and our goal is to enjoy the music and to share our combined knowledge so that we can help each other to dance. We change partners during the afternoon so you can come along as a solo dancer. Looking forward to meeting our regular dancers and many more new people that love to dance, so do come along to enjoy the music, friendship, fun and fellowship. We have some great recorded music.

The dates for your diary, all at 2.30pm to 4.00pm, are:

Friday Sept 18th,

Wednesday Oct. 7th,

Friday Oct 23rd,

Wednesday Nov. 4th,

Friday Nov. 20th,

Wednesday Dec. 2nd

Friday Dec. 18th

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



Our next work-shop will be Sept 18th 12.30 - 4.30. Thanks to all the kind members who bought our cards last month. £50 has been sent to 1 Leap, a local charity providing leisure opportunities for people with additional needs. Next month we hope to raise money for Macmillan Home Care.

CHINWAGS

Belinda Sylvester



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

THE CHOIR

Dorothy Jones



We were all very happy to resume choir after our Summer break. Stewart had spent time in Edinburgh where one of his daughters was singing. We started learning some new songs in readiness for our concert in December. The date will be in October Newsletter.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Aline Cumming



At the August meeting we watched and heard the promised recording of the Nordic Concert, the summer concert of the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra in the gardens of the Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna. The conductor was Zubin Mehta and pianist Rudolf Buchbinder. It began with the Vienna Fanfare composed by Richard Strauss then the Maskarade Overture to his comic opera composed by Carl Nielson. This was followed by Grieg's only Piano Concerto, played more slowly than some performances allowing the details to be heard. Then we had Soiree en Vienne composed by Alfred Grunfeld, a paraphrase on Johan Strauss waltz motives. After tea we returned to Scandinavia for Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite No 1, the incidental music for Ibsen's play, Finlandia by Sibelius and the Copenhagen Steam Railway Gallop by Hans Christian Lumbye complete with hoots and whistles. We returned to Vienna for the traditional finale Wiener Blut by Johan Strauss II. It was a light-hearted programme suitable for a summer evening.

The date for September is not known but we will watch two of the Pappano's Classical Voices programmes and if popular the other two in October..

COMPUTER GROUP

Robyn Nicoll



The computer sessions at the Holy Trinity Parish Centre will be resuming at the end of September and again members may bring lap-tops and tablets/ipads. All places have already been booked but we have a reserve list. Please add your name to the list on the notice board table.

5 sessions have been booked, 2.30 pm to 4.00pm, as follows:

Sept 23rd ; Oct 14th and 28th ; Nov 25th; Dec 9th.

The cost is £7 per person to be paid by the September monthly meeting. If paying by cheque, please make payable to "Heart of England U3A".

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



We have made a start on items for the Christmas bazaar and probably left our aromatic mark on the lounge as we made lavender bags! Some small card angels were also produced and several suggestions were made for what we might make at our next meeting. A couple of us will be making a few more lavender items at home so we're off to a pretty good start.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 17th September at 2.00pm.

DINAHS

Sylvia Crooks



We had a lovely lunch at the Red Lion again. There were only 6 of us which was nice and cosy ; one conversation at a time and we all could hear. We did chat about Orient Express, HS2 trains, the work that has been done in Birmingham, Newcastle Metro System, and Manchester Metro. Also the Kunzele Cake that was very popular in Birmingham: you just do not see them any more. Or, if you know different; please get back to us.

We meet again on the Tuesday 1st September; Red Lion 12.15.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Athena Roderick



As some members were abroad, on holiday elsewhere, enjoying a birthday, recovering from an operation, seeing a dentist & directing a roofer, we were few in number, so we just chatted about immigration, my view on Europe seizing this opportunity to make African Governments take responsibility for their people, having grown rich on monies that have been sent to help their poor, not line their own pockets, We also agreed that we would happily pay more money for milk, as one day we may have so few farmers left, that we will be at the mercy of foreign farmers. We meet again on September 9th, 12.30 at The Windmill.

FILM GROUP

Mary Fishleigh



This month we watched the first of a pair of French films, 'Jeanne de Florette'. It starred Gerald Depardieu, Yves Montand and Daniel Auteuil. It is a delightful film set in the Vaucluse Department of Provence. Some of the impressive scenery can be seen as the story progresses. Unfortunately the ending

is rather sad, so we are all eagerly awaiting the sequel, 'Manon de Source', to find out if the story eventually has a happy ending. We will show this film over the winter months.

During the last 12 months the group has been very successful with a very healthy membership. We have once again seen a very diverse selection of films, including 'Life is Beautiful', 'Death of a Salesman', 'High Society', 'About Schmidt', 'Grapes of Wrath' and 'Some Like it Hot'.

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.

Our next meeting will be on September 8th at 2pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Church.

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 meeting in September will be Monday 7th and Monday 21st. 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



Kiftsgate Court Garden was the destination for our August outing. The gardens are the creation of 3 generations of women gardeners. Started by Heather Muir in the 1920s, continued by Diany Binny her daughter from 1950 and now loving looked after by Anne Chambers and her husband. Heather Muir was a great friend of Lawrence Johnston, creator of 'the garden next door' at Hidcote Manor, and there is no doubt that Mr Johnston greatly helped to inspire the gardens at Kiftsgate.

Our afternoon was rounded off with a visit the the garden's tea rooms to sample the lovely cakes!

On Tuesday 15 September one of our group members, Suzy Genge, has invited us to her garden in Clifford Chambers for a peep and cup of tea.

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

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

Graham Mitchell



At our August meeting we were pleased to welcome two potential new Grumps and despite the somewhat ghoulish nature of this months discussion topic "My Scariest Moment" we look forward to their continuing presence at our Group sessions. Spine chilling, knee trembling, nightmare inducing stories were the order of the day at our lunchtime gathering. Incidents involving aircraft probably topped the list with exploding engines, dicey landings, pilots getting lost and planes disintegrating at air shows. Graphic accounts of near death situations in cars, on motorbikes and (nearly) falling from a great height in derelict buildings all added to the feeling that we have been very fortunate to survive as long as we have. Perhaps it is thanks to the elusive sixth sense that has kept us relatively safe and warned of impending dangers that has meant we have been able to avoid many more scary moments!!

Next meeting - Wed. 16th SEPT. - Venue Le Bistrot Pierre

Subject - Has the printed daily newspaper had its day? - Introduction - All Members.

HISTORY GROUP

Sheela Burchill



We did not meet in August.

On Monday, 14 September, Michael Hodgetts is giving us a talk on "The Architecture and Building of Priest-holes". These were so skilfully constructed it is thought likely that some are still undiscovered. Everyone 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.

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 did not meet this month, with holidays and schools. Next meeting will be Thursday 17th September at Sylvia's 10.30 for coffee.

READING GROUP – MONDAY

Phyllis Bailey



We read 'Golden Earrings' by Belinda Alexandra this month with perhaps more interest than enjoyment! Certainly it provoked long and lively discussion and each member (now 7) had plenty of opinion to contribute; on a scale of 0-10 there were large variations. It covered a variety of topics, from the effect of the Spanish civil war in Catalonia, the Paris opera ballet, Flamingo and even bull fighting and a ghost were included. The method of frequent flashbacks and the large number of characters in the tale didn't make for easy reading but no one gave up and one member decided to re-read it all to obtain clarification! THINKING OF THE PAST (u3a) YEAR, the new PC scheme now used by Warwick library scheme is working well and we have not had a single dud. Not once has a member not read or given up on the set book unlike previous years when that happened quite often.

READING GROUP—WEDNESDAY

Dorothy Jones



This month our novel was "The Girl in Berlin" by Elizabeth Wilson. A sinewy thriller that took us back to the summer of 1951 and the national obsession with the defection of Burgess and Maclean. Very few members read the novel and those who did found it disappointing . There were too many characters and the plot was confusing. We would not recommend the book to other groups, The highlight of our meeting was a good chat and our afternoon tea with delicious cakes served by Sheela.

READING GROUP - FRIDAY

Coral Bradley



We have been reading "A History of the World in Twelve Maps" by Jerry Brotton. It is a fascinating book that looks at twelve maps from early Greek to present times and shows how they were made and what they said about the known world of their time. It is a long and dense book so we have been given another month to continue reading it. Still reading it.

ROCK AND ROLL GROUP

Coral Bradley



David Knight , a new member of the rock & roll group gave us a very good programme this month. He came up with some new songs and some interesting information on the artists. Altogether a jolly good afternoon. Thank you David.

SCIENCE, NATURE & 'ALL THINGS' TECHNICAL GROUP

Edwin Lilly



There has been no meeting during August. Future meetings are:

Friday 11th September - An illustrated talk by Ian titled "Bridging the Gap". This is a look at bridges.

Friday 9th October - "The Geology and Volcanoes of New Zealand" given by Aline Cumming.

Friday 13th November - "By 'Eck it's Fred Dibnah!" by Geoff Bridgewater

Friday 11th December - Xmas Social and Quiz by Chris and Bob. (Bring and Share Tea).

All in the New Room, Methodist Church Hall.

Two members from Heart of England attended the U3A National Science Technology and Society Network –Seminar 2015 at Harper Adams University 10th - 13th August. See the Magazine for a report.

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Brian Bradley



The next meeting is on Sunday 6 September 2015 at the Henley Golf Club. Names please to Brian Bradley 01789 488551. There will be no Sunday lunch in October. The November lunch will be at the Navigation Inn.

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERTS

Dorothy Jones



Our next visit is Thursday 24th September. I have two seats left so please contact me on 01789 204892 if you would like to join us. Remember we leave the Stratford Leisure centre promptly at 12-15pm.

Dates for your diaries:

Thursday 14th January 2016 2-15pm

Thursday 26th May 2016 2-15pm.

Details in the October Newsletter.

THEATRE GROUP.

Coral Bradley



On 12 September we go to the Birmingham Rep to see "King Charles III". As this event is in Birmingham and the play starts at 2.00 we are starting from Stratford at 12.00 and then Henley at 12.30. All the tickets for this have been sold.

On 7 November 2015 we are going to the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry to see a play called "Flare Path" by Terence Rattigan. It is based on Rattigan's experience as a tail gunner during the World War II and the effect it had on families. This play is relevant in this anniversary year. The cost is £31.00
We will leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. We do get to the theatre early but this is better than changing our times and confusing everyone.

WALKING GROUP

Valery Redfern



There will not be a walk in September due to holidays. The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14th October 2015 at 10.00.am and will be led by Malcolm and Elaine Burden. Details to be notified.

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.

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

Stratford	- 30th September	- "The Civil War in Birmingham"	- Mary Bodfish.
Shotton	- 6th October	- "Bamboos & Megaphones - A Message from Hermes"	- Eleanor Allitt .
Dene Valley	- 8th September	- AGM and Group Presentation.	
Alcester	- 6th October	- "The recreation of the gardens of Hanbury Hall"	- Neil Cook .

SKITTLES EVENING

Coral Bradley

Our annual skittles evening will be on Friday 30 October 2015 at the usual place.

The places will be limited to 30 so that everyone gets a chance of three attempts at knocking down all the skittles.

Price available at the September meeting.

<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 Wednesday & 3rd Friday 2.30—4pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.00pm
Card Making	Carolyn Leach	As Announced
China Discussion Group	Robyn Nicoll	See Newsletter
Chinwags Lunch	Belinda Sylvestor	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
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>
September 2015	Bridge Group	December 2015	Pilates Group
October 2015	Science, Nature & A T T Group	January 2016	AmDram & Supper Group
November 2015	Computer Group	February 2016	Creative Crafts Group