



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

New Website address:-

www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

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November 2010 Newsletter

TODAYS SPEAKER

Today we are going to be ably entertained and informed by the RAF. Not all the RAF of course but, Flt.Lt. Christine Murray, Warrant Officer Roy Woodrough and SAC Davey. It should be an interesting afternoon for everyone.

NEXT MONTHS SPEAKER

The speaker at our next meeting on 2nd December is John Edger, Writer, Storyteller and Performer. Sounds just what we need to begin the Christmas celebrations.

Membership Fees: At a recent Committee Meeting it was decided to set the membership fee for next year at £15.00 per person. Renewal forms and envelopes will be available at the meeting, and payment should be made at the meeting today or by post to the Treasurer, David Sladden, 10 Saffron Walk, Stratford CV37 6GN **REMEMBER TO GET YOUR 2011 DIARIES NOW!!!!**

On Line Courses from National Office. –

A list of the courses is on the notice board. More details can be obtained by visiting the National Office web site - www.u3a.org.uk

Please contact Robyn if you would like more information about the courses.

Next session for the Garden History On-liners will be on **Tuesday, 23rd November starting at 3pm in the annex.**

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS.

Our Old Website ceased to function on 31st October due to BT changing the website supplier. Our New website, IS NOW FUNCTIONING AT www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk. Any enquiry to the old website should be referred to the new site.

Interest Group Leaders: The members of the committee are looking forward to our informal get-together on **Friday 12th November starting at 10am** in the lounge followed by pub lunch at the Old Tramway.

U3A News Flash

The Literature in Performance Group is changing its name and scope of activity. We started by reading Chaucer's Canterbury Tales in modern English (The Chaucer Experience) but only a few people have been interested.

The Group now proposes to read and explore a wider range of literature. This will include both well-known works and lesser-known literature, both fiction and non-fiction. These may include Longfellow's Hiawatha, excerpts from Dickens, Kipling, or letters from Bernard Shaw. The primary objective remains – to read, explore and enjoy poetry, prose and drama.

To this end we are taking a new name, "With Great Pleasure".

This will complement the interests of other Groups and we extend a warm welcome to new members. We meet on the third Friday of the month and our next meeting will be November 19, 10am – 12noon. Contact Roy Tabor,

NEW YEAR LUNCH

Heart of England U3A has arranged to celebrate the **New Year** at **Le Pierre Bistro in the Garden Room of the Swan's Nest Hotel** on Saturday 22nd January 2011 at 12.00 noon. The price is an amazing £12.00 for a delicious 3 course lunch, not including wine or coffee, which can be ordered separately. There will be a **FREE** draw for a **lunch for two** at Le Pierre Bistro and we will also have another prize for the winner of a short fun quiz. The booking form and menu choice is available at this meeting or can be downloaded from our website. Please return your menu selection with payment of £12.00 per person to Athena Roderick at the next meeting

Christmas Raffle:

The Creative Craft Group will be conducting a Christmas Raffle at the December meeting and will also have a small selection of knitted toys and decorations for sale. All the proceeds will be donated to a local charity.

On display is the Knit and Natter Nativity produced by members during the year. The Group will offer this as a raffle prize. The Nativity will be exhibited at the annual Crib Exhibition to be held in the Wesley Hall on the weekend of 4th and 5th December.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Proposed new Interest Groups:

Cooks' Club, Knitting Group, Bird Watching, and Italian Art 1400-1600 (an On-Line Course suitable for beginners). If interested in any/all of these groups, please sign the lists at the notice board table. Further information will be available in the December newsletter with details of whom to contact..

Art Appreciation Group



For our October meeting we went to Compton Verney to see the excellent exhibition entitled "Volcano: Turner to Warhol". Apart from many wonderful (and terrifying!) paintings of volcanic eruptions from Vesuvius to this century, the exhibition also examined the scientific aspect, and how some modern artists have used the subject to examine political and social themes, and a video of Stromboli taken over a 5 year period.

Our next meeting is at Carmen's.

Phyl Collins

Big Band Swing Jazz Group



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd November 2010 at 2pm in The Lounge of The Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

Dennis Sully

Bridge Group



The Bridge Group meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30 in the Side Room next to the kitchen. We call it Social Bridge and the atmosphere is "relaxed"!

John Yeomans

Chinwags



At our September lunch we heard about mail going astray, and chasing compensation, and the confusions of finding economical rail fares; very comforting to share our frustrations. We next meet on 25 Oct and the topic unless something more urgent comes up will be Anniversaries and, if a second is needed, comics and their changes in style and material.

Please note the 22 November meeting will take place but there will be no meeting in December owing to Christmas

Aline Cumming

Classical Music Group



Jean described her programme as "A little bit of Spring", bringing us mainly music of the piano and violin. Her first choice was "The Highgrove Suite" written by Patrick Hawes for the Prince of Wales. Some of us had never heard this before, and it was a delight, catching gently the spirit of Nature in woods and meadow flowers. We then listened to Vaughan Williams' "The Lark ascending", where the violin rose and fell echoing up into a spring blue sky. Haydn's brief excerpt from his Cello Concerto No. 2 was followed by "Memories of the Alhambra", then Bach's lively Partita, and the last two movements of Bruch's Violin Concerto No.1, a piece wellknown and well-loved. We then had a taste of rippling music by Mendelssohn, followed by Albinoni's "Adagio", music that lulled us into a deep soft calm. A very pleasant programme. Thank you, Jean.

Valma Rose

"The Choir"



We now have a repertoire of 20 varied songs. The group which has regular attendance of just over 20 members was formed originally to "sing for fun" and that is exactly what it does.

Thanks to the dedication of Tony Griffiths, Dorothy Jones and Sylvia Crooks the group has bonded and developed into something really special. Members with musical talent are sharing and as a result the choir is definitely moving forward.

Our October meeting just flew by and all were surprised when the session ended.

Tony is very pleased to report that his efforts to find a musical director have been successful. Stuart Wallace has agreed to join us and will be directing our next rehearsal.

Our November meetings will be held on the 5th (Side Lounge) and 19th (Annexe) in the Methodist Church.

Ruth Grahame

Computer Group At Stratford High School.



A Beginners Group began on September 9th. This course includes keyboard navigation, simple word processing, and getting to grips with the internet.

Dates for November – 11th and 25th.

Proposed Topic for the New Year: "Cameras and Computers". This course will cover computer applications for digital photography and will include movie/video making. Please sign the list on the notice board table if interested in joining this course or contact Ron or Robyn.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our October meeting continued the Christmas theme. We made tree decorations from festive material and beads. The finished result was very attractive, worthy enough to grace any tree! Next month we will make more different ones. We would still welcome new members. Surely there are some ladies or gentlemen who would enjoy a sociable afternoon being creative. If so please contact us, you won't be disappointed!

Carolyn Leach

Next Card Making workshop will be held in the Annex on Friday, 26th November, starting at 12.30pm.



The topic for the day, by popular request, will be "Embossing" using stencils and a light box. No previous experience is required so if interested in joining the card makers for lunch and a relaxing afternoon contact Carolyn Leach.

Carolyn is very pleased to inform you that a donation of £50 from the sale of cards has been given to Amasango Children's Trust in South Africa, a charity supported by Valerie Redfern. Find information about the trust on their web site: www.amasango.org.uk/school_history

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs

The Greek Med Restaurant was our venue in October. It was a nice change, the meal was good and we had the place to ourselves. Lots of chat as usual, food and old recipes as a couple of us had enjoyed Homithy Pie for main course and Eton Mess for pudd while on holiday. We ended up talking about make-up as a young chap came in selling make-up at bargain prices, with Christmas on the horizon several of us did buy. Next Dinahs will be at the New Inn, Clifford chambers 2nd of November



Sylvia Crooks

Family History Group

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The group meets on the third Thursday of the month at Stratford High School at 3.45pm.

We primarily use the Internet to research our Family History using Census returns and birth, marriage and death indexes, and there is always someone on hand to offer encouragement and advice on finding those mysterious relatives!

Our next meeting is on November 18th. New members are always welcome.

Carol Styles

Grumpy Old Men Group

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At a well attended gathering a lively discussion took place on - "the way forward" - resulting in a very positive outcome with many constructive ideas put forward regarding the future running and format of the Group's activities which it was felt generally should be fairly informal in order to maximize the Grumps' enjoyment.

Grump of the Month was Elliot Cave for his overall contribution to proceedings.

Next Meeting - WED. 17th November - Same time and place.

Subject - Does society gain/lose from the existence of the current "me" generation.

The discussion will be "kicked off" by a willing volunteer, Paul Burley, followed by the traditional Grumps free for all.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We had a good response to the proposed Hand Bell Ringing group - thirteen prospective ringers. We now arranged for our first practice – we will meet on alternate Mondays at 10.am. Our first meeting is on 1st November.

Ron Castleton

Keep Fit Group



Keep Fit is now full and we have started a waiting list.

For more information please ring Mary Palmer or Joy Baylis for further details.

Outings

*Please think about what outing you would like next year. There is a box for suggestions at the front of the hall names not necessary. All ideas will be considered by the committee. **We want to arrange the outings you would like.***

Coral Bradley

Pilates Group

Every Monday at St. Andrew's Parish hall Shottery between 12:15 and 1:15.

For more information contact Gill Ganner.



Play Reading Group



We concluded our reading of *My Three Angels* at our October Meeting. We all enjoyed the humour but thought that the latter half of the play was more visually funny.

Next Meeting Friday 5th November, 10.30am at Suzettes.

Suzette Pullen

Poetry & Prose Group

Our meeting on early poets (Elizabeth 1st to James 1st) finally got off the ground on 14th October and although members were few we had a very entertaining afternoon with poems from Thomas Carew, Robert Herrick, Andrew Marvel, Thomas Lodge, John Clare, Shakespeare, Marlowe, George Herbert and that most famous poet Anon.



The next meeting will be on 10th November. The period for study 1700-1850, or thereabouts.

Ann Davies

Reading Group - Monday



We had a lively discussion and spoke about our chosen books..no-one managed the set library offering..science fiction!! One founder member has decided to leave us after 8 years but the next day a new one asked to join so we are full up again with 8 members! We are joining up with the Diners group for our Xmas lunch.

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



Our book this month was “*Divided Kingdom*” by Rupert Thomson. Whilst it is not in the Science Fiction genre it did look into the future of the British Isles in a way that can be described as both fiction both elements of science.

At some time in the not too distance future the British Isles is divided into four separate self ruling areas whose citizens are chosen by their “humours”. The borders of these areas are marked by high walls patrolled by guards and dogs. Movement between areas is strictly controlled and the value systems of each are reflected by their “humours”.

Whilst it was a very imaginative book that was relatively well written with good descriptive passages, it was not altogether believable and lacked that depth of explanation as to why certain outcomes had happened. The book would have benefitted had it been explained why “humours” were chosen as the reason for the Kingdom being divided. Then a lot might have fallen into place.

Sandra Whiteley

Reading Group – Friday



We decided to try a science fiction novel this time so had Foundation by Asimov. It is one of his earlier novels. Some of the group who really enjoy science fiction knew the book and liked re-reading it. Others found it hard to get into and this particular novel did not encourage them to try this genre.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



The new group met for the first time on Thursday 14th October. Sixteen members attended to prove Rock and Roll was still alive! Members were warned that anyone dancing in the aisles would have to leave the Hall!

Our first programme was initiated by Tony Whiteley and accepted that for our first meeting we should go back to the beginning. We looked at rock and roll in the fifties just as it started to cross the Atlantic. We played a selection of tracks from the veterans of those years, including Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Little Richard and Buddy Holly. We had our first disagreement – were the Platters a rock and roll group or not!

We watched some vintage grainy video from the Internet showing early performances of Eddie Cochran, Chuck Berry and Buddy Holly. We spent a couple of minutes watching part of a live performance by Don McLean of American Pie lamenting the early death of Buddy Holly.

We concluded with a thrilling 1989 performance by Roy Orbison and then Paul McCartney in Red Square, Moscow in 2003.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 12th November at 2.00pm in the Lounge at the Methodist Hall. Coral Bradley is providing the programme. New members are welcome to join our group!

Tony Whiteley

Science & Nature Group

This month we visited Batsford Arboretum and The Cotswold Falconry Centre.



We all met at the Tea Room in the Garden Centre and after a welcome cup of coffee went to see a falconry display. Unfortunately the weather conditions (lack of wind) did not encourage flight, but we enjoyed meeting various raptors including an owl, vultures and falcons. After the display we repaired back to the Tea Room for lunch. We then spent the afternoon exploring the Arboretum. Some of the trees were displaying their autumnal colours making wonderful pockets of reds, golds, and oranges. We saw some extraordinary trees which were thankfully labelled! Elka hunted for and found the Wollemi Pine, which until it was discovered in a remote gorge in the Blue Mountains of Australia had been thought to be extinct. It grew during age of the dinosaurs 50 - 100 million years ago! On the outskirts we found St. Mary's church, designed in a strange Victorian "Normanesque" style. Needing sustenance we returned to the Tea Room and had tea and cakes.

On the 19th November we will be visiting Hook Norton Brewery.

On 10th December we will have our Christmas meeting at Hampton Lucy Village Hall

Sandra Sladden

Shakespeare Group

There was no meeting in October as Jess was away on holiday abroad.



The next meeting will be held on 9th November.

Jess Monk

Stratford Swingers Big Band & Jazz Group



The next meeting will be on Thursday 25th November 2010 at 2pm in The Lounge of The Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

Dennis Sully

Sunday Lunch Group



The next Sunday lunch will be on 7th November at the Golden Cross, Wixford.

The Christmas Sunday Lunch will be on the 5th December at the Henley Golf Club. The cost will be £16 for a three course meal, or £14 for two courses. Names please to Brian Bradley: Tel: 01789 488551. Reminder that the November lunch will be on Sunday the 7th. at the

Golden Cross Wixford.

Brian Bradley

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT 11th NOVEMBER 2-15pm
DEPART LEISURE CENTRE 12-30pm.
This concert is now fully booked.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Next Symphony Hall Concert - Wednesday 16th March 2011
A very good concert of popular music – more details later.

Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins

Theatre Group & Outings



We have only one trip planned now and that is the Ballet in December at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

The brochures for 2011 are not out yet but as soon as something that meets our discerning taste appears I will make some bookings.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



The November walk will take place on the 10th November at 10.a.m. prompt and start from Welford on Avon. Please Park with consideration in Headland Road at the Barton Road end. This is a five mile walk which allows you to enjoy the lovely village of Welford.

Allow three hours walking time and I recommend that you bring a drink with you. I also recommend good walking shoes. Look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely *Valerie Redfern*

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

Stratford – 24th Nov. – “ RSC Transformation: Progress and Plans” -

Graeme Williamson & Julie Harris

Shottery – 7th December - " Social Event" – Shottery members only.

Dene Valley – 9th November – “ An Unusual Job for a Lady” - Marion Canning.

Group Leaders Contact List		
<i>Group</i>	<i>Group Leader</i>	<i>Usual Meeting date (Monthly)</i>
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood	3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Dennis Sully	4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming	4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Tony Griffiths	12 noon, Fortnightly
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	2 nd Tuesday 2.30 pm
Creative Crafts	Roma Rudd	3 rd Thursday 2 – 4 pm
Computer Group	Robyn Nicoll	2 nd Thursday - 4.15 pm
Dinahs Luncheon Group	Sylvia Crooks	1 st Tuesday for Lunch
Family History – Genealogy	Carol Styles	3 rd Thursday – 4.00 pm
French Conversation	Anthea Dodsworth	Every Tuesday 1.30 pm
Gardening Group	Dorothy Bonham	2 nd Tuesday
Grumpy Old Men Group	Robert Chorley	3 rd Wednesday for Lunch
Hand Bell Ringing Group	Ron Castleton	Alternate Mondays 10am
History Group	Janet Anslow	2 nd Monday – 2.0 pm
Keep Fit	Mary Palmer	Every Thursday am
Literature in Performance	Roy Tabor	To be announced
Luncheon Group – Sundays	Brian Bradley	- see Newsletter for dates -
Pilates Group	Gill Ganner	Mondays – 12.15-1.15pm
Play Reading	Suzette Pullen	1 st Friday 10.30 – 12.00
Poetry Reading	Jackie Williams	2 nd Weds. 10 – 12 am
Poetry & Prose Appreciation	Anne Davies	As appropriate
Reading Group – Wednesday	Dorothy Jones	3 rd Wednesday 2.30 pm
Reading Group – Monday	Phyllis Bailey	3 rd Monday–2.30-4.30pm
Reading Group – Friday	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Rock & Roll Music Group	Coral Bradley	2 nd Thursday – 2 – 4pm
Science & Nature Group	Geoff Bridgewater	As appropriate
Scrabble	Barbara Cave	Last Thursday 2.00.pm
Shakespeare's Life & Works	Jess Monk	2 nd Tuesday – 10.00 am
Stratford Swingers	Dennis Sully	4 th Thursday
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins	As appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley	As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern	2 nd Wednesday