



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England

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November 2012 Newsletter

TODAY'S SPEAKER

The talk this month is on "The Grand Canal of China" to be given by Liam D'Arcy Brown who has been a frequent visitor to China for the past two decades and has written a number of books on his travels there.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

In December Karen O'Connor (Performance Coach) will talk about "The Performance Between the Ears". Karen's career as an oboist with the CBSO has taken her all over the world to perform in many of the world's great concert halls. Her research into sport psychology has now led her into a ground breaking area of work with professional and student performers.

From the Chairman's Desk

Welcome to our November Meeting.

After the AGM in September, Eugene Schellenberg told us about the Ifakara Bakery Project. In addition to our donation, further individual donations were made and Eugene has told us the total amount he received was £345.35 and that this will buy 1,381 loaves of braed and he thanks everyone for their generosity.

A couple of reminders:-

Membership fees are now due (£16.00 per person) and can be paid at this meeting or by post to the Treasurer, Sue Tringham.

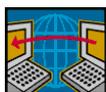
There will be a Group Leaders meeting on 23rd November. There will be more details nearer the date.

David Sladden

NEW YEAR LUNCH

Just a gentle nudge to remind you that we are booking for the New Year Lunch which will be at Le Bistrot Pierre, Garden Room, Swan's Nest Hotel, on Saturday 19th January 2013 starting at 12 midday. They have provided a lovely menu with 3 choices for 3 courses at a very good price of £13.50. We hope that as many as possible will be there to get our year off to a flying start. You can download the menu from the website or pick up a menu from the next meeting. Send cheques made out to HOE U3A to Athena Roderick, 17 Gifford Walk, SOA, CV37 9LN.

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.

Several courses have been downloaded and saved 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. One member has

has used the the latter method for the Creative Writing – Poetry Course and another to download the Russian History Course. These courses are ideal for a small group to study together. For more information, please contact Robyn - redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

Equipment

Heart of England U3A Group has an automatic 35mm Slide Projector with slide magazine and wireless remote control. This is available for group members to use. If you would like to borrow this item, please contact Ron Castleton on 01789 205878.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The China On-liners are nearing the end of the course.



Our final Unit, date to be arranged, will be covering China Today and the influence of Deng Xiao Ping following the death of Chairman Mao in 1976. This will include the One Child Family Policy introduced by Deng. We will also be finding out about U3A in China. At the time this course was written there were 28,000 local groups – the biggest U3A in the world. We also hope to meet some Chinese students from Stratford College.

Robyn Nicoll

Art Appreciation Group

In October we visited the Arter, which is based in Hall's Croft and is a shop selling crafts which are all produced by artists living in the Stratford area. Paula gave us a very interesting talk about how the enterprise started and showed us many of the varied articles which are on display, ranging from ceramics both decorative and practical, knitted silver thread necklaces, jewellery, millinery, cards, small sculptures and so on. We also talked to a local potter, John Hough. She is anxious that the shop should be better known to local people, and it certainly gave us lots of ideas for presents and is well worth a visit.

Phyl Collins

All Swing and Jazz Group

Report of the September 2012 meeting.



Has anyone noticed how Jazz/Swing players seem to have slightly unusual names? This month we heard from Arne, Yank, Gunnar, Maynard, Slim, Erskin and Spats. The programme started with Cyril Stapleton and Orchestra playing "Tuning Up" followed by "Rock Around the Clock" by the Arne Domnerus Orkester which was a combination of rock/jazz and Scat singing. We then had another 'test your ears' two tracks "Honky Tonk Train Blues" and "Honky Tonk". Were they the same tune...a very indecisive Don't Know was the answer. The next tune was "The Lady is a Tramp" by the Rolf Larsson's Orkester which was noticeable for the 13year old soloist sax player. The first half finished with "The Fool on the Hill" by Maynard Ferguson. Tea and coffee at half time was very much improved by Cup Cakes baked by Jane, Dennis's wife to celebrate out 4th Birthday. Thank you Jane.

Second half started with "The Legend" played by 'The Count' with a very cool solo from Benny Carter on Alto Sax. Then we had seven tracks amongst which were "Washboard Wiggles" by Tiny Parham and his musicians, "Tuxedo Junction" by Erskine Hawkins and his Orchestra and "Got a date with an Angel" by Spats Langham and his Hot Combination" (real 'lounge lizard' sound). Ever up to date we had a track called "Shades of Grey" by Jerry Gray and his Orchestra – NO not the 50 variety. We wound up with "Big Noise from Winnetka" played by The Big Beat of Eric Delaney. Another enjoyable afternoon. Thank you Dennis. Our November meeting will be on the 22nd at the usual venue of The Lounge of the Methodist Church Hall in Old Town starting at 2pm. Do you know what the 'Screech Chair' in a band is??? Come along and find out.

Mavis Pickett

Big Band Swing & Jazz.



At our Big Band, Swing and Jazz group meeting Tony put together a really interesting programme for real traditional jazz enthusiasts from 4 LP's – Encyclopedia of Jazz - covering jazz in the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's! The selection of 24 titles showed the wealth and variation of musicians through the four decades and compared styles and techniques.

We heard that Jelly Roll Morton (20's) claimed to have started jazz and Johnny Dodd (20's) played with most of the greats. Andy Kirk (30's) with a female pianist had almost a big band sound. Chick Webb (30's) introduced

us to an 18 year old Ella Fitzgerald singing 'Sing me a swing song'. Big Band dominated the 40's but we were surprised to hear that in fact Benny Goodman was late 20's and Glenn Miller late 30's. Louis Armstrong (50's) introduced solo players and vocals. It was amazing that so many different sounds were produced with similar instruments. However, we decided that trumpet players dominated through the decades. Next meeting 27 November, 2 – 4pm Methodist Hall.

Sue Tringham

Bridge Group



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.

John Yeomans

Chinwags



We met in September at Cafe Rouge. Our discussion ranged from the effect of Chinese family planning on the number of girls, Service "Downstairs" in Downton Abbey and other TV serials, standards in schools and, finally, family get-togethers. Eventually we agreed to return to Cafe Rouge on 22nd October and **PLEASE NOTE** we will limit numbers to 10 so please let me know if you would like to be on the list each month. We will be meeting in November but not December (Christmas Eve anyone?) Then there will be a new Organiser as I will have temporarily left the country.

Aline Cumming

The Choir



We have started practising for our next concert LET'S SING A SONG – AT CHRISTMAS. Thursday 13th December, 11.00 to 12.30. Tickets £2.50 (inc refreshments) at Stratford Methodist Church Hall. We look forward to seeing everyone and if you missed our June concert make a note in your diary. We always welcome new members so if you would like to sing in our concert join now. We meet every Friday from 12.00 – 1.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Dorothy Jones

Classical Music Group



We enjoyed a Beethovenfest in October. We heard the entire Seventh Symphony, a very measured performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Klemperer chosen by George. After tea we had Valma's contributions, first the Piano Concerto No 4 in G Major played by the Tonhalle Orchestra conducted by David Zinman, soloist Yefim Bronfman. We finished with the first movement of the Violin Concerto in D, soloist Josef Suk, with Sir Adrian Boult conducting the New Philharmonia Orchestra. It made a pleasant change to play the whole symphony and piano concerto as we normally play excerpts. We meet on 13th November for Deidre's choices.

Aline Cumming

Computer Group at Stratford School.



The 5 session courses for Beginners and Improvers concludes at the end of November. Dates in November 8th and 22nd, 4.00 to 6.00pm. Thanks to more helpers offering their time, the beginners have received one-to-one help during each session. We plan to offer courses in the New Year and welcome any suggestions for topics from members. The Beginners Group will continue if sufficient numbers wish to come along.

Robyn Nicoll

Creative Craft Group



Our October meeting was well attended. We continued with the Nativity project making the figures out of Wool Cones. Again everyone enjoyed the project and are looking forward to seeing the finished figures next month when Robyn puts their heads on. Our November project is Hobson's Choice, where everyone can make their own Christmas decoration. Ie:- Candles, stars, Dorset buttons, cane wreaths, etc. So it will be interesting to see the variations that are produced.

We will be meeting on 22nd November 2012 in the Annexe, 2 – 4pm. Please note the change of date.

Roma Rudd.

Card Making Group



At our last meeting, Christmas cards were made by the ten members who attended. We now have over 100 cards to sell supporting "Riding for the Disabled". These will be available at the next monthly meeting, please come and support us. Our next work-shop will be on Nov 30th, new members will be welcome, do call me for details. Carolyn 01789 266194

Carolyn Leach

Dinahs



The Town House was our venue on the 4th September. It was a lovely day. We were seated at two round tables by the open window. After admiring two outfits, we realised we had started our own "Swap Shop". We discussed Mr Cameron's re-shuffle, Saga and the Boston Community Good Neighbourhood Scheme. Which is up and running by Saga in this country now. Housing – the shortage of. Empty office blocks could be turned into flats!! Dieting, and whether you call yourself old! The majority of us did not like being called old. Senior was a wee bit more acceptable.

Sylvia Crooks.

Discussion Group

How our childhood experiences influence us (as we get older) In brackets because I was the only one with the (as we get older!).

Started off by asking if anyone remembered words of wisdom from parents:

Dry feet before getting out of bath to leave bathmat dry for next person.

Always let your conscience be your guide

Neither a borrower or a lender be

Takes a man to know a man – don't trust any of them

Look at the mother before you take her daughter as a wife. (only bit of advice this father gave his son)

Established that over half of the meeting did have happy childhoods. Some personal details came out which was interesting and helped the group to know each other better.

Somehow got onto old films, Strictly re Nancy and Edwina and whether the new Downton Abbey was worth watching as someone had 4 episodes to watch. Consensus was yes.

Back to childhood and how Dad was the wage earner and was respected and looked after by the whole family.

Led on to how someone was very upset with her father when her mother had to go to work to prop up the family finances when father's earnings fell. How she felt she had to help mother by looking after her siblings and making sure everything was ready when mother got in from work. Felt she was horrible to her younger brother.

Looking under gooseberry bushes to find a baby

Baby boys were curly stalks and baby girls were cabbages. Someone picked a very large cabbage and took it home to her mother because she thought there was a baby girl inside it.

No television so we played card games

Someone recounted how they were brought up on a hill farm with no running water and had to help from a young age.

That led onto Country File and a Barn Conversion with a steam railway restored in the Lake District!!

Sue Tringham

Family History Group



We usually meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at Stratford High School at 3.45pm during term time. We primarily use the Internet to research using Census returns and birth, marriage and death indexes, and there is always someone on hand to offer encouragement and advice. I also have lots of resources gathered over many years of research which I am happy to share. We share a room, and costs with the Computer Group. New members to this group are always welcome. Feel free to ring me if you have any questions. Next meeting is 22nd November.

Sue Ocock



Old Men Group

"Are we justified in being grumpy", a subject close to our hearts, received a qualified "yes" from the

somewhat reduced gathering of Grumps (12) at this month's lunch. No one identified with the dictionary definition of grumpy - morosely irritable, surly, ill tempered - rather we express opinions, make comments and observations which are mostly constructive but (mistakenly) might be considered by some as biased towards the negative and which are often misunderstood!! The concept of grumpiness is generally perceived to be the domain of the more mature man (woman???) but it was pointed out that young children are often referred to as grumpy while stroppy and bolshie are used for those of a less than sunny disposition during their in between years. While recognizing the many positive aspects of our existence - particularly the advances in medicine without which we would probably not be here today - we still believe that we are justified in being grumpy but fear that no one is listening to us!!

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

Subject - The country or place where you would most like to live. Introduced by - Colin Robberts

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We meet every two weeks at the Parish Hall in Old Town (opposite Holy Trinity Church). At the moment we have seven members who manage to play 12 bells between them – BUT WE NEED MORE RINGERS!!! We want to progress to using all 16 bells so if you can read music, or used to play an instrument years ago, do come along and join in the fun.

Ron Castleton

History Group



In October we had a fascinating talk by Joy Leslie Gibson entitled "Boy Actors in Shakespeare". She gave us a picture of Elizabethan life – generally small houses, few rooms, no corridors, little privacy- in such circumstances the children would have been familiar with the problems of old age, childbirth and so on. Knowing that the women's parts in his plays would be played by boys, Shakespeare did not expect them to portray emotions and experiences which would have been beyond their grasp. So, for instance, although there are pregnant women in his plays there are no discussions about pregnancy. The boys would have been taught Rhetoric so could speak well. Many clothes were uni-sex (hats, doublets, etc) and women often wore some men's clothes. So for the boy actors dressing in women's clothes would not have been too strange. Joy is an actress and director so was able to demonstrate the different breathing patterns in the women's speech. The audience s would have enjoyed the irony of a woman (played by a boy) dressing up as a man, e.g. Roselind in "As You Like It" and Viola in "Twelfth Night". On 12th November Tony Whiteley is going to show us a film "Made in Dagenham" about the women who went on strike at the Ford factory. Everyone welcome – it will only cost you £1.

Sheela Burchill

Keep Fit Group



Who is brave enough to come and join us at Keep Fit on Thursday mornings at 10.00 am in Shottery Church Hall. Contact Mary Palmer on 01789 204707 or Joy Baylis on 01789 266661.

Mary Palmer

Opera Group



Our September meeting was held on 26th at Pam's house in Barford, where we saw Verdi's Rigoletto. This was originally a very ambitious project broadcast as a live Television production by Italian TV in September 2010 from three separate venues in Mantua where Verdi set the action. This made for a quite different performance from a stage setting, but the result was a very realistic and dramatic outcome. Rigoletto is court jester to the lecherous Duke of Mantua. At a party, Count Monterone complained that the Duke had assaulted his daughter, but Rigoletto mocks him and laughs the matter off. The Count puts a curse on both the Duke and Rigoletto. The Duke's courtiers think Rigoletto has a secret mistress and have kidnapped her and taken her to the Duke's palace, ostensibly as a prank against Rigoletto. She is in fact Rigoletto's daughter Gilda, who he is desperately trying to protect. Rigoletto then discovers that the Duke is also after Gilda and she has had secret meetings with him. He swears vengeance and hires an assassin to get rid of the Duke but a cruel twist sees Gilda the victim of the assassin's sword. Rigoletto is distraught, thinking this was the result of the curse by Monterone.

Placido Domingo played Rigoletto and the Duke was played by Italian tenor Vittorio Grigolo. Gilda was excellently sung by the young Russian soprano Julia Novikova.

Aline Cumming

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 met at Gwyneth's on the 11th October. We read 2 short plays from "The Coarse Acting Show 2" by Michael Green. The date is not decided for the next meeting in November. I will let everyone know the date. Ring Sylvia on 01789 416 965. if you would like to join us.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry & Prose Reading Group



With just a few of us attending the October meeting, our chosen subject of "Autumn" brought forth some surprising poetry. The poets included work from John Clare, Sara Teesdale, Ted Hughes, Elizabeth Barrat Browning, Trumbull Stickney, Seigfried Sassoon, John Betjeman, Patricia Boutilier, Alison Fell, A.E. Housman, and Judith Lawrence. A very interesting afternoon. The next meeting is on 14th November.

Anne Davies

Reading Group - Monday



Two of us attempted to read our library offering:- "If this is a man" by Primo Levi. It has been translated into English from Italian and is a first hand account of life in Auschwitz in the last months of WW2. It is very moving, harrowing, powerful and for us all a bit too much! We then discussed many topics .. health concerns, current affairs, Tehran and even China! Next month's selection looks like lighter, 'not-put-downable fare'

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



This month we read 'HOME' by Marilynne Robinson, the Pulitzer prize winning author of Gilstead. We did find the novel very drawn out as little happened. We experienced the relationship between an ageing father and his daughter, Glory. His son, Jack, returned home after an absence of twenty years and we enjoyed the relationship and respect that developed within the family. In November we have a change with a book of poems.

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group - Friday



We read "The Memory Keepers Daughter" by Kim Edwards. This book starts in America in 1960s and is about a man giving away his daughter who was born with Downs Syndrome. His wife is told that the baby is dead. This lie goes on to affect the lives of the parents, the child's brother and the nurse who takes the baby. The novel gives plenty of topics for discussion although we felt that there were some flaws in the story.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



Tony presented the programme this month and we thoroughly enjoyed it. We started with different songs and looked at the way that they were connected. Then, after the the break, we looked at excerpts of the Eagles farewell tour in Melbourne. It was interesting to see how many young people were there who obviously knew all the words of the songs. Thank you Tony.

Coral Bradley

Science and Nature Group



On Friday 12th October we had a fascinating talk by Angie Butler 'Antarctica – Magic, Mystery, Triumph and Tragedy'. Angie has a passion for Antarctica and the great Edwardian Polar Explorers, especially Frank Wild. She spent seven years uncovering his life and death, which culminated in his ashes being interred beside Shackleton in South Georgia. Angie is also an author who has written "Ice Tracks, Today's Heroic Age of Polar Adventure" and "The Quest for Frank Wild" (since made into a BBC documentary). She has also set up her own travel company "Ice Track Expeditions". Next meetings: Friday 9th November – a DVD "Darwin and the tree of Life" Friday 14th December – Christmas Social.

Sandra Sladden

Theatre Group



On 17 November 2012 we go again to Malvern to see Penelope Keith in Good Grief. All the tickets for this production have been sold and I have waiting list for it. We leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. My mobile for the day is 07818820207.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



The next walk will be on **Wednesday 14th November 10.00 a.m.** and start from Hampton Lucy. You can park in the vicinity of the Boars Head pub along the roadside and we will meet outside the pub. This is a four and half mile walk with stunning views over the River Avon to Wasperton and Sherbourne you can even see Warwick on a good day which we could today. Allow a good three hours as care is needed underfoot as it is a little muddy I am hoping it will dry out before we walk. I recommend good walking shoes and that you also bring a drink with you. Look forward to seeing you.

Valerie Redfern

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

Stratford	– 28 th November.	- "Trooping the Colour"	-Lt Col Gerald Lesinski.
Shottery	– 6 th November.	- "A Pinch of Salt"	- Bill Davies.
Dene Valley	– 13 th November.	- "Preparing for Chelsea"	- Mike Hinton.

OUTING



On 16th November 2012 a skittle evening has been arranged for our U3A at Welford Bowls Club. This should be a fun evening; there is a bar available and a buffet supper has been booked. The total cost is £10.00 per person and it should be an enjoyable evening for all of us. Come along and try your hand at winning the fabulous prizes and have a good laugh. Start at 7.30pm. I need numbers in advance for catering arrangements. Give me a ring if you can come - 01789 488551.

Coral Bradley

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT

Wednesday 7th November 2-15 pm **AUTUMN CONTRASTS.**

Mozart - Symphony No 25, Vaughan Williams - Oboe Concerto**, Schumann - Symphony No 2

** It could possibly be the loveliest piece of English music you've ever heard.

The cost of this visit is £30. This includes the concert ticket and return coach from Stratford to the Symphony Hall. The coach will leave the Stratford Leisure Centre at 12-30pm. **PAYMENT IS NOW DUE.** Cheques made payable to Heart of England U3A and sent to Dorothy Jones at 14 Ascot Close Stratford upon Avon CV37 9FN. Tel: 01789 204892.

***** JUST A FEW TICKETS LEFT *****

The closing date for material for the December Newsletter is Sunday 25th November.

Group	Group Leader	Contact Telephone	Usual Meeting date (Monthly)
All Swing and Jazz Group	Dennis Sully		4 th Thursday 2 - 4pm
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood		3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Tony Badham		4 th Tuesday 2 - 4 pm
Bridge	John Yeomans		Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming		4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Ruth Grahame Dorothy Jones		Friday 11.45 for 12 noon, After 2 nd March - Weekly
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 and 4 th Thursday - 4 - 6pm
Dinahs Luncheon Group	Sylvia Crooks		1 st Tuesday for Lunch
Discussion Group	Athena Roderick		2 nd Wednesday
Family History – Genealogy	Sue Ocock		4 th Thursday – 4.00 pm
Grumpy Old Men Group	Graham Mitchell		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
Luncheon Group – Sundays	Brian Bradley		- see Newsletter for dates -
Opera Group	Aline Cummings		4 th Wednesday, 2.00pm
Pilates Group	Gill Ganner		Mondays – 12.15-1.15pm
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks		-see Newsletter for dates -
Poetry Reading	Jacqueline 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 (incorporating Bird Watching)	Geoff Bridgewater		2 nd Fridays (as appropriate)
Symphony Hall Visits	Dorothy Jones & Gwyn Bevins		As appropriate
Theatre Visits & Outings	Coral Bradley		As appropriate
Walking	Valerie Redfern		2 nd Wednesday

HEART OF ENGLAND U3A ROTA FOR AFTERNOON TEAS.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
JANUARY	Computer Group	Grumpy Old Men Group
FEBRUARY	Friday Reading Group	Monday Reading Group
MARCH	Poetry & Prose Appreciation	Bird Watching Group
APRIL	Poetry Reading Group	Family History & Computer Groups
MAY	Walking Group	Big Band Music & Jazz Group
JUNE	Play Reading Group	Dinah's Lunch Group
JULY	Wednesday Reading Group	Keep Fit Group
AUGUST	Classical Music Group	Bridge Group
SEPTEMBER	Rock & Roll Music Group	Creative Crafts Group
OCTOBER	Science & Nature Group	U3A Choir
NOVEMBER	Chinwags Lunch Group	History Group
DECEMBER	Hand Bell Ringing Group	Pilates Group