



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England U3A

New Website address:-

www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Ron Castleton, 114 Loxley Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 7DS

☎ 01789 205 878 : ✉ ron.castleton@tiscali.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Brian Bradley, 7 Appleby Close, Gt. Alne, Alcester, B49 6HJ

☎ 01789-488 551 : ✉ brianbradley@uwclub.net



10th Anniversary Edition



September 2011 Newsletter

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

The Speaker on 6th October is Susan Leech, who will be talking about the restoration of "Croome Park" the National Trust Property in Worcestershire.

Membership Fees of £16.00 per person are now due and can be paid at this meeting. Alternatively they can be posted to the Treasurer, Allan Lyons at 385 Birmingham Road, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0RF. Please pay as soon as possible but they must be paid by 31st December 2011.

DIARIES for 2012 are now available at £2.00 each.

The Archive for the Heart of England U3A This was set up during this last year and I am asking for contributions for the Archives from anybody or any group or former group that we can incorporate into the Archive. This could be photographs of groups or activities, documents of interest, books or programmes. I am interested in past activities, particularly from earlier years, but also I would urge group leaders to consider taking particular care to record this season's activities so we can have a good record of this 10th Anniversary Year.

You can see the current Archive at monthly meetings or on our website under 'Document Archive'. There will also be a rolling slide show at the AGM and 10th Anniversary Party on the 1st September.

Edwin Lilly

On Line Course from National Office.

Proposed new course to begin in the autumn.

"China – an introduction through history, culture and language."

9 members have expressed an interest in this course and will be receiving Unit 1 at the beginning of this month. Units are being sent via e-mail with a pdf link for printing if wished. The course is ideal for group learning with members helping each other.

Unit 1 gives a brief history of the dynasties spanning 2,100 BC – 211 BC with a spotlight on Confucius.

It is not too late to register so if interested please send an e-mail to Robyn - redbird22@hotmail.co.uk

STOP PRESS: The Fairtrade Shop will be open for members at the October monthly meeting. – (6th October) which will be selling tea, coffee, cocoa, cereal, rice, pasta, cookies, chocolate, sweets, dried, sugar, and paper goods.

Your support will be appreciated.

New Opera Interest Group

The suggestion of an Opera Interest Group met with a small but enthusiastic response so a list will go on the Board to sign. Expect the Group to start meeting in the Autumn.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation Group



Our next meeting is at Compton Verney to view the Stanley Spencer and Capability Brown Exhibitions - both should be worth a visit. For those interested, there are two free guides - at 12 noon and 2.30 pm.

For a change, we thought of meeting up at 1 pm for lunch at Compton Verney, so if you would like to book, please let Phyl Collins know by 8th September. The meeting is on Friday 16th September.

Big Band Swing Jazz Group



The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th September 2011, at 2pm in The Lounge of The Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon.

Dennis Sully

Bridge Group



The Bridge Group is very friendly, very sociable and very keen to encourage new members. Following the life-long learning ethos of all U3As we can offer encouragement to "rusty" ex-players and, for complete beginners, separate introduction card play to get you started.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 in the Methodist Hall Side Room 1. Complete beginners can contact Ann parker to arrange for introductory sessions.

John Yeomans

Chinwags



There was no meeting in August. Next meeting 26 September at Grants, time 12.00 topic 'Could we do without newspapers? Please let me know if you cannot come.

Aline Cumming

The Choir



Well, our great day is here – we have had our last rehearsal and today is our debut. The first song remembers the last the ten years – both personalities and events – of course, it starts with "Ron Castleton of Loxley Road". (Full words will be available in the next copy of the Newsletter)

Words by Dorothy Jones and Chris Heaps – Music by Richard Rogers.

The choir will be led by our Musical Director, Stewart Wallace, and we hope you will enjoy our singing!

Tony Griffiths

Classical Music Group



The programme for our recent meeting was a recreation of a concert held in Russia, at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

St Petersburg was the old capital of Russia, and the Imperial Hermitage Museum was originally founded and maintained by the Czars who ruled the country for many centuries. Nowadays it remains a wonderful museum of the arts, and receives many visitors each year, including tourists from cruise ships.

Aline and George had enjoyed a classical music concert there, and the group enjoyed hearing their recreation of the varied live programme provided.

Naturally, works by Tchaikovsky featured prominently, including the Serenade for Strings and the cello piece known as the Rococo Variations.

Other pieces which the group enjoyed included two overtures (The Marriage of Figaro – Mozart, and The Barber of Seville – Rossini), a Pavanne (Faure), and the melodic and popular Die Fledermaus Overture by Johan Strauss. The programme was completed by Glinka's Valse Fantasie and Delibes' Pizzicati.

This nicely varied programme gave us a good insight into what must have been a wonderful experience in the Hermitage, and was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Howard Springthorpe

Computer Group At Stratford High School. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 4pm – 6pm.



We are planning to introduce a new course after the summer break– “The Key to Computing”. This will be a basic typing course which will introduce members to the keyboard and will be of great help for all future computing tasks. A booklet is being prepared, as practise between sessions is recommended. The starting date and future arrangements are being finalised with the head of IT at the High School. We anticipate starting the typing course in October. To enrol for the course please sign the sheet on the notice board table or contact Ron or Robyn.

Robyn Nicoll

Cooks Club Group



At the August meeting of the Cooks' Club, members will be bringing in their favourite Cookery books for us to look at. Additionally, they have a challenge this month - to bring a dish made with four or less ingredients. As we meet so near the end of the month, we will let you know what delights arrived in the next newsletter. Our next meeting will be on September 28th at 10.45 a.m. If you would like to join us, please ring Chris Heaps.

Chris Heaps

Creative Craft Group



At our last meeting we finished our bead projects. Some first time attempts were excellent! Next month we are going to tackle Fimo (adult platercine!) We shall hopefully create some small models, some with Christmas in mind. Do come and join us and release your creative side! We shall be in the Annex on Sept 15th at 2pm.

Carolyn Leach

Card Making workshop



The equipment for Encaustic Art will be set up at the card making workshop and any member who would like to have a go is welcome to come along. View some samples of cards and pictures on the card sale table.

Dinahs



The Church Street Town House was the venue on the 2nd August. There were only 5 of us, plenty of room at the large round table in the window. A most enjoyable lunch with an added discussion on politics, of course: Water Aid, Sunami, Monday evenings Panorama: Germaine Greer and books. We next meet at Edward Moon 6th September, 12.15pm.

Sylvia Crooks.

Family History Group



Due to the school summer holidays our next meeting will be in September (date to be confirmed). New members are always welcome.



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

We primarily use the Internet to research our Family Histories 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!

Sue Ocock

Grumpy Old Men Group



Good food, good company and good conversation ensured that August's lunchtime meeting was again a thoroughly enjoyable affair. With 16 grumps in attendance, the highest number for about a year, there was no lack of input to the discussion led by Robert Chorley - "Isn't hindsight a wonderful thing". Despite the inevitable "what ifs" and "if only's" and the odd startling "missed opportunities" revealed, most contributors when looking back, which we of a "certain age" are very well qualified to do, although some things might have been done differently, felt reasonably happy with the way our lives and careers had turned out. Undoubtedly with the advantage of hindsight embarrassing moments such as Michael Fish's infamous weather forecast could be avoided but as one member put it probably the best thing about hindsight is that its worth 17 points at Scrabble!!

Grump of the Month Award was presented to Geoff. Bridgewater.

Next Meeting - Wed. 21st Sept. **Venue** - Le Bistro Pierre. **Chairman for the Day** - David Grahame.

Subject - Is There a Case for a Benign Dictatorship introduced by Derek Phillips.

Graham Mitchell

Hand Bell Ringing



We are continuing to enjoy ourselves, and are hopefully making some progress. We are now running in to the Holiday Period and it is not always possible to get a full turnout – but we soldier on!! We still need some more members to fully utilise the two Octaves of Hand Bells.

We are very much in need of Music Stands – if anyone has any surplus to requirements or know of a cheap source of supply, please ring me.

The next meeting is on 5th September.

Ron Castleton

History Group



We did not meet in August but in September we are going to have a talk by Harold Pleasance, who was a Japanese prisoner-of-war.

Sheela Burchill

"Lets Talk" Discussion Group



The West End is proving to be a very pleasant venue & our next Meeting will be there Sept. 14 at 1PM.

'Our Town' was again put on the back burner. Rioting was a subject on everyone's mind.

We deplored the mindless violence, especially as innocent citizens were the victims, largely. We hoped that it might make people who can influence these things, think again about the kind of society that has been created. Poor parenting, passed from one generation to the next, truancy, leading to poor education, thus limiting life choices & very difficult working conditions for many schools & teachers. Very bad examples set by so called 'Leaders of Society' such as politicians, footballers, bankers, police & celebrities, etc, with deplorable levels of greed, dishonesty & corruption, especially as examples of it are on TV nightly & in every home. And, of course, Political Correctness, the scourge of the modern World &

responsible for a lot of poor discipline. We hoped that this will truly be a 'Wakeup Call' & that opportunities will be grasped to heal our broken society, which does have some truly marvellous people, young & old.

Athena Roderick

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.

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 12th August. We read "At The Changing of the Year" by Malcolm Young; also "Time Being" by Carol Reeve: both were ghost stories.

Thankyou Trish for birthday cake, candles, card and rendition of 'Happy Birthday' by All.

Next meeting 9th September at Gwyneth's 11.00am. If you would like to join us please ring Sylvia Crooks.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry and Prose Reading Group



We did not meet in August – the next meeting will be on 7th September.

Reading Group - Monday



We didn't have a library book last month but have now started on the new list. We discussed 'One day'..now a film we believe, as a couple of us had read and thoroughly enjoyed it. As usual we had a lively chat on several topics including war-time memories. We are still looking for new members..some of us have started making cakes to go with our tea break „so maybe we can tempt you!!

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



Our choice of author last month was Rose Tremain and there was unanimous agreement that she provided an enjoyable read.

Three of the group had chosen "The Road Home", a novel set in the present time and about today's problems that are faced by EU immigrants from Eastern Europe seeking legal employment in this country. The story follows the a 42 year old widower who has left behind his daughter and mother to seek work so that he can return home and set up his own restaurant to provide a better life for his family.

All agreed that it was an uplifting book which gave off good feeling about friendships and experiences. To be recommended.

"Trespass" was another modern story set in England and France and describes the relationship between the sets of siblings in both families. The main connection between the families being a house owned by one of the French family that an English sibling wishes to buy. It was described as the layers in the relationship being revealed bit by bit to provide an intriguing story of family feelings and emotions.

Finally "The Colour" is set in New Zealand in the 19th century and follows the story of immigrants from Norfolk who buy land in Christchurch to establish a farm. However, the husband finds a few grains of gold in his creek which sets of a saga involving experiences of the gold rush over the mountains on the west coast of the south island.

An intense story that is passionate in parts displaying courage and fortitude with good descriptions of New Zealand at that time in its history.

Sandra Whiteley

Rock & Roll Group



The group met on 11th August. The programme was presented by Tony Whiteley and was a selection of videos both from the Internet and DVDs.

The selection included Chuck Berry how to play guitar!, Prince allegedly playing the greatest guitar solo every - in a tribute performance to George Harrison. Status Quo rocked "all over the world" with the Royal Symphony Orchestra.

After coffee we saw a range of artists performing in concert from Paul McCartney in Moscow, Simon and Garfunkel in Grand Central Park, Paul Simon in the Gracalends Concert In Zimbabwe and Rod Stewart at the Royal Albert Hall

Tony Whiteley

Science & Nature Group



On July 26th we visited Stratford Astronomical Society for their evening meeting, the speaker was Dr David Whitehouse. His talk was entitled "Space: The Next 50 Years". He is an ardent advocate of space exploration and the need to set up bases on the Moon to facilitate further study of the solar system by robots and humans. In view of the escalating costs involved he envisages this as being a multi-national project.

Sandra Sladden

Our August meeting was an excellent visit to the local National Trust properties of Packwood House and Baddesley Clinton. Our guides were asked to be specific to the exteriors and gardens of each property, where we learned a great deal about the locations, architecture and lives of the owners of these historic Warwickshire houses. John, our guide at Baddesley Clinton, was especially interesting, with his great knowledge gained over more than 30 years since his retirement from his job as a local bank manager at the age of 60! Yes, he was in his nineties, with a remarkable memory and full of energy - there's hope for us all yet! A picnic lunch and time to view the interiors completed a very enjoyable and interesting day.

Next meeting - Avery Scales Museum on Friday, 9th September.

Geoff Bridgewater

Stratford Swingers Big Band & Jazz Group



The next meeting of the Stratford Swingers is on Thursday 22nd September 2011 at 2pm, in The Lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford upon Avon. You are welcome to join us, we listen to recorded music of Swing and Jazz. We are an informal and friendly mixed group of enthusiasts.

Dennis Sully

Sunday Lunch Group



The next Sunday lunch will on the 4th September at the Royal Oak, Whatcote. The October lunch will on the Sunday 2nd at Kings Court Hotel, Alcester.

Our next visit to the Symphony Hall is a Matinee on Thursday October 20th.



The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Vassily Sinaisky
Piano: Nareh Arghamanyan

The very popular and interesting programme is:

Rachmaninov	Vocalise
Rachmaninov	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Elgar	Symphony No 2.

The cost of the visit is £26. - this includes the coach and matinee performance.
We will leave Henley at 12.00 and Stratford Leisure Centre at 12.30.
We need to pay for the tickets by 28th August.

Programme Notes: Elgar claimed that his 2nd Symphony mourned the death of a King – but it's a lot more personal than that. From majestic opening to sunset finish, Elgar's 2nd Symphony is one of romantic music's great emotional voyages, and a special passion for Bolshoi Theatre music director Vassily Sinaisky. But it goes without saying that he's got Rachmaninov in his blood. Expect glittering playing from the young Armenian virtuoso Nareth Arghmanyany in the ever popular, super romantic "Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini".

Please sign up at the meeting or phone Gwyn Bevins or Dorothy Jones.
Please send cheques to Dorothy Jones.

Theatre Group



I have booked tickets for **Malvern theatre for 3 December 2011** to see Philip Madoc in *The Holly & The Ivy*. This is a story set in a vicarage in 1947 where the family gather for Christmas but things go wrong when two irritable aunts and an errant daughter turn up and skeletons come to light. This play has some very good reviews and promises to be a moving play to end the year.

We leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. The cost is £28.00

I have also booked tickets for the **Belgrade Theatre for 18 February 2012** to see a play called *Nora*. This is an adaptation of Ibsen's *The Doll's House*. Here Nora has beautiful children an elegant house and a husband with a big promotion but her world is held together with a secret and when this is exposed it all come crashing down. We leave Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30. The cost is £22.00

Coral Bradley

Walking Group



The next walk will take place on Wednesday 14th September 2011 at 10.am. Prompt and starts from The Gower Memorial in Bancroft Gardens Stratford. You can park in the car park on the recreation grounds. This is just over four mile walk over the Welcombe hills we have done this walk in the winter but never the Summer so perhaps we should have some good views.

I recommend good walking shoes and also bring a drink with you. Look forward to seeing you.

Valerie Redfern

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

Stratford – 28th Sept. - Peace and Conflict- changing attitudes - Norman Heads.

Shotton – 6th September - "Fun with clay" - Annette & John Christophers.

DeneValley – 13th September - AGM and Groups Round up.

Group Leaders Contact List		
Group	Group Leader	Usual Meeting date (Monthly)
Art Appreciation	Phyl Collins Pat Wood	3 rd Friday 2pm
Big Band Music & Jazz	Dennis Sully	4 th Tuesday 2 – 4 pm
Bird Watching Group	John Stagg	See Newsletter for dates
Bridge	John Yeomans	Every Tuesday 2.30pm
Chinwags Luncheon Group	Aline Cumming	4 th Monday 12 Noon
Choir	Tony Griffiths	11.45 for 12 noon, Fortnightly
Classical Music	Aline Cumming	2 nd Tuesday 2.30 pm
Cooks Club	Chris Heaps	4 th Wednesday
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	Sue Ocock	3 rd Thursday – 4.00 pm
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
“Let’s Talk” Discussion Group	Athena Roderick	2 nd Wednesday
Luncheon Group – Sundays	Brian Bradley	- see Newsletter for dates -
Pilates Group	Gill Ganner	Mondays – 12.15-1.15pm
Play Reading	Sylvia Crooks	-see Newsletter for dates -
Poetry Reading	Jess Monk	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	2 nd Fridays
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

TEA ROTA - 2011

September	Creative Crafts Group
October	The Choir
November	History Group
December	Pilates Group

Important Note from the Newsletter Editor to all Group Leaders

I would like to remind you that due to our Printers requirements, I need to have your copy for the Newsletter 10 days before the General Meeting.
I thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Ron Castleton - 01789-205 878