



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heart of England

Newsletter Editor: Edwin Lilly, 9 Addison Drive, Stratford-upon-Avon. CV37 7LP

☎ 01789 204 472 : ✉ edwinandelaire.lilly@virgin.net

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

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

Website address:-

www.heartofenglandu3a.btck.co.uk

September 2012 Newsletter

TODAYS SPEAKER

The talk this month is 'The Ifakara Bakery Project' given by Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg. This intriguing project started by visiting their son in Tanzania, and from that has developed a charity making a very necessary difference to people's lives in this area.

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER

John Johnson will be giving a talk on the history of Johnson Coaches in September.

From the Chairman's Desk

Welcome to Heart of England U3A's 11th AGM and to our September meeting.

In June of each year we arrange a New Members meeting and, although this will continue, I want to supplement this with more frequent mini-meetings. The next will be held after our 4th October meeting. It will be in the Methodist Hall Lounge and will give new members the opportunity to meet some of the committee and to find out a bit more about H of E U3A. I hope you will be able to join us.

Membership fees are now due (£16.00 per person) and can be paid at this meeting or by post to the Treasurer, Sue Tringham at 2 Guild Cottages, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6HD. Cheques payable to Heart of England U3A before the 30th November please.

A reminder to Interest Group Leaders that the Archive Folder can be borrowed for your meetings and the Notice Board can be used to publicise your events and for photos of events you have had.

David Sladden

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.

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

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

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

The last 3 Units cover The Modern History of China (post 1912) and are ideal as a short stand-alone course. If interested in joining the group for these 3 units, please contact Robyn (redbird22@hotmail.co.uk) Units are sent to members via e-mail and are in printer friendly pdf.

The date for our next get-together will on Wednesday 19th September, 2.30 – 4.40pm in the lounge.

Robyn Nicoll

Art History On-Liners

We have completed our first U3A download course entitled "Great Northern European Artists". This gave us the encouragement to begin the study of the U3A download course "Artists of Spain - Level 2". The experience we gained from our first course study was invaluable in letting us tackle this more demanding Level 2 course. It is making us think, providing us with a lot of interest and has certainly widened our Art knowledge. As a group we have melded together very nicely, investigating aspects of art history, artists and paintings.

Mavis Pickett

All Swing and Jazz Group

Report of the July 2012 Meeting



This month's programme was 'a game of two halves', i.e. the first part was entitled 'Here come the Girls' and the second half was called 'It's a Mixture'. 'Here come the Girls' introduced us to "Eloise" as portrayed by Glenn Miller, followed by "Patsy" played by Ake Stan Hasselgard and then a veritable beauty pageant of "Teresa", "Gina", "Mary" who were given voice to by Bobby Hackett, Flip Phillips, Les Brown. The first half finished with Dave Pell's Big Band playing "Clementine". After the interval (very chatty as usual), we moved on to 'It's a Mixture', and what a great mixture it was, we started with "La Cucaracha" played by Terry Snyder and then onto "Bye Bye Blues" with Larry Elgart and an intriguing track called "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" played by Ralph Marterie. We were then entertained by Oscar Peterson, Quincy Jones, Ray Bauduc/Nappy Lamare and Art Van Damme. With a superb rendition by Davis Rose and his Orchestra of "My Heart belongs to Daddy". The afternoon finished with Urbie Green and his Orchestra playing "On the Street Where you Live". Thank you yet again Dennis for a good afternoon of Jazz (oh and for the mini heatwave you managed to provide for the third month running,

Our next meeting will be on the 27th September in The lounge of the Methodist Church, Old Town.

The September meeting will be our 4th Birthday, and as we are a group which covers Heart of England, Stratford, Shotton and Dene Valley U3A's you are very welcome to come and join us.

Mavis Pickett

Big Band Swing & Jazz.



Next meeting will be on September 25th. New members are welcome.

Tony Badham

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

Card Making Group

I would like to thank all those members who have supported our sales table at the monthly meeting.



Over the last five years we have raised more than £1300 for local charities. Fantastic! Our next card day will be Sept 14th in the Annex. The topic will be Zentangle, doodling with a difference! Requirements a sharp pencil, a fine nibbed black ink pen + a fine black felt tipped pen. Do come and join us. For more details call Carolyn 01789 266194.

Carolyn Leach

Chinwags



We met at Grants in July. The question was asked (by me) whether those present would become members of the newly formed charity the Canal and River Trust. I explained for those not in the know that the Trust had taken over the running of the canals in England and later expected also to manage certain rivers. It would be looking for people to join in the same way that the National Trust does. We agreed that little was known of it in general and that some inducements were needed to make the public join. Those of us with experience of narrowboating or living by the water were more likely to want to see the canals maintained and the network extended by the Canal Recovery Group (part of the Inland Waterways Association). If one is a member of the National Trust one gets free entry to their properties as we did recently at Tyntesfield. It generated much discussion and provided me with ammunition when I went to an IWA event shortly afterwards. Since then we have seen David Beckham escorting the Olympic flame to the stadium by canal. There is no lunch in August but we meet again on 24th September.

Aline Cumming

The Choir



We started our August practice with Good News! The son of our Lincolnshire Poacher (Dave Smith) was the coach for the UK Olympic Canoe Team. Dave had been down to Eton Dornay to watch his son's team win Gold! After our Briars Croft Concert we donated the proceeds £47.50 to Warwickshire Air Ambulance Service. After two weeks break we had an enjoyable and much missed choir session on August 24th. **Date for your diary** – Christmas Choir Concert on Thursday 13th December, 11.00 to 12.00. More details later

Dorothy Jones

Classical Music Group



George did a rush job on the programme as Valma was unable to be with us. A widely varied selection was the result. It included Schubert's Symphony No 9, last movement, Arvo Part's Tabula Rasa, (cut short) Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No 2 and Elgar's Salut d'Amour. After tea the Isle of the Dead by Rachmaninov raised the hair on the back of our necks, Dido's Lament sung by Janet Baker was moving and we finished with John McCormack singing By the Short Cut to the Rosses. Our September meeting on Tue 11th will be at Bridge Cottage and we will bring our own choices.

Aline Cumming

Computer Group at Stratford School.

We plan to resume the computer group at the end of September.



- **A Course for Beginners** with an introduction to the Internet.
- **An Advanced group** – introducing tables, mail merge, extra Internet skills, and topics requested by members.

(Lap tops, I-pads welcome)

Please sign the sheet on the notice board table or contact Ron or Robyn if interested. The starting date is planned for Thursday 27th September, 4.00 – 6.00pm and on the following 2nd and 4th Thursdays in October and November. The cost, approximately £16, will depend on numbers attending.

PS More helpers would be appreciated particularly for the beginners.

Robyn Nicoll

Dinahs



We met in the Café Rouge Conservatory 7th August. Only 7 of us were there, made very welcome by the waitress who recognised Heather, from a recent family birthday party. Chatted about sewing, how we find it difficult to find clothes we like. Shops seem to cater for the younger

generation. This led to "what was worn when we were young". School uniform, liberty bodice and suspenders! Baggy shorts, of course needed for sport. Tennis courts were next on the agenda. Covered courts are up for discussion at Stratford Tennis Club. More tennis played in poor weather means more money for the club. However some senior members have a problem as it would spoil the view. We next meet 4th September at The Town House.

Sylvia Crooks.

Discussion Group

When I thought about the Olympics as a topic, it didn't look as though it was going all that well. By the time we met on Wednesday August 8, it was proving to be a success, so we were able to express our joy & relief. We felt that it is good that it is no longer as elitist as it once was &, by & large, our athletes are not only performing well, but mostly in the spirit of true sportsmanship. As usual, we felt the media were troublesome, but all in all, we were finding the Games very enjoyable. We hope that we will build on the success of these Games by providing many more sporting opportunities, especially at schools. We were glad to note that the selling off of school sports fields seems to have stopped. We will be meeting again Wed. 12th Sept. Venue to be announced.

Athena Roderick

Family History Group



We usually meet on the fourth Wednesday 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 always welcome. Feel free to ring me if you have any questions.

Sue Ocock

Grumpy Old Men Group



In his well argued introduction to this month's discussion topic "Coalition Government - is it working?", Derek Phillips concluded that in his opinion the answer is an emphatic NO! In recent times there have been only two Coalitions formed in very special circumstances - a hung Parliament in 1929 (lasted only one year) and most notably during the wartime period of 1940/45. As coalition government requires compromises from the parties involved support for various agreed actions is only given grudgingly as it is often in conflict with policies on which their MPs were elected. Also it is unreasonable that a Party with 9% representation in Parliament should have such undue influence on one with 30-35% representation. A classic case of "the tail wagging the dog". Most but not all of the 17 Grumps present expressed similar views and even the dissenters thought the foundations were fairly shaky and acknowledged that serious cracks were now beginning to appear. In a recent survey only 16% of those polled thought the Coalition would last until 2015. Perhaps, as some suggested, Cameron should have formed a minority government which would inevitably led to another general election when one of the main parties, for better or worse, would probably have secured enough seats for a working majority and then we could "enjoy" being governed in a way which we understand!!

Grump of the Month - Derek Phillips.

Next Meeting - Wed. 19th Sept. **Venue** - Le Bistrot Pierre.

Subject - That which cannot be known. **Introduced by** Paul Burley.

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.

Our next meeting after the Summer break is on 17th September

Ron Castleton

History Group



Our next meeting is on Monday 10th September when Sandra Whiteley is going to talk to us about Desmond Tutu. All welcome.

Sheela Burchill

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.

Opera Group



For our July meeting we visited Sandra and were treated to Carmen in a very interesting production from the Vienna Opera House recorded in 1978. The scenery was lovely. We heard a (much younger) Placido Domingo as Don Jose and Elena Obraztsova sang Carmen. There were children singing the soldier's chorus and there was gypsy dancing. The music was well sung and expressive. A cast of hundreds plus twelve horses! It was a delightful afternoon. We are not meeting in August but the September group will be announced at the main meeting. We would welcome some more members.

Aline Cumming

Outings



SKITTLES EVENING

In this year of athletic achievements we are going to have our own contest in a skittles evening. This will be at Welford Bowls Club on 16 November 2012. The cost will be £10.00 per head to cover the hire of the room and a buffet supper. A bar will be available. No previous training is necessary so come and have an enjoyable evening and display your latent

skills.

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

Play Reading was cancelled in August, holiday etc. We next meet Thursday 13th September at Gwyneths. If you would like to come along please ring Sylvia Crooks on 01789 416 965.

Sylvia Crooks

Poetry & Prose Reading Group



The last in our series of poetry on the seven ages of man brought us poems from WH Auden, Mary Betham, Shakespeare, Janes Michie, Carol Ann Duffey and WS Gilbert. The next meeting will be on 5th September.

Anne Davies

Reading Group – Monday



We read February by Lisa Moore. It deserved reading twice! The heroine experienced the grief from the death of her husband at an oil rig disaster for more than 25 years. The story traces her memories over the period which were sometimes confusing as memories are! It has a happy ending ..reached by a somewhat circuitous route--on which some of us gave up!! As usual our discussions roamed far and wide!

Phyllis Bailey

Reading Group – Wednesday



We had free choice this month and read a diverse selection of books, including "The Sisters Brothers" by Patrick de Witt, "Starter for Ten" by David Nicholls, "The Brass Dolphin" by Caroline Harvey (Joanne Trollope), and "Emma" by Jane Austen. We enjoyed reading the books and would recommend them all. This month we are reading "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson. Meeting at my house – Ascot Close.

Dorothy Jones

Reading Group – Friday



We read The Quiet American by Graham Greene with a mixed response from our group. Some people liked Greene's style; where he never used several words when only one would do, and the layers in the novel. Others found that they couldn't warm to the characters. We all agreed that in hindsight (the novel is set in Vietnam before the Americans really became involved) it was interesting and gave us plenty to discuss.

Coral Bradley

Rock & Roll Group



It was almost a disaster when I found that I had left all my notes at home but fortunately I managed to remember a bit and every one else was encouraged to voice opinions so all was well in the end and we enjoyed some interesting music with some rock classics.

Coral Bradley

Science & Nature Group



The August meeting was a field trip to the Festival of Glass at Stourbridge, taking place as this newsletter was going to press. Report next month.

September 11 Slimbridge & Chavenage House

Sandra Sladden

Sunday Lunch Group



The lunch in October will be on Sunday 7th at the Stratford Golf Club, Tiddington Road. As this has to be arranged by Sid Slaughter I shall need to know names as soon as possible. Please telephone Brian Bradley on 01789 488551.

Theatre Group

We go to see The Importance of Being Earnest on 8 September at Malvern. Currently I have one ticket left for this performance at £33.00 Leaving Henley at 12.00 and the Leisure Centre at 12.30.



Two new plays have been booked at Malvern:

6 October 2012 Rough Justice with Tom Conti. This is a murder story, a courtroom drama and is described as a suspenseful thriller. The cost is £31.00 leaving Henley and the Leisure Centre at the usual times.

17 November 2012 Good Grief with Penelope Keith. This is written by Keith Waterhouse who wrote Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell. It tells the story of a recently bereaved widow who discovers that there is more to life than death. The cost is £31.00 leaving Henley and the Leisure Centre at the usual times.

I do not intend to book any other plays until about February as it will be the pantomime season.

Coral Bradley

Walking Group

The next walk will be on Wednesday **12th September** at 10.00 a.m. and start from Charlecote Park Car Park. You can park in the lay by next to the Church or members of the National Trust can park in their car park (I will ask for permission). This is a five and half mile walk around Charlecote – Hanpton Lucy and Wellesbourne. There are no significant gradients; it could be muddy in places but otherwise it is an easy terrain.



I recommend good walking shoes and that you also bring a drink with you. Hopefully we will have good weather between now and the 12th look forward to seeing you there.

Valerie Redfern

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

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| Stratford – | 26th September. | "Slow Boat to Singapore" - Robin Sankey. |
| Shottery – | 2 nd October. | "The Flood at Coughton Court" - Lucy Reid. |
| Dene Valley – | 11th September. | 3rd Anniversary & Groups Round-up. |

SYMPHONY HALL CONCERT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7th 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.

Dorothy Jones

Stratford-upon-Avon U3A

Forthcoming field trip by The Wine Appreciation Group. Tuesday 18th September. A visit to two Northamptonshire Vineyards. Transport will be by car sharing and lunch will be at a convenient public house. Please contact Leslie Page on 204319 if you wish to participate.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER.

| <i>Group</i> | <i>Group Leader</i> | | <i>Usual Meeting date (Monthly)</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| All Swing and Jazz Group | Dennis Sully | | 4 th Thursday |
| 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 | | 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 Thursday - 4.15 pm |
| 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 |