

# U3A



University of the Third Age

**Stratford-upon-Avon**

Website: [www.sonau3a.org.uk](http://www.sonau3a.org.uk)

Newsletter: Issue 2018/11

November 2018

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Today's Speaker:

**Dr Keith Hooper**

**Dickens' Christmas Stories**

Keith has recently written his first book on Dickens and will bring copies along for us to see. His presentations are always popular particularly around Christmas time

## OCTOBER MEETING

### **Songs of the People**

We were entertained with an excellent presentation by Dr Richard Churchley of the history and performances of well known popular songs. He told us we had to participate and that he would pick on anyone who did not! He handed out tambourines and sang and played the piano accordion. For fear of being picked on (?), everyone joined in the singing, especially of the choruses.

The first song he coached us in, and told the history of, was "Irene". We were told it was a 1930's song made popular in the 1950s by The Spinners and Lonnie Donegan. Most of us knew the song so with a bit of coaching we all joined in with Richard on the accordion and someone on tambourine. The next song was "Cosher Bailey", which Richard played and sang and we joined in the chorus: "Did you ever see, did you ever see, did you ever see, such a funny thing before". Then "Haul Away Joe". The chorus: "We'll haul away, we'll haul away, Joe". Then a song which in 1960 entered the charts straight in at No1. "My Old Man's a Dustman". We all certainly knew this one and sang with gusto!

Then came several WW1 songs. The first was a patriotic song written in the 1870s but altered by various regiments including the Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery, the chorus: "When we get to France m'boys, we'll hear the Kaiser say, Ach, ach, mein Gott, What a jolly fine lot, is the Warwickshire RHA". WW1 songs were often sung and accompanied by a harmonica, usually manufactured in Germany We then all sang "Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag", "Show me the way to go home" and "Tipperary", written in Warwickshire!

Then came WW2 songs. First an RAF version of "Narcissus". We were split into 3 groups to sing "she died", "she did" and "of a broken leg". A very complicated chorus with each group singing their line to combine "She died she did she died she did she did of a broken leg she did" etc. Then came "The Okey Cokey", popular in WW2. Then "Alive, Alive Oh". Then "Bye Bye Love".

Lastly "Daisy, Daisy". This was written in 1892, making fun of the new craze of cycling, but the audience would have been aware that Daisy was a reference to Daisy, the Countess of Warwick who was a mistress of the Prince of Wales.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and there several requests for a return performance. There were 40 members present and 9 guests. The vote of thanks was given by Norman Heads.

**Jeff Cox.**

### **NORMAN'S NOTES**

Hello to you all – looking forward to the festive season? We are planning the Christmas entertainment with two quizzes and a comedy item – with mince-pies and hot drinks to follow, of course. An interesting comment made recently was that the last monthly meeting, held, unusually for us, in the new room, had a very cosy feel that we don't get for meetings in the main hall. Have you any thoughts on this? In September Marian and I went to a "group visit taster day" at Middleton Hall in north Warwickshire, and there is a display on the notice board with pictures and our comments. We would like your comments, please: do you think a U3A visit is feasible or worthwhile?

**Norman Heads (acting Chairman)**

### **DEATHS**

#### **Dryden Rooney**

It is with regret that we announce Dryden Rooney passed away on 13th October 2018. He died peacefully in hospital surrounded by his family. Dryden had been a member of Stratford U3A for more than 10 years. He was a keen member of the Gardening Group and had recently joined the U3A Choir. Our sincere condolences to Ingrid and family.

Jim Schofield

#### **John Curtis**

Sad news that stalwart U3A member John Curtis has died. He was an active and always cheerful companion and provided many years of leadership of the cycling group. Our thoughts are with his wife Joyce and family.

Robin Sankey

## NEWS FROM EXISTING INTEREST GROUPS

### Messages for Group Leaders

The membership lists for your groups should now have been handed in. Our thanks go to all those who have managed this task already. (My group, U3leles, is late, I'm sorry to say, through my slackness!) How many of you have thought to send an item to the newsletter since we mentioned this at our leaders' meeting in September? Here is mine - at last – U3leles have started rehearsing for our contribution to the Christmas quiz, and also we are hoping to welcome two new members very soon. I hope that you have found the time to read your contribution to the new groups file which is, as usual, on the notice-board table.

### Norman Heads

### Keep Fit Group

The following are the dates for the 2019 Spring Term classes:

January 7, 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 25 (18 - no class – half term)

March 4, 11, 18, 25

April 1, 8 (13 weeks)

Classes will be held on Monday in the Wesley Hall from 9:30 to 10:30am.

**Joyce Steckel** [email [jsteckel@btinternet.com](mailto:jsteckel@btinternet.com)]

## LIST OF CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Anne Foster	(on leave)	<a href="mailto:annepfoster@btinternet.com">annepfoster@btinternet.com</a>
Jeffrey Cox	Programme Planner	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.cox786@gmail.com">Jeffrey.cox786@gmail.com</a>
Kay Dyer	Groups Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:kaydyer4@gmail.com">kaydyer4@gmail.com</a>
Norman Heads	Vice Chairman	<a href="mailto:heads24@talktalk.net">heads24@talktalk.net</a>
Ruth Hopwood	Meet, greet and help new members	<a href="mailto:rhopwood704@btinternet.com">rhopwood704@btinternet.com</a>
Olive Puzey	Treasurer	
Audrey Spencer	Refreshments	<a href="mailto:peterandaudrey2011@btinternet.com">peterandaudrey2011@btinternet.com</a>
Joyce Steckel	Membership Secretary	<a href="mailto:jsteckel@btinternet.com">jsteckel@btinternet.com</a>

## TEA ROTA

November 28th	Psychology
December 19th.	The Committee
January 30th.	Chaucer
February 28th.	Craft

**Note:** Group Leaders do not have to preside over the teapot but just need to ensure that there are 2 or 3 volunteers who will. I am always on hand and will provide the necessary items for tea/coffee and biscuits after the meeting. Any problems, contact me.

**Audrey Spencer**

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 19th December, 2.00 - 4.00 pm  
Main Hall, Methodist Church Hall**

Christmas Entertainment organised mainly by Norman and Marian Heads with a similar format to last year and as hinted at in the October Newsletter.

## **DATE OF JANUARY MEETING**

**Wednesday 30th January, 2.00 - 4.00 pm  
Main Hall, Methodist Church Hall  
Speaker: Richard Westcott  
Pantomime Dame**

Richard will be giving us insights into and confessions of appearing as a Pantomime Dame.  
Very apt in January's Pantomime season!

Editor: Sarah Gretton, Email for Newsletter: [sonau3a.news@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sonau3a.news@yahoo.co.uk)

**Copy deadline:** For the January 2019 issue please let me have all items on **paper** by noon on **Wednesday January 16th** but

**email** items need to be 24 hours earlier, i.e. by noon on **Tuesday January 15th**. If you use email, PLEASE use size 12 Ariel font, single line spacing, and observe the standard layout of our Newsletters.

Please check that I have acknowledged receipt of your entry.

**Please note** that there will be no Newsletter in December