

Issue: 11
March
2024

Editor: James Gennard – newsletter24.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com

Contact numbers: Membership Sec: Joy Moss – 01384 377346

Hello, Members.

Spring is on the way. It's officially the first day of Spring on the 20th March, the clocks move forward on the 31st March and it's also Easter Sunday, that day. Have you seen the daffodils around the Ring Road, 10,000 of them, many planted by Stourbridge u3a members, a real reminder that Spring is really here.

Thank you to the numerous members who have renewed already, it's not too late, you have until the 4th of April, and at £1.25 a month it's a bargain. The AGM is getting closer so please come along, we need 20% of our membership for the meeting to go ahead, it's the perfect opportunity to meet fellow members, and learn about the groups they attend.



Chairperson and President

*Best wishes,
Barbara.*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

The 13th Annual General Meeting of Stourbridge u3a, will take place at **2.00 pm, on Thursday, 4th April 2024, at New Road Methodist Church Centre**. An AGM must be held each year according to our Constitution, and the necessary business usually only takes a short time. The Agenda has been sent by email prior to the meeting, and also will be available in print at the AGM itself.

It is very important that we are QUORATE (20% of members present) at the AGM, otherwise the meeting cannot take place! As in the past, there will be tea and biscuits for everyone, with the chance to chat with fellow members, when the business is completed.

Learn, laugh, live!

American Museum and Gardens Bath



Museum - features collections from the US where you can visit room sets that recreate periods of its history and patchwork quilts

Wednesday 15th May

Gardens - Grade II listed and set on 125 acres of green, rolling topography with stunning views across the valleys



Cost £34.50 Members Visitors £35.50



Special exhibition - **American Road Trip** presents the origins and stories behind the cultural phenomenon, and transports us thousands of miles on the ultimate journey of discovery along Route 66 and beyond.

Contact peterorme@talktalk.net

Coach Leaves from Stanley Road Stourbridge at 8.00am return approx. 5.30pm

Learn, laugh, live!

WINDSOR & ETON VISIT REPORT



WINDSOR CASTLE

The outing to Windsor on Sunday 17th March was excellent.

The weather was fine when we got there, and became even better as the afternoon wore on and when we left, had become a lovely 17 degrees and sunshine.

I visited the castle and what a castle it is. The state rooms are magnificent and the various state rooms destroyed by that dreadful fire, have been restored to their former glory.

Unfortunately, St George's Chapel was shut for church services but I walked down to the road, that you see the Royal Family walk down, at services held there.

I even bought a tea towel and a new tea caddy from the gift shop, as you do, to remember the day.

Tess Wagstaff



QUEEN ELIZABETH II STATUE

(Eton village Memorial)

learn, laugh, live
Stourbridge
u3a

Thursday 4th April
New Road Methodist Church,
Stourbridge
2pm

A.G.M.

Your u3a needs you

www.stourbridgeu3a.org.uk

© 2016 Stourbridge u3a

Learn, laugh, live!

INTEREST GROUPS – 1

FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS

The group is suitable for either the complete beginner, or those who may remember a little bit of French, from their schooldays. We use the BBC Language course book, "Talk French 1, ISBN-10 1406679003", supplemented with additional materials.

We meet on the first and third Friday of the month, from 10.30 – 12.00 at The Falcon room, which is upstairs, at The Stourbridge Institute. Unfortunately, there is no disabled access.

This group currently has vacancies, if you would like to join, then in the first instance, please use the "contact me" button, on the Group link to receive further information <https://u3asites.org.uk/stourbridge/page/21564>.

Cost is £1 per session for members and £2 for visitors. John Howells is the Group Leader.

PICKLEBALL

What is Pickleball? Pickleball is a fun sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court with a slightly modified tennis net. Two or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, over a net. We meet weekly on Fridays from 12.30 – 1.30pm or 1.30 – 2.30pm

COURTS: 3 badminton courts with 16 places per time slot, 12 play, 4 sit out and rotate on after 7 points per game. If demand increases we can add an extra court and increase to 20 players per session.

WHERE: Crystal Leisure Centre, Bell Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1AE: Click here to find us on Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/2tJtYyLm9DBB6H Zq5>

CAR PARKING: At Tesco Extra, which has an entrance in Bell Street is the best place.

Please allow plenty of time to get from the Car Park to the Leisure Centre.

COST is now : £3.00 per per person, per hour, payable to the Leader.

If you have never played Pickleball before, you may like to attend a Pickleball Coach and Play session delivered by Michael de Groot, the Pickleball coach who trained us in 2023. These sessions are being held at Crystal Leisure on a Tuesday 6–7.30pm, roughly every fortnight. You are invited to book these if space is available and pay online. Equipment and court hire is included.

Booking Link:

<https://www.worcestershirepickleball.com/stourbridge-pickleball>

Tutorial Videos:

<https://www.worcestershirepickleball.com/about>

Once you have attended a coach and play session, you will be able to join the regular weekly u3a sessions. For attending u3a sessions there will be a separate booking system, called PicklePlay, that Michael will have to add you to. You can find all details and instructions relating to this booking system via <https://www.worcestershirepickleball.com/pickleplay>.

EQUIPMENT: All prospective players will need their own paddle when attending the u3a sessions. To find out more and join this new group please contact the Pickleball Leader – <https://u3asites.org.uk/stourbridge/mailing/>



Learn, laugh, live!

INTEREST GROUPS – 2

GOLF GROUP

If you have a set of clubs sitting in the garage just gathering dust, then give them a wipe over and come and join us.

If you don't want the cost of renewing a Membership at a Golf Club and only want to play once or twice a month then come and join us. If you are fairly fit and want a new challenge for 2024 then come and try Golf with us. Two of our most active Golfers had never picked up a golf club before they joined the Group, but we met at a Driving Range to see if it was something they wanted to do and now they are regular players in the Group and have themselves joined a Golf Club.

We cater for every level, and we set our own handicaps so that the not so good are as good as the one or two better golfers we have in the group, but it doesn't really matter, as Golf is also about enjoying a drink and chat after the game. We are also actively encouraging lady golfers to join us, so please come & see for yourself!

Normally we only play 9 holes which doesn't take a whole morning or afternoon, and it suits the couple of Octogenarian Golfers we have in the Group. We are now meeting up with other local u3a Golfing Groups to encourage more variety and competition in our play.

Further details on joining our golf group can be obtained from David Reeves – Email 1221djr@gmail.com or Phone 07976 253834

KURLING

No, it is not a spelling mistake. Kurling is a game/sport that is growing in popularity. There is a national body and thoughts that it could become an Olympic event in the future as it can be played by people of all abilities.

Kurling is played indoors, though outdoors is a possibility, on a hard surface. The equipment consists of 8 'stones', a target mat or 'house' and extendable pusher sticks.



The stones are plastic discs the size of a tea plate and have three large ball bearings underneath to allow them to glide over the floor. They can be propelled using the built-in handle or by pushing them with the pushing sticks. The latter allow those with limited mobility to take part. To be honest we all suffer to some extent with this. A ramp can also be used to allow players in wheelchairs to launch the stones.



As in curling, the aim is to get your team's stone nearest the centre of the house. A team consists of 2 or 4 players and a game usually played over 10 ends. Jean Attwood is the Kurling Group leader and can be contacted via this link :-

<https://u3asites.org.uk/stourbridge/mailling/p:134653>.

Learn, laugh, live!

AND FINALLY

OUTINGS & EVENTS SUMMARY

Thursday 18th April – National Trust Tyntesfield, Somerset, All places now filled. Reserves being taken.

Wednesday 15th May – American Museum Bath – Museum has sets of periods of history and patchwork quilts. Gardens – Grade II listed and set in 125 acres of green rolling topography with amazing views across the valleys. Special exhibition– The American Road Trip – Route 66 and beyond. Prices are Members £34.50, Visitors £35.50, please contact Peter Orme to book your seat via email peter.orme@talktalk.net

Wednesday 5th June – NEW Nottingham River Cruise. The June outing has changed and is now a River Cruise from Nottingham along the river Trent. The cruise will be for 3 hours on what we hope will be a lovely summer's day and include an afternoon tea which consists of platters of sandwiches, a warm scone and jam with tea or coffee. We will be on the upper deck which has some outside space but also a covered space where we eat. There will be commentary on the journey. What could be better for a summer outing? The date is now Wednesday 5th June.

The cost is £38 for members which includes the coach, food and boat. £39 for visitors. Booking will open soon but put the date in your calendar.

More information from Brenda Stevenson via the Stourbridge u3a website link below – <https://u3asites.org.uk/stourbridge/mailling/p:3>

GUEST SPEAKERS

The speakers for the next 3 months are:-

April 4th

No speaker – Annual General Meeting.

May 2nd

Max Keen – Max returns to give us another entertaining history lesson, this time he will be talking about Lord Horatio Nelson : England's Greatest Hero?

June 6th

Philip Caine – Philip will be talking about his working life which took him from Barrow to Baghdad, and the books that this inspired.

There is a food collection box at monthly meetings. The items will be donated to the local Food Bank for distribution to the less fortunate.

STOURBRIDGE u3a FACEBOOK GROUPS

For general information about our u3a

<https://www.facebook.com/Stourbridge-u3a-1346526112121975>

The Stourbridge u3a in Touch page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/548973319074793> (Closed group – by application only.)

Photography Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/247950222889366>

NATIONAL u3a FACEBOOK GROUP

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2833125070105668>

NATIONAL u3a REGULAR BULLETINS

<https://www.u3a.org.uk>

NATIONAL u3a NEWSLETTER

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

Chairman: Barbara French (chair23.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.org.uk)
Business Secretary: Trevor Hahn (businesssec24.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com)
Membership Secretary: Joy Moss (membership.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com)
Website address: www.stourbridgeu3a.org.uk