



Issue 2
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Welcome to our Winter Newsletter.

Christmas is coming!! Where has this year gone? We have all kept busy and kept ourselves well, some highs and some lows – but we are still here and I really hope we will have a better year in 2022. One thing we should all be proud of is our u3a. Through this period of time, never has friendship been more important and our u3a members are true friends!

In November our u3a received an award certificate from Stourbridge in Bloom for our support and help. (See Page 3.)

Our Group Leaders had a meeting in early December with Joan Ryder who is getting used to the role of Group Liaison Officer. New Group Leaders were welcomed and congratulated for taking on their roles and our current Group Leaders were complimented on their tenacity! What a good job they have all done this year. Thank you to you all.

It has been wonderful to start up our monthly Speaker Meetings at New Road Methodist Church again. The first was in October and the second, in November, was attended by over 50 members. The Zoom shows running at the same time were not so successful, but we are determined to try again so we will see. (December's meeting had not happened at the time of writing.)

Meanwhile, it was agreed to begin our outings again next year. The Events Committee are in full organisational swing and details will be out in the New Year.

We are using Facebook to announce meetings and just to show we are here! There are also private Facebook groups just for members, they are easy to join. The National ones announce meetings you can watch online, these are also on the monthly National newsletter. (Links to these sites are on the back page.) Last winter I did a cookery course and a painting course, there were plenty to choose from. Don't forget the Mirthy free talks and the British museum course that you had links for last month. Lots to do to cheer us up during the Winter.

The Market Street display cabinet opposite St Thomas's has been updated and in January we are having the display cabinets in the library to show what a good thing the u3a organisation is, but as ever, you are the best marketing tool and always will be – so let everyone know what we do and share our pleasure.

Very best wishes for Christmas and 2022

Brenda Stevenson
Chairman



Newsletter

Learn, laugh, live!

LATEST NEWS



NEW CHAIRMAN

Next April we will be without a Chairman. The Committee changes from time to time, this refreshes the way we work and is a good system. However, it is always hard to get members to take on these roles.

I have had a really rewarding time as your Chairman; it has been an honour and I have done many things I wouldn't have thought possible.

Please think hard and if you would like to take on this role, or you know a member who would make a great Chairman – please discuss it with them. I needed quite a bit of persuasion when I was approached, but it has been a very good experience.

Don't forget, without a Committee our u3a wouldn't continue. Please don't let that happen to Stourbridge, we have such a lot going on and it has become part of our lives.

As Chair you need enthusiasm and people skills, the Committee are very talented and the business side is well looked after by the Officers you will have to support you, so don't be daunted! If you are nominated you can sit in on our Committee meetings and see if you would like to stand for election in April.

I hope to hear from you.

Brenda Stevenson 01384 3773313

A polite reminder to Group Leaders to use the 'BCC' (Blind copy) option when sending out emails to their group members and to put their own address in the 'To:' box. We are seeing incidents of member's email addresses showing under the 'To:' or 'CC' option which is against our Stourbridge u3a Data Protection policy. Anyone hacking into your account will then gain access to the whole group's email addresses.

SPEAKERS FOR 2022 (subject to change)

Jan 6th – Memoir on Two Wheels by Maggie Thompson. 'My solo cycle ride from Lands' End to John O'Groats over a three year period.'

Feb 3rd – Philip Bowen – The Kennedys.

March 3rd – Alison Wakeman – the Confessions of a Swarm Collector.

April 7th – AGM

May 5th – Kate Round – The History of Stourbridge Glass.

June 2nd – Nova Chocolates with a talk and a demonstration.

**Tess Wagstaff
Speaker Secretary**

FOOD BANK

To help our less fortunate Stourbridge residents there will be a Food Bank collection box at each monthly meeting for anyone that would like to donate. The items will be transferred to a local food bank.

PROMOTING STOURBRIDGE u3a

Small laminated cards will be available at the monthly meeting for members to take to give to anyone they might come into contact with who may benefit from, or be interested in joining u3a.

PROPOSED OUTINGS FOR 2022

4th March – Hagley Hall Tour.

April 12th– The National Arboretum.

May 10th – Bodnant Gardens.

June 14th – Powis Castle

July 6th – The Big Pit, Wales

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LATEST NEWS



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the wreath for Remembrance Sunday at the Mary Stevens Park. As we said at our meeting, it was given to remember the people of Stourbridge.



The wreath is on the war memorial if you would like to see it next time you are there. It was very well attended.

Brenda Stevenson

STOURBRIDGE IN BLOOM

On the 11th November Stourbridge u3a was invited to an Award ceremony where David Harcourt presented certificates to all the groups that had helped our town achieve a Gold Award in the Heart of England in Bloom competition.

We met at the Stourbridge Institute who laid on a super buffet for us all. There were many groups and businesses mentioned - the photo of those of our team who were able to attend is below. The young Rainbows had made a wildlife garden to attract the bees and decorated it with art work too.

Next year will soon be with us, so if you would like to get involved please volunteer, we have a lots of fun and it gives our town pride and pleasure.

Our certificate is in the Market Street cabinet if you would like to see it.

Brenda Stevenson

ENGLISH IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU DRIVE IN PARKWAYS AND PARK IN DRIVEWAYS.	THE WORD QUEUE IS JUST A Q FOLLOWED BY FOUR SILENT LETTERS.
IT'S ALSO THE ONLY LANGUAGE WHERE YOU RECITE IN A PLAY AND PLAY IN A RECITAL.	JAIL AND PRISON ARE SYNONYMS. BUT JAILER AND PRISONER ARE ANTONYMS.
YOUR FINGERS HAVE FINGERTIPS BUT YOUR TOES DON'T HAVE TOETIPS.	WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY CAR, IT'S CALLED A SHIPMENT. BUT WHEN YOU TRANSPORT SOMETHING BY SHIP, IT'S CALLED CARGO.
YET, YOU CAN TIPTOE BUT NOT TIPFINGER.	



8 members of our Stourbridge in Bloom team receiving a certificate from local Councillor Karen Shakespeare.

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INTEREST GROUPS



CLIMATE CHANGE

Following our u3a involvement in the COP26 activities, it has been agreed to progress a new group on Climate Change. Our objectives will be to understand more about the national and international implications but more importantly what it will mean to us in the future and what we can do about it.

Meetings will be held at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month commencing on 25th January 2022, at the Stourbridge Institute, Falcon Room. It would help if you could let Ivor Caplan (caplanivor@gmail.com) know if you are considering joining this group.

FAMILY HISTORY

The Group has restarted on the third Wednesday of the month. We welcome new members, or those who have been researching into their ancestors for many years. Some have found interesting or surprising information.

The programme is varied, to accommodate everyone, or you may wish to research by yourself as part of a genealogy group with the same interests.

For more information contact:

Margaret Coomby - Group Leader

mcoomby41@googlemail.com

Mobile 07932 782 747

LIFESTYLE

The Lifestyle group are now meeting on the first Friday afternoon of the month at the Hub in Mary Stevens Park. Please contact the Group leader Janice Evans on 01384 378811 for more information.

UKULELE & SINGING

The Ukulele group now has a new Group Leader : Keith Ashman 01384 325177. They will be meeting at the Quaker Meeting House on the first and third Thursday in the month from 10.00 am until 12 noon commencing 6th January 2022.

AMBLERS

Our group started in September and goes from strength to strength, we have had two ambles around the local countryside, the first around Churchill and the second from Ounty John Lane; seeing the season change in such glorious surroundings makes us all feel better. Our last amble was a heritage walk around Halesowen remembering the area as it was and learning about the remaining structures, particularly the Market Cross which is one of a few still in existence from medieval times. The group is extremely welcoming and sociable, we look forward to many more ambles to come.

Jill Ward - Group Leader

ART GROUP

Here are some of the lovely Christmas cards made by the group which meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Norton Community Centre, from 10am-12 noon.



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INTEREST GROUPS



Your U3A Golf Group NEEDS YOU!

The U3A Golf Group completed their 2021 season with a final game at Chesterton Valley Golf Course at the end of November, followed by hot drinks and cake in the club house.

Even with the restrictions this year we have played at several courses Chesterton Valley, Halfpenny Green, Bewdley Pines, Kingswinford, Himley and Warley Woods.

As with Golf in general, the group consists of players of all levels and has taken on members who had never played before, or who had given golf a miss for many years, but who have now rekindled their enthusiasm for the game.

We start our 2022 programme in January and although the format is normally just nine holes there will be opportunities for 18-hole games and already we are planning to add Hagley to our list of courses, as we aim to play as many different ones as possible through the year.



The Group is looking to increase its membership and if anyone is interested, please contact David Reeves on 07976 253834 or email 1221djr@gmail.com.

Even if you have never picked up a club before but have always wanted to have a go, we can arrange to meet at a local golf range where you can borrow a couple of clubs from members of the group and just give it a go.

David Reeves
Group Leader



LITTER PICKERS

Stourbridge is such a delightful town, our litter pickers want it to remain so. We select a new area each month and laugh and chat away while we restore it to its tidy state.

We are thanked so much by locals as we work away, always of course promoting u3a as we do so.

Jill Ward
Group Leader



Members of the Tap Dancing group enjoying their Christmas Lunch at Stourbridge Institute.

Learn, laugh, live!

AND FINALLY



Attention all Bridge Players!



Fancy a game? Then come and join us at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston.

We are a friendly, mixed ability group playing both social and competitive bridge on Wednesday afternoons for a couple of hours.

For those of you who haven't played for a while, not to worry, we can offer help brushing up those forgotten skills.

The Bridge Table needs you!

For further information please contact Pauline Maguire on 07715349385, or at p.maguire2@btinternet.com.

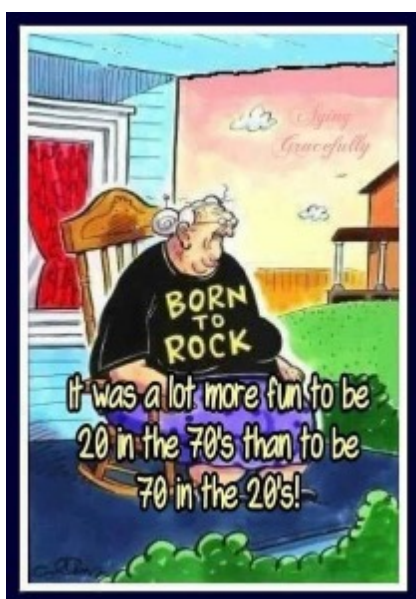
BALDWIN STEEL WORKS

It never occurred to me that Baldwin's rolling mill in Swindon was owned by Stanley Baldwin's family, he who was three times Prime Minister. Below is a link to a 13 min film made about the works after it closed in 1975. Rudyard Kipling, Stanley's cousin, was also a stockholder of the mill.

I wonder if any of our members worked in the steel industry and might like to do a talk about it? This film is free to watch, so could presumably be shown as part of a talk.

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-end-of-a-line-1975-online>

Peggy Paterson



At our age you realise something very important..... then poof it's gone and you can't remember what you were just thinking about!

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>

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