

Issue
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Newsletter

Dear Members

This is my last newsletter report.

It is so wonderful to have Spring in the air and the freedom to enjoy life again. What a difficult time we have all had over the last 2 years. Our meetings are open and the trips are organised for a really good, enjoyable year! Let's make up for all we had to put on hold and make the most of all the things available in our u3a.

I have had the honour and pleasure to be Chairman of Stourbridge u3a, but all good things come to an end and it is time for a new face! Unfortunately, at the time of writing no-one has come forward. The u3a organisation is run by members for the members and all who join should be prepared to do their part to help. Contact Mike Billings our business Secretary if you could help, please.

It is our AGM next month April 7th, 2.00pm at New Road Methodist Church. There need to be as many members as possible present to make the meeting quorate and able to go ahead. Do please make every effort to attend.

We had our first Outing on 4th March and this was to Hagley Hall. It was a very enjoyable morning and we all found out things we hadn't known. We were also told that the grounds are opening in May and there will be a 5-mile walk, with buggies available, plus the gardens and lake. The gardens sound very interesting and I for one will be going to have a follow up visit!

Although I will miss being Chairman, I will still be making the most of our u3a and hope to keep all the wonderful friends I have made there.

Farewell as Chair.

Brenda Stevenson

To paraphrase JFK... "Ask not what your u3a can do for you but what you can do for your u3a."



Learn, laugh, live!

LATEST NEWS

Advice from our Treasurer.....

As we start a new membership and financial year in our u3a, I wanted to thank our members for the various ways in which you help me to keep our finance 'on track'. Since the beginning of March almost £6,500 has been collected in subscription fees. During April we will be paying out about £800 for the Third Age Matters magazine, £400 for our Beacon licence and £1,600 to the Third Age Trust (our national body). You probably know that we use a data/accounting system called Beacon – all our financial transactions are logged through Beacon and the membership records stored there are used to send information to you, mostly by email but sometimes (for example giving notice about the AGM and information on membership renewal) by post.

There is a special arrangement set up between Beacon and Paypal, which means that when you pay your subs by card through the website, Beacon shows that you have renewed (or become a member for the first time) without the membership secretary or me having to do a lot of manual input. I can then just log in to our Paypal account and transfer the money to our current account. So far this year we have had 217 members paying subs by Paypal. I am sorry that for a few people this proved a difficult process (I think the system gets overloaded if too many people are on the site at the same time) but for most it is easy, fairly quick and safe.

We have also had 3 people paying by online transfer (this is not the same as payment by Paypal), 7 by cash and 156 by cheque. At the end of 2021 our bank introduced bank charges, which means that cash and cheque

transactions cost us money. However, we recognise that for some people the only option is to use cheques or cash.

If you are interested in learning about online money transfers, but do not know how to go about it or have worries about the security of your money, the Age UK website has some useful information.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/work-learning/technology-internet/online-money-transfers/>

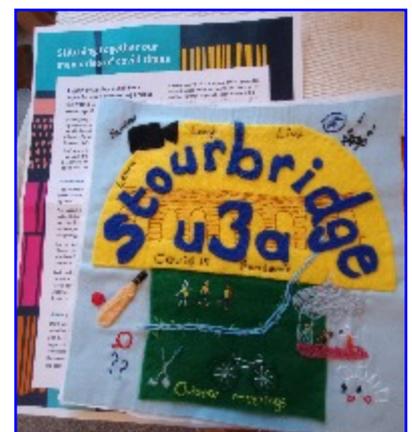
When you receive a copy of the end of year accounts you will see that we made an overall loss (I think for the first time). This was mainly because we stopped collecting the £1 for group meetings for some months and some groups which had previously met in homes decided it would be safer to move to larger venues. We started the year with a healthy bank balance, so this is not a problem for this year.

If you have any questions about our accounts or any aspect of our finance, please contact me by email or speak to me at a monthly meeting:

Jane Williamson

treasurer.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com

Brenda Stevenson submitted this square and an explanatory letter for the DMBC Covid Quilt which will be displayed in libraries across the borough.



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INTEREST GROUPS

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

After a successful first meeting, a second was held at 2.00 pm on the 22nd March in the Falcon Room at the Institute, so the Group is off and running. Members are most welcome to join whatever their interest in this wide subject.

At the meetings it was suggested that we select a main theme and base our discussion around it, this could be anything from the widest international implications of Climate Change right down to what it means for us when we go shopping. We would welcome any suggestions via the website and we will also have a display at the u3a AGM on 7th April to promote the Group.

Ivor Caplan - Group Leader

GERMAN CONVERSATION

This small group formed in September 2021 are dedicated to practising and improving their German language skills. The language abilities within the group vary and people have different personal reasons for wishing to improve their skills, as well as simply enjoying the opportunity to practise speaking German with others.

They provide a friendly and supportive environment in which to learn and practise, enabling all to benefit from the challenges and rewards that a second language brings.

Meetings are held at the Stourbridge Institute from 10.00 - 12.00 noon on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. If you would like to join them please contact **Alastair Greeves** through the the link on the group's page on the website. www.stourbridgeu3a.org.uk.

SPEAKERS

5th May - Kate Round - History of Stourbridge Glass.

2nd June - Vince Williams - An emotional trek made on K2 in memory of a relative. Please join us to celebrate the start of the Queen's Jubilee weekend, with tea and cake afterwards.

7th July - Kath Reynolds - Food glorious Food, a subject close to everyone's heart, well certainly mine.

Tess Wagstaff
Speaker Secretary

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

The group are able to welcome new members. They are a friendly bunch with varying degrees of French at their command, but they are all passionate about being able to converse with local people whether on holiday or visiting family and friends in "L'hexagon".

Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the month currently at St Thomas' Church Hall Market Street.

Interested? Then contact **Alastair Greeves** via the website.

Anyone for (table) tennis?

Janice Evans is hoping to start a table tennis group at Stourbridge Institute.

If you are interested in joining please contact her on 01384 378811

Learn, laugh, live!

AND FINALLY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2022-2023

Just a reminder that renewal fees are due and the Deadline for Payment this year is Thursday March 31st.

HOW TO RENEW

Payment

Membership fees are payable online using PayPal via the Stourbridge u3a website - <https://u3asites.org.uk/stourbridge/home>

You do not need an account with PayPal to use this facility as you can pay as a guest using a debit/credit card.

Alternatively you can renew by post (and you will find the address on your renewal form).

Cheques should be made payable to Stourbridge u3a. No Cash payments will be accepted this year.

If you need any further information regarding renewals please contact the Membership Secretary:

Joy Moss – [Tel: 01384 377346](tel:01384377346) Email: membership.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com

The following message was sent via the Stourbridge u3a website addressed to our Chairman. Please reply direct to Sam: sjvvickers213@gmail.com.

“Hi,

My name is Sam and I'm a final year student at Nottingham Trent University. I am trying to collect participants over the age of 60 to complete this survey on Positive Ageing. I would greatly appreciate it if anyone reading this message could complete the survey and if possible also distribute it to anyone that can fill it out.

https://ntupsychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4UwBIN6RUrAR7II

Kindest Regards,

Sam V :)”

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: Brenda Stevenson: (chair.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com)
Business Secretary: Mike Billings (businesssec.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com)
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