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Newsletter

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

Dear Members

Christmas is approaching at a rate of knots. I've never written my cards this early before, but needs must, in the hope that they will arrive before the 25th.

It's been a busy u3a year, after a slow start most groups are up and running as normal, thank you to all our group leaders. Our day trips are back on track thanks to the Events committee and of course, our friends at Greenline.

Please find time to pop along to the Red House cone to look at the huge variety of Christmas trees decorated by local organisations, including Stourbridge u3a. It's free and I can really recommend the café! The trees are there until 6th January. I hope some members were able to visit St Peter's Pedmore where we also displayed a tree.

So it's onward and upward for Stourbridge u3a, our numbers are growing, please encourage your friends and neighbours to join. It really is an all for one and one for all group.

I hope to see many of you at New Road on 5th January to hear Max Keen's talk about Cromwell

Best wishes for Christmas and for 2023

Barbara French
Chairman

*Our trip to
Chatsworth
House and
Xmas market
with Greenline
was very
enjoyable, if a
little wet!*



*Chairman Barbara French representing
Stourbridge u3a at Mary Stevens Park on
Remembrance Day*

Learn, laugh, live!

LATEST NEWS



EVENTS & OUTINGS for 2023

March TBA - Quiz night at the Institute by Jean Bates

April 19th - Go to Jail!!! Shrewsbury Prison Visit and Tour with free time in Shrewsbury

June 7th - A trip to Wells in Somerset! A super city, lots to see and do - Cathedral, Bishops' Palace - a great day out with u3a friends.

June 14th 7pm - A tour of the Synagogue in Birmingham! It is an extremely interesting trip.

July 11th - NT property Tyntesfield - a wonderful way to spend a summer's day.

28th-30th July - A group of u3a friends are booking a Greenline holiday to Morecombe with a trip on the Settle and Carlisle railway included, we have booked directly with Greenline, anyone is welcome subject to availability. 2 nights £199.

September 4th - Bletchley Park! This visitor centre has been upgraded and is seriously worth seeing!

October TBA - Bristol Aerospace Museum come and see Concorde and so much more!

December - Christmas social.

All outings are in the process of being priced - but are booked so please save the date, more details to follow.



Brian Barnes taking his turn at the Skittles Night and Fish & Chip Supper on 16th December at Stourbridge Institute. Loved the jumper!



SPEAKERS for 2023

5th January Max Keen - Cromwell.

2nd February Andrea Burley - John Corbett and the history of the Corbett Hospital.

2nd March Wendy Moore - The History of Johnson's Coaches.

6th April AGM.

4th May Heather Wastie. - I Dig Canals. A presentation of poems, monologues, songs and chat with some photos.

1st June Kay Starkey - Midlands Air Ambulance.

6th July. Philip Bowen - The 1950's.

3rd August Vince Williams - Mountain Rescue Service.

7th September Alison Wakeman - "Tell 'em about the Honey Mummy". Products from the Beehive.

5th October Kate Round - The role of women in the glass industry.

2nd November Peter Bates - Model English Villages.

7th December Trish Bradley - Crafting for Communities.



Thank you to those who contributed to the latest Rye Market window display; the two Family History groups, the French groups and Events & Outings.

The next groups for the window will be Gardening - Flowers & Kitchen, Geography, German and Golf. I will change the window in early January, so could they think about how they would like to promote their group and give me their information, I can make up the boards for them.

Tess Wagstaff

Learn, laugh, live!

INTEREST GROUPS



CYCLING

We had a good turn out for our Autumn programme with ten rides over the period with distances between 8 to 14 miles per ride.

Our Winter programme is in the process of being put together and, as we shall be expecting more colder weather conditions, we shall be doing rides of between 7 to 10 miles per ride. These will include some canal towpath rides to Park Head, Dudley, Wolverhampton and Bumble Hole along with some local on-road routes. The new programme will be uploaded to the Stourbridge u3a website before the end of December.

Maggie Thompson
Group Leader

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

This group now has a good number of enthusiastic members and hopefully will grow in strength. I think that everyone agrees this is a vital topic for the future survival of the Earth.

The group discussions will continue to range from the widest international concerns to very simple contributions that we can make in our daily lives. As examples, the recent Earthshot Awards demonstrate the ingenuity of scientists and ordinary people in meeting the challenges and at a very immediate level we are looking at simple changes that we can all make to help and perhaps also reduce our household bills.

The Group meets every fourth Tuesday, 2pm at the Institute but the December meeting will be on 20th, do give it a go or contact **Ivor Caplan** for further information.

Ah bon! Vive la France!

I joined Stourbridge u3a and the French Intermediate group in 2019 on my return to the UK from living abroad. It was very welcoming and friendly, meeting in a member's comfortable home near Mary Stephens Park. I felt like I fitted in immediately. Our fearless leader was a former French teacher and she skillfully shepherded us through the intricacies of the language and grammar. I thought I was beyond help with French but she quickly put me at my ease and showed me that was not the case. At each meeting, each member of the group would prepare a few paragraphs about what they'd been up to and would share in French. Sometimes it was a Black Country version of the language, which would have been of great interest to the Academie Francaise! 'Très sympa,' as they say in France!

Then came the COVID 19 lockdowns. No more French Intermediate after March 2020. Some of us thought that we could continue on Zoom and those that could stand it, restarted the group in 2021. Now we are back meeting together at the St. Thomas' church hall meeting room in town on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 am. Although we miss the carpets, the well-upholstered arm chairs, along with the quality coffee, cakes and chocolate biscuits of the private home, we manage pretty well and the ambiance is toujours very friendly. We have all kinds of background represented, which makes it an interesting group.

Soyez le bienvenu mes amis!

Alastair Greeves

Learn, laugh, live!

AND FINALLY



Canal Group at Lapworth

On the 17th October the Canal Group had a particularly good meeting starting at the Junction of the Grand Union canal at Kingswood – we all think of it as the Lapworth Junction.

We car shared to get there and parked up at the visitor centre, the sun shone and Ivor lead us through the village of Lapworth to the Grand Union canal at the start of the Lapworth locks. The golden leaves reflecting in the water got many of us snapping away! It was very pretty.

Then we came across a canal café that was open – unusual on a Monday. It would have been rude not to take advantage, so a tasty coffee later, we resumed our walk to the junction of the Stratford canal and the start of our walk. Taking in the canal cottages, buildings and the mechanisms and canal structure along the way.



When we were there and had learnt all about the canal buildings and a very old boat that came through, Maggie Billings surprised us all with a delicious home-made cake! All in all, a very pleasant morning.

Brenda Stevenson
Group Leader



This telescope was kindly donated to the Astronomy group who will be making very good use of it!

The Christmas tree at the Redhouse Glass Cone decorated by u3a members. Our second tree is in St Peter's Church in Pedmore.



Congratulations to Maggie Thompson who was placed 2nd in the top 10 favourite canal photos by the Canal & River Trust.

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>

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