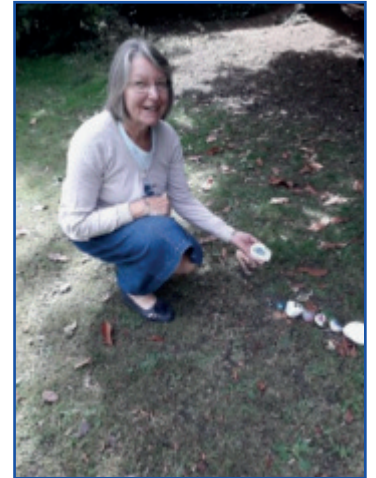


## HANDS ACROSS THE "C"

### Dear Members

The Covid situation is now affecting us in many ways. It has made us all stop and think and our U3A is trying hard to come up with simple solutions to enable us to carry on with our interests without putting anyone at risk.

You will read in this Newsletter of Groups meeting and enjoying their interests – all Members are asked to abide by guidelines and National U3A advice before and during their meetings. Everyone has a responsibility to stay safe for themselves and others.



The Group Leaders Liaison Officers - Eve and Pat - have been contacting Group Leaders to get an idea of the problems each group is facing. Brian, our Accommodation Officer is ready to find larger rooms for hire when needed. (We all realize this is not going to happen soon due to safety.) They are also wondering if there can be any Zoom meetings for groups where meeting up in person is not possible. The National U3A have set up a wide variety of Groups via a computer, etc. We would like to help and encourage any of our groups that needed advice to do the same sort of thing. There are regular, free training courses you can attend virtually. Unfortunately, our lives are not going to get back to normal very quickly, so we need to adapt and try to think of new ways to enjoy our interests. Not easy, but our generation has adapted and worked hard all our lives, we can do this!!

On a lighter note, the picture above shows me adding the Stourbridge U3A pebble to the tail of the snake in Greenfield Gardens, if you haven't seen it yet I can tell you there is a lot of talent in our Town! There are also well over 1,200 of them. There have been some good art works made over the last few months, painted pebbles being one of the simple, but cheerful ones.

Keep well and keep cheerful.

**Brenda**

### SPEAKERS

For the next main meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Tess Wagstaff has organized another Zoom speaker. Kevin Reynolds's talk, entitled "Love and War", is about garden birds! You may remember Kevin's previous visits when he spoke about Dragonflies and Bats. Both these talks were very well received, so we hope you can join in this time. Details on how to link in will be sent to you closer to the time.

# OTHER NEWS

## CANAL GROUP

The Canal Group have started their program again – we started cautiously at Leasowes, a local park and now are continuing with our plans, but being careful and working in groups of 6.

The photograph shows a litter pick to help the Canal and River Trust with their plastics challenge. 20,000 bin bags of plastic make their way to the ocean from inland waterways every year. The Trust spend £1,000,000 of contributions given to them on litter! We are doing a very, little bit to help.

Again we are taking care, using litter pickers and gloves and hand sanitizer as recommended by C&RT. Our efforts were acknowledged by them and they said how much every little helps.

We are making the most of the Summer now and getting out and about, learning about and observing our historic canal system. Photographs and information will be on the Stourbridge U3A website.

**Brenda Stevenson**  
*Canal Group Leader*



*Members of the Canal Group collecting litter for the Canal & River Trust.*

## HOW TO MAKE SYMBOLS WITH YOUR COMPUTER KEYBOARD

Do you ever wish you could type fractions properly in your work? Here are some shortcuts, just hold down the ALT key while typing the number.

- Alt + 0153..... ™... trademark symbol
- Alt + 0169.... ©.... copyright symbol
- Alt + 0174..... ®....registered trademark symbol
- Alt + 0176 ...°.....degree symbol
- Alt + 0177 ...±....plus-or-minus sign
- Alt + 0182 ...¶.....paragraph mark
- Alt + 0188 ...¼... fraction, a quarter
- Alt + 0189 ...½... fraction, a half
- Alt + 0190 ...¾....fraction, three-quarters
- Alt + 0215 ...×.....multiplication sign
- Alt + 0162...¢....the cent sign
- Alt + 0161.....¡.....upside down exclamation mark
- Alt + 0191.....¿..... upside down question mark
- Alt + 1.....☺....smiley face
- Alt + 2 .....☹....black smiley face
- Alt + 15.....☀..... sun
- Alt + 12.....♀..... female sign
- Alt + 11.....♂..... male sign
- Alt + 6.....♠..... spade
- Alt + 5.....♣..... Club
- Alt + 3.....♥..... Heart
- Alt + 4.....♦..... Diamond
- Alt + 13.....♪..... eighth note
- Alt + 14.....♫..... beamed eighth note
- Alt + 8721.... ∑.... Nary summation (auto sum)
- Alt + 251....√.... square root check mark
- Alt + 8236....∞..... infinity
- Alt + 24.....↑..... up arrow
- Alt + 25.....↓..... down arrow
- Alt + 26.....→..... right arrow
- Alt + 27.....←..... left arrow
- Alt + 18.....↕..... up/down arrow
- Alt + 29.....↔... left/right arrow

# INTEREST GROUPS

## Bridge Group

Pauline Maguire has persuaded some members of the group to play online. It's not the same as playing around a table, with the usual banter, but it is a game of bridge. Even with social distancing being reduced, members still cannot play face to face, so for the time being online is the only way.

## Walking Groups

The walking groups will be resuming in September. Peter Orme and Andrew Pardoe are drawing up protocols so that the groups can meet in a COVID-secure way. Full details of the first walk, together with the approved protocols, will be issued to walking group members in advance.

The former Thursday walk will now switch to the third Friday of each month. The original Friday group will continue to meet on fourth Friday. The website will also be updated shortly; if you are new to the walking groups you can contact Pete or Andrew through the website links.

## Astronomy

Tess Wagstaff reports that the Astronomy Group had a guest speaker at their August meeting. Professor Steve Barratt from Liverpool University gave a talk on "Just a Second" which the group found very interesting. Here is a link to Steve's online talk: <https://stream.liv.ac.uk/s/7ppuevmq>.

## 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>

## 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>.

## NEW CYCLING GROUP

The new cycling group started with the first ride on Tuesday, 4 August 2020 at 10.00 am.

These are gentle, social rides at the pace of between 8 to 10 mph with a refreshment stop along the way. We use residential roads, some busier roads, tracks and canal towpaths and aim to enable members to get to



know their local environment whilst enjoying the physical activity of cycling. Electric bikes are welcome ... but please don't leave the leaders behind!

Due to current lockdown conditions we ride in groups of 6 and it is advisable to bring your own refreshments if no café is open along the route. Please wear a cycle helmet, appropriate clothing and ensure you have a pump, puncture repair kit and bike lock.

We have a programme of rides that take place each Tuesday morning, starting on 4 August 2020 to 27 October 2020 - to view it, please click the link 'programme' on the website. We have amended our programme to include one that starts from Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge and hope to encourage existing U3A members. Most of the routes are fairly local and can either be cycled to, or be car assisted.

If you would like to join a ride, please click the email link on the website and your request will be passed on to the leader so a place can be kept for you in one of the groups of 6 participants.

**Maggie Thompson**

**Cycling Group Leader**



# QUIZ CORNER

## WHISKY GALORE

Can you name these popular tipples?

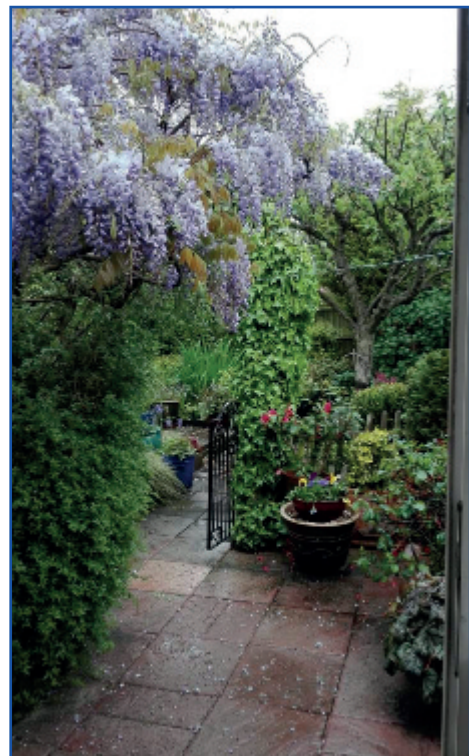
- 1) Excess Archer
- 2) Part of a Scottish Mass Band
- 3) The Glen of Tranquility
- 4) This island has Paps
- 5) Kirk Douglas has one
- 6) Son of Allan
- 7) Tower Valley
- 8) Season saver
- 9) Ancient two year old salmon
- 10) When the Queen is present
- 11) Dark Container
- 12) Scotland's Bard
- 13) First World War General
- 14) Black Watch Feathers
- 15) Silver's First & Middle
- 16) Celebrated Heather Dweller
- 17) Pale Nag
- 18) Sir's Drink
- 19) The 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders
- 20) Late sixties tax
- 21) Lucky Shrub
- 22) Friar's Pick
- 23) Clansman's Weapon
- 24) Before student loans
- 25) Esmerelda's Friend Hated Them
- 26) Tam's Witch
- 27) Red Rambler
- 28) Infamous massacre
- 29) The Queen's Grandfather
- 30) A Thorny Mound

*I'm saving that rocker for the day  
when I feel as old as I really am.  
Dwight D. Eisenhower*

## LINKS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. They all sang James Bond songs.
2. They all won Sports Personality of the Year.
3. Summer Holiday.
4. Anne of Cleves.
5. Father and Daughter.
6. Italy.
7. Novac Djokovic (2015).
8. A Hard Days Night.
9. Mexico.
10. Nico Rosberg.
11. Violet.
12. All Steeds sidekicks in the Avengers.

*Edward Davies was the winner of our U3A In Bloom competition with this lovely picture of his garden.*



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**Business Secretary: Mike Billings ([ictmike@hotmail.com](mailto:ictmike@hotmail.com))**  
**Membership Secretary: Pat Orme ([plmorme@talktalk.net](mailto:plmorme@talktalk.net))**  
**Website address: [stourbridgeu3a.org.uk](http://stourbridgeu3a.org.uk)**