

To: All Members of Stroud u3a

Stroud u3a November Newsletter

Top tasks for November

1. Stay well
2. Start getting ready for Christmas
3. Brush up your Welsh language skills

Covid just won't go away

After last month's AGM and bumper edition, November is thankfully (?) shorter and sweeter. Since Stroud's rate of Covid infections is currently double the national average, and hospitalisations are continuing to rise and cause pressure on the Royal Gloucester, we have resorted to the precautionary principle and cancelled the November monthly meeting and group leaders' meeting. At present the Christmas lunch is going ahead, but of course we will keep an eye open for government advice changing.

Stroud u3a Bank Accounts

As you probably already know, we have been having considerable problems with our bank account. As a result, we are very pleased to say that we have closed our old account and opened a new account and the details of that new bank account are as follows:

Sort Code: **30-98-97** Account Number: **47710362** Account Name: **Stroud u3a**

If you haven't managed to pay your subscription yet (it fell due at the start of September), please do. It is just £12 per year, and you don't need to fill in another application form if your details haven't changed. You can pay by BACS, please use your surname & first name or membership number (if known) as the reference and let Simon know, at membership@stroudu3a.org.uk. Or you can pay by cheque, made out to 'Stroud u3a' & send it to Simon Wright, Hillside, Upper Springfield Road, Stroud GL5 1TF. Very many thanks.

Christmas Lunch

The Christmas lunch is now fully booked & scheduled for **Thursday 2nd December** at the Clothiers Arms. We arrive from 12:30pm & food to be served from 1pm.

We need all food requirements & payments by 25th November at the latest - all the people who have booked should have details on how to do that. We have also started a waiting list in case people have to drop out at the last minute - If you're interested, please contact Clive Edgington at cliveedgington4@gmail.com or call 01453 767850.

The menu is attached.

FareShare

FareShare is a charity that distributes surplus food to charities that turn it into meals for vulnerable people). From Thursday 18th November to Saturday 20th November, volunteers will be needed to collect long-life food in Tesco stores across the UK as part of a special Tesco Food Collection to support children and families throughout the festive period.

They need volunteers to help for just three hours over that period, encouraging Tesco shoppers to donate. Find out more here: <https://fareshare.org.uk/foodcollection/>

If anyone is interested, please enquire at your local Tesco.

Romeo and Juliet - Bristol Redgrave Theatre

Is anyone interested and able to organise a theatre visit in double-quick time?

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School are offering discounted tickets on the Theatre School's upcoming production, *Romeo and Juliet*, which is playing at the Redgrave Theatre in Bristol between Friday 3rd

December and 10th December. There are both matinee and evening performances.

Tickets are ordinarily £16 but for U3A groups of 10 or more, tickets are just £10 per head. To access this rate, **please contact the box office directly on 0117 315 7602.**

For details of the production with times and date, please see the [Redgrave Theatre's website](#). The running time is approximately 2 hours 30 minutes including a 20-minute interval and we hope that the show might make a wonderful pre-Christmas trip for your members. Nearby Clifton village has a range of restaurants and independent shops.

You might not be familiar with Bristol Old Vic Theatre School itself, but you will be aware of their alumni: Olivia Colman, Sir Daniel Day-Lewis and Sir Patrick Stewart to name but a few. They'd be delighted for us to join them this December to see the stars of tomorrow in action!

Davy Notebooks project

Dr Andrew Lacey of Lancaster University is running the Davy Notebooks Project (wp.lancs.ac.uk/davynotebooks), transcribing the handwritten notebooks of Sir Humphry Davy, the great 19th century scientist, discoverer of several elements, inventor of the Davy lamp and experimenter with early anaesthetics using laughing gas.

This is an international community project, with over 1400 volunteer transcribers currently transcribing, Sir Humphry Davy's (1778-1829) handwritten notebooks (around 70 in all). Davy was the leading chemist of the early 19th century, but also a poet, moving in the same circles as Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth. His notebooks contain not only chemical notes and poetry, but also material encompassing philosophy, medicine, geology, mathematics, astronomy, and more.

Anyone interested in any of these topics, or science or history more generally, will surely find the much of the material – much of which is being made available for the first time – stimulating. You can do as little or as much as you wish. Contributing is free, interesting and rewarding, and no prior experience is necessary – the team provides guidance on the transcription process and the project team is on hand to answer any queries.

You can take a look at the project at

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/humphrydavy/davy-notebooks-project>. Anyone interested should email davynotebooks@lancaster.ac.uk.

Updates – groups

Singing for Pleasure

The Singing for Pleasure group, a dozen or so people who enjoy singing traditional British folk songs, some easy opera and so on, needs a new conductor. Would anyone be able and interested to do this? If so, please contact Margaret Jordan on 01453 756794.

Bore Da! Anyone for Welsh conversation?

Are there any Welsh speakers or learners in Stroud u3a who would be interested in a Welsh conversation group? Perhaps meeting over coffee once or twice a month. Pat Pole is offering to coordinate an initial meeting to discuss how to proceed. So if you fancy having a go at the language of many of our near-neighbours, contact her at patgerylli@yahoo.com to talk about getting together and exploring what you could do. Diolch!

Dates for your Diary

- Thursday 2nd December (12.30) – **Christmas Lunch**, Clothiers Arms. Contact Clive Edgington (cliveedgington4@gmail.com or 01453 767850).

For your Entertainment

No outputs from our own groups to show you this month. Instead, here's [some inspiration](#) from across the pond for how to live well in later life.

Contacts

Paul Davenport chair@stroudu3a.org.uk 01453 890334

Clive Edgington secretary@stroudu3a.org.uk 01453 767850 / 07484896850

Joan Toon speaker@stroudu3a.org.uk 01453 757720 / 07515 852003

Simon Wright membership@stroudu3a.org.uk 01453 759100 / 07866 945880

Paula Ford new-members@stroudu3a.org.uk 07913 240154

Sylvia Pearse treasurer@stroudu3a.org.uk 01453 827597

Peter Furtado news@stroudu3a.org.uk 07967 396984

John Tyror events@stroudu3a.org.uk 01453 752326

Jane Harvey groups@stroudu3a.org.uk 079 199 20034.