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Newsletter

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Hello Members.

Here we are in September. Ch***** is in the shops already. Who is going to be the first to spot Easter eggs?

What a lovely summer we've had, even if it was a little too hot for some, but as I write this there's torrential rain!



Our u3a family continues to grow almost daily, our groups are thriving and our day trips more popular than ever. This year I've travelled the country with our u3a, North, South, East and West. Trips by coach, train and boat too. I know our events committee are already planning more excitement for next year. If you've any suggestions for trips please let the events group know. Learn, Laugh and Live with Stourbridge u3a!

My new friend at Ellesmere Port!

Best wishes,

Barbara.

Wye Valley Trip – 7th July 2025



We had a lovely trip down the River Wye from Symonds Yat and then spent the afternoon in Ross On Wye.

A great town where we found an excellent cafe for lunch and then a stroll down to the river for a refreshing drink, relaxing and chatting in a riverside pub gardens.

The weather was very lovely and there can't be many better ways to spend a day together with u3a friends.

Tess Wagstaff

Learn, laugh, live!

Canal Group On Tour!

The Canal Group try to visit as many different canals as they can, learning about the different history and purpose of each one. In August we had a coach trip to see the Caldon Canal, beginning at Etruria and ending at Froghall wharf.

At Etruria (Stoke) we had a short Historical walk –saw the deep lock, museum buildings and more around this important area to the canals (Stoke is intersected by the Trent and Mersey and the Caldon Canals). The Caldon Canal goes from Etruria top lock to either Froghall or the Leek terminus.



Caldon Canal is a branch of the Trent and Mersey Canal which opened in 1779. It runs for 18 miles; it was built to carry Peak District limestone, from the quarries at Cauldon Low, down to the Potteries and the industrial Midlands.



We then had a stop at Froghall Wharf for lunch and a short walk around the end of the canal and the flint kilns. Finally we went to have a guided tour of the flint mill at Cheddleton – One of the few historic water mills still working in the country.

Cheddleton Flint Mill

There has been a mill here since the 13th C and flint is an important ingredient for fine bone china and porcelain made in nearby Stoke on Trent.



The flint came from the Downs of South-East England, a long journey by coaster and then by narrowboat to Cheddleton.

When it had been unloaded, it was roasted, crushed, then mixed with water and ground to a fine powder in the mills. The result was allowed to settle and dried in a slip kiln, formed into blocks and sent on to the potteries by narrow boat.

A very interesting day.

Brenda Stevenson

– Canal Group Leader

Learn, laugh, live!

Visit to Newark on Trent – 13th August 2025

We left Stourbridge at 8.30am on a day which turned out to be one of the hottest of the year. With a short stop we arrived in Newark at 11.00am. The coach driver dropped us right next to the ruined castle which sits alongside the river.



From there it was a short walk to the market square in the centre of town. Wednesday is market day so there were stalls up in half of the large market square. It was an extremely hot day and so we all sought shelter in the numerous shops and cafes in the town, admiring the many old buildings as we did so.



The other half of the market square was a beach for the little ones who were having a great time while the adults sat under sun umbrellas – quite Mediterranean!

Newark is famous for two things. The castle was where King John died, and it was a Royalist stronghold during the Civil War which was when the castle was rendered indefensible by the victorious Parliamentary troops. It has an excellent Civil War Museum adjoining the town's theatre, where there is also a café which was beautifully cool!



Most people walked around the perimeter of the castle (unfortunately mostly fenced off for restoration work), across the bridge over the Trent to a riverside park. At this point the River Trent is canalised with a large lock and various converted warehouse buildings. There was plenty for those members of the Canal Group in our party to see.

We left at about 3.15pm and were all very glad to clamber back aboard our air-conditioned coach!

Nigel Williams.

Learn, laugh, live!

INTEREST GROUPS

STOURBRIDGE GOLF GROUP

We recently held our annual Summer "Golfest" at Bewdley Pines Golf Course – a friendly get together but with the incentive of a Team prize played over 9 holes of golf. We started with a Putting Competition and there were also prizes for the Longest Drive won by Alice Grennan and Nearest the Pin on the 9th hole was Pete Davies.



Not a bad effort from over 200 yards onto the green to land a couple of feet from the hole and which won him a well deserved bottle of Fizz.



The Team Prize and Trophy was won by Mary Beattie, Colin How and David Reeves who together played the front 9 holes in level Par.

Traditionally, we ended our day at the 19th hole where we enjoyed "refreshments" and awarded prizes. Our group meets on a Thursday, once or twice a month, through the year.



We play at a number of courses in the local area. If you are interested in joining us and possibly have a set of clubs in your garage gathering dust? OR if you have always wanted want to see if Golf is for you?

Please contact David Reeves through the Golf page on the Stourbridge u3a website,

David Reeves

FRENCH CONVERSATION – INTERMEDIATE

The Intermediate French Conversation group now have room for a few new members – have a look at the website and use the message box to contact the leader if you're interested. To enquire, contact the Group Leader via this link :- [French Conversation Intermediate Group](#)

JAZZ GROUP ACTIVITIES

We have recently added a large TV screen for Jazz DVDs which are played after half time for some sessions. We attended Birmingham Jazz Festival and had front row seats. We will also be visiting Halesowen Cricket Club monthly from September on a Sunday evening to see some brilliant Trad Jazz bands. Come join us!

Sheila Dixon

If members are interested in joining any of our our groups, either apply directly via the Stourbridge u3a groups website –

<https://stourbridge.u3asite.uk/groups/>

Or, if in difficulty, please contact Maggie Thompson at

groupleadliaison.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com

Learn, laugh, live!

Christmas with Stourbridge u3a
Wednesday 10th December 2025

Come and spoil yourself! You are worth it!!

**Enjoy a wonderful Christmas meal with your u3a
friends at Himley Hall**

Arrive 11.30 meal will be served between 12-3pm

A 3 course meal with tea/coffee and mints afterwards

All Served in the Swimming Pool room
with the Cinema bar available throughout
Both beautiful Art Deco rooms

£39 pp Members only at first please
Make your own way there
Only 70 places available

Please apply to Brenda
brendastevenson53@gmail.com
01384 377333 or 07908 794232

You will be sent payment details or pay at the monthly
meeting – bank transfer is the preferred payment please
Quote your menu choice and any allergies- also
have in mind who you would like to sit with and seating
arrangements will try to accommodate you.

Learn, laugh, live!

And Finally

OUTINGS & EVENTS SUMMARY

Feed back from our members – please put more National Trust Visits on, we have now done this and tried to make them properties you may not have visited before.

7th October – Visit to NT Dyrham Park, near Bath. Please contact Tess Wagstaff asap if you want to go! Guests permitted.

3rd November – Quiz and Cream Tea at Wollaston Village Hall. Come and have a fun afternoon with a delicious Cream Tea to top it off! N.B. U3a members only.

10th December – Christmas meal at Himley Hall. Go on – treat yourself, you deserve it! N.B. U3a members only.

Email events.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com for more information and for booking details.

Local I. T. Support now Available!

- Account recovery ?
- Accessory fitment Issues ?
- Laptop or PC software updates?
- Lost User Manual ?
- Lost password ?

I.T. Help now available as a drop-in service during u3a Main Group meetings. Free advice given including hardware upgrades and purchases.

Bring along faulty or problematic devices (if portable) for examination. Email – newsletter24.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com for general advice about technology or to pre-book an advice slot at the next U3A Main Group meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS

The speakers for the next 3 months are:-

2nd October – Ray Sturdy – Malvern Memories, a town with an interesting history and once a popular spa resort.

6th November – Bernard Lockett – The Heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan.

4th December – Callum Scott – Evesham Dogs Trust .

"No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot."

– Mark Twain

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://stourbridge.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/p_hotography-and-digital-images/

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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