

Editor: James Gennard – newsletter24.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com

Contact numbers: Membership Sec: Joy Moss – 01384 377346

Hello Members.

In our December issue I mentioned the Roman God Janus, he had two faces one looking forward and one looking back. Today I'm looking back to the many wonderful things we, Stourbridgeu3a, have achieved, they're far too many to list. What event, trip or meeting was a highlight for you during 2025? To jog your memory, many are mentioned on our website.

Now looking forward. I'm quite overwhelmed by the speed at which many of you renewed your membership, thank you, and we have a number of new members too! If this is your first newsletter – welcome. Our AGM is approaching, it's on Thursday 2nd April. Do come along we need 10% of our



members to be quorate, it's a short meeting followed by tea, cake and entertainment from our ukulele group. This leads me to the question, what can you do to help your u3a? Offers of help are always appreciated, could you be a committee member? Could you help serving tea or coffee or help with organisation of trips? None of the numerous activities are run by the proverbial fairies! Please think about it.

Like Janus looking back and forward, new and older engines at Moor St station, Birmingham.
Best wishes, Barbara French.

Christmas Dinner at Himley Hall – 10th December



A celebration together at a very comfortable venue – Himley Hall – our meal was in the Swimming Pool room and the reception was in the Cinema Bar. Both rooms are nicely preserved in Art Deco style and the tables were set whilst the meals delivered very professionally. We were very well looked after and the 3-course meal was of a good standard and everyone said they would be happy to go again! Thank you to you all for your company at Christmas! Best wishes,

Brenda Stevenson

Learn, laugh, live!

AGM

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

The 15th Annual General Meeting of Stourbridge u3a will take place at
2.00 pm on Thursday 2nd April 2026
at New Road Methodist Church

An AGM must be held each year according to our Constitution, and the necessary business usually only takes a short time. The Agenda will be sent by email prior to the meeting and also will be available in print at the AGM itself.

**It is very important that we are QUORATE (10% of members present)
at the AGM, otherwise the meeting cannot take place!**

There are vacancies on the Committee for the posts of **Chair, Website Manager, Treasurer, Business Secretary, Accommodation Officer, and Group Liaison.**

All paid-up members of Stourbridge u3a are entitled to stand for nomination to these Posts. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact any Committee member for an informal discussion via this [link](#). Job Descriptions are available from the Business Secretary. ***N.B. Nominees must have agreed to stand and be proposed and seconded by paid-up members.***

**Please return completed NOMINATION Forms to the Business Secretary
by Saturday 14th March 2026.**

A very important part of the AGM is the chance for members to submit Motions for Discussion – which means raising any subject which they feel to be of concern to Stourbridge U3A. We ask that members tell us in advance, so that these Motions can go on the Agenda. There is a form to use which you can obtain from the Business Secretary.

Please ensure that all Motions have both a proposer and a seconder.
**Return completed MOTION Forms to the Business Secretary
by Saturday 14th March 2026.**

As in the past there will be tea and biscuits for everyone with the chance to chat with fellow members when the business is completed as well as entertainment by our Ukulele group.

Yours Faithfully, on behalf of Stourbridge U3A
Trevor Hähn,
Stourbridge u3a Business Secretary
8 Park View Road, Stourbridge DY9 8XD
Telephone: 07702 936013

Email : businesssec24.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com (putting “u3a AGM” as subject)

Learn, laugh, live!

Colesbourne Park Visit – 6th February 2026



On a wet Winter's day 40 of us ventured to see the Snowdrops at Colesbourne and have a guided tour explaining the origins and varieties of snowdrops.

We were welcomed by Sir Henry Elwes and his Head Gardener Kate and had coffee and home-made cake while Sir Henry gave us a history of the Elwes family and how the world-famous collection of Snowdrops at Colesbourne has evolved. We were then split into 2 groups and walked around the grounds learning to appreciate the different faces and leaves of the snowdrop! Who knew there are yellow snowdrops?



There were also banks of purple cyclamen and varieties of hellibores.

The grounds were beautiful and had many speciality trees and a lake that looked very blue due to the clay in the silt reflecting the light.

We all felt it was a sight worth seeing in spite of the wet weather. A tribute to the members who didn't complain but enjoyed their day.

Brenda Stevenson

Quiz Group

I love to create quizzes that are interesting and fun so you don't have to be a Brain of Britain as you will be part of a team and it's amazing what you had forgotten you did know. The quiz consists of 8 rounds of 10 questions including a picture and a music round, it all helps to keep the grey cells active. The quiz is held at Wollaston Village

Hall off the Bridgnorth Road, almost behind St James church, Wollaston There is ample parking. It runs from 2pm until 4pm so if you would like to come along for an afternoon of laughter and fun then you will be made very welcome. We have a break for tea/coffee and biscuits for 30p so please bring along your own mug. Jean Attwood.

Learn, laugh, live!

Stephen Emery Kurling Experience

Within the past year, I unfortunately broke my hip in a fall. This led to ongoing mobility issues, which in turn meant I had to relocate from Kent to Stourbridge in order to be closer to my children and grandchildren.

Obviously, that also meant that I left behind all the friends, neighbours and haunts, I used to enjoy for almost all of my 90+ years.

Through word of mouth and then a quick look up online, my son discovered Stourbridge U3A, and I'm so glad he did, as amongst all the pursuits available he discovered the Kurling group.

When I heard that you could do physical activity whilst sitting down, I thought that's something I like the sound of, and agreed to give it a try.

Let me point out though, the norm is to stand up, but as I'm currently needing a wheelchair, I quite liked passing on the physical side to my granddaughter (who participated with me initially and now it's my son) as they line up my chair whilst I just deal with the accuracy.

Accuracy is quite a loose term from my point of view, as I now realise from watching

those in the Winter Olympics that they take that bit quite seriously. Whereas, I'm pleased to say, less so those of us enjoying the Kurling in Wollaston Village Hall every 2nd Monday of the month.

It's been great for me to get out and about from the day to day four walls, and not only finding a physical activity that can even be done from a wheelchair, but also to spend a relaxed time with others, taking 'sport' (another loose term) in a casual manner.

I was made to feel very welcome the first time I went and I'm glad to say that I still am ... even though I miss that pesky target at the other end of the hall more often than not ... but I blame my wheelchair pusher ... I think he's one of 'The Traitors' !

It's not easy relocating your life, but meeting new people, a little bit of mild physical activity and some light hearted banter, has been something I've really enjoyed.

Perhaps you should give it a go yourselves ... Kurling that is, not relocating !!

Stephen Emery

Cyber Security Advice Summary

Advice on how to stay secure online and improve your cyber security

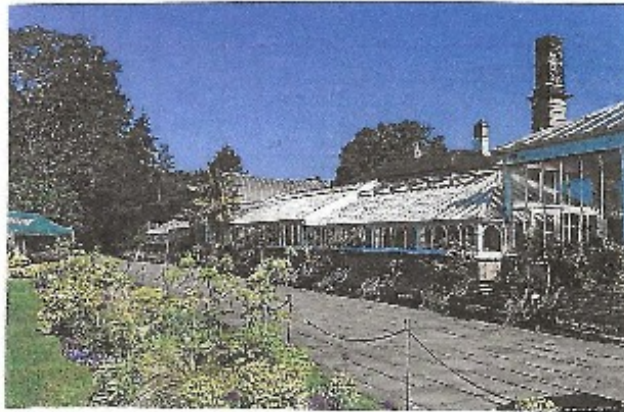
- 1) Create a very strong unique password for your email account.
- 2) Create strong passwords using three random words of at least 12 characters long.
(Test your password via <https://www.passwordmonster.com>)
- 3) Save passwords in your browser but only if using your own device.
- 4) Turn on 2-step verification (2SV) for your email system and all financial websites/Apps.
- 5) Always update your devices and your software and Apps regularly!
- 6) Back up your photos, documents, and other personal data to Cloud storage or another device.
- 7) Report suspicious messages to the Report Fraud website.

Learn, laugh, live!

Botanical Gardens Visit – 21st April

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Tuesday 21st April



Travel arrangements - Own transport , on site parking £3 OR No 9 bus from Stourbridge(10-15mins walk from Hagley Rd)

Entrance 11am

Cost £9 per person

Café on site



Contact organiser Vicky Homer to reserve a place

vickyhomer@yahoo.com or 07817 117999

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 have tried hard to make them properties you may not have visited before.

21st April – Visit to Birmingham’s Botanical Gardens, home to many exotic plant species.

19th May – Visit to Hughenden NT, country home of ex-PM Benjamin Disraeli. Site pre-dates the Domesday Book!

9th June – Visit to Swindon’s Museum of the Great Western Railway plus the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet shopping centre, both being on the same site.

Email events.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com for more information and for booking details or contact Brenda Stevenson directly.

Local I. T. Support now Available!

- Account recovery ?
- Laptop or PC software need updating?
- Lost User Manual ?
- SCAM & Password advice

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.

Simply 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 April – AGM – Annual General meeting – followed by Ukulele Group performance.

7th May – Kate Round – The Magic of Glass
This talk looks at the colourful world of glass, how it is made and how we can change it physically and chemically to suit its use.

4th June – Karen Evans – Grim Almanac of Birmingham. Discussing some of the gruesome, shocking and unbelievable stories uncovered when Karen was writing the Grim Almanac of Birmingham.

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>

Chairman: Barbara French (chair23.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.org.uk)
Business Secretary: Trevor Hahn (businesssec24.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com)
Membership Secretary: Joy Moss (membership.stourbridgeu3a@gmail.com)
Website address: <https://stourbridge.u3asite.uk>