

Issue: 20
June
2026

Newsletter

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

Contact numbers: Membership Sec: Joy Moss – 01384 377346

Hello members,

What changes in the weather we've experienced recently, high temperatures, thunder storms and as I write this now, it's torrential rain.



This week is volunteers' week, it gives me the opportunity to say an enormous thank you to the committee, the group leaders and to all our members for their support. It would be remiss of me not to mention Stourbridge in Bloom, so many of our members supported the plant sale raising money for the group. The town looks amazing. Another thank you is to those who came along to the AGM, the ukulele group were wonderful and they'll be back next year's AGM to entertain us. Our membership continues to grow. Have you brought a friend along or a neighbour? We really do offer something for everyone.

A puzzling moment at Hughenden Manor.

Best wishes,

Barbara.

Walking Cricket Group

The Walking Cricket group are now meeting outside at Oldswinford Cricket Club on Wednesday afternoons at 2 o'clock.

like to encourage lady members to join in as currently we are down to just my wife.



We are a small friendly group and are embarking on our 6th season. We would welcome more members to our regular group.

Previous experience or expertise is not necessary. We would particularly

If you feel unable to wield a bat or bowl a ball then you could umpire or keep score. Why not come along and see what we do.

Mike Billings

Learn, laugh, live!

Visit to the Grand Theatre – 23rd March

On 23rd March, 28 members of Stourbridge u3a paid a visit to the Grand Theatre Wolverhampton for a backstage tour.



This was a lovely way to spend a Monday morning. We were warmly welcomed by our Guides with tea, coffee and biscuits waiting for us on our arrival. We then began the tour with the history of the Grand Theatre and

were told about all the famous people who had visited the theatre over the years.

The tour consisted of front of house, dressing rooms, the stage and backstage. We were told about all the high technology used backstage for effects, etc. The tour lasted for 90 minutes and was very interesting and informative and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Some of us finished the morning with lunch at Wetherspoons which was very conveniently opposite the Theatre. We thank all the team at the Grand for a lovely tour and for making us so welcome.

Sandra Newall

Quiz Group

.....Our popular quiz group which has been running for around 10 years, is always well attended with a strong core of members, but we would love to have even more members enjoy 2 hours of posers, music and laughter. We break for a cuppa and biscuits and for members to chat socially. Brian and I get much pleasure in watching everyone enjoying themselves and even making new friends.

It is not seriously competitive as we always quote "you don't have to be the brain of Britain" and the biggest attraction is the chocolate bar for the winning team.

Teams are determined randomly so that it does not become 'clicky'. Why not come visit us and give it a try?

Regards

Jean Attwood.

Learn, laugh, live!

Botanical Gardens Birmingham Visit - 21st April

Tuesday 21st April was our visit to the Botanical Gardens by 20 of our members, travelling on public transport or by car. The day dawned overcast with a very cool breeze but by mid morning we did see some sunshine.



First stop for many of us was the delightful Medicine Bakery cafe for a warming hot drink and a 'snack' for some !

The gardens are undertaking some redevelopments but we were able to enjoy the grounds with the delightful shrubs, trees and flowers. Several members expressed their enjoyment and benefits of going to a local attraction.

Vicky Homer



EMAIL GOOD PRACTISE

Create a very strong password for your email account i.e. 15+ characters long!
Write it with a meaningful Subject Line.
Keep it brief – 3 sentences/ideas at most.
Keep it clean and use respectful language.
Don't write it if you wouldn't say it face to

face, especially when angry or upset.
Don't use Jargon or TLA's – Three Letter Abbreviations.

Apply the 3 D's Rule to your emails, Do it, Delete it or Delegate it upon reading it.
Read your emails twice daily at most.

James Gennard

Learn, laugh, live!

NT Hughenden Visit on 19th May 2026

Hughenden is best known as the country home of Victorian Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, and more recently as a top-secret map-making facility during the Second World War. However, there's almost a thousand years of history stretching back before either story.



Our u3a had an interesting day out at Hughenden – In spite of heavy traffic on our way there and a heavy shower of rain in the afternoon, we were able to enjoy the formal Italianate-style gardens with Victorian parterre and classical statuary.



There was a very nice café and shop in the stable yard, apple orchard and walled garden. Open parkland with beech, oak and chestnut, soaring kites and resident cows. Parish church with Disraeli's grave. Rare chalk stream.

Thank you to our great members for their company and support.

Brenda Stevenson

Golf Group

At last the warm weather has arrived which makes Golf so much more enjoyable. The start of the year was awful and when we played at Chesterton Valley, although the bluebells were out in force only a few more intrepid members played. My wife says I should tell you that we are a group of older men and women walking in the country, carrying sticks and looking for lost golf balls. (I don't dare criticise her Ukelele group) But she is right in one way you don't need to be a golf professional to join us and have fun, exercise, friendly

competition and of course a drink in the club house after the game.



David
Reeves.

Learn, laugh, live!

Stephen Emery's Kurling Experience



Unfortunately, we ran out of time to include these two photographs of Stephen Emery enjoying the Kurling Experience with our Stourbridge u3a Group in the last Newsletter in March. We have submitted Stephens story and these photographs to the National u3a organisation for them to use and publicise so we may yet see Stephen Emery once more!

Stephen Emery

u3a Visit to the Stourbridge Glass Museum

The Museum had contacted our committee to invite members to visit them and on 27th May, eighteen members of the Local History Group took them up on this. We were made most welcome and our visit started with an excellent summary of the history of Stourbridge glass by Kevin, one of the guides. Kevin explained how glass

went back four thousand years, through the Roman period and was brought to this area by Huguenot glassmakers from France taking advantage of local materials.

In the 18thC there were over forty glass cones to be seen, benefiting from the nearby canal, and the industry prospered with Victorian crystal and cameo glass. We were then taken on a tour of the major exhibits in the museum demonstrating the history of glassmaking before being left to view these and the many pieces from recent glass craftspeople. An excellent visit and one that we recommend to all u3a members. The Stourbridge Glass Museum currently has a special offer to us on showing your membership card; membership and entry for the remainder of the year for only £10, half the normal cost. We recommend that you take this up.



Ivor Caplan

Learn, laugh, live!

And Finally

OUTINGS & EVENTS SUMMARY

We have days out for you to enjoy from Stourbridge u3a, these are organised by a team who do their best to find different and affordable days out for us all to enjoy. All trips are announced by our Chairman on the Monday message when they are on sale. All the following trips are by coach.

14 th July – Masson Mills near Matlock. This is Richard Arkwright's 1783 water powered cotton mill beside the River Derwent. It has a museum, shop and café. Price and times to be announced.

13 th August – Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire
Belvoir castle and magnificent gardens tour and café plus a retail village a short walk away. This is a Faux castle but still well worth visiting, The building is huge and there is a lot to see. Have a look online and come and join us.

4 th September – The Sabrina Cruise on the River Severn followed by free time in Shrewsbury. A gentle and beautiful day out with the award-winning gardens by the river called Quarry, the Museum, Churches and fabulous old buildings and historical streets – plus shops of course! If you do a bit of searching before you go you will indeed be spoilt for choice.

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

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.

GUEST SPEAKERS

The speakers for the next 3 months are:-

2nd July – Emma Barren Scott presents Sweet Heritage – a talk about 200 years of making sweets. Hear about the history of confectionery. Samples will be available!

6th August – John Mayell, one of the volunteers at this local group, presents an illustrated talk about the work done by the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway.

3rd September – Philip Bowen presents his latest talk "The 70s – when the lights went out". Philip will talk about events and politics from the 1970s with his usual blend of accuracy and humour.

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>