

Stone (Staffs) & District



Charity No. III4938

STONE (Staffs) & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER Autumn 2017

Website: www.stoneu3a.btck.co.uk

Find information on activities and events on the website

Chairman: Gwynyth Hart (01782 633179, gwynythh396@gmail.com)

Group Support: Carol Keogh (01785 615200, keogh_carol@yahoo.co.uk)

Secretary: Bruce Evans (01785 748453, annabel.bruce@gmail.com)

U3A Regular Events

Coffee/Enrolment Mornings

First Friday in the month, 10.15 a.m.-11.45 a.m. at Christchurch Centre, Stone
Friday 1st September; Friday 6th October; Friday 3rd November; Friday 1st December.

*All members, and prospective members, very welcome.
It is possible to re-enrol, and enrol, at the Coffee Mornings.*

Next Speaker Meeting

Wednesday 18th October – 1.15 p.m. at Christchurch Centre, Stone

Matthew Ellis, Police Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire. This is a great opportunity to hear about this important role and, if time permits, to ask questions.

Please arrive by 1.15 p.m. for a prompt start at 1.30 p.m.

(There is a charge of £2.00 on the door, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.)

New Year 2017/18 and Re-enrolment : Welcome to another year of great activities with Stone & District U3A. This will be our first year with the new funding model. Thanks to all who were able to attend the Special General Meeting to enable us to move forward. There are further details that we will be working on, such as arrangements for those who enrol later in the year. We will take on board the feedback from you.

Re-enrolment continues – this can be done by post to Aidan Coleman (10 Harrow Place, Stone ST15 8ST) or at the next Coffee Morning on Friday 1st September 2017 from 10.15 a.m.-11.45 a.m. at Christchurch Centre, Stone.

The new membership cards for 2017/18 are **bright green** in colour. Please take yours to the first meeting of your group(s).

Mid-Staffs Group Agreement For some time, Stone & District U3A has been part of this agreement, together with six other local U3As (Stoke South, Stafford, Cheadle, Uttoxeter, Burton-on-Trent and Cannock Chase) whereby our members can take up any available places in their groups. Many members have contacted us to request that we try to find a way to keep this agreement in place. We're pleased to report that we have been able to do that, and that Stone & District U3A remains a part of this agreement. So please see their websites for details of activities – *and take your membership card with you.*

Stone & District U3A Annual General Meeting 2017

The AGM will take place on **Wednesday, 22nd November 2017 at 10.30 a.m.**

The venue is St Dominic's Social Centre, Stone

(just up the road from Wetherspoon's).

Refreshments will be served downstairs in the lounge area from 10.00 a.m.

One of our members helps with the funding for Oak Tree Farm Rural Project, near Hilderstone (for adults with learning difficulties) by running a bookstall in the cafe there. He always needs books of all sorts to replenish his stock – if you can donate one or two, there will be a collection point downstairs at St Dominic's at the AGM. Many thanks!

News from the Groups

Members of the **Discovery Award Group** continue working on their very varied challenges: the group meets about four times a year, as these are individually pursued. At the recently held fish and chip supper, Linda Neat was presented with her Bronze Award – she overcame considerable health issues to achieve this. She helped with the Newcastle-under-Lyme Lantern Parade for the Service section, sang with the Revellations Choir for her Hobby, followed a course of Tai Chi for the Physical Recreation, and for the Journey of Discovery completed a most impressive investigation into the family tree of her paternal grandmother. Congratulations, Linda! The Discovery Award is based on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, but is for the over-50s. You don't need to be very fit to take part – it can be done if you're confined to a wheelchair – and it's not competitive. The next group meeting will be a walk (optional) followed by lunch at the Ramblers' Retreat in Dimmingsdale in October. For more information, please **contact the Group Leader, Mary Bull at marybull@madasafish.com or telephone 01785 815958.**

The **French – Back to Basics Group** at the Christchurch Centre on Thursdays will begin at 2.30 p.m., instead of 2.00 p.m., and finish at 4.00 p.m. There are some spaces for new members – please **contact the Group Leader, Angela Vincent at angelavincen94@gmail.com or telephone 01785 509902.**

The Kurling Group 'A' at Swynnerton Village Hall begins again for the winter session on Tuesday, 3rd October from 10.00-12.00 noon. There are spaces for anyone wishing to join – please **contact the Group Leader, Jo Knowles at jknowles52@gmail.com or telephone 01785 814198.**

The **Kurling Group 'B' at Walton Community Centre** begins again for the winter session on Tuesday, 3rd October from 10.00-12.00 noon. For any queries, please **contact the Group Leader, Rob Walker at barbara.walker2@virgin.net or telephone 01785 814791.**

The **Petanque Group has re-started at a new location, the Stone House Hotel** on the A34 in Stone (on the northbound side of the A34, so has to be approached from the Aston roundabout side). Parking is on the car park directly in front of the hotel – *please do not park in the 'Additional Parking' area.* Signs to the playing area are at the left-hand side of the hotel frontage. Times are as before – every Thursday from 2.00-4.00 p.m., and we hope to be playing until the end of October, weather permitting. This new playing area is twice the size of the former one, so there are currently vacancies for anyone wishing to give the game a try. Please **contact the Group Leader, John Townsley at john.townsley@uwclub.net or telephone 01785 814471.**

The **Reading Group** has lost a few members recently, and has therefore got space for some new ones. They meet in the Annexe at Oulton Village Hall on the third Monday of most months, from 2.00-4.00 p.m. The next meeting will be on Monday 18th September, when they will be discussing 'Suite Francaise' by Irene Nemirovsky. If you're interested in joining, please **contact the Group Leader, Annabel Evans at annabel.bruce@gmail.com or telephone 01785 748453.**

Do you feel the need to relax and unwind? We are looking for someone to start up an **additional Relaxation Group** from September 2017. There is already a list of nine people who are interested in attending - if you could lead the group, please **contact Carol Keogh, Group Support, at keogh_carol@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01785 615200.**

We are pleased to welcome Judith Webb as the new Group Leader for the **Strollers** as from Wednesday 27th September, the date of the next stroll. For more information, please **contact Judith Webb at judith@ilexes36.plus.com or telephone 01785 814454.**

Theatre Group - Last year our visits to matinee performances at local theatres were organised on a group basis. An investigation of what is on offer in local theatres in the autumn of 2017 shows the following:

Buxton

Wed 15th November : 'Brassed Off' – a musical comedy, set in the early 1990s.

Regent Theatre, Hanley

Wed 11th October : 'Son of a Preacher Man' – swinging 60s musical play, featuring Dusty

Springfield's greatest hits.

Wed/Thur 25th/26th October : 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'

Wed/Thur 15th/16th November : 'Cilla – the Musical'

New Vic, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Thur 5th October : 'The Pitmen Painters' – a group of miners start creating their own works of art.

Thur 26th October : 'Taking Steps' - an Alan Ayckbourn farce about a solicitor, his clients and a large crumbling house.

Thur 8th November : 'For Love or Money' – in a small Yorkshire town in the 1920s, widow Rose entertains the advances of two dubious suitors....brought to life by Northern BroadSides. (Barrie Rutter directs and acts – his final performance for the company at the New Vic.)

If you're interested in seeing any of these performances, please contact

Gareth Jones at gareth.jones90@btinternet.com or telephone 01782 372349

or

Dorothy Hudson at dottibags33@gmail.com or telephone 01782 397727

– *by FRIDAY 8th SEPTEMBER, please.* If there is strong interest, arrangements will be made to obtain tickets at the discounted rates.

Could YOU be a U3A Group Leader? If you have a passion or an interest that you'd like to share, then contact Carol Keogh on 01785 615200 or keogh_carol@yahoo.co.uk

SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW - LEARN WHAT YOU DON'T !

From our Communications Team

If you've received this Newsletter by post, but do have

an email address, please let us know !

Please send your email address to the

Secretary, Bruce Evans, at annabel.bruce@gmail.com

Thank you.

Items for next Newsletter to be sent to Elaine Hunt at huntsbande@gmail.com by 20th November, please.