

STONE and DISTRICT U3A

Update for Members February 2020

January gone – hope the year is progressing well for everybody. The purpose of this update is to inform you/remind you of some key dates and events and give an update from our various groups.

KEY DATES

The next **speaker meeting** will be held on **12th February 2020 in the Annexe at Christchurch**. Please be there for 1.15pm for a prompt 1.30pm start. The speaker will Ray Parry, the manager of Rudyard Lake.

The **3rd June 2020** will be the first **National U3A Day**. Individual U3A's are being encouraged to participate by organising local events. This will be discussed by the Committee in February but to be successful it will need input from our groups. Information from the National web site can be find <https://www.u3a.org.uk/u3a-day/u3a-day-about> .

NEW GROUPS

A new group – **Make a Memoir** – is scheduled to start late February. The aim of the group is to share ideas for the best way to create a personal memoir – whether these are written, photographed or recorded by any other means. Watch our web site – Activities – for details as they are finalised. For more details contact Bel Crawford 01785 817712

Currently, the **Art Group** is full with a waiting list. If you think you could help to lead another group, or know somebody who might, please let Stephen Hicks know.

Several people have mentioned starting a **Knitting/Crochet group**. If you are interested let Stephen Hicks know.

UPDATES FROM GROUPS

Talking Books

The Talking Books group meets at Walton Community Centre every Monday morning at 10.00. We read (aloud) together and discuss - sometimes with more discussion than reading! We read a wide variety of fact and fiction, currently "It Couldn't Happen Here" which was written by Stephen Lewis in 1935, but chimes eerily with the 2020s.

We are a friendly group and have not **one but two** coffee breaks, and some of us go for lunch after the meeting! If you would like to join us, please contact **Liz Mills on 07811369769**

Kurling

The Kurling group in Swynnerton have places for new people to join the group. We meet every Tuesday morning between 10am. and 12 noon until the end of March.

Contact **Jo Knowles 01785 814198**

Further French

The Further French group will meet weekly at Christ Church until March 25th, except for Feb 19th in half term week. After an Easter break we shall resume meetings on 22nd April until early June.

Two more members are welcome to join our keen group. We enjoy talking in French about topics as varied as healthy foods and climate change to choosing gifts for others and what we would like to take to the tv programme The Repair Shop and why.

To find out more please email: brjewell@btinternet.com or phone **01785 253321**

Latin

If there's anyone out there who would like a brain-challenging Tuesday afternoon instead of a relaxing one, come and join our Latin group!! 2.30 - 4.00 at Christchurch Annexe. There are six of us so we have room for a few more.

Contact **Angela Vincent 01785 509902**

Croquet – Summer Only

Croquet will resume on Wednesday 22nd of April 10 till 12 at Stone Cricket Club. Contact

Penny Smallwood 01782643370

StoneAgers

The group consists of 28 enthusiastic people, both male and female. We regularly get an attendance of 20. Holidays, illness and grand-parent sitting sometimes come in the way for some members!

Normally, we sing about 12 songs from the fifties and sixties era at each session, but our repertoire includes over 80 different songs. We sing acappella and change the programme at least twice per year. We end our term in mid- June and re-start in mid- September.

Usually, we perform 3 concerts a year. We do these for various organisations, which have included the W.I. and Probus. There is no obligation to sing in these concerts.

Lyrics are provided by the Group Leader and printed onto A5 paper or sent via e-mail. We have a lot of fun and laughter and our Christmas session included a quiz, a little bit of rock n' roll dancing and some hearty singing.

New members are always welcome to visit to see if it is their cup of tea. A sense of humour is essential! Our songs include numbers by Buddy Holly, Elvis, The Everly Brothers, Paul Anka and many more. For any further information, please contact

Group Leader **Angela Hensby. 01785 812812**

Tai Chi Long Form

The Tai Chi Long Form Group continues to thrive and is now fully subscribed, so it is unlikely that we shall be taking on any 'new' beginners this coming Spring.

Crown Green Bowling

Crown Green Bowling resumes April 6th in the lovely setting of Stonefield Park. It is a fascinating game and the basics can be learnt very quickly. Equipment can be borrowed free of charge on site and refreshments are available at half time at nominal cost.

There are several vacancies in the Tuesday 10am group which is led by experienced league bowler Mike Bosson who is happy to give tuition to beginners and novices. The atmosphere is friendly and co-operative. For further information or to register interest,

email mjbosson2@aol.com or---after March 20th---ring **07521 480317**

There are also vacancies in the other three groups. Contacts are **Rob Walker 01785 814791** (Monday 10am), **Brian Hamnett 01785 812581** (Monday noon) and **Paul Griffiths 07816000826** (Tuesday noon).

Last but not least

Sometimes, skills we acquire in our groups can be really useful. A member of our Sign Language group- Sheila Keatman - whilst at Stafford Hospital Reception Area came to the aid of a Deaf lady in distress.

By communicating in sign language Sheila understood the lady had lost her handbag. Sheila signed asking if the lady could have left her bag in the ladies toilet. The lady signed, she had been to the toilet, so Sheila asked a nearby person if they would check if it was in there. Happily the bag was found there and returned to the lady.