

Stone (Staffs) & District



Charity No. 1114938

## **STONE (Staffs) & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER Winter 2017-2018**

**Website: [www.stoneu3a.btck.co.uk](http://www.stoneu3a.btck.co.uk)**

**Find information on activities and events on the website**

**Chairman:** Gareth Jones (01782 372349, [gareth.jones90@btopenworld.com](mailto:gareth.jones90@btopenworld.com))  
**Secretary:** Bruce Evans (01785 748453, [annabel.bruce@gmail.com](mailto: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 December; (not in January); Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.*

*All members, and prospective members, very welcome.*

*You can enrol, or renew your membership, at the Coffee Mornings (or by post to  
Aidan Coleman, 10 Harrow Place, Stone ST15 8ST).*

#### **Speaker Meetings:**

**We begin on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 at Christchurch Centre, Stone, by welcoming back our good friend, Ray Johnson. Ray will be entertaining us with a talk and film clips from the Staffordshire Film Archives. The other dates for Speaker Meetings at Christchurch Centre next year are Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October.**

***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.)***

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Report on Stone (Staffs) & District U3A Annual General Meeting 2017**

The AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> November in the very pleasant surroundings of St Dominic's Social Centre in Station Road, Stone, was well attended – thanks to all those members who helped to make up the quorum so that the meeting could go ahead.

We said goodbye to our Chairman, Gwynyth Hart, who has done a wonderful job for

the past three years – she will, however, continue as a committee member. Mary Cresswell has been a superb Treasurer for the past six years, but won't be continuing in this role, nor as a committee member. Carol Keogh has done a great job as Vice-Chair and Group Support – one of the most important roles in providing help and advice to Group Leaders and groups. Carol will continue as a committee member. Pat Conlong has been a hard-working committee member for many years, but has now stepped down. We give our wholehearted thanks to everyone who has supported the U3A movement in this way, by giving time and effort to carry out the vital work without which we wouldn't have a U3A branch. We now welcome the following new officers:

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Gareth Jones</b>	<a href="mailto:gareth.jones90@btopenworld.com">gareth.jones90@btopenworld.com</a> or 01782 372349
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rod Woods</b>	<a href="mailto:rodnejwoods11@aol.com">rodnejwoods11@aol.com</a> or 01785 814326
	and Bruce Evans, who is continuing in his role:	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bruce Evans</b>	<a href="mailto:annabel.bruce@gmail.com">annabel.bruce@gmail.com</a> or 01785 748463

and the following members of the new committee:

Mike Bosson	<a href="mailto:mjbosson2@aol.com">mjbosson2@aol.com</a> or 01785 859035
Aidan Coleman	<a href="mailto:aidancoleman29@yahoo.com">aidancoleman29@yahoo.com</a> or 01785 811435
Frank Harrison	<a href="mailto:frank_harrison_2000@yahoo.uk">frank_harrison_2000@yahoo.uk</a> or 01782 657128
Gwynyth Hart	<a href="mailto:gwynythh396@gmail.com">gwynythh396@gmail.com</a> or 01782 633179
Dot Hudson	<a href="mailto:dottibags33@gmail.com">dottibags33@gmail.com</a> or 01782 397727
Elaine Hunt	<a href="mailto:huntsbande@gmail.com">huntsbande@gmail.com</a> or 01785 819055
Carol Keogh	<a href="mailto:keogh_carol@yahoo.co.uk">keogh_carol@yahoo.co.uk</a> or 01785 615200
Barry Palmer	<a href="mailto:bazpalmer2047@btinternet.com">bazpalmer2047@btinternet.com</a> or 01889 502527
Penny Smallwood	<a href="mailto:greenpenelope@hotmail.com">greenpenelope@hotmail.com</a> or 01782 643370

## **News from the Groups**

### **New Groups**

**Badminton Group 2** : A further Badminton Group will now meet on **alternate Wednesdays, commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**, from 10.00-11.30 a.m. at Yarnfield Sports Centre. **Interested members should contact Peter Sage on 01785 817524 for further information.**

A member, Nicholas Daws, has come forward to lead a new **Learning by Numbers Group** starting in January 2018, on the second and fourth Tuesday in the month from 2.00-4.00 p.m. The group will explore topics that illuminate key ideas in the development of, and/or current thinking in, mathematics, science and the social sciences, using logical/numerical approaches with reference to methods of measurement and empirical evidence where appropriate. Nicholas gives as an example the range of content that is covered in the 'New Scientist' magazine – cosmological ideas about the nature of the universe, advances in brain science and cognition, key experiments and theories in the development of understanding in the sciences, branches of mathematics and technologies such as Information Technology. The journalistic style of articles in the magazine enables engagement by interested

readers who may come from a wide range of backgrounds, and Nicholas would hope to emulate this inclusive approach in the group. **Interested members should contact Nicholas Daws on [nicholasdaws@gmail.gov.uk](mailto:nicholasdaws@gmail.gov.uk) or 07966 775 636.**

Anne Couldrey has offered to lead a new ***French Conversation Group*** – a small group who would like to meet on a weekly basis to chat and converse in everyday French. Members must be able to speak French, as this will be a purely conversational group. **Interested members should contact Anne Couldrey on 01785 818228 for further information.**

We are sad to announce the sudden death of Birgit Welch, a member of the Canasta Group. Birgit had intended to start a U3A ***Mah Jong Group***, and her family have donated three sets of her Mah Jong tiles to Stone & District U3A, with the hope that a group can be formed. If you've played the game before, and feel you could lead this group, please contact **Carol Keogh at [keogh\\_carol@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:keogh_carol@yahoo.co.uk) or 01785 615200.**

Both our ***Table Tennis*** groups are very popular, and now full, and we have members wishing to join another group. Is there anyone who would be willing to lead one? If so, please contact **Carol Keogh at [keogh\\_carol@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:keogh_carol@yahoo.co.uk) or 01785 615200.**



***The Art Group are holding an exhibition of their work at Stone Library from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 8<sup>th</sup> January***

For more information on the Art Group, please **contact the Group Leader, Margaret Wye at [mwye187@hotmail.com](mailto:mwye187@hotmail.com) or 01785 816101.**

***Computer Courses starting in 2018:*** Commencing on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January will be the 4-week Workshop Course for both laptops and tablets, followed by another 4-week course dedicated to tablets. For more details, visit the U3A website or **contact the Group Leader, Roy Clark at [clark.roy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clark.roy@yahoo.co.uk) or 01889 505676.**

***Discovery Award Group:*** Mary Bull, Group Leader, says, “Members of the Discovery Award Group recently attended a meeting held at Sandon Hall, where Lady Jane Harrowby welcomed us. We are delighted that she has now become our national Patron, and she is starting work on the award herself. For our regular meeting, we walked along Dimmingsdale, and then had lunch at the Ramblers’ Retreat, renowned for its signature dish – the lemon meringue pie!” In this group, members work on their own individual very varied challenges. For more information, please **contact the Group Leader, Mary Bull at [marybull@madasafish.com](mailto:marybull@madasafish.com) or 01785 815958.**

***Further French Group :*** Jenny Jewell, Group Leader, says, “We meet at 9.30 a.m. on **Wednesday mornings at Stone Station**, and aim to keep our French language skills up to date and share our interest in French landscape, history, current affairs,

food and drink etc. The group includes several levels of French, but everyone is welcome - for half the meeting we use published course material, interspersed with newspaper articles, and in the second half everyone is encouraged to speak in French about news or hobbies, activities or holidays or take part in a discussion. The group is quite large, but two or three new members would be very welcome! Please contact me at [brjewell@btinternet.com](mailto:brjewell@btinternet.com), or 01785 253321.”

**Industrial Archaeology Group** : The group has now re-started, led by Barry Attwood – the first trip was to Spode Pottery, Stoke on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. The visit was greatly enjoyed, and included a talk by Michael Escolme, Manager of the Spode Visitor Centre, and a tour. Visits to places of historical and industrial importance will form the backbone of the programme once again; future visits may include the Lion Salt Works, Middleport Pottery and Gladstone Pottery Museum in the winter months, before the group travels further afield in the better weather. Subject to numbers limited by the venue, all are welcome on the group’s days out – they meet on **Tuesdays, usually once a month**. For more information, please contact **Barry Attwood** at [Barry.attwood68@talktalk.net](mailto:Barry.attwood68@talktalk.net), or 01782 951527.

The **Meditation for Relaxation Group** runs on **Monday mornings at Stone Community Fire Station from 11.00-12.30**. The group explores techniques and undertakes practical meditation and mindfulness exercises to achieve relaxation, increased awareness and, hopefully, better health. Places are limited, so please email first to **Patricia Hall** at [rosiegamgee55@gmail.com](mailto:rosiegamgee55@gmail.com).

Following the appearance of the **Ukulele Group** at the Stone U3A Tenth Birthday Party, they have had requests to play at the Swynnerton Roses Remembrance Memorial this year, at the Stone & District Stroke Club, and also at a show for the Alzheimer’s Society. **They will also be taking part in an event at St Michael’s and St Wulfad’s church in Stone on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 for 7.30 in aid of Sanctus St Mark’s in Stoke, which works with asylum seekers and refugees.** For more information, please contact **Stan Collins** at [stan.collins7@btinternet.com](mailto:stan.collins7@btinternet.com) or 01785 761378.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Canoe Group Coffee Morning and Bring + Buy Sale**

***Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00-12.00 - Christchurch Centre, Stone***

*Our Canoe Group are raising money to support Trentham Canoe Club to buy an outrigger canoe, which the group needs, and will use. They have already held two events, and are now repeating the very successful coffee morning! Please come along.*

**Contributions to the next Newsletter to Elaine Hunt at [huntsbande@gmail.com](mailto:huntsbande@gmail.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> February, please**

**A very Happy New U3A Year to everyone !**