

Stone (Staffs) & District



Charity No. 1114938

## **STONE (Staffs) & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER Summer 2018**

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

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

**Chairman:** Gareth Jones 01782 372349  
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**Secretary:** Bruce Evans 01785 748453  
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**Group Co-ordinator:** Penny Smallwood 01782 643370  
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### **No U3A Coffee Morning in June, July or August**

Our Coffee Mornings, held on the first Friday of the month, began years ago at the Stone Station Community Room as a social gathering for members and potential new members to meet, with a Discussion Group taking place in a smaller room at the same time - this format was continued when the move was made to the more central location of the Christchurch Centre in Stone.

Since the recent move to St Dominic's Social Centre (which most people seem to like very much), sadly the Discussion Group has folded, as there isn't a suitable space to hold it, and Coffee Mornings have become a place where people considering joining the U3A can chat to committee members, and also where new members can enrol. Several of the committee members who have been involved with running the Coffee Mornings would now like to stand down, and that was the reason behind the recent appeal to other members to help out - we were delighted that nine people volunteered! However, it now seems wise for the Committee to consider whether the format should change, and whether holding the event on different days of the week would mean more members attending ...and so on.

***So at the May Committee Meeting the decision was taken to put the Coffee Mornings on 'hold' - there WILL NOT BE A COFFEE MORNING in JUNE, JULY or AUGUST. The Committee will consider the situation, and let members know whether Coffee Mornings will begin again in September.***

## **SPEAKER MEETINGS**

Our next Speaker Meeting will be on **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June at Christchurch Centre, Stone, when STEVE BOOTH will be our speaker for the afternoon.** As well as being the Treasurer for Stone Historical and Civic Society, Steve also gives very interesting, fully illustrated talks on historical themes – his subject on 20<sup>th</sup> June will be on the enormously wealthy 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Sutherland (a title created in 1833 by William IV for George Granville Leveson-Gower) who, as you'll be aware, was also enormously controversial. His statue can be seen dominating the skyline at the southern end of Trentham Lakes. The title of the talk is "**Kindly Landlord, or Cruel Tyrant?**" - so to find out, come along at **1.15 for a prompt 1.30 start (cost £2.00 on the door, to include tea/coffee and biscuits).**

**The following Speaker Meeting is on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** which we understand will be an entertaining and humorous talk.....*more details to follow.*

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## **NEW GROUPS**

### **A History of European Paintings Group**

Patrick Imrie plans to start a new group : '**A History of European Paintings**', to continue over ten monthly two-hour sessions on the first Monday of the month, beginning Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, from 2.00-4.00 p.m. at Oulton Village Hall. Patrick says : "The intention of the ten monthly meetings is to provide a skeletal framework for comprehending the history of European paintings from about 1400 to 1870. At each meeting we will look at up to about ten paintings (using projected slides) from a particular period, and discuss some features of the art works and our personal responses. Our focus will be on looking at the paintings to illustrate how European painting developed over these centuries. No prior knowledge of art works is expected or required. Inevitably, we will only skim the surface of a vast topic, but I hope some members will feel enthused and confident to go on to explore, in detail, some art from the period covered." **All enquiries to Patrick at [primrie@aol.com](mailto:primrie@aol.com) (If you do not have email, phone 01785 819703.)**

### **Creative Embroidery Group**

Marion Moss, who has been co-leading the Patchwork/Creative Embroidery Group, now plans to set up a new separate **Creative Embroidery Group** to give more people the opportunity of learning the skills and techniques involved in creating beautiful embroidery using a sewing machine. These workshops will be suitable both for those who would like to learn 'free motion embroidery' skills, using applique, and for those who wish to build on their experience. Members of the group may bring their own sewing machines, but there will also be one available for use. Fabrics will be supplied, and group members can also use their own thin cottons. Machine embroidery techniques will be used to create a unique cushion cover, and there will also be an opportunity to create a wall hanging using hand embroidery and English Sampler techniques. **All enquiries to Marion Moss on 079 68 119 359.**

## ***NEWS FROM THE GROUPS***

### **Come and visit the Art Group's Exhibition**

***in Stone Library from Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> June to Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June.***

*The theme of the exhibition is mainly 'animals' or 'birds', in watercolour, oil, acrylic and pastel - also some drawings, in pen and ink and pencil.*

*One or two of these lovely items will be for sale – if you'd like to buy, please contact the staff at the library desk, who will get in touch with the Group Leader.*

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

Keen on **Bridge**? or want to learn ? Stone & District U3A, in association with Stone Bridge Club, have started a **Bridge – Beginners' Corner** to run alongside the regular sessions on Friday afternoons. Complete beginners, and those returning to the game after a number of years, are very welcome (no partner needed) ! They meet at Stone Bridge Club, (adjacent to Whitebridge Wines, on the Whitebridge Estate, postcode ST15 8LQ) on Fridays at 1.40 for a 1.45 start, and finish 4.00-4.30. **For more information about the Bridge Group, please contact Mike Beach at [Mikejanbeach@btinternet.com](mailto:Mikejanbeach@btinternet.com) or phone 01785 603766.**

### **Computer Group**

Roy Clark, the Group Leader, says: “Commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September is the first of the Autumn courses – this will be a **Computer Course for Beginners, over 4 weeks, for laptops (bring your own)**. Other courses will be run during October-December, but subjects have yet to be determined, based on enquiries.” **To enrol, please contact Roy on [clark.roy2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clark.roy2@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01889 505676.**

### **Discovery Group**

Members of the Discovery Award (England) organisation held their 2018 AGM at Sandon Hall. After welcoming remarks by Ian Littlehales (Chairman), members were invited to look round parts of the Hall, the ancestral home of the Earls of Harrowby since 1776. Lunch was kindly provided by the Dowager Countess of Harrowby who, as their Patron, presented the awards. Linda Neat – a member of Stone U3A Discovery Award Group – received her Bronze certificate. A short business meeting was held.

The Discovery Award is a personal challenge, based on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award but designed for the over-50's. There are three levels of attainment – Bronze, Silver and Gold – and four sections of each award – Hobby, Physical Recreation, Service and Journey. It is a purely personal and non-competitive challenge, and can be undertaken by members with any level of physical ability. **For further information, please contact Mary Bull on [marybull@madasafish.com](mailto:marybull@madasafish.com) or 01785 815958.**

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)

**Come and visit the Photography Group's Annual Exhibition**  
*in STONE LIBRARY from 8<sup>th</sup> May until 6<sup>th</sup> June,*  
*with a substantial change-over of photos on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.*

*The exhibition then moves to ECCLESHALL LIBRARY from 12<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July.*

Don't miss this opportunity to see what the **Photography Group** get up to. **For further information, please contact Bruce Evans on [annabel.bruce@gmail.com](mailto:annabel.bruce@gmail.com) or 01785 748453.**

**Scrabble Group**

Jennifer Burrows says : “There is one vacancy in the **Scrabble Group**. We meet on the first and third Thursdays every month, from 10.00-12.00, at my house in Stone. This is a friendly group with quite a flexible approach to playing Scrabble.” **For further information, please contact Jennifer Burrows on [jennifer.burrows1@btopenworld.com](mailto:jennifer.burrows1@btopenworld.com) or 01785 813950.**

**Sequence Dancing Group**

The **Sequence Dancing Group** are wondering if there are any gentlemen within Stone U3A who might already dance, or would like to learn to dance, and do not have a partner? Three new ladies recently joined the group who don't have partners (single, or having husbands who are not interested in dancing), and life would be so much easier if they had a male partner – or even one to share! It is difficult enough learning all those new steps, without having to learn the man's steps, too. (The **Sequence Dancing Group** sessions finish at the end of May, until September, when it is hoped to start a Beginners' Group, too.) The group really hope that new members might like to join, help out and have an enjoyable afternoon dancing on Tuesdays from 2.00-4.00 at Walton Community Centre. **For more information, please contact Patrick and Anne Waldron on 01785 714787.**

**Talking Books Group**

Liz Mills says : “The **Talking Books Group** is embarking on a new novel, “My Antonia” by Willa Cather. We read around the group and discuss, sometimes at length, every few pages. We relate our reading to our own experiences, as well as discussing the characters, plot and style of writing. New members are always welcome to join us at Walton Community Centre on Monday mornings from 10.00-12.00.” **For further information, please contact Liz Mills on 01785 816780.**

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Our **Publicity Officer, Mike Bosson**, writes the regular articles about Stone U3A that appear in the 'Eccleshall and Stone Gazette', 'Trentham Local', and other local publications. Mike is always on the lookout for **Stone U3A news items** – please let him know of any achievements, anniversaries, trips, speakers and so on that he could use to keep the activities of Stone U3A in the public eye. Contact him by email on [mjboss2@aol.com](mailto:mjboss2@aol.com), or ring him on 01785 859035.

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*If you now have an email address, or have changed it,*  
*please let the Membership Secretary know –*  
**Aidan Coleman [aidancoleman29@yahoo.com](mailto:aidancoleman29@yahoo.com) tel: 01785 811435**

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