

Stone (Staffs) & District



Charity No. 1114938

STONE (Staffs) & DISTRICT U3A NEWSLETTER Spring 2018

Our website: www.stoneu3a.btck.co.uk

Find more information on activities and events on the website

Chairman: Gareth Jones 01782 372349
gareth.jones90@btopenworld.com

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

Group Co-ordinator: Penny Smallwood 01782 643370
greenpenelope@hotmail.com

We now have a

☞ NEW LOOK COFFEE MORNING ☜

at St Dominic's Social Centre, Station Road, Stone

(just up the road from Wetherspoon's)

It's a comfortable, colourful place - you can also buy a delicious slice of home-made cake in aid of funds for a new outrigger canoe for use by the Hawaiian Canoeing Group.

**Come and try it - it's on the
FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.**

Do call in when you're in Stone.

***Friday 2nd March, Friday 6th April, Friday 4th May, Friday 1st
June, Friday 6th July (not in August)***

10.15 to 11.45

You can also enrol, or renew your membership, at the Coffee Mornings.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

We had an excellent presentation on 'Women in the Potteries' from Ray Johnson on Wednesday 21st February, with archive footage of film from Edwardian times to the Second World War. We learned more about the work of Millicent, Duchess of Sutherland and of Fanny Deakin, the Newcastle Labour Councillor, who both in their different ways campaigned and worked for better conditions for disabled people, children and mothers. Archive interviews of women who worked during both wars in munitions factories, in engineering, driving heavy vehicles and on the land were illuminating. All the film clips chosen showed how the social and political upheaval of the first half of the twentieth century did at last lead to women getting the right to vote, after that first Representation of the People Act in 1918 being celebrated this month.

Dates for forthcoming Speaker Meetings at Christchurch Centre, Stone are

Wednesday 20th June (a local history topic)

Wednesday 17th October (something entertaining and humorous)

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 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Notice to all Stone (Staffs) & District U3A Members

New legislation will become effective in law in May 2018 concerning the storage of data held by us on members. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will replace the existing Data Protection Act 1998. We currently retain for each member their name, postal address, telephone number and their email address if they have one. We only use this data for U3A business such as, for example, sending out our Newsletters and contacting people about our activities. We shall not provide a copy to any other organisation. *Unless advised by you to the contrary, we shall assume that we have your consent to continue retaining this personal data and using it for the purposes indicated above.*

NEW GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

We are very pleased that U3A Committee Member PENNY SMALLWOOD has now taken on the job of Group Co-ordinator, as Carol Keogh is standing down. So please in future contact Penny Smallwood at greenpenelope@hotmail.com or 01782 643370 with any queries about running, or starting, a group.

We'd like to express our warmest thanks to Carol, who has done a wonderful job as Group Co-ordinator over the past few years, helping to set up new groups, visiting, advising and supporting groups and Group Leaders whenever it was needed.

News from the Groups

Crown Green Bowling Group – This year's bowling session on Monday mornings at Stonefield Park will commence on Easter Monday, 2nd April 2018, 10.00 a.m.-12.00 noon. If anyone would like to join this session, spaces are available. Bowls are available for use, and beginners are welcome! Please contact **Rob Walker** on barbara.walker2@virgin.net or phone **01785 814791** for further information.

Hawaiian Canoeing Group - Neil Thompson writes: “This group, which is rapidly growing in numbers, meets on Thursday mornings, and enjoys canoeing on Trentham Lake all year round. The sport is good exercise for the upper body, and we enjoy the plethora of wildlife to be seen around the lake through the changing seasons. Sadly we lost the use of the outrigger boats (with the lateral floats at the side) that we had used for ten years, but are lucky that Trentham Canoe Club is allowing us to use their bell boats (two hulls connected with a platform in the middle, and very stable). While this has enabled us to continue with the canoeing, the bell boats are not ideal, and the group has been actively engaged in raising money in order to buy an outrigger canoe. We have held coffee mornings, a table-top sale, and are now **selling home-made cakes** at the **monthly U3A Coffee Mornings**. So far we have raised over £700, but still have some way to go yet. We would like to thank all those U3A members who have supported us. **Our next Hawaiian Canoeing Group coffee morning is on SATURDAY 3rd MARCH at Christchurch Centre from 10.00-12.00. Please continue to support us!**”

Croquet Group – Croquet will start again on Wednesday 18th April, at Stone Cricket Club, from 10.00-12.00. Anyone who is interested in joining, please contact **Penny Smallwood** on greenpenelope@hotmail.com or **01782 643370**.

Gardening Group - Erica Meehan writes : “The Gardening Group meet at Walton Community Centre on the first Friday in the month. We have a varied programme planned for 2018, including speakers, Gardeners' Question Time and demonstrations. Topics include Garden Birds, Willow Weaving and Garden Mystery Objects. The cost is £1.20 per meeting, which covers the cost of the speaker's fee, tea/coffee and biscuit and sometimes the occasional piece of cake. Every third Friday in the month we have an extensive programme of visits arranged either by car or coach. These include Shrewsbury Flower Show and Chatsworth House Christmas Market. Check out the Programme for 2018 on the U3A website (www.stoneu3a.btck.co.uk then click on Activities at the top of the page, then Gardening Group, then Programme).” If you are interested in joining, please contact **Erica Meehan (Leader)** on erica.meehan@yahoo.co.uk or **01785 603508** as spaces are limited.

Guitar Group – Tony Dodd writes : “Due to our popularity, we have outgrown our old venue (Stone Tennis Club) and moved to the President's Hall at the Walton Community Centre, where we meet every Wednesday at 1.30 p.m. We now have 26 members, who like to play acoustic guitars and sing along, so if you are a beginner or a more accomplished player you will be made welcome. Unfortunately we can't cater for absolute beginners, but if you have a little knowledge and can play a few basic chords, we can help you improve and enjoy your new-found pastime. We're a very social group, and if anyone would like to pop along and see what we do you will be most welcome to come and have a chat over a cup of tea and a biscuit.” Please contact **Tony Dodd** on tony@dodd2804.plus.com or **01782 373228**.

Industrial Archaeology Group – The next trip is on **Tuesday 20th March to Cromford Mill**, where Richard Arkwright built his empire, and pioneered the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill. We will have a guided tour, and after lunch there are opportunities to walk through the village that he built, or by the canal, or visit Masson Mills Shopping Village for those who enjoy retail therapy. If you would like to come, **contact Gwynyth Hart on gwynythh396@gmail.com or 01782 633179**. The group go out on trips on the **third Tuesday of each month**, and have an interesting year planned. **Contact the Group Leader, Barry Attwood to go on the mailing list on barry.attwood68@talktalk.net or 01782 951527**.

Kurling Group – The Kurling Group in Swynnerton has spaces for new members. The current season continues until the end of March. If you would like to join them, or find out more about this intriguing indoor sport, please contact **Jo Knowles on joknowles52@gmail.com or 01785 814198**.

Photography Group – The Photography Group are currently planning their annual exhibitions and, although arrangements have yet to be finalised, they hope to be in **Stone Library for the whole of May** and in **Eccleshall Library from 12th June until 10th July**. Further details will be posted on the Notice Board on the web site as soon as they are available, and the Eccleshall exhibition will be in the next edition of this Newsletter. Further information will also be available from **Bruce Evans on annabel.bruce@gmail.com or 01785 748453**.

'Third Age Matters' magazine – When you come to the Coffee Morning, if you have a copy of 'Third Age Matters' that you've finished with, please bring it with you so that a prospective new member can have a look at what the magazine is like. Thank you!

Our **Publicity Officer, Mike Bosson**, writes the regular articles about Stone U3A that appear in the 'Stone and Eccleshall 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 **mjbosson2@aol.com**.

As you know, we prefer to use email for most communications. If you're one of the small number of people who receive this Newsletter by post, and you now have an email address, please let the Membership Secretary know –

[Aidan Coleman aidancoleman29@yahoo.com](mailto:Aidan.Coleman.aidancoleman29@yahoo.com) tel : 01785 811435

Please let Aidan know if you change your email address, too.



Contributions to the next Newsletter to Elaine Hunt at huntsbande@gmail.com by 20th May, please