



U3A RADIO

The u3a Radio Podcast is broadcast on 17th of each month but you can view them all via u3a's [YouTube channel](#).

If you have a story to share, you can email it to: communications@u3a.org.uk

NATIONAL u3a NEWSLETTER

You can sign up at <https://u3asites.org.uk> to receive the National Monthly Newsletter by email and it's worth a look. There are some interesting items including online courses.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is still increasing and at the last count stood at 341, which is 11 more than last month, so the positive trend is continuing.

Now that most groups are resuming their activities, we are able to spread the word and numbers should continue to rise.

With groups returning and attendances starting to increase, it would be appreciated if Group Leaders could please check that attendees have current membership cards.

If you have friends or relatives thinking of joining, application forms can be obtained from our website or from Membership Secretary Alan Stevenson, by ringing: 01782 395760 or by emailing: a.stevenson09@btinternet.com.

You can find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/StokeSouthU3A/>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

There's more good news this month with both membership numbers and activities increasing.

We now have a new leader for our Ukelele Group and meetings are finally starting. Ukelele playing has seen a revival in recent years and we are very hopeful that it will appeal to members.

Flower Arranging is now able to restart at a new venue and there's also the possibility of other new groups, so we hope to be bringing you positive news on these by early 2022.

Coach trips have been suspended for now but should be resuming in spring, by which time most members will have received their Covid-19 booster jabs, and if monthly meetings have resumed, it will be easier to collect deposits.

The committee are currently considering ways to accommodate sufficient members to re-introduce monthly meetings and organise the AGM.

Other items under consideration include an offer by Mirthy.co.uk for a free, 3 month subscription for our u3a members to access Mirthy's on-line learning and events.

In addition, Joe Neilson is liaising with the Chess National Advisor regarding the best way to set up an on-line chess group for our u3a as part of the national group. If you are interested in this Joe can be contacted on 01782 852042 or by email to: joeneilson6@gmail.com

Please use hand sanitizers and antibacterial sprays when attending meetings to help limit infection.

WALKING GROUP

The next three u3a walks are:

- Monday 1st Nov 10.30am - Longton Park to reclaimed land that was Florence Colliery. Meet at Longton Park (Queens Park), Trentham Road under the clock. ST3 4AZ. Parking on Queens Park Road.
- Monday 15th Nov 10.30am - Hanley Park, cemetery and canal towpath. Meet at Hanley Park bandstand, Shelton. ST1 4DX. Park on Hanley Park car park, off Parkway/ Regent Road.
- Monday 29th Nov Barlaston Downs and canal towpath. Meet in Barlaston, at the car park on the small road leading to at the Upper House Hotel, The Green, ST12 9AE.

If you have ideas for future walks and/or could lead one, or if you require further information, please contact Ali Townsend on 07450 791153.

KURLING

The next Kurling Group meeting, on the top floor at Central Hall, will be from 10am to 12noon on Wednesday, 10th November. The group will then continue to meet on alternate Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509 or Trish Rowley on 07939 209054.

UKELELE GROUP



Our new Ukelele Group will hold their first meeting at the Methodist Central Hall on Monday, 1st November, from 1.15pm to 3.15pm.

If you wish to join or re-join the group, or require further information, please contact Group Leader Barbara Cooke on 07864 353467 or by email to: 23barbaracooke@gmail.com

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

This is a very small group who would welcome new members. The game is played with multi-coloured dominoes and players form 'trains' from consecutive numbers/colours. It's fun, with simple rules initially but you can learn various strategies as you go along. The group meet on alternate Wednesday mornings at Central Hall, led by Pauline Murray (Tel: 01782 392817).

INDOOR BOWLS

Indoor bowls sessions are held weekly at 1.30pm to 3.30pm on Monday afternoons on the second floor at Central Hall. If you require further information, please contact Dave Darby on 01782 317408.

ART LOVERS

Members of this group meet fortnightly at Blurton Community Centre, Oakwood Road (off Blurton Road), ST3 3AR and the next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday, 3rd November. They use various painting techniques and will also consider visits to art galleries. Please contact Lynette Bell on 01782 238712 if you are interested and require further information.

TABLE TENNIS

The Table Tennis Group meet fortnightly on the top floor at Central Hall in Longton. Their next meeting is at 10am on Wednesday, 3rd November. You are welcome to give it a try, even if you've not played before. It's good fun and provides plenty of gentle exercise. For enquiries please contact Fay Howell (01782 658659) or Alan Stevenson (01782 395760).

BADMINTON

Weekly badminton sessions take place from 2pm to 3pm on Tuesday afternoons at Fenton Manor Sports Centre. Court bookings have to be paid in advance, so to avoid unnecessary payments, group members are asked to advise Dave whether or not they are likely to attend the following week's session. Dave can be contacted on 01782 317408.

ARTS GROUP

The Arts Group previously meeting at the Redhouse Residents' Association have relocated to the Methodist Central Hall in Longton. They meet weekly from 10am to 12noon on Friday mornings and Group Leader Jenny Jepson can be contacted on 01782 342064.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting will be on Monday 8th November at Hanley Library, from 11.30am to 12.45pm. The topic for discussion is "**Policies and Personalities of Leaders**". If you wish to join the group, or for further information, Group Leader Bob Jones can be contacted on 01785 817743.

LUNCH GROUP

The group will be meeting at 12.15pm on Tuesday, 9th November at the Hemheath pub (on the corner of Sir Stanley Matthews Way, opposite the Newstead Trading Estate). If you would like to attend please ring Maureen Cumming on 01782 331797, so that she can confirm booking arrangements with the venue.

FLOWER ARRANGING

Meetings of the Flower Arranging Group will resume at 2pm on Monday, 1st November, at their new venue which will be Blurton Community Centre, Oakwood Rd (off Blurton Road), ST3 3AR. The group meet fortnightly, so unless otherwise advised future meetings will take place on 15th and 29th November and 13th December. Group Leader Sandra Robson can be contacted on 01785 812730.

We apologise for not providing a quiz this month, but the **ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ** are as follows:

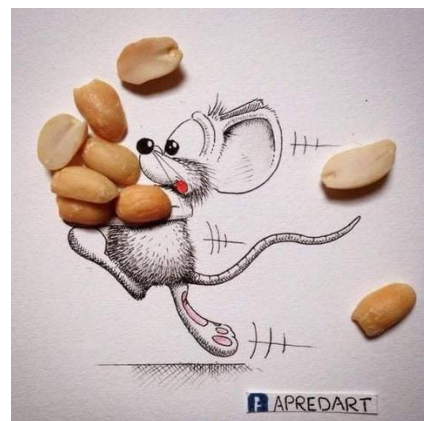
- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Can't buy me love | 2. Eleanor Rigby | 3. Get back |
| 4. Hard Day's Night | 5. Help | 6. Here comes the sun |
| 7. Hey Jude | 8. I feel fine | 9. I want to hold your hand |
| 10. Let it be | 11. Love me do | 12. Michelle |
| 13. Penny Lane | 14. Please please me | 15. She loves you |
| 16. Something | 17. Strawberry fields forever | 18. Twist and shout |
| 19. Yellow submarine | 20. Yesterday | |

A LITTLE LIGHT HUMOUR

There wouldn't be a petrol shortage if people weren't filling up their tanks.



SOME CLEVER FOOD ART:



Do any of our artistic members have some of their own to share with us?

LOCAL HISTORY

Phil Rowley recently showed the group a film on health care before the NHS. It can be found on Youtube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1y7zeZPfD8k The film included coverage of the Peckham Pioneer Health Centre and a document about this can be found at: www.sochealth.co.uk/1949/09/21/peckham/

The Sentinel recently posted historic photos of Longton, produced by Historic England as part of the Heritage Action Zone project. These are available at: <https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/gallery/aerial-photographs-showing-changing-face-6062176> and the Historic England report can be downloaded from: <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/24-2021>

The Local History Group meets on alternate Tuesdays between 10.30am and 12.30pm, at Longton Central Hall (Room 6) and the next group meeting will be at 10:30 am on Tuesday 9th November in room 6 on the ground floor of the Methodist Central Hall. Group Leader Phil Rowley can be contacted on 07421 734200 (mobile).

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group now meets each Wednesday morning, from 10am to 12noon at Central Hall, Longton. If you are interested in joining, Group Leader John Anderson can be contacted on 07794 175481.

POSSIBILITY OF A NEW WHIST GROUP

We have a member who is very keen for us to start a Whist Group and we would like to hear from any members who would be interested in joining. If this is something that appeals to you, please contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509.

FREE GIMP COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Would you like to learn how to improve and develop your photography skills using computer technology? GIMP is a software system similar to Photoshop, and it is free to install on your computer. Joe Beeston has offered to lead a new group if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Groups Co-ordinator Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509 if you would be interested in this and she can then arrange a meeting to discuss suitable times and venues.

LOCAL HANDBELL TEAM RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

The Inn Ringers are a handbell team based in Stone and they are hoping to recruit some new bell ringers. The ability to read music is not required but you do need a sense of rhythm; commitment; enthusiasm and a sense of humour!

The group practice every Monday evening from 7.30pm at St Luke's Church Hall, Tittensor and they would be happy to invite people along for an insight into what they do. For more information you can visit their web site: www.theinringers.co.uk or contact Paul Mellor by email to: paulmellor@aol.com or phone Rowena Dawson on **07816 545713**.

LONGTON ALLSORTS

This small, friendly group meet at Central Hall on the first Tuesday of the month and the next meeting will be on 2nd November from 10.30am to 12noon for a chat about “**Banksy**”. For further information contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509.

EVENING & WEEKEND MEALS

Is anyone interested in going for an Indian meal at the Chandni Cottage, Draycott, ST11 9NR? Josie Peirson is booking a table for 6.30pm on Friday, 12th November. Please ring Josie on 07775 974876 if you wish to attend.

A traditional Sunday lunch has been booked for 12.30pm on Sunday, 5th December at the Swynnerton Arms, Rough Close. Food needs to be pre-ordered due to the party size (16 places). To book, contact Fay Howell on 01782 658659 or email hfhowell@live.co.uk

Menus are on the pub website at: [Swynnerton Arms \(swynnertonarmsstokeontrent.co.uk\)](http://swynnertonarmsstokeontrent.co.uk)
The cost is £10.95 for one course, £14.25 for two, or £15.95 for three.

FREE FILMS AT THE MITCHELL ARTS CENTRE

The Mitchell Arts Centre in Hanley are showing the following free films from the Staffordshire Film Archive during November, December and January:



Up 'Anley Duck! – Hanley at Work and Play over the past Century

MAC Film

19/11/2021

11am Tickets: £FREE On The Door

MAC FILM - Those Were The Days - The Archive... [Read more >>](#)



Merry Christmas From Past to Present- Parties, Presents, Panto and Santa arriving by Train 100 years ago

MAC Film

07/12/2021

11am Tickets: £FREE On The Door

MAC FILM - Those Were The Days - The Archive... [Read more >>](#)



North Staffs in Steam- Railways of the past. A Century of local Steam Railways on film

MAC Film

11/01/2022

11am Tickets: £FREE On The Door

MAC FILM - Those Were The Days - The Archive... [Read more >>](#)

A selection of other free films from the archives will be shown during 2022.

TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER - MENTAL HEALTH IN STAFFORDSHIRE

The Community Foundation for Staffordshire are aiming to help people with their mental health issues and want to hear from people who use mental health services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. They would like to know:

- What services you use
- How well those services support you
- What could be improved

They also want to hear from people not currently using their services who might benefit from some help or support. They are keen to hear from anyone who:

- Is currently receiving care, support or treatment
- Has accessed mental health services in the past
- Has not accessed services but may need support, care or treatment
- Is a relative or carer of someone receiving care, support or treatment
- Is a provider of mental health services or a provider that supports service users who access mental health services from the NHS, voluntary or private sector
- Is a public sector body (NHS and others)
- Is an employer providing or signposting employees to services.

The information provided could help to review and shape how mental health and wellbeing services are provided in the future. You can access the survey from the following link or you can call 0333 150 2155 between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

https://nhs.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?k=163292016757&dm_i=1T5F,7L3HU,E1WZEA,UVXEP,1

DOREEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Doreen has been holding Friendship Group meetings at Central Hall for a number of years and has organised numerous coach trips and holidays for its members.

The group is not part of u3a but some members may be interested in participating and Doreen would welcome new members. The group meets in Central Hall for a chat and a cuppa on alternate Wednesdays and her group is said to be "for the young at heart over fifties".

If you would like to know more, please call Doreen on 01782 373369.

IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN BOARD GAMES?

Would anyone like to lead or join a Board Games Group, or even a group specifically for one particular board game, such as scrabble, draughts, chess, backgammon, etc?

If this idea appeals to you, please contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509.

GARDEN & NATURE LOVERS

The group will meet at 10am on Friday, 12th November at Trentham Gardens. Please meet by the entrance to the main building (stand inside if it's cold or the weather is bad). For enquiries, please contact Fay Howell (01782 658659) or email: hfhowell@live.co.uk.

ALLOTMENT GROUP

This is a very small group who share a double plot on a gated site in Blurton. One of their members has recently left, having taken up an offer of employment. If you would be interested in joining the group, please contact Group Leader Frank Siddall on 07974 119922 or Mike Cresswell on 01782 658002 for further details.

INTERNATIONAL GILBERT AND SULLIVAN FESTIVAL – 2022

Shows scheduled at Buxton Opera House from 30th July to 6th August 2022:

Matinee performances commence at 2.30 pm. Evening performances commence at 7.30pm.

Saturday 30th July	IOLANTHE, NGSOC (mat and eve)
Sunday 31st July	THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, NGSOC (mat and eve)
Monday 1st August	THE GONDOLIERS, Forbear! Theatre (eve)
Tuesday 2nd August	THE MIKADO, Peak Opera (eve)
Wednesday 3rd August	HMS PINAFORE, NGSOC (mat) IOLANTHE, NGSOC (eve)
Thursday 4th August	EXPRESS G&S, Charles Court Opera (mat) PATIENCE Charles Court Opera (eve)
Friday 5th August	UTOPIA, NGSOC (eve)
Saturday 6th August	UTOPIA, NGSOC (mat) HMS PINAFORE, NGSOC (eve)

Prices are as follows:

Dress Circle - £39 pp.	Mid Stalls & Upper Circle - £32 pp
Front & Rear Stalls; Gallery - £29pp	Upper Circle Sides with restricted view - £19pp

Group discounts of 10% for 15 – 29 passengers per performance and 15% for more than 30 passengers per performance. Booking requests for large groups can be held without charge but a review would be requested around the end of February 2022. The Box Office is open for Group Bookings: Tel: 01422-323252 or www.gsfestivals.org

G&S Opera TV is available at home at any time – see details at: www.gsopera.tv

Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Fay Howell by Friday, 19th November, 2021. Tel: 01782 658659 or email: hfhowell@live.co.uk.