



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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 2nd Sept: coach trip (fully booked)

Thurs 7th Oct: coach trip (page 4)

MEMBERSHIP

The membership total is currently 323, which is an increase of 16 since last month, so the positive trend is continuing. It would be great if we could reach 400 by the end of the year.

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

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.

EVEN MORE GROUPS STARTING!

After numerous discussions between Committee Members, Group Leaders and venues, considerable progress has been made, to ensure that more groups can resume their activities. We would like to thank everyone involved for making this possible.

You will see from the following pages that many of our groups are now meeting again although for some the venue has been changed.

The lifting of covid restrictions means that we are, at last, able to hold face to face committee meetings and we will be considering issues such as monthly meetings (including entertainment) and the very belated AGM.

Fay Howell is currently checking on availability of venues for evening meals. It is very unfortunate that we lost two of our favourites due to the pandemic. She will be contacting those members who had previously booked the Baby Russets meal prior to the lockdown.

Although restrictions have been lifted, it seems that we will still have to live with covid-19 for some time yet and while we want our u3a to get back to normal as soon as possible, it's still best to err on the side of caution.

Therefore, members are encouraged to use hand sanitizers and antibacterial sprays when attending meetings to limit the possibility of infection.

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

WALKING GROUP

The next two u3a walks are:

Monday 6th Sept 10.30am - Park Hall Country Park. Meet at the Bolton Gate car park, 504 Weston Road (A520), just off the main road from Meir to Leek after the Weston Coyney crossroads. A walk of 1hr 45mins, led by Sharon.

Monday 20th Sept 10.30am - Apedale & Silverdale Country Parks, ST5 7LB. From Loomer Road Industrial Estate, turn Right through an archway. After half a mile, there are free car parks. Meet at the far end of the Right Hand car park near the Heritage Centre. A walk of 2 hours, led by Peter.

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

KURLING

The Kurling Group's next meeting will be on the top floor at Central Hall, from 10am to 12noon on Wednesday, 1st September. 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

We are still looking for someone to lead the Ukelele Group. It would be a real pity if such a popular group didn't continue. Although the group have previously performed at local charity events, the new leader(s) won't need to be concerned about this. It is more desirable for members to just enjoy meeting socially and playing again as soon as they can.

Once the group is meeting regularly, members can then decide how they would like to progress and perhaps some of the group will be able to assist in the process to achieve those goals. Please think about it and discuss options with fellow members. If you can help please contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509 or by email to vfgreat@outlook.com

GARDEN & NATURE LOVERS

The group will meet at 10am on Friday, 10th September by the Trentham Gardens Retail Park, opposite row K of the Car park. We will car share for a visit to Fletchers Garden Centre in Eccleshall, where a visit to the Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre is optional (opens 11am, admission for concessions £4). For enquiries please contact Fay Howell (01782 658659) or Chris Whitfield (07939 621499).

LUNCH GROUP

The group will be meeting at 12.15pm on Tuesday, 14th September 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 Chris Whitfield on 07939 621499, so that she can confirm booking arrangements with the venue.

ART LOVERS

The group meets at Blurton Community Centre, Oakwood Road (off Blurton Road), ST3 3AR and the next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday, 8th September. Meetings are currently held on alternate weeks but the group may start to meet on a weekly basis if sufficient people are interested in joining.

Members have been looking at various paint techniques and will also be considering visits to art galleries in the future. 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. The next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday, 8th September. Members find it a very enjoyable pastime providing good fun with gentle exercise. If you want to give it a try, even if you've not played before, please contact Fay Howell (01782 658659) or Alan Stevenson (01782 395760).

INDOOR BOWLS / CROWN GREEN BOWLS

Indoor bowls sessions have resumed and the group meet 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.

The Crown Green Bowls Group now have a new venue and will be meeting at 1.30pm till 3.30pm each Wednesday until the end of the season (approx. 6-8 weeks) at Creda Bowling Club, Blythe Bridge. For enquiries please ring Group Leader Dave Darby.

BADMINTON

The weekly badminton sessions have now resumed, taking place from 2pm to 3pm on Tuesday afternoons at Fenton Manor Sports Centre and the next meeting will be on 31st August.

A new charging system has been introduced by the Council and court bookings now 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 which was previously at the Redhouse Residents' Association building is relocating to the Methodist Central Hall in Longton and the first meeting will be from 10am to 12noon on Friday, 3rd September.

The Group will meet each Friday and Group Leader Jenny Jepson can be contacted on 01782 342064.

QUIZ (All answers are surnames of former British Prime Ministers in alphabetical order. Answers to follow next month.)

1. Corrie character played by Johnny Briggs
2. Star of the original "Give us a Clue" on TV
3. Four point ball in snooker
4. "Dirty Harry's" surname in the films
5. First name of Charlie's Angels film actress
6. Played Dr.Kildare on TV
7. Famous dog
8. Project, visitor attraction in Cornwall
9. Local pottery firm
10. A famous band leader
11. Female aviator
12. Fast food chain
13. Specialists in cancer care
14. Army rank
15. Might
16. Fruit "skin"
17. Former spouse of Angelina Jolie
18. Place of worship
19. Somerset cider making firm
20. Character in "Dad's Army"

LONGTON ALLSORTS

This small, friendly group meet at Central Hall on the first Tuesday of the month and the next meeting will be on 7th September from 10.30am to 12noon for a chat about "**Dreams**". For further information contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509.

COACH TRIP

Lynne has arranged a trip to Liverpool on Thursday, 7th October. There's plenty to see and do whether you're a walker, history buff or shopaholic, with the Albert Docks, the Mersey, museums, parks plus an abundance of shops and restaurants. The price is yet to be confirmed.

The coach will pick up on Whittle Road, near the Tesco car park at 9.20am and on The Strand, Longton, outside the charity shop (old Lidl) at 9.30am. If you are interested please speak to Lynne Stevenson on 01782 395760.

LOCAL HISTORY

The list of FREE Heritage Open Days to be held in the city in September is now complete and can be found at: <https://www.potteries.org.uk/HeritageOpenDays> Several events can only handle limited numbers, so it's best to book places as soon as possible. Unfortunately it's very likely that the tours at Chatterley-Whitfield are now completely booked.

The official unveiling of the renovated Spitfire in its new gallery at the Potteries Museum will be on 15th September and it will open to the public on Saturday, 18th September: [Stoke-on-Trent's Spitfire and £5.4m new gallery to be unveiled as nation marks Battle of Britain Day | Stoke-on-Trent](#)

On Friday, 10th September, Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, Tristram Hunt will give a free talk about his new book "The Radical Potter: Josiah Wedgwood and the Transformation of Britain". If interested you will need to pre-book at: <https://www.stokemuseums.org.uk/pmag/whats-on/events/?event=EVENT608093>

The Local History Group Leader Phil Rowley can be contacted on 07421 734200 (mobile).

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.Winston Churchill | 2.Clive Dunn(Jack Jones) | 3.Leslie Philips |
| 4.Quasimodo(Hunchback of Notre Dame) | 5.Groucho Marx | 6.John Noakes |
| 7.Norman Wisdom | 8.Arthur Haynes | 9.Basil Brush |
| 10.Frankie Howerd | 11.Oliver Twist | 12.Mae West / W C Fields |
| 13.Bobby Ball | 14.Humphrey Bogart(Casablanca) | 15.Sue Pollard(Peggy Ollerenshaw) |
| 16.Margaret Thatcher | 17.Kenneth Williams | 18.Marlon Brando |
| 19.Larry Grayson | 20.Baldrick(Black Adder) | 21.Basil Fawlty |
| 22.Hilda Baker | 23.Alan Freeman | 24.Dorothy(Wizard of Oz) |
| 25.Host of Who wants to be a Millionaire | 26.Mark Twain | 27.George H W Bush |
| 28.Columbo | 29.Catherine Tate | 30.Charlie Drake |

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Mexican Train Dominoes is played with multi-coloured dominoes where players form 'trains' from consecutive numbers/colours. Basic rules can be learned very quickly and different strategies come with playing. It is a fun game with a great atmosphere so why not give it a try.



The group meets on alternate Wednesdays between 10am and Noon at Longton Central Hall.

The Group Leader is Pauline Murray who may be contacted on 01782 392817.

CARDCRAFT

The group will be meeting at Central Hall at 10am on Friday, 3rd September, led by Joy Till (01782 314703). It's a friendly group who meet on alternate Friday mornings. If you've not been before, each session begins with a blank card and techniques include decoupage, colouring, embossing, etc., and you are advised to take "yourself, scissors, PVA glue and a large dollop of enthusiasm".

SCHOOLREADERS

This charity is currently seeking volunteers to assist in providing a free service to primary schools, aiming to improve literacy amongst primary school children. The scheme has recently expanded into Stoke-on-Trent, having proved very successful in other areas.

They maintain that volunteers derive great pleasure from seeing what a difference a few hours of their time can make to a child's reading ability and enjoyment. Improving literacy amongst primary school children is important as currently 1 in 4 children are leaving primary school unable to read to a satisfactory standard. Estimates also suggest the Covid-19 pandemic has caused many children to fall further behind with their reading, which has lifelong consequences.

You can find more information about Schoolreaders at www.schoolreaders.org or email office@schoolreaders.org if you have any questions.

Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Fay Howell by Friday, 24th September, 2021. Tel: 01782 658659 or email: hfhowell@live.co.uk.