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U3A RADIO

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

June's podcast included a member's first experience of Glasonbury and other topics include America, Medley and Bucket List.

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

MEMBERSHIP

The past month has seen another substantial rise in the number of members. We saw an increase of 22, making the current total 290. Could we reach 350 by our tenth birthday in September?

The increase is very good news and we anticipate further increases now that interest groups are gradually returning. As activities resume both new and former members could be attracted to u3a as a means of overcoming the stress and boredom of a long period of lockdown.

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.

Thank you for your patience during the pandemic and we hope to see many of you once again in the near future.

GETTING GOING AT LAST!

At long last some of our groups are beginning to meet and get back to a new normal, with face masks and lots of antibacterial spray.

The **Walking Group** has met a few times and around 20 enthusiastic walkers have turned out to enjoy exercise and fellowship.

The **Gardening Group** have met and enjoyed lunch at Heath House Nursery and taken a look at the plants on offer.

The **Line Dancing group** are once again strutting their stuff and **Indoor Bowls** is happening again, both of these taking place at Longton Central Hall.

There's now also the possibility of **Tennis** at Dresden (see page 3 for details). Table Tennis, Family History, Cardcraft, Local History and Art should all be starting soon.

We are hoping that the Badminton group will be able to commence soon but this has been delayed due to changes in booking and payment methods at the sports centre. The committee are currently considering how to alleviate the problem.

The situation regarding covid restrictions should become clearer by mid-July, and the committee will then assess how to progress with larger meetings and activities such as dining groups. Current regulations still limit us to groups of six indoors at pubs and restaurants and we are not allowed to mix with other guests or to book multiple tables.

WALKING GROUP

The next two walks are:

Monday 5th July Meet at 10.30am at the "Labour in Vain", Yarnfield, ST15 0NJ. Turn onto the Yarnfield Lane from the A34 next to the "Wayfarer". A walk of 4.5 miles, mainly flat and easy. The pub will be open for refreshments afterwards.

Monday 19th July This is a 5 mile walk around Bignall End, meeting at 10.30am at Bignall End Cricket Club, Boon Hill, ST7 8LA. There is some long grass, so over-trousers are recommended, especially if it's raining.

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

UKELELE GROUP

We are looking for a new leader or leaders for the Ukelele Group, so if you feel you can help we would love to hear from you. This has been a very popular group and it would be such a shame if it didn't continue in some format.

If you don't feel confident enough to lead the group single-handed, perhaps it could be a joint effort – the leadership doesn't have to be a one-man or one-woman band!

There's no immediate rush so there's time to think about it and perhaps discuss it with fellow members. If you can help please contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509 or by email to vfgreat@outlook.com

GARDEN & NATURE LOVERS

Hedgehogs, a young fox, several squirrels and a wide variety of birds are currently frequent visitors to Fay's garden in Trentham.

One cheeky young squirrel pays daily visits to the hanging basket next to the kitchen window and empties the suet from the coconut shells hanging from the bracket – he doesn't seem to mind if we're standing right behind the window!



This week, while clearing some charcoal from a disintegrating plastic sack in the garden, it was found to contain no less than 17 small newts, which is very surprising since the garden doesn't contain a pond!

The next meeting will be at Chris Whitfield's on Atherstone Road, Trentham at 10.30am on Friday, 9th July. In case the meeting has to be indoors, it will be restricted to the first five members to confirm attendance. Chris can be contacted on 01782 960327 or 07939 621499.

ART LOVERS

This group has started to meet at Blurton Community Centre, Oakwood Road (off Blurton Road), ST3 3AR. The next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday, 14th July, but due to the pandemic this is restricted to former members of the group initially.

Current members are very pleased with their new venue and would like to meet more frequently. However, meetings will initially continue on alternate weeks, but once restrictions are lifted the group may start to meet on a weekly basis if sufficient people are interested in joining. Please contact Lynette Bell on 01782 238712 if you require further information.

TABLE TENNIS

There have been a few enquiries about the table tennis and we are very pleased to say that it will be restarting at 10am on Wednesday, 28th July on the top floor at Central Hall in Longton.

The covid restrictions should have been lifted by then, but if you wish to attend it may be best to check with Fay Howell (01782 658659) or Alan Stevenson (01782 395760) to make sure that we are able to proceed and that numbers do not exceed capacity for social distancing.

SOMETHING NEW – ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Florence Tennis Club in Cemetery Road, Dresden, ST3 4EB are offering a one hour session – no equipment needed, just a pair of trainers.

The first session will be on Thursday 8th July, starting at 11.00am. Anyone interested can ring Neil McPherson on 07909 681909 for more information and to book a place. In the first instance there will be no charge for this group.

IN THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES:

A big mac was what we wore when it was raining

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower

A takeaway was a mathematical problem

Cooking outside was called camping

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking

Curry was a surname

Fish didn't have fingers

Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding

Prunes were medicinal

Healthy food consisted of anything edible

But two things that we NEVER ever had on our tables were **“Elbows or Phones”**

QUIZ

Our apologies for not providing a quiz this month, but we will try to do better next time. The answers to the May Quiz are as follows:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Jeffrey Archer | 2. J K Rowling | 3. Pam Ferris | 4. Lee Child |
| 5. Endeavour | 6. William Roache | 7. Bill Tarmey | 8. Christopher Tate |
| 9. David Jason | 10. Death Row | 11. Tom Hanks | 12. Stephen Spielberg |
| 13. Gangsta Granny | 14. Joanna Lumley | 15. Hugh Bonneville | 16. Angie & Den Watts |
| 17. Chris Tarrant | 18. Richard Dreyfuss | 19. Jessica Fletcher | 20. Dick Van Dyke |

Some important philosophical questions on life.....

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why do we leave expensive cars in our driveways and put useless junk in the garage?

EVER WONDER... Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, & washing up liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

Why isn't the whole plane made out of the same stuff as the indestructible black box?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

LOCAL HISTORY

Phil Rowley receives news updates from The National Archives and has been informed that the 1921 census for England and Wales should appear in early 2022 and the Scottish 1921 census should appear in the latter half of 2022. Further comments at the link below:

https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/feature/when-will-the-1921-census-be-available/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly_mailer_17_june_2021&utm_content=2021-06-18

Reports which have recently been published by The Sentinel are:

1. The Georgian building in Merrial Street, Newcastle which used to house the Conservative Club has reopened after being empty for many years.
<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/swanky-new-cafe-bar-opens-5514414>
2. The story of a local WWI war hero who was hanged for murder not long after he was demobbed.
<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/stoke-trent-war-hero-hanged-5475013>
3. The day Staffordshire was hit by the UK's biggest-ever explosion
<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/day-staffordshire-hit-uks-biggest-5560569>
4. Mystery of newborn baby wrapped in Sentinel and dumped in Sneyd Green
<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/mystery-newborn-baby-wrapped-sentinel-5457102>
5. 13 lost landmarks of North Staffordshire
<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/13-lost-landmarks-north-staffordshire-5539962>

The Spitfire is now in its new gallery at the Potteries Museum and the gallery should open on schedule in September. There are two articles about this on the Sentinel site:

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/iconic-spitfires-return-major-tourist-5437837>
<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/22-photos-moment-iconic-spitfire-5561446>

The Etruria canal boat event will be held on 10th-11th July but there will be no access to the mill itself. Details available at: <https://www.etruriamuseum.org.uk/events/etruria-canals-festival/>

Group meetings should be able to start soon. Phil would like to hear from members who are planning to attend and he can be contacted on 01782 330337.

NATIONAL U3A CHESS LEAGUE

In September a national u3a Chess League will commence and be available to members of all abilities. The u3a Chess Network is at: www.u3aChessNetWork.org.uk and you can register there for the league. The network aims to help and encourage new chess clubs including local Zoom or on-line chess groups or leagues.

FAMILY HISTORY

There is good news regarding our venue for the group. The Tollgate Hotel, which closed during the pandemic, has been sold and will open to the public this weekend (Sat 3rd July). Fay has now spoken to them and we will be able to meet there again over coffee, etc. She suggests 2pm on Friday, 9th July to restart.

Could group members please let Fay know whether or not they will be likely to attend? She can be contacted on 01782 658659 or by email to hffhowell@live.co.uk

Phil Rowley has received news about publication of the 1921 census and you can see more about this under 'Local History' on the previous page. Once the census is published we may be able to trace more of our 'missing' relatives.

INDOOR BOWLS

The indoor bowls sessions at Central Hall have now resumed and the group meet weekly on Monday afternoons on the second floor, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. For enquiries or further information, please contact Dave Darby on 01782 317408.

GREEN DOCTOR PROJECT

The Green Doctor project aims to provide support in vulnerable communities by helping those who are struggling with spiralling fuel costs or damp conditions. They can offer free help and advice to combat cold and damp and where appropriate, may help with switching energy providers. A leaflet attached with this newsletter sets out the criteria to qualify for a free care package.

You can contact them by phoning 01782 829909 or visiting the following websites: wmGreenDoctor@groundwork.org.uk and www.EnergisingCommunities.org.uk

NATIONAL U3A NEWSLETTER

You can still sign up on the national website at <https://u3asites.org.uk> to receive the National Monthly Newsletter by email and it's worth a look.

Please try to stay in touch with fellow members and if any of your friends don't have access to the internet, it would be very helpful if you could let them have sight of this newsletter.

Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Fay Howell by Friday, 23rd July, 2021. Tel: 01782 658659 or email: hffhowell@live.co.uk.