



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.

COACH TRIP – Please note that the Liverpool trip has been cancelled.

MEMBERSHIP

At the last count membership stood at 330, which is an increase of 7 since last month. There are also positive signs that more people will be joining us in coming weeks, as a number of application forms have been given out.

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.

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

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

It's really encouraging to see membership numbers increasing and so many interest groups now providing a welcome release after such a long lockdown.

Our thanks go to everyone involved for introducing so much choice in such a comparatively short time. In fact, not only are most groups operating again, but there's the possibility of new activities being introduced, e.g. Whist and Gimp.

Unfortunately, we are unable to restart the evening dance group led by Chris Whitfield as she is soon to be relocating, initially to Dorset and then to Devon. We wish her a very happy and settled future in her new home and offer our sincere thanks for everything she has done for our u3a. She will be missed by many.

COMMITTEE NEWS

We are now able to hold face-to-face committee meetings and are considering how and when we be able to hold the AGM and monthly meetings.

The September committee meeting was attended by Phil Rowley and Joe Neilson, who have been co-opted prior to their applications being submitted to members at the next AGM.

Please continue to use hand sanitizers and antibacterial sprays when attending meetings to limit the possibility of infection.

WALKING GROUP

The next two u3a walks are:

Monday 4th Oct 10.30am - Meet at the Trentham Hotel (Toby Inn) car park, 206 Longton Road, Trentham, ST4 8BU. A flat walk along the canal towpath to Stoke, with a chance to take refreshments half-way, at the Hanley Park café. Led by Carol.

Monday 18th Oct 10.30am - Meet in Barlaston, at the car park on the small road leading to the Upper House Hotel, The Green, ST12 9AE. If the weather's kind, we will walk on Barlaston Downs, with some slopes. Refreshments available afterwards at the "Plume of Feathers." If the weather's poor, we'll take the flat canal towpath to Stone, maybe stopping for refreshments in Stone. Led by Carol.

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, 13th October. 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

Barbara Cooke has recently moved to Stoke-on-Trent and has kindly offered to lead the Ukulele group. It is anticipated that the group could resume in November and a room would be available at Methodist Central Hall on Mondays from 1.30pm-3.30pm.



A firm decision will be made in early November, by which time the level of interest should be known, so if you wish to join or re-join the group, please let Barbara know by contacting her 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).

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, 6th October. 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, 6th October. 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).

INDOOR BOWLS / CROWN GREEN 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.

The Crown Green Bowls Group recently met at their new venue at Creda Bowling Club, Blythe Bridge. However, the outdoor bowls season has now ended, so meetings are suspended until next Spring.

BADMINTON

Weekly badminton sessions have resumed, taking 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 which was previously at the Redhouse Residents' Association building have relocated to the Methodist Central Hall in Longton. The group meet weekly from 10am to 12noon on Friday mornings and Group Leader Jenny Jepson can be contacted on 01782 342064.

DISCUSSION GROUP

A request has been submitted to the Fire Service, for use of the Hanley Community Room for one hour during the morning on the second Monday of each month.

We are currently waiting for confirmation that the application has been successful. Anyone interested in this group may contact Group Leader Bob Jones on 01785 817743.

QUIZ – this quiz is a bit more cryptic so good luck! These are all Beatle songs and should be in alphabetical order. (Answers provided next month.)

1. Gossip then purchase my dear (4,3,2,4)
2. Thin between the donkey noise, the oil platform is close (7,5)
3. Return! (3,4)
4. Tough, the old broadcaster Robin's a Sir (4,4,6)
5. Him, a 33 and a third record? (4)
6. Newspaper boy about to deliver the red top (4,5,3,3)
7. Call Mr. Law (3,4)
8. Financial penalty for handling (1,4,4)
9. What we wanted to do in Lockdown (1,4,2,4,4,4)
10. Rented out insect (3,2,2)
11. Like my party (4,2,2)
12. What a snail calls his home (8)
13. A cheap road (5,4)
14. A penny rental twice and yours truly (6,6,2)
15. The lady loves the sheep (3,5,3)
16. Maths problem (9)
17. Eternally there will be places to grow fruit (10,6,7)
18. A touch of lemon and a scream (5,3,5)
19. Shout ouch below the soldier (6,9)
20. What today is tomorrow (9)

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Baldwin | 2. Blair | 3. Brown |
| 4. Callaghan | 5. Cameron | 6. Chamberlain |
| 7. Churchill | 8. Eden | 9. Gladstone |
| 10. Heath | 11. Johnson | 12. Macdonald |
| 13. Macmillan | 14. Major | 15. May |
| 16. Peel | 17. Pitt | 18. Temple |
| 19. Thatcher | 20. Wilson | |

LOCAL HISTORY

Dave Proudlove recently led a Heritage Open Day walk around Tunstall looking at the work of architect A R Wood, who was responsible for some fine Victorian buildings around the town. Including the Town Hall and the Queen Victoria Jubilee Buildings. The Grade II Listed Town Hall is currently undergoing extensive refurbishment.

There are many local examples of Wood's work. Middleport Pottery is a famous example and he was also responsible for the Sutherland Institute in Longton, which he built after winning a design competition. Dave Proudlove has produced an interesting pamphlet about his life and work, a copy of which is forwarded with this newsletter.

The Potteries Museum has posted an interesting article online about the 75 year history of the 'City of Stoke-on-Trent' steam engine : it's published at:-

www.stokemuseums.org.uk/pmag/no-6254-city-of-stoke-on-trent-75th-anniversary/

The Local History Group meets on alternate Tuesdays between 10.30 am and 12.30, at Longton Central Hall (Room 6) and Group Leader Phil Rowley can be contacted on 07421 734200 (mobile).

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group will be restarting on Wednesday 13th October, from 10am to 12noon at Central Hall, Longton. They will then continue to meet at the same time each Wednesday morning. For more information please contact John Anderson 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.

GIMP 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.

LUNCH GROUP

The group will be meeting at 12.15pm on Tuesday, 12th October 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. Please note that Chris will be leaving the area soon and a new leader is required for future Lunch Group meetings.

BE INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST

Following a presentation at the AGM 2021 the Third Age Trust is launching a consultation exercise to give all u3a members a say in the development of a future strategy for the movement.

The findings of the consultation process will hopefully be considered by the end of the year and firm proposals will be in place early next year. If you are interested in taking part in the consultation please view the [Working towards a Strategic Vision](#) document and email strategy@u3a.org.uk to find out more.

LONGTON ALLSORTS

This small, friendly group meet at Central Hall on the first Tuesday of the month and the next meeting will be on 5th October from 10.30am to 12noon for a chat about **“Life as an Afghan Woman in the Present Day”**. The group will also have a recap on **“Dreams”**. For further information contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509.

FRENCH GROUP

The group relocated to Methodist Central Hall from 10th September and three meetings have taken place. Unfortunately, numbers have varied with only five members at the latest meeting. As some members are still COVID wary, the group leader has decided to suspend meetings and a review will be conducted as and when circumstances change.

GARDEN & NATURE LOVERS

The group will meet at 10am on Friday, 8th October by the entrance to the main building at Trentham Gardens. They had some excellent end of season offers recently, including perennials so it may be worth checking if they still have any. There will almost certainly be a good selection of Christmas lights and ornaments. For enquiries please contact Fay Howell (01782 658659) or Chris Whitfield (07939 621499).

EVENING & WEEKEND MEALS

Fay Howell will be enquiring about a meal at the Furama Palace, Trent Vale on Friday, 8th October. If interested contact Fay as soon as possible on 01782 658659 or by email to hfhowell@live.co.uk.

Enquiries are also being made regarding a meal during November. Venues currently being considered are the Spot Gate, Hilderstone; Fitzherbert Arms, Swynnerton; Wayfarer, Stone; Swynnerton Arms, Rough Close; Saracen's Head, Meir; or the Duke of York, Barlaston.

Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Fay Howell by Friday, 22nd October, 2021. Tel: 01782 658659 or email: hfhowell@live.co.uk.