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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](#).

There's also a video of the first **u3a Day**, showing the various ways in which members across the UK marked the event, which you can find at: [u3a day 2021 - YouTube](#)

If you have a story to share, you can email it to: [communications@u3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@u3a.org.uk)

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 2nd September: coach trip (page 5)

### MEMBERSHIP

Another 17 membership applications have been received in the past month, bringing our total membership up to 307.

We're still quite some way from reaching our pre-covid total, but this continuing rise in numbers is really encouraging and demonstrates the loyalty of our members and the importance of u3a to the local community in overcoming stress, boredom and isolation.

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](mailto:a.stevenson09@btinternet.com).

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

### MORE GROUPS STARTING!

Considerable progress has been made during the past month, with more groups having already started and the prospect of more resuming within weeks or even days. You'll find more information in the following pages.

At last covid numbers appear to be falling. However, we still need to be cautious and therefore encourage members to use hand sanitizers and antibacterial sprays when attending meetings to limit the possibility of infection.

Discussions are still ongoing about the Badminton group venue but we are hopeful that this will be resolved soon.

Groups meeting at St Paul's Church in Blurton have not yet been able to return. We are awaiting the go-ahead for these, so fingers crossed that it won't be much longer.

Similarly, the Crown Green Bowls Group has not been able to return to the Florence Bowling Club but negotiations are taking place to secure a new venue as soon as possible.

With covid restrictions being lifted we hope to bring good news soon regarding popular events such as lunches, monthly meetings and the ever popular evening meals.

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We would like to thank everyone for being so patient and understanding during the very lengthy lockdown. The future is now starting to look much brighter, so we hope to see many of you very soon.

## **WALKING GROUP**

The next u3a walks is

Monday 16th Aug Meet at 10.30am outside the Blue Diamond Garden Centre at Trentham Gardens, ST4 8JG. No Trentham Gardens pass is needed. Free parking. The walk will be Trentham Park, including some slopes.

Please check your e-mails the evening before the walk, just in case anything changes because of the weather or for any other reason.

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 will resume their meetings on the top floor at Central Hall, from 10am to 12noon on Wednesday, 4th August. 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 such a pity if such a popular group didn't continue in some format. 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](mailto:vfgreat@outlook.com)

## **GARDEN & NATURE LOVERS**

Recent storms played havoc with some previously lovely plants including the roses below, but weeds are thriving and so are two sunflowers. Given to Fay just over a month ago as young plants about 15" tall, they have almost reached the summerhouse roof!



The group will meet in the tearooms at Northwood Nurseries, Clayton at 10am on Friday 13th August. We can browse plants, discuss future visits and any indoor or outdoor gardening projects which have kept us busy during the lockdown, then finish with a look around the shop

For enquiries please contact Fay Howell (01782 658659) or Chris Whitfield (07939 621499).

## 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, 11th August. 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. Please contact Lynette Bell on 01782 238712 if you are interested and require further information.

## TABLE TENNIS

The fortnightly table tennis has now resumed and the next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday, 11th August on the top floor at Central Hall in Longton. If you are interested in joining please contact Fay Howell (01782 658659) or Alan Stevenson (01782 395760).

## 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 have not been able to meet at their former venue, but current discussions involve the possibility of holding meetings at Lightwood Bowling Club.

## PHISHING & OTHER SCAMS

We've received a warning about recent scams experienced by u3a members in other areas. One involved a phishing email supposedly from anti-virus company Norton, requesting payment to renew an account they don't have, with a threat to deduct over £220 if the account isn't cancelled within 48 hours. If you receive a similar email please don't click on the links or pay anything without taking independent advice.

Extra money was taken out of a member's bank account, without her knowledge, by a company specialising in products for older adults. When contacted, the bank stopped any further card payments to the company concerned and advised on what to do next. Eventually the company paid back the money.

Please check bank accounts regularly and immediately report suspicious debits to your bank. Most banks can stop further charges and give advice on getting refunds where appropriate. Another good practice is to search for reviews and credit ratings before buying from a new company. Further advice is available from Barcays Digital Wings. You don't need to bank with Barclays, just go to: <https://digital.wings.uk.barclays/> Sign up and enter code U3A in capitals.

## LONGTON ALLSORTS

This small, friendly group will meet at Central Hall on Tuesday, 17th August from 10.30am to 12noon for a chat entitled "**How I dealt with the pandemic**". Members are welcome to bring along examples or photos to show any hobbies or activities which helped them in lockdown. For further information contact Val Greatbatch on 07881 367509.

## QUIZ

### Who said this?

1. We'll fight them on the beaches
2. They don't like it up 'em
3. Ding Dong!
4. The Bells, The Bells
5. Either he's dead, or my watch has stopped
6. Get down Shep
7. Mr Grimsdale
8. Up to me neck in muck and bullets
9. Boom Boom
10. Titter ye not
11. Can I have some more?
12. My little chickadee
13. Rock on Tommy
14. We'll always have Paris
15. Hi Di Hi Campers
16. The lady's not for turning
17. Ooh Matron
18. I'll make him an offer he can't refuse
19. Shut that door
20. I have a cunning plan
21. Don't mention the war
22. You big girls blouse
23. Greetings pop pickers
24. Toto, I feel we're not in Kansas anymore
25. Final answer
26. Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated
27. Read my lips, no new taxes
28. Just one more thing
29. Am I bovvered
30. Hello my Darlings

## LOCAL HISTORY

The Sentinel has an article online about 11 local pubs which people miss the most:

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/11-north-staffordshire-pubs-you-5600117>

In 1995 the Arnold Bennett Society put 14 brown plaques around Burslem to mark sites mentioned in Bennett's novels. Mervyn Edwards recently led a walk to review the first seven of a replacement set comprising new, more noticeable, blue plaques which the Society have introduced and it's hoped that there will be more of these walks in the future.

Heritage Open Days in September: Details of local events can be found online at <https://www.potteries.org.uk/HeritageOpenDays>. One event is a walk looking at the bottle-ovens in Longton, to be led by Phil Rowley and Andy Perkin from the Potteries Heritage Society. There is also a proposed event at the Phoenix Works in Longton to show the two recently discovered rare 'downdraught' bottle ovens. A schedule of national Heritage Open Days can be found at <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting>

As part of the continuing Longton Heritage Action Zone which is reviewing all remaining bottle-ovens and calcining kilns in the city, Historic England has released a 153-page document containing many aerial photos of Longton. These date from 1927 to 2007 and, while concentrating on the ceramic industry, they also cover things happening during and after WWII (including the construction of pre-fab houses). The document (almost 60 MB) can be downloaded from the address below:

<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16836&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26rn%3d24%26ry%3d2021%26ns%3d1>

If you're interested in Local History, meetings should start soon and Phil Rowley can be contacted on 01782 330337.

## COACH TRIP

Lynne has arranged a trip to Chester on Thursday, 2nd September. Whether you're a walker, history buff, shopaholic or just like to enjoy the riverside or restaurants, there's plenty to see and do in Chester. The price is being negotiated and will be advised later.

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.

## CARDCRAFT

The group will be meeting at Central Hall at 10am on Friday, 6th August, led by Joy Till (01782 314703). It's a friendly group who meet on alternate Friday mornings. They begin each session with a blank card and use techniques including decoupage, colouring, embossing, etc. to create a beautiful handmade card. This small, friendly group meet every other Friday at Longton Central Hall, at 10am. You are advised to take "yourself, scissors, PVA glue and a large dollop of enthusiasm".

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The Group is up and running! Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. The 2nd Thursday's meeting will be at 10am in Room 6 at Central Hall, Longton, with refreshments (bring a cup or mug!) and the 4th Thursday's meeting will usually be a practical photography session at an "away" venue - full agenda to be agreed.

The next "home" meeting will be on 12th August at 10am in Central Hall, when we'll review pictures taken by members during the Lockdowns, via digital projector and giant screen! The next "away" meeting will be on 26th August at Hanley Park - meeting at 10am at The Bandstand and we shall see what we can make in the way of fine pictures of the Bandstand itself and others ad lib. All are welcome regardless of experience or type of equipment - but a camera of some sort (including phone) will be useful!

Contact Fran Knowles 07714950354 or e mail [Fran.knowles@btinternet.com](mailto:Fran.knowles@btinternet.com).

## DO YOU HAVE UNUSED IT EQUIPMENT?

Life is becoming increasingly digital and many services need to be accessed online. Whether it's for banking, shopping, applying for jobs or looking after our health, most of us need to own a digital device. The digital world has also become increasingly important in the fight against loneliness and isolation.

VAST, The Community Foundation for Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and local IT partners have set up a recycling scheme to help the most vulnerable members of our community to get connected. If you have a laptop or tablet you no longer need, you can easily donate it by taking it to one of the convenient drop-off points. Further information can be found at: <https://vast.org.uk/donate-i-t-stoke-on-trent/>

## BRITISH CERAMICS BIENNIAL

The British Ceramics Biennial (BCB) takes place in Stoke-on-Trent. Initiated in 2009, BCB has grown to be the single largest ceramics event in the UK, a flagship cultural project for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and a catalyst for regeneration.

The five week event commences in the Goods Yard, a 19th century former warehouse in the heart of Stoke on 11th September and you can find further details online at: [2021 - British Ceramics Biennial](#)

## 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.

***Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Fay Howell by Friday, 20th August, 2021. Tel: 01782 658659 or email: [hfhowell@live.co.uk](mailto:hfhowell@live.co.uk).***