



MONTHLY MEETINGS

On 30th March, our guest speaker was Jack Holmes from the Green Doctor Project at Groundwork West Midlands. It is a project that focusses on fighting fuel poverty across the West Midlands. Jack gave an excellent presentation with an emphasis on providing advice on how to save energy. Additionally, Jack has promised to provide the branch with a number of winter warmer packs for next winter.

- 27th April 2023: The planned talk from The British Red Cross has been cancelled due to the non-availability of the speaker. The replacement speaker will be Richard Weaver from Caudwell Children.
2pm start.
- 18th May 2023: The Mel Baines Trio will provide the entertainment after the formal business of the Annual General Meeting. The Trio always prove to be a popular choice.
- 29th June 2023: Nicholas Minshull from the Co-op Group will present a talk titled 'Tax, Care and Toy Boys.'

Please encourage other members to attend, what is always a good afternoon out.

MEMBERSHIP

Early in the month of April every year, the membership count is at its lowest. This arises because many members do not renew until the new subscription year has commenced. The Membership Officer reports the current membership to be 298, and of these he had processed 277 renewals. Hopefully, everyone will decide to renew once more, so that we can again quickly attain the end of March 2023 count of 431. Many thanks to everyone who continually persuade family and friends to join us. Should you know anyone who would like to join, Application Forms can be obtained from our website, or from Membership Officer, Alan Stevenson, Tel. 01782 395760: or by emailing: a.stevenson09@btinternet.com

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

COMMITTEE MATTERS

1. Annual General Meeting

The committee's focus is currently on the AGM, which will be held at Methodist Central Hall, Longton, on Thursday 18th May 2023. All members will have been advised of these details in a prior circulation, but the committee wish to remind everyone that refreshments will be served at 1.30pm, and the AGM will commence promptly at 2pm. The meeting will include Progress Reports from the Chairman and the Treasurer, together with the election of three committee members. If you wish to apply for any of the vacant positions, please submit the appropriate document without delay.

Musical entertainment will follow, which will be provided by the Mel Baines Trio.

FOCUS ON GROUPS

Badminton Group

A reminder that the Badminton Group has moved to a new venue, i.e. Michelin Athletic Club Sports and Leisure, Rosetree Avenue, Trent Vale. ST4 6NL. Weekly meetings take place on Tuesday afternoons, and the session time is 1.30 to 2.30pm.

Group Leader, Dave Darby, may be contacted on 01782 317408.

Discussion Group

The next group meeting is confirmed for Tuesday 9th May 2023, 10.00am to 11.15am. It will take place in Stoke Library, which is located in the Council Hub close to the Market. Unfortunately, due to the constraint of the size of the room, the group is now fully subscribed.

The subject under discussion will be: **The Cost of Wars**

Group Leader Bob Jones can be contacted on 01785 817743.

Family History Group

The next meeting will be held at the Tollgate Hotel, Blurton at 2pm on Friday, 5th May 2023. The group normally meets in the restaurant. New members are welcome.

Group Leader is Les Waller, who may be contacted on 01782 394431.

Gardening and Nature Lovers

During the summer months, the group will again meet every second Friday of the month. Details of the next planned gathering are as follows: Meet outside the front doors of the Garden Centre on the Trentham Estate at 10.30am on 12th May 2023.

Further details may be obtained from new Group Leader, Christine Whitfield, who may be contacted on: Mob. 07939 621499 or email. blue.angel007@live.co.uk

Parchment Craft/Beading Group

Following an enforced change of venue, the group now has moved to Longton Central Hall. As a result, the Beading Group has been absorbed into the former Open/Parchment Group, and will meet weekly.

This new grouping will meet 10.30 to 12.30pm. The next planned meeting will take place on 27th April 2023.

Joint Group contacts are: Joan Crozier, 01782 213459, or Catherine James, 01782 331700 or 07761 107828.

Outdoor Bowls

The next weekly meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd May 2023, 1.30 to 3.30pm. The venue is, Fenton Private Bowling Club, Claud Street, Fenton. ST4 4LL.

Group Leader, Dave Darby, may be contacted on 01782 317408.

Walking Group

In order to avoid the Bank Holidays in May, just the one walk is planned for the month.

Monday 15th May: Hem Heath Woods and Wedgwood Estate. Meet for 10.30am start at Hem Heath Woods car park on Trentham Road (A5035), ST4 8FR. Group Leader Alison is hopeful that the bluebells will be in bloom.

This group photo of smiling members was taken on 17th April at Ford Green Nature Reserve.



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

U3a NATIONAL/REGIONAL MATTERS

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 still sign up on the national website at <https://u3asites.org.uk> to receive the National Monthly Newsletter by email. It's worth taking a look to see what is going on in other u3a's and you might even be inspired to try something new yourself.

Regional Trustee Election

Voting for the Third Age West Midlands Trustee closed on 24th March. Jean Jackson from Lichfield u3a was duly elected.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Day Trips

The Branch has a number of members who are also members of the "Closer to Home" Walking Group. The group arranges a day trip by coach each month to a variety of interesting locations. The group has kindly offered vacant seats to u3a members at a cost of £25 per trip, and there is no obligation to join the Walking Group. Any bookings made by u3a members will of course be private transactions, and not related to u3a membership.

The Group's next trip is to Southport on May 25th. You may contact Carole Arrowsmith on 07871231767 for further details.

Staffordshire Archives

For those members interested in history, Ray Johnson is offering a free presentation at the Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, titled "Coronation Special." The screening will take place on Tuesday 9th May at 11am. Further details are below:



SHORT QUIZ WITH THE THEME OF MAY

1. What's the birthstone of May - it represents love and success?
2. Which tennis Open Championship normally begins in the last week of May?
3. What are the two zodiac signs for the month of May?
4. May in the Northern Hemisphere is similar to which month in the Southern Hemisphere?
5. Which sweetly scented, highly poisonous woodland flowering plant is the birth flower of May?
6. Historically, what sort of dancing has been linked to May Day celebrations?
7. Who did Queen guitarist Brian May marry in November 2000?
8. The Third of May 1808', is a painting completed in 1814 by which Spanish painter?
9. How long is the lifespan for the adult female Mayfly.
10. What is the more common name for the Mayflower shrub?
11. Theresa May was born in which town?
12. Victory in Europe Day, generally known as V-E Day, was celebrated on which day in May, 1945?
13. In the nursery rhyme 'Nuts in May', on what sort of morning are the nuts gathered?
14. Which American federal holiday, sometimes called Decoration Day, is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May?
15. The Mayflower left England for the Virginia Colony with which other ship on the 15 August, 1620?

Answers will be provided in the May/June Newsletter.

This Newsletter is also accessible on our website (via the News Button). Please try to share information with fellow members who do not have access to the internet.

Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Andrew Devin by Monday, 19th June 2023. Tel: 01782 942352 or email: a.devin2@gmail.com