



## **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Our previous monthly meeting took place on 29<sup>th</sup> June when we had an attendance of forty-two. We thank local historian, Mervyn Edwards, for stepping in at short notice; his talk titled “Potters at the Seaside” evoked happy family memories for many.

27<sup>th</sup> July: Our guest speaker is Diane Leopard, who will present a talk titled “Letting photographs tell their stories.”

31<sup>st</sup> August: Roger Browne is our guest speaker, and he will present an illustrative talk with live piano playing, titled “The Great American Songbook.”

In addition to Roger Browne, we will also welcome another guest at the meeting. Newly appointed u3a Regional Trustee for the West Midlands, Jean Jackson, has accepted our invitation to be in attendance. Jean has expressed a desire to visit as many u3a branches in the region as possible, the committee are therefore delighted that she will visit Stoke-on-Trent South early in her tenure. Jean will mingle with members after the entertainment.

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

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At the branch committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July the membership secretary reported that the count of members was 361, which was a modest increase of 7 relative to the previous month. Many thanks to those who have persuaded family and friends to join us, and please encourage new membership whenever you get the opportunity. Current members are considered to be an excellent source of new membership because they are able to describe the actual experience.

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**

### **Copyright and Licence issues**

The “Latest News” issued by the u3a Trust informed branches that the annual licence of the CLA (Copyright Licensing Agency) was due for renewal. The Trust also spelt out the obligation that all u3a members are responsible for respecting the rights of others, and should only use the work of others if it is legally permissible. Consequently, the chairman considered it an opportune time to undertake a review of all licence issues likely to be encountered by the branch. He reported to the committee that annual licences were held for the following areas of “work:” photocopying; recorded music; performance of music; playing of dvds/video. The chairman also confirmed that strong controls were in place to ensure that no copyrighted digital images are uploaded to the website, or inserted into the monthly newsletter.

### **Joan Rose Bequest**

Popular deceased member Joan Rose made a bequest in her will that £500 be left to the branch, to spend on items that would benefit the membership. Joan was a passionate supporter of the u3a generally, and the committee particularly (helping out whenever she was able). Probate is now complete and the money has been lodged in the branch bank account.

No decision has yet been taken on how to accord with Joan’s wishes, however the matter will be reviewed on a regular basis, and the money will remain ring-fenced.

## **FOCUS ON GROUPS**

### **Group Leaders’ Information Pack**

The newly completed pack was examined at the committee sitting on 13<sup>th</sup> July. It was observed that the pack looked neat, with the branch brand being in evidence throughout. Accordingly, the pack was authorised for issue. Printing, collation, and distribution will now be effected.

### **Computer Group**

Group leader, Joe Neilson, has reluctantly taken the decision to suspend the group for a couple of months due to a lack of attendance (a single attendee only for the last two meetings). He will reconsider should there be evidence of renewed interest.

Anyone wishing to contact Joe, may do so via telephone 01782 852042 or by email to: joeneilson6@gmail.com

### **Discussion Group**

The next group meeting is confirmed for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 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 room size, the group is now fully subscribed.

The subject under discussion will be:

**Are we doing enough about global warming?**

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 28<sup>th</sup> July 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**

Group leader, Christine Whitfield, has expressed her disappointment that only one person attended the July gardening group meeting, and this lady was a new member to the group.

The next meeting will take place at the Home and Garden Centre at Trentham Gardens on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 10.30am. Christine has also informed the chairman that due to her mobility issues, she can no longer attend gardening group meetings. She has decided that she will also reluctantly relinquish her role as group leader after the August meeting. We therefore thank Christine for her past involvement with this and other groups. We are now appealing to members to support the group by way of attendance; also, we hope that someone is willing to lead the group after the August meeting.

Further details may be obtained from Christine Whitfield, who may be contacted on:

Mob: 07939 621499 or email. [blue.angel007@live.co.uk](mailto:blue.angel007@live.co.uk)

### **Indoor Kurling**

We are still trying to encourage members to join this small group. The enjoyment of the group very much relies on there being a good number of participants. We are sure that you will enjoy the friendly competition, so why not give it a try?

The group meets on alternate Wednesdays. The next meeting, on the top floor at Longton Central Hall, will be from 10am to 12 noon on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Trish Rowley on 07939 209054.

### **Lunch Group**

The lunch group meet on the second Tuesday of the month at The Hem Heath pub (on the corner of Stanley Matthews Way).

The next meeting will be at 12.30pm on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023, and the group leader is Maureen Cumming, who may be contacted on 01782 331797.

### **Table Tennis**

The table tennis group meet fortnightly on the top floor at Longton Central Hall. Their next meeting is scheduled for 10am on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023. 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 Ken Thorley 07912 987385.

### **Ukulele Group**

Having given the matter much thought, group leader Barbara Cooke, has decided to relinquish the position, however, she has indicated that she is likely to remain a group member. We thank Barbara sincerely for her input since the group recommenced post Covid. The group now wish to alter arrangements such that responsibilities are shared, particularly those relating to the role of group leader. The group is aware that the activity timetable and the website do need to contain contact details, but this matter has yet to be determined.

### **Walking Group**

The next two planned walks during the month of August are:

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August: Aston Marina and Burston. Flat walk, including canal towpath.

Meet for 10.30am start at Aston Marina car park, on the A51 Lichfield Road, Aston-by-Stone, ST15 8QU.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August: Longton Park and reclaimed Florence Colliery ground. Some gentle slopes.

Meet for 10.30am start under the clock at Longton Park, Trentham Road (A5035), Dresden, ST3 4AZ. Parking available on Queens Park Avenue.

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**

**Publicity and Public Relations.**

The Regional Trustee recently requested branch chairmen to determine whether any committee members were interested in joining the national publicity team. The question was raised at the June committee meeting, and branch publicity officer, Phil Rowley, responded positively. He has subsequently contacted the relevant officials. Any matters of interest, that Phil considers to be relevant, will be reported in our monthly newsletter.

**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 Lytham St. Annes & Blackpool on August 24<sup>th</sup>. You may contact Carole Arrowsmith on 07871231767 for further details.

**Staffordshire Archives**

Ray Johnson is offering a free presentation at the Mitchell Arts Centre, Hanley, titled “Stoke Goes Green.” The screening will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 11am. Further details are below:



## **Re-engage**

The branch received an email in June from Stoke-on-Trent City Council Community Section, in which they requested that we publicise the registered charity “Re-engage.” The charity organises social groups that bring pleasure to people through conversation and laughter. They are therefore looking for volunteers to give some of their time every month to make isolated older people feel connected and valued.

If you are interested, please call: 0207 240 0630 or visit [www.reengage.org.uk](http://www.reengage.org.uk)

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, 21<sup>st</sup> August. Tel: 01782 942352 or email: [a.devin2@gmail.com](mailto:a.devin2@gmail.com)**