



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Our previous monthly meeting took place on 27th April 2023. No end of month meeting took place during May, because of the legal obligation to hold the AGM during the month.

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to replace the previously advertised talk for the June meeting because of the non-availability of the speaker from the Co-op Group. Entertainments' Co-ordinator, Beverley Maher, took recognition of the popularity of the presentation given by Local Historian, Mervyn Edwards in February, and has therefore booked him again for **29th June**. We thank Mervyn sincerely for accepting the booking at short notice, and he will present a talk titled "Potters at the Seaside."

27th July: Our guest speaker is Diane Leopard, who will present a talk titled "Letting photographs tell their stories."

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

Please turn up to support your u3a; the hard work put in by the committee to make each gathering a success is the same whether attendance is high or low.

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

MEMBERSHIP

At the branch committee meeting held on 8th June, the Membership Secretary reported that the count of members was 354. The number is considered to be satisfactory so early in a new membership year. The majority of the latest additions relate to new members, with very few renewals being received. Many thanks to everyone who have persuaded 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/>

During March, prior to the commencement of the new subscription year, the committee asked renewing members to reflect on whether they wished to take the TAM magazine. At the June committee meeting, the Membership Secretary reported that some 30 members did not tick the appropriate box on the application form. Accordingly, this has resulted in a saving to the branch of some £100, so many thanks to the members concerned.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Branch committee appointments

The first meeting of the new committee year was held on 8th June. Traditionally, it is at this meeting that committee roles and responsibilities are allocated for the forthcoming year. Only two changes were necessary to the positions held by the previous committee, viz. (1) Phil Rowley was elected at the AGM to the post of Business Secretary, (Phil will also retain his publicity duties); and (2) Pauline Williams accepted the vacant role of Groups' Co-ordinator.

The committee will operate over the next year with ten members, i.e. a shortfall of two. Should any member have a change of heart, the committee can co-opt up to two members during the year, and they will still attract full voting rights.

FOCUS ON GROUPS

New Groups' Co-ordinator

As indicated above, Pauline Williams is the new Groups' Co-ordinator for the branch. The committee is delighted that Pauline has chosen to return after a short break. She is well known within the branch, having previously held the post of Entertainments' Co-ordinator. Pauline has authorised the newly prepared "Group Leaders Information Pack," which will be distributed shortly. Should any member wish to contact Pauline regarding a group matter, or wish to start a new group, her telephone number is 01782 920732.

Discussion Group

The next group meeting is confirmed for Tuesday 11th July 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:

Should individuals have the right to change their sexual orientation?

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, 30th June 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 meets every second Friday of the month. Details of the next planned gathering are as follows: "Meet again outside the Clock Tower at Longton Park at 10.30am on 14th July 2023. Refreshments will be taken after the meeting in the park cafe."
If the weather isn't good on the day: "Meet at Trentham Gardens, home and garden entrance."

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

Indoor Kurling

We are appealing to members to consider joining this very small group. Post Covid, the number of attendees has been disappointing. 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. 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 5th July 2023.

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

Below are two photographs of the group having an enjoyable game.



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 11th July 2023, and the Group Leader is Maureen Cumming, who can be contacted on 01782 331797.

Parchment Craft/Beading Group

This new grouping meets weekly each Thursday, 10.30 to 12.30pm. The next planned meeting will take place on 29th June 2023.

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

Outdoor Bowls

Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday, 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

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

Monday 10th July: Barlaston Downs. mainly flat, some slopes.

Meet for 10.30am start at the car park on the right of the small road leading to The Upper House Hotel, The Green, Barlaston, ST12 9AE.

Monday 24th July: Trentham Park. Some steep slopes.

Meet for 10.30am start at the entrance to the Blue Circle Garden Centre, Trentham Gardens, Stone Road, Trentham, ST4 8JG.

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

Computer Group

The Computer Group meets at Longton Library 10am to Noon on alternate Fridays.

The next planned meeting is 7th July 2023.

Group Leader Joe Neilson may be contacted on 01782 852042 or by email to: joeneilson6@gmail.com

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 Publicity

Early in June, the Regional Trustee asked if there were any members within the West Midlands who would be willing to join the national publicity/public relations team. Our branch publicity officer, Phil Rowley, accordingly registered his interest. Regional Trustee, Jean Jackson, expressed her delight and will communicate with Phil directly. Should Phil encounter any matters that would be of local interest, they will be included in our own 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 New Brighton on July 27th. 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 “Those were the Days - The Music Scene.” The screening will take place on Tuesday 11th July at 11am. Further details are below:



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, 17th July 2023. Tel: 01782 942352 or email: a.devin2@gmail.com