

BURTON U3A

Autumn 2021 Newsletter

I've taken up
photography
because it's
a hobby



WE'RE BACK!

Registered Charity Number 1146122

CONTENTS

Contact Information.....	2
From The Chair.....	3
Dodgy Dave's Corner.....	4
Social Activities.....	6
Gardening Group.....	7
AGM Minutes.....	8
Long and Challenging Walks.....	9
Forthcoming Events.....	11
Help!.....	11
Newsletter Quiz: Cryptic Confections.....	12
History Group.....	14
Social Cycling Group.....	14
Short Walks Group.....	16
Luncheon Group.....	17
U3A and the Pandemic.....	18
List of Groups.....	21
Sudoku Puzzle.....	22
The Committee.....	23
Newsletter Quiz Answers.....	Back Cover

There are lots of ways for you to contact your u3a: all of the Committee members have email addresses which are listed on page 22. You can also email the various *Group Coordinators* by clicking on the *blue bird icon* (see below for a picture of it!) on the page for the particular group on the **Burton u3a website** at <https://u3asites.org.uk/burton-on-trent/home> — in fact, you can find out everything you need at this very useful website, so make sure you have it saved as a *Favourite website*!

If you use *Twitter*, to follow us use **@burtonu3a**

If you need to speak to someone, please ring mobile **07512 468591**



Click to send a message!

From The Chair



Hello everyone! The much-awaited end to this period of lockdown and personal sacrifice is now with us. There are signs that life is returning to normal (*whatever normal is*) and we have our freedom back.

Now is our chance to get back to what we do best, being pro-active and motivated enough to be out there joining friends and socialising.

We hope that most, if not all, of our groups will be up and running for September. All group and social event details will be on the website so please take a look.



We held our first Coffee Morning of 2021 at the Caffe Centro, Coopers Square, in July. It was a success and well attended, with many positive comments coming from members.

It is our intention to always have some of our committee there during the morning so please feel free to approach them for a chat.

There will be the Talk & Tea in September, the Quiz in October and the Christmas event with the Gresley Male Voice Choir in December. This is a varied programme of events that should appeal to many of you, so now it's up to you.

I look forward to catching up with you at some time during the next few months: I will hopefully be at all of the above events so come and say hello.

Pat

----- PLEASE NOTE: -----

The deadline for Winter 2021 contributions is **31st October**



Dodgy Dave's Corner

Hello Everybody,

I am writing this article in the middle of July, the sky is a brilliant blue, the sun is shining, and it is lovely and warm. When I go for a walk with my little dog there are flowers everywhere. A truly beautiful English summer. But all is not as it appears: when we meet other dog walkers, we are careful to keep on opposite sides of the path when we chat.

The conversation is often one of concern. No longer do we walk together chatting as we used to but go our separate ways.

By the time you read this article we will be emerging from the summer of great confusion more confused and alarmed than ever before. As we peer from our bunkers and over the parapets of our trenches, we see a world that looks alarmingly familiar but feels fearfully different. Somehow in the strange silence we can still hear a faint rumbling, maybe a deep growl, or heavy breathing. The Beast, the Phantom, is still around: you can feel it, you can see the fear in people's eyes, in their tone when you speak to them. There is no doubt our lives, our World, has changed. News reports change from print to print. Yes we are fine, no we are not, where the heck are we?

It seems that going forward the careful will be at the mercy of the careless, the reckless and the downright stupid. We will become the 'pin cushion' generation, forever getting jabs to try and keep us safe, and yet we must go on.

The stress is clearly getting to us all, even the young. The other day I came out of the supermarket and there in the car park near my car was a young lady, crying her eyes out and banging the roof of her car with her open hand in frustration while her little baby sat in its pram looking at her with alarm. Obviously, she needed help, so I went over and quietly asked,

"May I help you?"

She turned and looked at me, tears rolling down her cheeks, her face red and flushed and her mascara streaked.

"I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door un-locker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think that battery place in the arcade would have a battery to fit this?"

"Would you like me try for you?" I asked, trying to be helpful.

"Oh, would you please?" she replied, now too distraught to do anything for herself, "I would normally call my husband, but he is away on business." Dear me she was in trouble.

“Do you have an alarm too?” I asked, knowing that one can get into trouble if the two are not attended to simultaneously.

“No, just this remote thingy.” She obviously had no idea: as she handed me her ‘door un-locker’ I noticed the keys were attached.

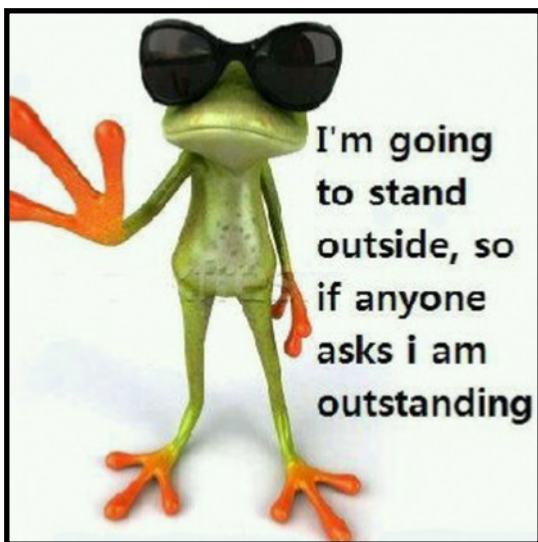
I smiled gently, selected the door key, and manually unlocked the door. She clearly thought I was some kind of magician.

“Have a safe journey home and remember you can always do this when you have this kind of problem.” The look on her face showed that for that moment at least, I was her angel from heaven, and it left me with a warm fuzzy feeling.

We all need that warm fuzzy feeling from time to time: it’s like when our grandchildren call us ‘Nana’ or ‘Grandpa’ or whatever they have decided to call us, for the first time, the realization that you are truly recognized in their little minds and hearts.

What I do to get that fuzzy feeling is to take some real duck and swan food and wander along the canal feeding the duck and moorhen families. Just watching them come scurrying along when I shake my container is such a pleasure, as is watching the females fussing round their little families. They are all getting quite large now. I get a similar feeling when I see the little children coming across my school crossing. The new year will mean many of them will have new shoes particularly the girls, many of whom will have shiny patent ones and they give you such a big smile when you notice them and comment on their shiny shoes. The boys could not care less: they just want to be with their mates.

Well, I guess that is enough from me. Please take care of yourselves and remember the Golden Rule for Oldies: ‘never take a sedative the same night you take a laxative.’



Cheers!

Dodgy Dave

Social Activities

Wed 15th Dec — Thu 16th Dec THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Set in magical surroundings with thousands of twinkling lights, Christmas trees and festive decorations, mechanical organs and fairground carousels, this lavish production has a cast of over 130 professional singers, dancers and musicians. The 3-hour performance delivers an extravaganza of singing, dancing, music and humour with dazzling costumes and beautiful stage scenery.

Staying at the Caley Hall Hotel, festive dinner at the hotel and tickets to the evening performance of the Christmas Spectacular show. Stopping en route in both directions (TBA).

Cost: **£140** inc. coach plus £35 single room supplement

£60 non-refundable deposit per person with booking

Contact: Lesley — u3alesley@gmail.com or 01283 812564



Thu 13th Jan 2022 PANTOMIME - GOLDILOCKS and THE 3 BEARS

Starring Jason Donovan, Matt Slack
Matinee at Birmingham Hippodrome

Cost: **£39.50** inc coach

DEADLINE for booking: 29th SEPTEMBER

Contact: Lesley — u3alesley@gmail.com or 01283 812564

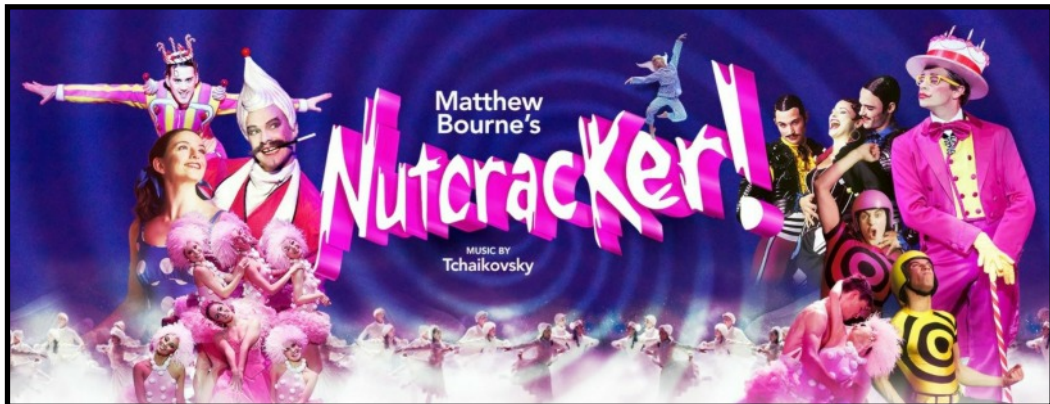
Thu 14th Apr 2022
MATTHEW BOURNE'S NUTCRACKER!

Matinee at Nottingham Theatre Royal

Cost: **£49.50** inc coach

DEADLINE for booking: 15th DECEMBER

Contact: Lesley — u3alesley@gmail.com or 01283 812564



Gardening Group

Contrary to popular rumours, the Gardening Group is still going. There has been a change of group coordinator, and it will emerge from its enforced hibernation in the Autumn. There will of course be further details on the u3a website and in the next issue!



Minutes of the 10th AGM of Burton on Trent U3A

Thursday 8th July 2021

*Held by email and post owing to
the coronavirus restrictions*

1. Apologies were received from *Peter Wildsmith*
2. Minutes of 2019 AGM were accepted – *37 votes For*
3. The examined accounts were approved – *37 votes For*
4. The continued appointment of the Examiner for the accounts was approved – *37 votes For*
5. Election of the committee:
 - a. *Basil Armett* was elected – *36 votes For*
 - b. *Bimal Jangra* was elected – *36 votes For*
 - c. *Neil Davenport* was not elected – *13 votes For, 20 Against, 3 Abstentions*
 - d. *Tim Salmon* was elected – *36 votes For*
6. Motion – that owing to an increase of 50p by National Office in the capitation fees, I propose that membership fees are increased by 50p from 1st April 2022.

The motion was carried – *35 votes For, 2 Abstentions*

Long and Challenging Walks Groups

The Long and Challenging Walks groups continue to grow in membership and in numbers of walkers getting out and enjoying the walks.

This quarter the Long Walks Group were on the footpaths around Moira-Oakthorpe (*photo below*), Carleton and Hartington.

The Challenging Walks Group finished the Branston-Jacksons Bank Circular Walk this quarter as well as doing The National Forest's Best Kept Villages Circular and Silver Circuit walks. On 29th July we walked the Denstone-Alton-Croxton Circular and enjoyed fine views of Alton, Croxton Abbey and Denstone College (*photos overleaf*).

This quarter's walks included a very good variety of walks in beautiful surroundings around Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

We are always welcoming to new members: just send me a message via the blue bird on the Walking Group webpages and I will send along all the details and monthly emails.

Happy Hiking,

Herb Croken





Forthcoming Events

The *September Talk & Tea* is on **Thursday 9th September** at 2:00pm at the *Riverside Church*.

The subject is a talk on The Shadows given by **Chris Stratman** who also plays some guitar music.

It has been decided that our *December Talk & Tea* will be in the form of a concert by the **Gresley Male Voice Choir** again to be held at the *Riverside Church* on **Thursday 2nd December** at 2:00pm.

There will be tickets on sale for this event for **£3.00** at the *September Talk & Tea* and thereafter at the *coffee mornings*. *The seating capacity will be limited to 80* so it will be "*first come, first served*".

Looking forward to seeing you,

Mary – Events Secretary



At the moment our **Computer Group** has no coordinator and cannot restart.

Hopefully there is a member reading this that has the ability and the willingness to share their knowledge with other members.

The group can be organised by a *single member* or a *few who share the responsibility for running the sessions*. The areas that can be covered could be **computers/laptops/smart phones** whichever is your expertise and the members choice.

For more information or questions please ring **01283 566284** or email **groupssecretarybotu3a@gmail.com**

Newsletter Quiz: Cryptic Confections

Many thanks to Barry Appleby for compiling this quiz for your entertainment and enjoyment. Can you find the more usual names for these sweets? The answers for you to check are provided xxxxxxx (but don't cheat!).

- 1.** Wobbly infants
- 2.** Wise guys
- 3.** Edible fasteners
- 4.** Nine, ten, eleven, twelve, etc.
- 5.** The occult perhaps?
- 6.** Home of alcoholic dentures
- 7.** Fallen fruits
- 8.** Sport for a prince
- 9.** 100% precious metal
- 10.** Tartan granite
- 11.** For being good children
- 12.** Royal herbs
- 13.** Who would you give your last one to?
- 14.** Mother's local
- 15.** Endurance test

16. Nearly between two
17. Pirates' loot
18. Bovine peepers
19. Belly dance perhaps?
20. All sorts of girls

SCORING

Give yourself 1 point for each correct answer, so you will have a total out of 20. Then compare your score to these ratings:

21+ — You've cheated! The maximum is 20...

17-20 — You are a quiz expert with a sweet tooth! :-)

13-16 — Well done: you know a lot of sweets

9-12 — A credible attempt; a visit to your local confectioner would help!

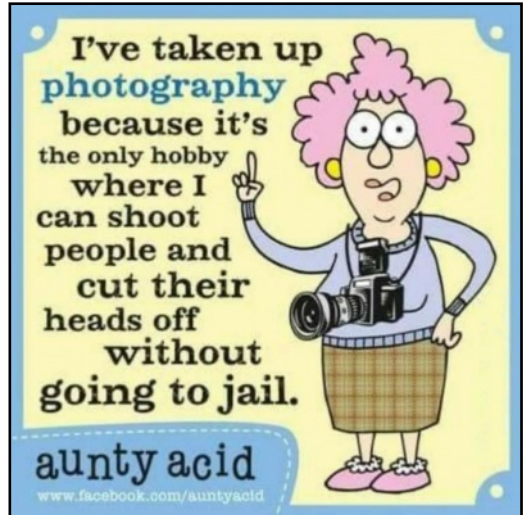
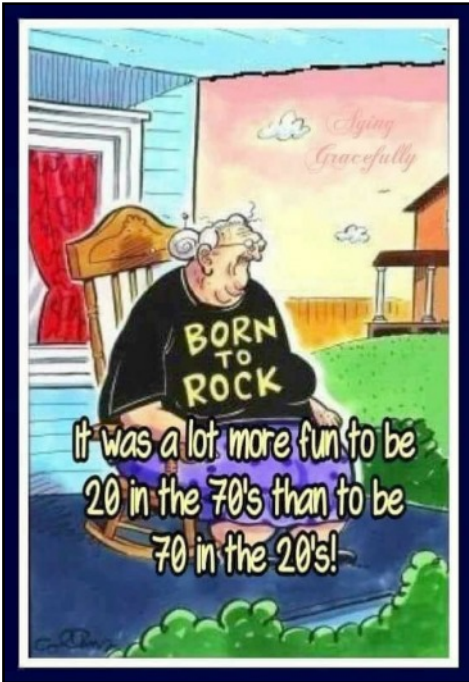
8 or less — You don't like sweets, do you? You obviously prefer the savoury snacks!



(NB: Inclusion of a type of sweet here does not imply an answer!)

History Group

As you will already be aware, thanks to Dave's regular 'Keepin In Touch' email missives, things are still awaiting final decisions being made. Dave did include some thoughts concerning starting back up again and the possibility of it being once a month. There is nothing else new to report, but Dave did provide some humour (as always). Until next time...



Dave Sutcliffe

Social Cycling Group

What a great year so far for our cycling group activity. We will have completed at least 11 rides by the time you read this article. Our twice-monthly rides with the obligatory café stop have taken us to a variety of locations, including such diverse-sounding eateries as *Sweet Little Café*, *Sudbury* to *The Trough*, *Grangewood*, each and all cafés having the highest quality of food and service. And I hasten to add, the weather for all these rides has been very kind to us.

The Social Cycling Group, co-ordinated by **Peter Wildsmith** with *Jan Dingley* as *Route Planner*, has a loyal membership which indisputably benefits from the health and social aims we set out to achieve.

We have recently introduced a little variety to our activity in the shape of a 'Mystery Ride', where the specific details of the café destination is not revealed to our members before hand. Our first mystery ride (30th June) took us to the *Stenson Bubble Coffee Shop*, a lovely little haven by the Stenson Lock in Derbyshire. A particularly intriguing ride for the members as we passed by two of our better known café stops en route throwing the members off the scent and increasing the mystique! To date the group has completed at least 130 miles on this year's rides, with the average return mileage of around 14 miles.

Hot off the press, we now have our own Social Cycling Group sport tee-shirts produced in the re-branded u3a colours of white on royal blue, highlighting our own identity within the u3a and the cycling community. Look out for us – better still, why not join us!



This photo was taken in June at The Mad Hatter's café, Findern (a pleasant little watering hole by the canal and railway line). It just so happens that I am wearing one of these brand new official u3a tee-shirts, and some of our members are wearing their medals for participating in the *St. Giles Hospice 'Cycle Spring' fundraiser event*.

Peter Wildsmith

Short Walks Group

As the sun came out, there was a hunger for walking as Covid restrictions were eased.

Our first meeting after lockdown in June attracted 35 walkers who met at *Newton Solney*. Our walk took us a 3½ mile round trip to *Winshill* and return.

A sunny day in July attracted even more who met at *Fradley Junction* on the *Trent & Mersey canal* to walk to *Alrewas* and then over fields and back via the *Coventry Canal*.

Inclement August weather did not put off the 22 members who tried a new 3¼ mile route from *Conkers* to the hamlet of *Boothorpe* and back via *Maybury Woods*. A new territory for everyone, and an unwelcome rainstorm near the end of the walk (see *the photo below*).



We have our programme of walks all ready for the rest of the year, and if you would like to join us, you'll be most welcome. Make sure you keep your eye on the **Walks - Short** page of the *Burton U3A website* <https://u3asites.org.uk/burton-on-trent/page/12619> where all of the details will be posted for future walks just as soon as they become available.

The Short Walks Group meet on the first Friday of each month. We walk about 3 miles, always starting at 10am. The coordinator is Mike Payne who can be contacted via the blue bird on the web site.

Mike Payne

Luncheon Group

The Luncheon Club meets once per month (except July and August) on various days of the week at 12 midday. We visit a variety of hotels and restaurants to cater for all tastes. For further details of the arranged lunches you can telephone **01283 516585**.

Please do not attend a lunch without prior booking. We require non-refundable payment in full at time of booking. You can arrange for another member to take your place - please inform the coordinator if this is the case using the above telephone number. Payment, preferably by cheque, should be made payable to **Burton-on-Trent u3a**.

Wed 29th Sept: Dovecliff Hall - Afternoon Tea - 3pm - SOLD OUT

Mon 25th Oct: The Boars Head, Sudbury - Booking Now Open
Please make cheque for £20 payable to Burton-on-Trent u3a

Thu 25th Nov: The Mulberry Restaurant - Booking from mid-September
Cost and menu later

Tue 21st Dec: The Old Vicarage, Branston
Book your place with £20 non-refundable deposit from 1st June
Cheque payable to Burton-on-Trent u3a

Thu 27th Jan 2022: 99 Station Street (award-winning restaurant)
£30 - non-refundable payment in full at time of booking
Menu nearer the date



U3A and the Pandemic

We know that members want to take part in activities safely, so we thought it would be helpful to share the advice provided by the *National Office*.

Advice on participation in u3a activities and Covid-19 tests

Whilst we anticipate that many u3a interest groups will resume some level of face to face activity, some members of u3as remain concerned about the pandemic and we see some businesses and service providers are now intending to retain or introduce additional safety measures for usage. The Trust has taken advice on what u3as may do.

The starting point for all advice to u3as is that at all times you must follow the advice given by the government. In addition you must ensure that a risk assessment check is undertaken before commencing any u3a group activity and you should share this with your committee. Additionally, all members should be encouraged to self assess for symptoms of Coronavirus before attending a group.

There are some queries regarding additional measures that go beyond the relevant government advice. These are laid out below. Each u3a must make its own decision whether it wishes to require any additional measures or use a facility that requires additional measures over and above the relevant government advice. If a u3a decides to impose additional measures the committee should note the measures in a committee meeting, giving a full explanation for them, and detailing how they relate to the risk assessment that has resulted in imposing them.

Can a venue impose a requirement that all participants using the venue have a clear Covid test before using the facilities?

Yes the venue can undertake a health and safety risk assessment and introduce measures that they feel will reduce the risk of transmission of Covid and include this as a requirement.

Can a u3a lawfully run the event without contravening our constitutions or any equality legislation in a venue that imposes such restrictions?

Yes it is possible to use that venue. The reason is that the policy of requiring participants to provide a clear Covid test within 48 hours of attending the event is unlikely to constitute indirect discrimination or disability discrimination. The owner/operator is entitled to put in

place reasonably practicable controls and measures to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus, even if these are more onerous than the requirements specified by HM Government or the Health & Safety Executive, so long as they amount to proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim, the aim in this case being to protect against Covid-19.

The policy is a general one, rather than targeted, and most, if not all, delegates should be capable of taking a test. Whilst the policy is clearly a robust control measure, it is unlikely to be seen as disproportionate given the significant risks posed by coronavirus or discriminatory and therefore unlawful. The position would be different if the owner/operator of the venue only permitted participants who had been vaccinated. This would not comply with equality of access.

Would we have to require the participants to provide the venue with their details of a Covid free test directly?

The answer is yes given that u3as are not authorised to process or store personal sensitive data. The trustee / u3a committee member who is arranging the event or use of the space should speak to the venue owner/operator to understand the procedures in place to be able to advise participants what they have to do.

If a u3a required Covid clear testing proof prior to getting on a coach, or attending an interest group in a home or in hall, (in other words the request was from one of our charities rather than the venue or the coach provider) would the u3a charity be entitled to impose this restrictions under the same H&S and equality legislation?

Yes a u3a could do this.

If they are entitled would they be allowed to show evidence of a clear test to the group leader (eg like showing a passport at customs control) on the basis it would only be shown and not collected or stored on any data base?

Yes a u3a could do this.

Can a u3a impose a requirement that all participants attending an interest group MUST have either a clear Covid test OR proof of both vaccinations before participating?

The u3a must in any event follow all government guidance on Covid such as social distancing. And they must follow the normal risk assessments when considering the health and safety of an event.

However if they decide, in addition, to introduce a rule that required each u3a member to show on entry to an activity that they had either proof of vaccination or a clear Covid test on the basis they wished to minimise the possibility of transmission infection in this age group mainly 70 plus then this is advised to be acceptable under equality legislation as long as the rule applies to all members.

Can it also apply to outdoor activity?

A u3a must still go through the same process, follow the relevant government guidance and undertake a risk assessment.

If under the outdoor activity risk assessment they still feel this is important to minimise the risk transmission and have noted that this is a risk in the operation of that interest group, then they may adopt the same approach. This would require a rule that required each u3a member to show on entry to an activity that they had either proof of vaccination or a clear Covid test on the basis they wished to minimise the possibility of transmission infection in this age group (mainly 70 plus). This is advised to be acceptable under equality legislation as long as the rule applies to all members.

Where can I get hold of Lateral Flow Test kits?

You can obtain Lateral Flow Test kits from pharmacies, community centres, such as libraries, or from a test centre. In addition you can order test kits online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

List of Groups

This is a complete list of the currently active groups, when they are and who the coordinator is, when this information is available. If you require further information, please refer to the Contact Information on page 2.

Name	When?	Coordinator
Antiquarian (pre-1750)	4th Wednesday am	Gill
Art	Wednesday pm weekly	Mark Frost
Art Appreciation	3rd Wednesday am	Christina
Ballroom Dancing	Friday pm weekly	N/A
Books & Poetry	1st & 3rd Tuesday pm	Terri Jolland
Bridge	Tuesday pm weekly evening	N/A
Canasta	Friday pm weekly	N/A
Computers	2nd Tuesday pm	See ad, p.11
Craft	1st Wednesday pm	Joan Bullock
Cribbage	2nd & 4th Wednesday pm	N/A
Crown Green Bowls Friday	Friday pm weekly April-Sept	Rosemary
Crown Green Bowls Tues	Tuesday pm weekly April-Sept	Rosemary
Discussion	4th Monday pm evening	N/A
French 1 Advanced	Monday pm weekly	Margaret Clarke
French 2 Beginners	Tuesday am weekly	N/A
French 3 Intermediate	Thursday pm weekly	Paul Allard
French 4 Intermediate	Monday pm weekly	Amanda McGreal
Gardening	1st Monday pm	See p.7
German Conversation	Wednesday pm weekly	N/A
Historic Churches	3rd Thursday am	N/A
History	2nd & 4th Thursday am	Dave
Jazz Group	Tuesday pm weekly	Sandra Dewsberry
Line Dancing	Monday pm weekly	N/A
Luncheon Group	Monthly various days	N/A
Music Appreciation	3rd Friday am	Mark Siner
Philosophy	4th Tuesday am	Graham
Photography 1	1st & 3rd Wednesday am	N/A
Photography 4	2nd Thursday am	N/A
Reading Shakespeare	Monday am weekly	Audrey Morgan

(Continued overleaf)

Name	When?	Coordinator
Rummikub	Monday pm weekly	N/A
Science for All	3rd Friday am	N/A
Singing For Pleasure	Monday pm weekly	Margaret
Social Activities	Various	N/A
Social Cycling	1st & 3rd Wed am Spring-Autumn	N/A
Social Whist	1st & 3rd Wednesday pm	N/A
Spanish	Monday am weekly	Julie
Sunday Lunch	Sunday pm monthly	NEW! Details TBA
Ukulele for Fun	1st & 3rd Thursday pm	Sandra Dewsberry
Walks - Challenging	Last Thursday am of month	Herb
Walks - Long	2nd Friday am	Herb
Walks - Short	1st Friday am	Mike
Wine Appreciation	Last Tuesday evening of month	Mike Knowles

Please bear in mind that details can change for a variety of reasons so always ensure that you contact the group coordinator before making any arrangements.

Sudoku Puzzle

To challenge those grey cells - the answer will be in the next edition!

7	9	4			8			
					5		8	
6					9			1
					6	9		5
	2		3			7		
2	7		4				9	
	5	9			1			
	8					4		

The Committee

Chairman: Pat Chamberlain — *chairmanbotu3a@gmail.com*

Vice Chair: Christine Davenport — *vchairbotu3a@gmail.com*

Secretary: Lesley Bayston — *secretarybotu3a@gmail.com*

Treasurer: Basil Armett — *treasurerbotu3a@gmail.com*

Interest Group Secretary: Janet Heckle —
groupssecretarybotu3a@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Mary Corbett —
membershipsecretarybotu3a@gmail.com

Events Secretary: Mary Corbett — *eventsbotu3a@gmail.com*

Communications: Christine Davenport —
communicationsbotu3a@gmail.com

Web Page Coordinator: Lesley Bayston — *webpagebotu3a@gmail.com*

Beacon Coordinator: Chrys Smedley — *beaconbotu3a@gmail.com*

Newsletter Editor: Bimal Jangra — *newsletterbotu3a@gmail.com*

Publicity Officer: Bimal Jangra — *publicitybotu3a@gmail.com*

Committee Member: Tim Salmon

Other Non-Committee Roles

Accessibility Officer: Basil Armett — *accessibilitybotu3a@gmail.com*

Welfare Officer: Pat Chamberlain

Zoom Officer: Pat Chamberlain



Newsletter Quiz Answers

1. Jelly Babies
2. Smarties
3. Buttons
4. After Eight's
5. Black Magic
6. Wine Gums
7. Pear Drops
8. Polo
9. All Gold
10. Edinburgh Rock
11. Toots
12. Mint Imperials
13. Rolo
14. Mars Bar
15. Marathon (old name of Snickers)
16. Twix
17. Bounty
18. Bulls Eyes
19. Turkish Delight
20. Dolly Mixtures