

# Burton u3a

## Autumn 2024 Newsletter



**Registered Charity Number 1146122**

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There are lots of ways for you to contact your u3a: all of the *Committee members* have email addresses which are listed on the **Inside Back Cover**. 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 X (formerly *Twitter*), to follow us please use **@burtonu3a**

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



## From The Chair



I hope you enjoyed the Summer, but I hope you didn't blink and miss it! Certainly as far as the British weather is concerned, it seems to be even more unpredictable than we have come to expect. Whether that is down to global warming or not, I cannot say, but it definitely keeps us all guessing. I can't remember the last time we had thunder storms in August...

At least things are far more predictable where your u3a is concerned. We have our *Autumn Talk & Tea* coming up (*all of the details are on page 17*), and then our regular quiz is in October, and before you know it, it will be time for our annual *Christmas Party* at the Pirelli Stadium. Your first opportunity to purchase tickets for the party will be at the Talk & Tea, yet another benefit of supporting our events! After that, the tickets will be available at the regular *Burton u3a Coffee Mornings* on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at *Caffe Centro* in Cooper's Square, Burton, on a first come, first served basis as usual.

Our number of groups continues to steadily increase, and thanks to the dedicated group leaders, you now have a greater selection of topics to browse through than ever before. My grateful thanks to all of them – they form the essential hub for all of our activities, and I must echo Michael Bartlett's words on page 21: if you could help with the running of the Gardening Group, it would be very much appreciated.

From snippets of conversations I hear, I know many of you book your holidays with **Riviera Travel** (*the long established Burton company*). Did you know that if you book your holiday and mention Burton u3a **WHEN BOOKING** then they will make a donation towards our funds? Every little helps!!

Best wishes,

*Mike*

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

The deadline for Winter 2024 contributions is **31st October 2024!**



## *Dodgy Dave's Corner*

Hi Everyone! By the time you read this, Summer will well and truly have gone. As my friend Pete, from Ashbourne, likes to say, *Summer is his favourite day of the year*. This year we were quite lucky: it came in on Friday 21st June. I remember it so well: it was the first time I was able to wear my summer jacket on patrol without a fleece for both the morning *and* afternoon

shifts, and then it hung on until the 26th before fading away. It then reappeared on Thursday 18th July but by the weekend it had, again, faded away. Granted we have had a glimpse of the sun now and then and the temperatures have been warmer, but not enough to send us hurtling off to the beach, though a whole bunch of hopeful u3a people did climb on a coach for a day in Llandudno. I wonder how that went?

So, back to Ashbourne and my friend Pete and I sitting under that lovely old oak tree in the pub garden. It must be centuries old, the tree not the pub, just cogitating over the events of the last few months. You have to admit we have been living through some pretty exciting times this Summer, what with elections and 'changes' and Trump and ongoing wars, raining on the Olympics ceremony and raising the flag upside down, and it has to make you think what is the matter with the human race? Well, my friend Pete seems to have hit the nail right on the thumb when he says, "I think the earth must be the asylum for the universe. Why else would we have so many 'loonies' in our midst? I reckon it's those UFO things that keep coming by, they just drop these people off, and it's no coincidence that people keep asking, '*What planet have you come from?*'"

Now you have admit, Pete thinks pretty deep. Me, I am more on the level of wondering how come I never see anyone with the same refrigerator as ours. Which then makes me wonder if I have got the right one and so it goes on: the same stove, oven, TV, etc. and people wonder why I have anxiety symptoms, which then brings me back to the question '*What planet have I come from?*'

Worried that I think I am '*going round the bend*' I thought I had better see a psychiatrist before I went completely bonkers. You know what her first remark was? Yes, you have hit the nail right on the thumb again: "*Which planet have you been on?*"

When I told Pete he patted me on the back and said "Never mind, remember, blessed is he who runs round in circles for he shall be

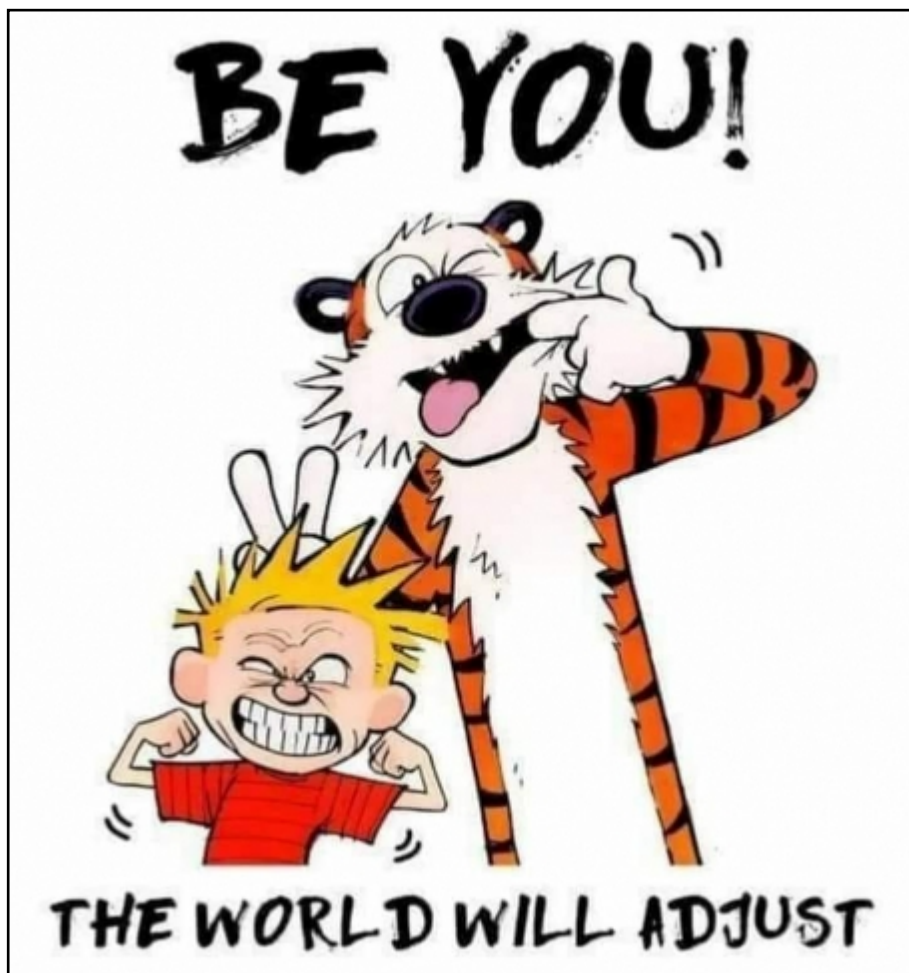
known as a big wheel” (Verse 22 in the first book of *Bicycles* starting at the first ‘spoke’ if you want to look it up) which went down well until on the way home I witnessed what male dogs do to wheels!

Ah, well, I hope you have all enjoyed the Summer and survived your “grandparent duties”.

Now just remember, if you do not want snow in October, or even early November, don’t put up your Christmas decorations before December and for goodness sake stop singing: we have had enough rain!

Cheers!

## *Dodgy Dave*



# **Farewell to Our Conductor:**

## **Paul Retires After Years of Dedication**

Monday 8th July was our Summer Concert where plenty of u3a members came to hear us sing at St Mary's Church Hall, Stretton. However, this concert held a bittersweet note. It marked the end of an era – the final performance under the baton of our esteemed conductor, Paul. After years of tireless dedication, Paul has decided to retire, leaving behind a legacy of beautiful music and cherished memories.

### **A Musical Journey**

Paul's tenure as our conductor has been nothing short of remarkable. His patient guidance and unwavering commitment transformed a group of enthusiastic amateurs into a harmonious choir. Together, we learned countless songs, each note infused with Paul's passion and expertise.

From classical compositions to contemporary ballads, Paul led us through a diverse repertoire. His infectious enthusiasm inspired us to reach new heights, and we sang our hearts out under his watchful eye.

### **A Fond Farewell**

As the final notes of our Summer Concert echoed through the hall, we gathered to honour Paul. The presentation was heartfelt – a mix of gratitude, nostalgia, and well-wishes. Tears welled up in many eyes as we expressed our appreciation for his leadership.

"Paul," said one member, "you've been more than a conductor to us. You've been a mentor, a friend, and a guiding light. Thank you for sharing your talent and passion with us."


### **Seeking a New Maestro**

With Paul's departure, the Burton u3a Choir faces a challenge: finding a worthy successor. We invite anyone with a love for music and a knack for conducting to consider taking up the baton. Our rehearsals take place every Monday from 2 to 4pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Stretton.

If you know someone who could step into Paul's shoes, please reach out. Together, we can continue making beautiful music and honouring the legacy he leaves behind.

### **A Grateful Encore**

As we bid farewell to Paul, our hearts are full of gratitude. His dedication, patience, and unwavering belief in our abilities have left an indelible mark on our choir. We wish him well in this new chapter of his life.

Thank you, Paul, for the music. 

**Jane Hance, *Burton u3a Choir member***



## Bridge and the Market Hall

The Friday morning Bridge Group is building slowly and now has about 16/17 names onboard. This is not bad from a standing start – but new members are needed, and anyone, even if you have never played before, is welcome.

### Dispelling Myths about Bridge

1: *I will look silly amongst experienced players* – No one will ever look silly, for the simple reason is that even experienced players make lots of errors! Everyone helps everyone! I must add that I make more errors than most!

2: *I have never played before, so no one will want to partner me* – This will not happen, as we give tuition to everyone, and we ensure that everyone has a partner.

3: *I do not have a regular partner, so will not be welcome* – We make sure that everyone has a partner, and no one is left out.

4: *It looks too serious and complicated* – Bridge has lots of levels, even internationals. The current group plays for fun and enjoyment, so it is never “too heavy”!

5: *I do not know if the game is for me* – Come along and try! We will always make you welcome and do some teaching and explaining, or just sit and watch if you prefer.

6: *I can only make occasional Fridays so this might not be suitable* – This is not a problem as not everyone will turn up each week. We will

welcome anyone, regardless of experience.

### **The Market Hall**

I am new to Burton, but folks have told me that the hall used to be thriving, but due to lots of influences has lost its appeal. I believe it is a *listed building*, so cannot be knocked down, and at present they are trying to make it a “community type” building and encourage people to use it.

This suits the *Bridge Group* as we are not charged a single penny! We use the tables supplied by the café so the only price is to buy something from the café – and the prices and variety of fayre are excellent.

There were 4 of us who met each Friday morning originally, and then it was suggested that the u3a would be keen to be involved, as the original group had disbanded due to Covid, so hence here we are! The original group have now joined Burton u3a, and the café are also advertising the Bridge, so hopefully we may encourage more members.

**Neil Anokhina, Group Leader**

## **Art Appreciation**

Our group continues to grow and we have had some interesting talks and presentations.

At the beginning of the year we had a talk on *Emily Carr*, Canada’s foremost female artist. Other talks included the German artist *Caspar David Friedrich* and a really interesting photographic tour of the Alte Pinakothek in Munich.

We meet on the *3rd Thursday of each month* and new members are always welcome. Our friendly group meet at *Anslow Village Hall* between 10–12 noon and there is free car parking right outside. We usually have a break halfway through for tea/coffee. Admission is £2.

You do not have to be an expert but just have an interest or curiosity about Art in general, both traditional and/or modern. If you are interested, please contact *Christina* via the blue bird icon on our page on the Burton u3a website.

Details of our meetings for the rest of the year are:

19th Sep – *Members Favourite / Interesting Paintings*

17th Oct – *Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera*

21st Nov – *Looking at Abstract Art*



### Paintings from top left

Emily Carr “*Vanquished*” 1930

Peder Severin Krøyer “*Hip, Hip, Hurrah!*” 1888

Joan Miró “*Bird in Front of The Horizon*” 1976

## Wine Not?

The old adage of “*A good wine is a wine that YOU enjoy*” has never been truer, as the members of Wine Not? continued to exhibit different views on the 15 different wines sampled from 3 very different countries on 3 different continents.

May found us in *South Africa* where we started the evening with a Graham Beck Brut sparkling wine. This wine is affectionately known as the ‘*President’s Choice*’ because it was served at both Nelson Mandela’s inauguration and Barack Obama’s presidential win. It’s made with the *Méthode Cap Classique* – a style identical to the traditional method used to make Champagne and it was very well received by our discerning tasters! This was followed by a Pinotage, the signature red grape of South Africa, which has a reputation among wine drinkers and producers as something of a Marmite wine. *Either you love it or you hate it!* We sampled it in both it’s rosé and red styles. This was followed by a Chenin Blanc, the signature white grape of South Africa and a Cape Blend, a red wine which aims to rival the blended wines of Bordeaux.

In June, we returned to Europe to taste some German wines. The vast majority of Germany's vineyards are situated in the south-west of the country with a cool continental climate and are almost as far north as grapes can be persuaded to ripen. In fact, we started the evening by hopping across the border into Alsace and popping the cork of a sparkling wine in the form of a Crémant d'Alsace. Once again, the sparkling wine was very well received by all. We then moved on to a Riesling Spätlese where the sweeter wine resulting from the late-harvested grapes was just a little too sweet to appeal to those of us used to dryer styles of white wine. Next were a rosé and a red Spätburgunder, better known outside of Germany as Pinot Noir.

A wet start to July in the UK saw us searching for some much-needed sunshine which we found in the wines of California. A high price Chardonnay received very average reviews from our tasters and an equally expensive Cabernet Sauvignon from the world-famous Napa Valley was enjoyed by many but not all. In a similar vein, a Zinfandel had some in raptures but was not to everyone's taste.

In August we'll have been staying close to home, digging slightly deeper into our pockets and exploring the exciting world of English wine!

**Chris Macaré, *Group Leader***

## Historic Churches

Since our last newsletter report we have again been welcoming new members to the group, and have visited three very different churches.

We visited *St Saviour's, Foremark*, in May. This was a small and dark but very interesting church, having retained its original interior, including a triple-decker pulpit and box pews, since it was built in the 1660s.

In complete contrast our June visit was to '*Pugin's Gem*' – *St Giles Church in Cheadle*. Several of our group had not visited it before, and there was an audible gasp when Fr Kemball switched on the lights, and the beautiful highly-coloured decoration could be seen at its best (*see top of next page*).



Our most recent visit, in July, was to *St Mary's, Dunstall* which turned out to be another 'gem' – a small but beautiful church. The chancel walls were made of local alabaster, from Fauld, and was very striking, and there were some lovely stained-glass windows. There was an equally lovely



church hall next door, where we enjoyed delicious cake with our coffee! Two of our future visits will be to *All Saints* in *Findern* and *St Peter's* in *Marchington*.

If you've not been on a Historic Churches visit do consider it. Most of the people who give the talks are volunteers who have a passion for their own church. We learn some

interesting facts and frequently a quirk that many would not notice or be aware of. It is fascinating spending time inside a building that we possibly have passed regularly. Visits are on the *3rd Thursday of the month* and we usually pay £1.50, with a donation for refreshments.

If you think you'd like to join us or if you'd like further information about the group, do get in touch with the leaders via the blue bird on our website page.

**Sue Fraser and Helen Barnett,**  
**Group Leaders**



## **Festival 24 at York**

After getting in touch with Head Office with the pictures of the "*Painting for Beginners*" exhibition at Burton Library, Head Office got back to me and told me I had missed the publication date. Two weeks later, they got in



touch with me and asked if I would like to be a tutor at the *Festival 24*, starting on Thursday 18th July. I told them that I would be very pleased to do so. I explained that my classes are for people who would like to paint but think they can't: I didn't want anyone who had been painting for 3 or 4 years.

I drove up to York University on the Thursday, got my equipment

out of my car and put it into my store cupboard, ready to be set up in the morning. *Margaret Fiddes (one of the organisers of this event)* told me I was very popular as all my classes were fully booked: Friday morning at 9:00am, my first class had 23 instead of 16 'pupils'. It was a two and a half hour class and they all enjoyed it: they even gave me a standing ovation. One lady that evening told me that I had changed her life. "*My daughter paints and has always been on to me to do so; I didn't think I could but you have shown me that I can. Thank you.*"

My second class should have been 16 again, but I had 20. After the class, two ladies (*one from Belper and the other one from Derby*) stayed and had a chat. The lady from Derby u3a wants me to go over to Derby and do a painting class with her class, who are studying French Painters (*Monet and Rembrandt*) and if I could use the technique I used in York, to do one of their paintings, that would help the class. I am waiting for a date from this lady.

**Barry Appleby, "Painting for Beginners" Group Leader**



## History Group

*History is awesome!* Just think about it, everything we humans have ever done is History! Incredible events and achievements, bravery, humility and self-sacrifice beyond belief. Then there are the little fascinating details of how come the street you are travelling down got its name, or how come you happen to be here? Do you know where the term "*Son of a Gun*" comes from?

The range of topics is just amazing, so why not treat yourself to one of our talks and see if it gets you off on an adventure into History; not the way you did it in school, but actually getting involved in the characters or events. Better still, if you have a story to tell please let us know so we can make a spot for you. We are always looking for speakers.

12 This summer many of the group had the pleasure of joining members

of the *Burton Civic Society* for some fascinating walks around Burton where *Richard Stone* and his colleagues told us of many places of historical interest.

Our group is like the cinema: if there is a topic you think might interest you just come along. We have no limit on members and everyone belonging to the u3a is welcome. You are even welcome to bring a friend for a 'taster' and let's see if we can get them interested in joining.

We meet on the *2nd Thursday of every month* between 10:00 and 12:00 in the room at the rear of Riverside Church on the High Street, almost opposite the entrance to Meadowside. Just follow the little footpath down the left hand side of the Church to the door at the end of the path and come in.

Entry is still £2 per member; after that all you need is your membership card.

We stop around half time for a tea/coffee and biscuit break, and it is only 20p, the best value you will get anywhere! And the company is also great.

Our remaining dates for 2024 are listed below, with some great speakers and topics lined up. Our *complete 2024 programme* is shown on our webpage, so you can see the type of topics covered in a whole year. So please come along!

12th September – *David Skillen* – “Their Finest Hour – How and Why the RAF won the Battle of Britain”

10th October – *Shirley Horton* – “Crossing Places: the History behind the Many Paths and Bye-ways of Our Area”

14th November – *Richard Stone* – “The Body Snatchers: a grave concern”

**Dave (Sutcliffe) and Dave (Barker), Group Leaders**

## **Taster Session for Line Dancing**

Thank you to everyone who emailed me to show an interest in the one-off Taster Session for Line Dancing. This will take place at:

**Brook House Guide Headquarters, 18 Shobnall Road**

**25th September from 2 till 3:30pm**

**All Members are Welcome to Attend!**

**Janet Brown, Group Leader**

## Social Activities

At the time of going to press we are looking forward to a weekend in *Sunderland* including the fabulous *Kynren Spectacle*. We also have a day trip to Llandudno (*don't forget your buckets and spades*). Our plans for the rest of the year are as follows.

### Monday 23rd September

*Trip to Bakewell Market*

Cost **£20** (*Coach & Driver's Tip*)

*Deadline for booking was Friday 23rd August*

**Contact Michael Bartlett**

### Wednesday 23rd October

*Leicester / Richard III Exhibition*

Cost **£30** (*Coach & Driver's Tip & Entry to Exhibition*)

*Deadline for booking Tuesday 10th September*

**Contact Dianne Brewster**

### Thursday 14th November

*Chester / Christmas Market*

Cost **£29** (*Coach & Driver's Tip*)

*Deadline for booking Tuesday 8th October*

**Contact Margaret Hulcoup**

### Wednesday 8th January 2025

*Pantomime "Peter Pan" at Birmingham Hippodrome*

Cost **£55** (*Coach & Driver's Tip & Ticket*)

*Deadline for booking TBC*

**Contact Michael Bartlett**

**Please note:** All of the above require a minimum of 30 participants to be viable. *We have had to cancel 2 trips this year due to a lack of support.* This is disappointing for those who wanted to go and disheartening for the organisers. We try to arrange outings which are interesting/affordable and varied. We welcome suggestions from members so please support us.

On this note, a trip to **Thursford** has been arranged *in response to requests* from members, but we need **at least 6 more participants** to be able to run this:

### Sunday 1st–Monday 2nd December

*Thursford Christmas Spectacular*

Enjoy the show, stay overnight in *Norwich*, and visit the *Christmas Market* before returning to *Burton*

Cost **£295** (+ **£28** single supplement) to include Premium Tickets for  
Thursford / Coach Travel / Dinner, Bed & Breakfast in Norwich / time in  
Norwich / Lunch on the return journey  
Deadline: as soon as possible  
Contact **Dianne Brewster**

## **A Little Poem For Seniors, so true it hurts!**

Another year has passed  
And we're all a little older.  
Last summer felt hotter  
And winter seems much colder.

We used to go to weddings,  
Football games and lunches...  
Now we go to funeral homes  
And after-funeral brunches.

We used to often travel  
To places near and far.  
Now we get sore arses  
From riding in the car.

There was a time not long ago  
When life was quite a blast.  
Now I fully understand  
About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go out dining,  
And couldn't get our fill.  
Now we ask for doggie bags,  
Come home and take a pill.

We used to go to nightclubs  
And drink a little booze.  
Now we stay home at night  
And watch the evening news.

**That, my friend is how life is,  
And now my tale is told.  
So, enjoy each day and live it up...  
Before you're too damned old!**

*Thank you to Jane Hance for bringing this to us – I'm sure we can all empathise with the sentiments expressed, and I for one am doing my best to live it up at every opportunity I get! But then again I did use to play in rock bands so I know about that! Bimal, Editor*

## **Walking Football Group**

The beautiful game continues to grace the Meadowside Leisure every Thursday. Our enthusiastic u3a squad is gradually growing and each week they apply, and slowly improve, their silky skills!

Mindful of our advancing years, we (*fairly*) diligently enjoy a gentle warm-up before playing a friendly, yet competitive game peppered by the occasional much needed water break. Afterwards, we recover over a post-match

coffee at the café.

Learning to walk, rather than run, was a challenge at the start for some; it is surprising how energetic fast-walking is! (*Race-Walking is still an Olympic Sport, though we haven't yet achieved the 9 mph of the top walkers without being 'called' for running!*)

We're a friendly group of men and women, who almost never argue with the refereeing decisions! A very wide range of footballing skills are on display. We laugh at our occasional failures but are ever keen to applaud good play. Whilst the Sports Hall is our home ground, we are also playing outdoors for the month of August on an artificial pitch. Let's hope that the warm, dry, halcyon summers of our youth shine on us again!

If you fancy a game, why not give us a go? You may be surprised at how quickly your forgotten footie skills come flooding back, or you may just enjoy a good laugh in good company..!

*This report was kindly written by **Chris (Nobby Styles) Pace***

**Chris Macare, Group Leader**



## **Badminton Group**

Our Badminton Group has continued to thrive over the summer. It's been warm but we've stuck it out!

In fact, the Monday groups are full on two Mondays of the month. There are only one or two gaps left. Fridays have several vacant spots, so if you'd like to give us a try then Friday is a good bet.

Skills vary greatly but everyone is welcome regardless... don't feel

that you might not be up to it!

Groups meet up afterwards for a drink in the Meadowside café.

A regular bonus is that where there is a 5th Monday or Friday in the month, that session is FREE!

If you'd like to give us a go, then get in touch.

**Hugh Rodger, Group Leader**

## Events for Your Diary

**Thursday 5th Sept 2pm** – A talk on *Guide Dogs for the Blind* by *Gill & Jim Grainger*, from puppy raising to guide dog retirement; a well-behaved puppy will also be present! *Tickets will be available for the Christmas Party!* Come to *Riverside Church* as usual.

**Thursday 24th Oct 2pm** – **Autumn Quiz** at *Rolleston Social Club*

**Thursday 5th Dec 2pm** – Burton on Trent u3a **Christmas Party** at the *Pirelli Stadium* – Further details will be available nearer to the date.

## Len Davey: Go North, young Man!



To paraphrase a quotation from the 19th century, our stalwart *Rummikub Group Leader*, Len Davey has now left Burton to re-locate near his daughter in Darlington.

Len's history in Burton goes back to 2013 when having originally moved from London, he eventually came to Burton, joining the u3a and then became Leader of the aforementioned group in 2014. He led the Rummikub Group up until the end of June of this year, the very example of what epitomises the character and principle of u3a: '*Learn, Laugh, Live*'.

Having 'palled-up' with Len in 2021, I found him to be years younger than his, now 93 years. Mobility and hearing loss issues have been less friendly to him in recent years, but his cheerful and indomitable spirit has been an inspiration. I'm sure those who knew Len will miss him, as I will, and we send him our best wishes as he settles in 'up North'. (*Photo: Portmeirion: Llandudno u3a holiday 2023*)

**Peter Wildsmith**

# The Bible's '3-Rs': Writings, Writers and Readers

As a new group, of nine to ten participants so far, that began meeting in June, we are focused on the literature of the Bible in both the New Testament and the Old Testament.

Our group meetings are 'discussional' in form and include leader-led presentations and question and answer sessions. You don't need Greek and Hebrew to be a participant in this group. But you will be given help in the form of a book along with additional notes for reading the texts in English.

We are learning that few readers today are reading these writings in the ways that the writers intended. The same is true even among scholars in the church and academia! This started eighteen-hundred years ago it seems, when New

Testament texts began to be translated from the Greek into Latin and Old Syriac. Unsurprisingly, therefore, we are coming across texts that are still waiting to be read and understood as the writers intended!

We are discerning the rules to which the writings were written. And we are beginning to read the texts, not to 'chapter and verse' which was imposed on the texts over eight-hundred years ago, but to the structure and style of the original texts.

The group meets on the *3rd Thursday of the month* at 1:30pm for a couple of hours in the Group Leader's home which is in Church Gresley.

The leader of the group is the Revd Dr David G Palmer, Methodist Supernumerary Minister, Architect and Scholar.

The illustration above is of the opening folio of Mark's Gospel in Codex Sinaiticus (*likely prepared in AD 331*).



**Revd Dr David G Palmer, Group Leader**

## Short Walks Group



Our group numbers continue to grow and over the last three months we have enjoyed exploring different parts of the surrounding area in much improved weather conditions.

May saw nineteen of us meeting at *Conkers* for a four mile walk around *Albert Village Lake* led by Margaret and John. It was interesting to see how the area has been restored after extensive

mining and information boards gave local history background. The lake was well populated with a variety of birds and it was good to see the trees in full foliage.

In June, Diana led fourteen of us on a 3.8 mile circular walk from *Newton Solney* to *Winshill*. On leaving the village we were soon in open countryside, following



paths through fields of wheat and barley and yet only three miles from the centre of Burton.

Twenty-four of us met in *Tutbury* in July for the *Heritage Walk* led by Val and Courtney. Following our route alongside the River Dove towards the weir we had views of the Castle perched above us. Before returning to the village along Park Lane we had fine views up the valley of the River Dove and towards the Weaver Hills.

**Sue and Paul, Group Leaders**



# Gardening Group

Since the last newsletter report we have been going out and about, visiting gardens! On a gloriously sunny day in May we spent the morning at the *Dorothy Clive Garden* near Market Drayton, which was a little steep in places. We then moved on at lunchtime to *Bridgemere Garden Centre*, which was thankfully on the level and presented many shopping opportunities.

In June we visited *Arley Hall* in Cheshire. We were blessed with another warm and sunny day. Although the Hall itself was closed on the day of our visit, we could see the chapel, and the gardens, which were very lovely and have recently featured on 'Gardeners



*World*. The café was very good, too!

Our most recent outing was in July, to *Wildegoose Nursery* near Craven Arms. This started life as a walled garden and has been transformed into a fabulous garden and nursery, one of its features being the restored Georgian curvilinear glasshouse. We enjoyed delicious cake with our coffee on arrival and had an introductory talk from the owner. At



lunchtime, after many plant purchases had been made, we moved on to *Ludlow* where we had the chance to visit the castle, the shops, the market, and some nice eateries and pubs for lunch...

In the Autumn we will be back at Rolleston Club for speaker meetings and activities, starting with another 'Harvest Festival' coffee morning on Wednesday 11th September. If you would like to know more about the programme, do get in touch via the blue bird on the u3a website.

As Sue will be stepping back from helping to coordinate the group at the end of 2024, we need to create a new 'team' to join Hazel and lead the group into the future. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has an interest in gardening, likes organising outings





and/or speakers, or is happy to help on the admin side. Do get in touch if this is something you'd like to help with – the larger the team, the smaller the task for each member! Thank you.

**Sue Fraser and Hazel Powl,  
Group Leaders**

### **New Leader Needed Urgently!**

Just to reiterate the last paragraph: this is a large and well-supported group. *Sue Fraser* is stepping down as *Group Leader* at the end of the year – it would be a tragedy if the group has to close because no one has come forward. Help can be provided – just contact **Michael Bartlett** for further details, and to have a chat about this! Thanks!

## **Long and Challenging Walks Groups**

Here are some details of our latest Long and Challenging Groups Walks during 2024... The weather conditions always seem to be the hottest topic of conversation.

Just as the dreary winter was unfolding, and we had a short break of warmth, the Arctic temperatures blew down and made us all winterise ourselves for a while before the warmth of July came to, again, give us all hope.

Long Walks took place in May from *Ticknall* and around parts of *Calke Abbey*. In June we walked from *Thornton Reservoir* and in July on the *Monks and Moorings Walk*.

The May Challenging Walk was a re-visit to *The NF Birthday Walk* from *Sence Valley*. June and July Walks were two more stages of the *Trent Valley Way*, first from *Shardlow* to *Clifton*, and then from *Clifton* to *Radcliffe on Trent*.

Fortunately, all six walks went ahead and were completed! The Spring floods had abided.

Let's look forward to more warm and dry days in the coming months, which, no doubt, will include walks in some lovely areas. Get your boots on!

Happy Hiking Everyone,

**Herb Croken, Group Leader**



## Wine Appreciation Group

Since the last newsletter the group has only met twice, as most of our members had other commitments in June, such as watching England in the Euros!

When we sample each wine, each of us shares our thoughts then scores it out of ten, and an average score is announced. As we do not discover the prices until the end of the evening, this is not allowed to affect our comments! In May, Ken introduced us to a selection of Argentinean wines, which in general were scored highly; then in July, Christina presented wines from Italy – this time not from just one region, but from various parts of the country – and these also proved to be very interesting, provoking lively discussions.





Thanks again to all the 'wine-presenters' who continue to surprise and delight us with their selections.

We currently have a waiting list of members wishing to join our group. If you would like to be added to this, or you have any other queries, please get in touch via the blue bird on the Burton u3a website.

**Sue Fraser, Group Leader**

## Jazz Group

The Jazz Group has been fortunate to have been invited to perform outside of Burton-on-Trent u3a on several occasions this year. We were asked to play for *Uttoxeter u3a* in June, which we really enjoyed. We have been asked if we will play for them again, because everyone in the audience had a good time.

Most recently, we were honoured to have been asked to play at the biennial *Alrewas Arts Festival*. We played on *Sunday 18th August* in the lovely Alrewas Methodist Church. The whole concert was video recorded by the organisers, and these videos are now available on their website at <https://www.alrewas-artsfest.co.uk/2024-festival/2024-videos> - there are also some still photos available on the same website, of which this is an example. We will also be making a return visit to the *Claymills Victorian Pumping Station* on *Sunday 29th September* after a successful gig last year.



Thank you to everyone who helps and supports the group: it is very much appreciated!



# List of Groups

The information is listed showing the **group**, **where** the group meets, **when** they meet, **who** to contact and **how** (*mobile or email*). These pieces of information are separated by forward slashes, for example:

Antiquarian / Rolleston / 4th Wed am / Gill - email only

I hope that this is easy enough to follow.

## **Group / Where / When / Name & Contact**

Antiquarian / Rolleston / 4th Wed am / Gill - email only

Art 1 / Stretton / Wed pm / Mark - email only

Art 2 / Rolleston / Mon pm / Robert - 07517 316382

Art Appreciation / Anslow / 3rd Thurs am / Christina - 07940 712416

Badminton / Meadowside / Mon am + Fri am / Hugh - email only

Ballroom Dancing / Stretton / Fri pm / Dianne - 01283 540056

Books / Stapenhill / 1st Tues pm / Jenny - 07812 104186

Bridge / Burton / Fri am / Neil - email only

Calligraphy / Stretton / Fri pm / Cherry - email only

Calligraphy 2 / Horninglow / Fri am / Cherry - email only

Canasta / Stapenhill / Fri pm / Pauline - email only

Computers / Online Help on Webpage / Bimal - email only

Craft / Burton / 1st Wed pm / Joan - email only

Cribbage / Stapenhill / 2nd & 4th Wed pm / Mary - 01283 543836

Crown Green Bowls / Stapenhill / Tues am+pm / Rosemary - 01283 561959

Crown Green Bowls / Stretton / Fri pm / Dave - email only

Cycling / Various / 1st & 3rd Wed am / Peter - 07709 713191

Cycling 2 / Various / 2nd Wed am / Jane - email only

Folk Group / Stretton / 2nd & 4th Thurs pm / Iris - email only

French Advanced / Rolleston / Mon pm / Margaret - 01283 752314

French Beginners / Stapenhill / Tues am / Kyran - 01283 701069

French Intermediate / Newton Solney / Thurs pm / Lynne - 01283 704002

French Intermediate / Various / Mon pm / Colin - email only

24      **Gardening / Various / 2nd Wed am / Sue - 07751 240918**

**German / Tutbury / Wed pm / Ruth - 01283 815866**

**Historic Churches / Various / 3rd Thurs am / Sue - 07751 240918**

**History / Burton / 2nd Thurs am / Dave - email only**

**Jazz / Rolleston / Tues pm / Sandra - 07513 989930**

**Line Dancing / Burton / Mon pm / Janet - 01283 541708**

**Lunches / Various / Monthly / Barry - 07974 203429**

**Music Appreciation / Stretton / 3rd Fri am / Mark - 01283 538591**

**Painting for Beginners / Stretton / Mon am / Barry - 07974 203429**

**Photography 1 / Various / 1st & 3rd Wed am / Vic - 01283 542910**

**Rummikub / Stapenhill / Mon pm / Jean - email only**

**Singing / Stretton / Mon pm / Margaret - 01283 520385**

**Social Activities / Various / / Dianne - 07510 327156**

**Spanish 2 / Burton / Mon am / Paul - email only**

**Sunday Lunch / Various / 2nd Sunday / Glynis - email only**

**Table Tennis / Burton / Tues pm / Chrys - email only**

**Tennis / Burton / Wed am / Malcolm - 01283 331375**

**The Bible's 3 Rs / Church Gresley / 3rd Thurs pm / David - email only**

**Ukulele / Stretton / 1st & 3rd Thurs pm / Sandra - 07513 989930**

**Walking Football / Meadowside / Thurs pm / Chris - email only**

**Walks Challenging / Various / Last Thurs am / Herb - email only**

**Walks Long / Various / 2nd Fri am / Herb - email only**

**Walks Short / Various / 1st Fri am / Sue - email only**

**Whist / Stapenhill / 1st & 3rd Wed pm / Janet - 01283 566284**

**Wine Appreciation / Stretton / Last Tues Eve / Sue - 07751 240918**

**Wine Not? / Horninglow / 2nd Mon Eve / Chris - email only**

**REMEMBER... For the most up-to-date information, contact the *Group Coordinator* via the *Burton u3a website*, using the *blue bird* on the *Group Page*. Please contact the *Group Coordinator* before attending any group for first time...**

**<https://u3asites.org.uk/burton-on-trent/groups>**



## Sudoku Puzzle

To challenge those grey (*and not so grey*) cells – the answer will again be in the next edition!

Summer 2024 Solution

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

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

# The Committee

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**Secretary:** Hugh Rodger — [secretary@botu3a.org](mailto:secretary@botu3a.org)

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**Welfare Officer:** [Mike Payne](#)

## Non-Committee Roles

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**Newsletter Editor:** Bimal Jangra — [news@botu3a.org](mailto:news@botu3a.org)

**Website Coordinator:** Bimal Jangra — [web@botu3a.org](mailto:web@botu3a.org)



***“The greatest danger for most of us  
is not that our aim is too high and we miss it,  
but that it is too low and we reach it.”  
Michelangelo***