

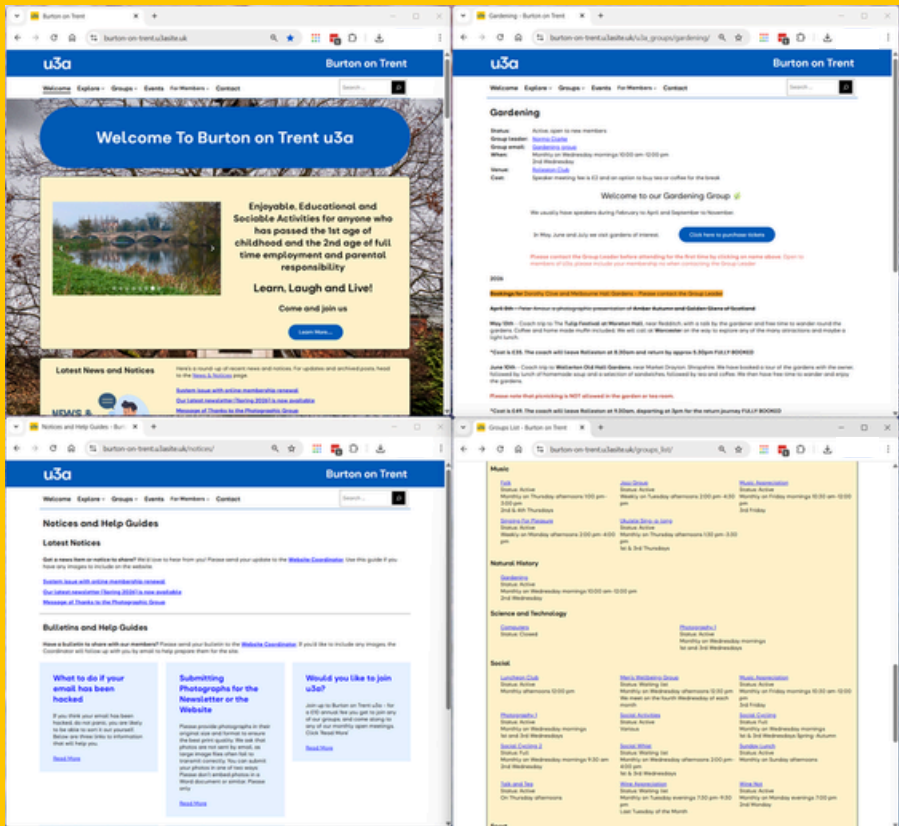


Stay connected with our u3a website

The Burton upon Trent u3a website is a simple, friendly way to keep up with everything happening across our busy u3a.

With over fifty interest groups and regular social events, it's the quickest place to check what's on, catch up on recent activities, and explore new interests.

Each group has its own page with updates and useful resources. It's easy to find – just type "burton u3a" into your search engine or go directly to burton-on-trent.u3asite.uk.



Welcome

Welcome to Burton on Trent u3a

Nestled on the banks of the River Trent, Burton upon Trent is a town steeped in history and famed for its brewing heritage. But beyond the hops and heritage, it's a vibrant community full of character, curiosity, and connection.

As Chair of Burton-on-Trent u3a, I'm proud to say our town offers the perfect setting for lifelong learning and friendship. Whether its charming market streets that draw you, its proximity to the beautiful Staffordshire countryside, or simply the warmth of its people, Burton has something for everyone.

Our u3a is here to help you make the most of it. We welcome anyone no longer in full-time employment who wants to stay active, explore new interests, and enjoy life in good company. With over 40 interest groups and a calendar full of events, there's always something happening—and always someone to share it with.

If you're new to the area or looking for a fresh start, come and join us. You'll find a friendly face, a shared laugh, and a place to belong.

Learn, Laugh, Live with Burton-on-Trent u3a.



Chrys Smedley, Burton on Trent u3a chair

We are a local charity based in Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, dedicated to providing opportunities for people who are no longer in full-time employment to stay active, connected, and curious. Our mission is simple: to encourage lifelong learning and participation in informal, enjoyable activities across a wide range of interests.

Find out more and get in touch via: burton-on-trent.u3asite.uk
Registered Charity No. 1146122

News and updates

Gladstone Pottery Museum trip

With the sunny shinning on the 5th of March, a coach load of Burton u3a members set off to The Gladstone Pottery Museum.

On arrival we all went up to the cafe a had a nice cup of tea / coffee before our guided tour of the museum, at 11.00. the guide was excellent not only showing us around but telling us tails of when Gladstone was producing. we saw how vases were made rising up from the potters wheel to become a beautiful shaped vase.

We moved on through the museum and a lady showed us how flowers were made by hand. The biggest surprise was when we went into the kiln, inside it's not anything like what you see from the outside. we were told about the many films that have been made there "The Colour Room" the story of Clarice Cliff. Episode's of Dr Who even some of the senses of Pecky Blinders. It was a full visit with everyone thoroughly enjoying their trip to the Gladstone Pottery Museum.

Barry Appleby



Craft Group

On Wednesday 1st April ten of us enjoyed making our own Scrabble pictures putting our family names or pet names on.

Joan, our group leader, brings all the craft items needed for us to do.

We meet up on the first Wednesday of each month at Brook House, 18 Shobnall Road, Burton from 2-4 pm

Jane



Music Appreciation

The Music Appreciation group reaches the landmark of a decade in operation this Summer. Technically, this was virtually unbroken, as during Covid members with listening apps were sent mini programmes to play in their own homes. All in all, over 120 programmes have now been presented!

The Group is currently full due to space/logistics limitations but a waiting list is available as spaces do arise every so often. Indeed, none of my current members are original ones, as the last of these relocated last year.

Please bear us in mind if you have any interest in listening and learning about classical music. I should add, not all selections played have been classical, as I do like to surprise!

Mark

Social Cycling 2

Ride on Wednesday, 8th April 2026

On the warmest day of the year so far, twelve cyclists set off in sunshine from Stretton to cycle to Newlands Farm Cafe, where we were joined by two more cyclists. The ride to the cafe took us via Craythorne Lane to Rolleston, Tutbury, Hatton and finally Sutton on the Hill, our destination. We sat outside in the sunshine to catch up with each other and enjoy our "coffee and cake", or toasted teacake in my case.

Afterwards we set off back to our starting point in Stretton via Sutton on the Hill, Hilton and Rolleston with cyclists leaving us at various points to return to their homes.

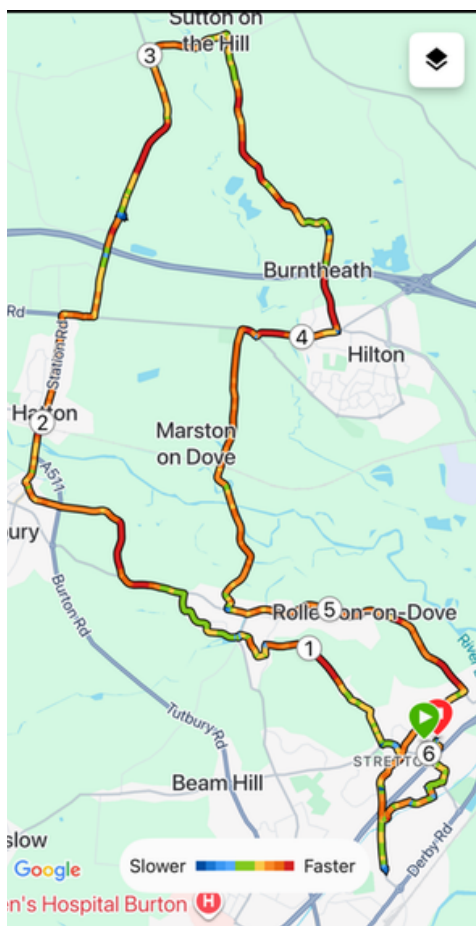


Table Tennis

Our Table Tennis Group is looking to replace some of our well-used tables, which have reached the end of their life. If you have a pre-loved table tennis table that needs a new home, we'd be very interested to hear from you.

Please contact Mick at tt@cliffords-family.co.uk.

A small reward could be considered.

Historic Churches

In February, forty-nine of us were made very welcome at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Newton Solney. In this lovely warm church we had an introductory talk and a look round, then enjoyed cakes as well as biscuits with the refreshments!

Our visit in March was to St Michael and All Angels in Tatenhill. Again we had a talk and a walk round this lovely church. Our talk was given by Phil Coleman, who has now become a member of Burton u3a and joined the Historic Churches group.

We visited St Laurence's in Walton-on-Trent in April. Some of us had been before, when the group visited in 2023, but it was well worth a second look, as it was a very welcoming, 'cosy' church.

Huge thanks must go again to Helen who kindly stepped in to provide the refreshments at this church, and to her helpers on the day.

We are still busy planning our visits for this year, as usual trying to spread them out around Burton and nearby villages. If there's a church you've enjoyed visiting that you would recommend, do let us know.

If you'd like to be updated with details of which churches we'll be visiting, please get in touch via the link on the Burton u3a website and we can add you in to the mailing list.

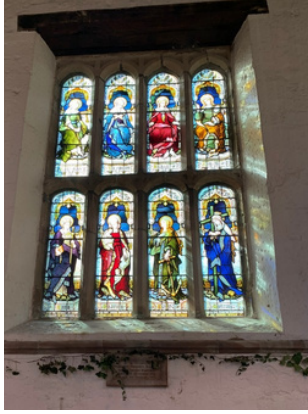
Visits are on the 3rd Thursday of the month and we generally pay £2 as our Burton u3a 'session fee', with individual donations to the church for refreshments.

Sue Fraser and Helen Barnett

Historic Churches: Newton Solney



Historic Churches: Tatenhill



Historic Churches: Walton



Wine Appreciation

As always, we've tasted some diverse wines over the last few months. Also, as always, some were liked by everyone, while others completely split opinions. In February Ken presented 'A French Collection', and three of the wines scored an average of eight points – one white and two reds (one of which was the most expensive of the evening, the other was the cheapest!)

Ken also brought the wine in March, this time 'An Australian Selection'. These all scored at least six, and our favourite overall was 'Greasy Fingers Luscious Red Shiraz/Grenache blend' – luscious indeed. In April Christina continued our tour of Italy, presenting 'Wines from Piedmonte'. These prompted some of the most variable scores we've ever had (ranging from 1 to 10!) but our favourite of the evening was a 'Barbera d'Asti'.

As usual, huge thanks to the members who source the bottles of wine to introduce to us! We still 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 link on the Burton u3a website.

Sue Fraser

Portmeirion trip

On the 29th April, 47 members of Burton u3a, went on a day trip to Portmeirion (North Wales). It was a lovely sunny day. Portmeirion is a beautiful Italian Village build in the 1935 and took 50 years to finish by Clough Williams-Ellis.

The group enjoyed the visit, having lovely meal and many Ice Creams were consumed. There are a few more trips being arranged throughout the year.

Barry Appleby



Social Activities Holidays

Report of holiday to Caernarfon

Setting off early Sunday morning we made our way to Erddig in time for lunch and then to explore this lovely National Trust property.

Of particular interest was the gallery filled with portraits and photos of the household servants. From there we continued to our hotel arriving in time to freshen up for dinner . On Sunday after breakfast we drove through the beautiful Llanberis pass to Gwydir Castle where the owner gave us a fascinating talk about it's restoration. We were also greeted by their very friendly lurcher not to forget numerous peacocks proudly displaying their plumage.

From there we proceeded to Betws y Coed for lunch and thence back to Caernarfon with time to visit the town and castle. On Tuesday we journeyed to Anglesey to Plas Newydd and enjoyed the beautiful house and gardens.

After lunch and a group photo at the station with a very long name we were welcomed to the WI house for a talk about the origin of the WI, with tea and Bara Broth. After breakfast on Wednesday we left for our journey home making a stop in Chester to have lunch and explore. A very successful trip with thanks to Lisa our tour guide who managed to fit so much into the short time we had.



Social Activities Holidays

Upcoming holiday to Scotland

Following the success of our recent trip to Caernarfon we have a holiday planned for November 9th-13th

We will be staying at the Hotel Tinto in Symington. Our itinerary is as follows

- Monday Journey to Gretna Green followed by a visit to the Devils Porridge Museum thence to our hotel.
- Tuesday New Lanark Mill
- Wednesday Royal Yacht Britannia and Edinburgh
- Thursday The Kelpies and Falkirk Wheel
- Friday home via Carlisle and an included 2 course lunch at the Haydock Mercure Hotel

Cost £699 to include all coach travel, half board at the hotel with a free glass of wine each evening and entertainment, all entrance fees, a tour guide to accompany us throughout.

To book contact Dianne: diannebrewster@hotmail.co.uk

Beginners' Bridge

Our group meets every Tuesday at 12.30 for two hours.

We started this group running parallel with the main Bridge Group to welcome people who had never played the game before.

To put it bluntly you do not have to be a regular card player as we offer teaching from scratch and we also play games and teach "as we go" so you are accompanied by a regular player who will offer advice and support.

The group is a victim of it's own success as within months of starting four members have already moved to the main Bridge Group and also play in an online group.

I can only suggest the teaching must be brilliant!!!!

The emphasis here is learn and enjoy, and most importantly get to a level where you are happy. Our aim is to teach some basic play, and leave the individual to decide their own rate of progress.

Please feel free to turn up and we will always "fit you in" or contact beforehand.

Neil Anokhina

Bridge

The group continues the regular Friday morning duplicate pairs, and to promote competition there are prizes given out around every three months. Many of the group only started playing 18 months ago so the rate of progress has been amazing, the standard rises week by week, and many of the group are on various web sites to try and expand their knowledge.

We also do extra teaching on Tuesday and Wednesday morning and these sessions are also well attended, with lots of discussion on techniques and players swapping thoughts and ideas.

Our one major theme is enjoyment-----it is nice to win, but simply having two hours of fun is just as important!

We welcome Bridge players of any standard to come and join our sessions, and everything only costs the price of a drink, and we all enjoy the tea and coffee at One Pound a cup!

Neil Anokhina

Spring quiz



Spring quiz winning team

Long and Challenging Walks

The groups had a wet start to 2026.

After a wet-weather week delay Mick and Mike led the Jan. long walk starting from Hopwas Hill car park, and around the Whittington area.

Dennis led fourteen fearless folk on a wet walk around the Moira area on Friday the 13th in February. And he filled in again on Friday the 13th in March to lead a walk from The Nags Head in Castle Donnington and around EMA, which included some fine views. He earned a well-deserved pat on the back for his persistence in finding suitable terrain for both of these walks.

In Jan-March the Challenging Walks Group completed The Centenary Way, a 25-mile walk from Ilkeston to Ashbourne. It was devised by the Derbyshire Footpaths Preservation Society to commemorate their centenary, and passes through many pretty villages including West Hallam, Duffield, Brailsford, Edmaston, Shirley and Osmaston.

In April, Herb led the long walk and the challenging walk. The Long Walk was the NFW's interesting Mill, mines and railways walk." On the not-so-challenging walk thirteen of us enjoyed a sunny stroll along the Trent and Mersey Canal ending with a tour of Sinai Park House, followed by a cream tea.

Fingers are crossed that the next quarter allows us to dust off our shorts, sunglasses and sandals. Happy Hiking,

Herb





Interest groups

Join an activity or Interest Group

Burton-on-Trent u3a offers a wide range of interest and activity groups—each one a great way to learn something new, meet others, and enjoy shared passions. As a member, you're welcome to join as many groups as you like!

Not Yet a Member?

You're welcome to try before you join! Non-members may attend up to two group sessions (either two visits to one group, or one visit to each of two different groups). Standard session fees apply. Non-members cannot attend Social Activities outings or Luncheons

Join up to Burton on Trent u3a - for a £10 annual fee you get to join any of our groups, and come along to any of our monthly open meetings.

Literature

Books

Stapenhill, Monthly on Tuesday afternoons,
1st Tuesday

Contact: Jenny: 07812 104186

The Bible's 3 Rs

Church Gresley, Monthly on Thursdays 1:30
pm - 3:30 pm, 3rd Thursday

Contact: David: via the website

Books 2

Plough Inn, Monthly on Thursdays 12:00 pm-
2:00 pm, 2nd Thursday

Contact: Mandy: via the website

Shakespeare

Burton Library, Monthly on Thursday
mornings, 1st Thursday

Contact: Ade: via the website

Games

Bridge

Weekly on Friday mornings 10am – 12pm.
Burton.
Contact: Neil: via the website

Bridge for beginners

Weekly on Tuesdays 12:30pm – 2:30 pm.
Burton
Contact: Neil: via the website

Canasta

Weekly on Friday afternoons 1:45 pm
Stapenhill
Contact: Pauline: via the website

Cribbage

Stapenhill, Monthly on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm,
Contact: Mary: 01283 543836

Rummikub

Stapenhill, Weekly on Mondays 2:00 pm
Contact: Jean: via the website

Whist

Stapenhill, Monthly on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Contact: Janet: 01283 566284

Backgammon

The Navigation, Horninglow Road
2nd and 4th Monday of each month
Contact: Michael: via the website

History

Antiquarian

Rolleston. Monthly on Wednesdays 10:00 am
– 12:00 pm, 4th Wednesday
Contact: Gill: via the website

Historic Churches

Various locations, Monthly on Thursdays
10:00 am – 12:00 pm, 3rd Thursday
Contact: Sue: via the website

History

Burton, Monthly on Thursdays 10:00 am –
12:00 pm. 2nd Thursday
Contact: Dave: via the website

Languages

French Advanced

Rolleston,
Weekly on Mondays 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Contact: Margaret: 01283 752314

French Intermediate

Weekly, Tuesday mornings
Contact: Kyrán: 01283 701069

French Intermediate

Various locations,
Weekly on Mondays 2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Contact: Liz: 07745 197923

German

Morrison's Community Room
Weekly on Wednesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Contact: Karin: via the website

French Intermediate

Weekly, Tuesday afternoons
Contact: Lynne: 01283 704002

Spanish Intermediate

Burton,
Weekly on Mondays 9:30 am–11:00 am
Contact: Paul: via the website

Music

Folk Group

Stretton, Monthly on 2nd & 4th Thursdays
1:00 pm–3:00 pm
Contact: Scott: via website

Singing

Stretton
Weekly on Mondays 2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Contact: Margaret: 07580 745447

Jazz

Rolleston
Weekly on Tuesdays 2:00 pm–4:30 pm
Contact: Sandra: 07513 989930

Ukulele

Stretton, Monthly on 1st & 3rd Thursdays
1:30 pm–3:30 pm
Contact: Sandra: 07513 989930

Music Appreciation

Stretton, Monthly on Fridays 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, 3rd Friday
Contact: Mark: 07507 882216

Social

Luncheon Group

Various locations
Monthly
Contact: Barry: 07974 203429

Wine Appreciation

Stretton, Monthly on Tuesdays 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm. Last Tuesday of the Month
Contact: Sue: via the website

Social Activities

Various locations
Contact: Dianne: 07510 327156

Wine Not?

Horninglow, Monthly on Mondays 7:00 pm
2nd Monday
Contact: Chris: via the website

Sunday Lunch

Various locations
Monthly, 2nd Sunday
Contact: Dianne or Barry: via the website

Men's Wellbeing Group

Monthly on Wednesdays, 12:30pm.
Fourth Wednesday
Contact: Peter: via the website

Walking

Strollers

Various locations, Monthly on Fridays
10:00 am–11:30 am. 3rd Friday
Contact: Mike: via website

Walks – Long

Various locations, Monthly on Fridays
10:00 am, 2nd Friday
Contact: Herb: via website

Walks – Short

Various locations. Monthly on Friday mornings. 1st Friday
Contact: Sue: via website

Walks – Challenging

Various locations, Monthly on Thursdays
9:00 am, Last Thursday of month
Contact: Herb: via the website

Dancing

Ballroom Dancing

Weekly on Friday afternoons. Stretton
Contact: Dianne: 01283 540056

Line Dancing

Weekly on Monday afternoons
2:15 pm–3:45 pm
Contact: Janet: 01283 541708

Sport

Badminton Mondays

Meadowside

Weekly on Mondays 10:00am or 11:00 am

Contact: Hugh: via the website

Badminton Fridays

Meadowside

Weekly on Fridays 10:00am

Contact: Hugh: via the website

Cycling

Various locations. Monthly on Wednesday mornings, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

Contact: Peter: 07709 713191

Table Tennis

Burton

Weekly on Tuesdays 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Contact: Mick: via the website

Cycling 2

Various locations, Monthly on Wednesdays 9:30 am. 2nd Wednesday

Contact: Jane: via the website

Walking Football

Meadowside

Weekly on Thursdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Contact: Chris: via the website

Pickleball

Meadowside, Weekly on Mondays 12:00 pm and Fridays 11:00 am

Contact: Hugh: via the website

Pickleball Friday

Meadowside

Weekly on Fridays 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Contact: Richard: via the website

Crown Green Bowls LARKS

Winhill Bowls Club, Weekly on Tuesday mornings April – September

Contact: Rosemary: 01283 561959

Crown Green Bowls OWLS

Winhill Bowls Club, Weekly on Tuesday afternoons April – September

Contact: Rosemary: 01283 561959

Indoor Carpet Bowls

Church Gresley, Weekly on Tuesdays 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm, summer months only

Contact: Malcolm: via the website

Crown Green Bowls

Stretton, Weekly on Fridays 2:00 pm–4:00 pm. April – September

Contact: Dave: via the website

Natural history

Gardening

Various locations, Monthly on Wednesdays
10:00 am–12:00 pm. 2nd Wednesday
Contact: Norma: via the website

Arts and crafts

Art 1

Weekly on Wednesday afternoons 1:00 pm–
4:00 pm. St Marys Church Hall Stretton
Contact: Robert: 07517 316382

Art appreciation

Monthly on Thursday mornings 10:00 am–
12:00 pm 3rd Thursday. Anslow Village Hall.
Contact: Christina: 07940 712416

Craft

Monthly on Wednesday 2:00 pm–4:00 pm.
Brook House. 1st Wednesday.
Contact: Joan: via the website

Painting for beginners

Weekly on Mondays 9:30 am–12:00 pm
Priory Centre, Stretton.
Contact: Barry: 07974 203429

Photography

Priory Centre, Stretton. Monthly on first and
third Wednesdays. 10:00am
Contact: Vic: 07816 790530

Meet the team

Person	Committee role	Contact
Chrys Smedley	Chair	chair@botu3a.org
Kathy Hines	Treasurer	treasurer@botu3a.org
Hugh Rodger	Secretary Accessibility lead	secretary@botu3a.org access@botu3a.org
Barry Gosling	Vice-chair Welfare lead	vchair@botu3a.org welfare@botu3a.org
Richard Dryden	Vice-chair & GDPR lead Newsletter editor	gdpr@botu3a.org news@botu3a.org
Jane Kent	Beacon coordinator Membership support	beacon@botu3a.org
Alan Poore	Financial assistant	finance@botu3a.org
Michael Bartlett	Interest group coordinator	groups@botu3a.org
Jane Hance	Publicity lead	publicity@botu3a.org
Valerie Bentinck	Events Secretary	events@botu3a.org

Person	Supporting role	Contact
Christine Davenport	Communications lead	comms@botu3a.org
Peter Wildsmith	Coffee morning meet & greet	
Chris Hance	Website Coordinator	web@botu3a.org

Front cover photo

Long Walks Group walking Up the Swannington Incline on the National Forest Way's: "Mill, mines and railways walk".

Back cover photo

Social Activities holiday to Caernarfon: Peacock at Gwydir Castle.

Riviera Travel

If you book a holiday with Riviera Travel, please tell them you're a member of Burton on Trent u3a.

Please send in your news, stories, planned activities and photos for the autumn newsletter by 31st July 2026.

Thanks,

Richard

news@botu3a.org

