



Welcome

Welcome to Burton on Trent u3a.

If you are new to u3a ... we are part of a UK-wide, membership-based movement for people who are no longer in full-time employment and are looking to lead an active, engaging, and fulfilling life. Membership is open to anyone who has moved beyond the first age of childhood and the second age of work and family responsibilities. Have a look through the newsletter to see what is going on and for the latest updates – and a lot more detail – please visit our website.

If you are already part of our Burton on Trent u3a community you will see some of what you and others have been doing in the last few months. Hopefully some good memories and maybe some inspiration to try a new group or activity.

Everything we do is made possible by our army of volunteers. If you are a group leader, a venue-organiser, a tea maker, chair putter-outer, a committee member or a day out facilitator ... thank you.

Thank you so much for giving your time freely so we can all enjoy this huge range of activities and events.



Richard Dryden, 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

Craft Group



Macramé

What a laugh the twelve of us had in making these in June with Joan in the Craft Group.

At first we were all fingers and thumbs and convinced we couldn't do it, but in the end you can see we all managed just fine.

See the back cover of the magazine for the results.



Bag printing

The month before we tried bag printing and everyone created a wonderful range of designs. We have so much fun and are grateful to Joan, our group leader, for organising such a brilliant range of crafts every month on a Wednesday 2pm – 4pm at Brook House, Burton.

Jane



Sunday Lunch Group

The Sunday Lunch Group started with new leaders. Our first event was at the Tap House at Smisby which was very much enjoyed by all who came. We have since had lunches at The Cock Inn at Hanbury and Jennings at the Mill Wheel in Hartshorne which were delicious too.

Our lunches for the rest of the year are Littleover Lodge (September), The Roebuck, Draycott in the Clay (October), Branston Golf Club (November).

Lunches are held on the last Sunday in the month. Full details on the Website, contact Barry Gosling or Dianne Brewster to book.



Men's Wellbeing Group

The inspiration for the group came about after reading magazine articles and browsing research relating to men and socialising in groups. This was supplemented more recently by Max Dickins' book, 'Billy No Mates', and his striving to choose a Best Man for his wedding and finding he didn't feel he actually knew his men friends very well.

The idea of a 'men only' group within a mixed-sex social group (u3a) did seem controversial initially. Having broached the subject with a few u3a friends, both male and female, there was definite approval of the idea from both sides. So, the MWG was born in July 2025 with our first meeting in the Staffordshire Kitchen, Octagon Centre, Burton, and a very convivial meeting too. Since then we have met in a variety of venues from the Mulberry Restaurant to the Dog and Partridge Hotel, Tutbury.

The 'wellbeing' element is addressing the social influences and interests of members needs via socialising and conversation whilst dining together in local restaurants. This is not intended as a therapy group, but one that embraces tacit acceptance that men need the company of men without having to subscribe to a common theme such as sport, for example.

No topic is off the menu but there is a membership rule that any topic of conversation does not become an overt discussion of political, religious or discriminatory behaviour. I originally capped the membership at twelve but we currently have fifteen members. Fortunately, we are able to lunch together around a table in the various restaurants we visit.

Peter Wildsmith

Books Group

The books (1) group has availability for new members.

We are a small group who review one book each month. Books are chosen by members of the group on rotation. We all give feedback on the book and then discuss it as a group. The choosers also bring questions relating to the book for the group to discuss. It's a great opportunity to read a genre of book you would not normally read.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month from 1:30–3:30 at the Grove pub in Stapenhill.

If you would like to join please call Becky Brooks on 07967529855.

Folk Group

In July the folk group gave a successful concert at a local care home.

As the temperature soared outside, so too did the excitement and hubbub inside the Mount Pleasant Care Home. The eager audience had been practicing with song sheets for days (we later learned) and they were all indeed in fine voice.

With limited space, only eight of the folk group could perform that day but what a memorable day it turned out to be. We had agreed the running order with care home managers and the residents lapped up our medley of singalong hits, some old and some not so old – that's the songs I mean not the residents 😊

It was a joy hearing them sing and clap loudly to various classics like Gypsy Rover and Bring Me Sunshine. The care home managers were praisingly enthusiastic and have already asked us "Fine Folk" back again for an encore.

If you are interested in joining the folk group, contact Scott Spiers on the usual u3a Groups web page. Here's a couple of our rehearsal pics...



Day trip to Bridlington

Fifty-one of us enjoyed a lovely day in Bridlington this August, with traditional fish and chips, ice cream and a walk onto the beach before then waiting for our coach to bring us home.

Jane



Art For Pleasure

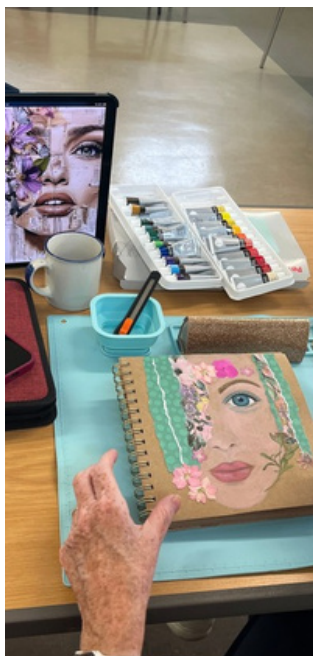
We have a wonderful group of people with so many talents to share.

Debby Tomes



A selection of work created following a tutorial from Pam, who shared her skills with us.





Tuesday morning and afternoon Bowls

Just one report this year as we have relocated To Winshill Bowls Club behind the Anglesy Arms in Winshill. We began the season in March and so far have had some wonderful weather to play in and we've had a new green to learn and find our way around.

We moved to Winshill due to the uncertainties with our previous home at Stapenhill which we really were sorry to say goodbye to after about six years.

This new green is very different, when you expect your bowl to go one way it goes the other, or does an "s" like maneuver, there are numerous ups and downs which come upon you unexpectedly – although that is the nature of crown green bowls – but it makes for a fun and challenging game.

Even three months in you just never know where the bowls are going to go it has made for some very frustrating but fun sessions. It is very quiet at Winshill, no main road traffic, and it certainly feels like a genteel sport with the sun shining. The club have been very supportive and helpful, and we no longer have to take our u3a "on loan" bowls each week as we have secure storage space which makes a huge difference.

Both the LARKS and OWLS groups have longstanding members who have returned as they do each year, we did wonder if we would lose members because of the move but apart from illness generally the groups remain the same. The morning group has been low on numbers, but we offered sessions for those with no experience and I'm pleased to say a number have joined us permanently and they are proving to be competent and competitive bowlers!!! We also have a number of people still interested although the season doesn't now have long to run.





If you fancy a go please contact the group coordinator by email through the web site or come and watch a session whether morning or afternoon, there's plenty of outside seating and we can explain the rudiments of crown green bowls – we probably can't offer a game as we are very limited to numbers.

Both are groups are very friendly and would welcome you.

Gardening group

Our Summer programme of garden visits started in May with a lovely visit to Worcester and then onto the delightful gardens at Moreton Hall. Members had time in Worcester to explore the Cathedral and enjoy the National Trust property 'The Greyfriars House', a 15th century timbered house saved from demolition in 1936 and restored by siblings Elsie and Matley and filled with mostly upcycled Historic materials. Some members found time for shopping and/or lunch.

We rejoined the coach for a short drive to Moreton Hall where we arrived in a heavy rainfall. A quick dash to the conservatory where we were served muffins and tea or coffee. The head gardener 'Oli' joined us and gave us a talk on the history of the house and gardens. We then had free time to explore the beautiful gardens which overlook the Vale of Evesham to the Welsh Mountains on one side and Malvern and the Clent Hills on the left and right sides. The gardens cover eight acres, part of a very large estate and were remodelled by the present owners in an Arts and Crafts style featuring a series of linking distinct areas.

A truly memorable day.

Newsletter front cover – Gardening Group July trip.

In June we were treated to a guided tour of the gardens at Wollaton Hall, near Market Drayton by the owner. There are eight separate gardens, designed by his artist wife over three acres. The use of colour in choice of planting was beautiful and full of David Austin roses, salvias and clematis to mention a few. We enjoyed a lovely lunch of homemade made soup and assorted sandwiches in the tearoom before the chance to buy plants grown from cuttings from the garden

July took us to The Dorothy Clive Garden, near Woore, for a guided tour by two of the professional gardeners. They took us to the Quarry Garden, created by Colonel Harry Clive for his wife Dorothy who had mobility problems due to Parkinsons Disease. It is planted with colour over the seasons. Snow drops, daffodils followed by azealeas and rhododendron in the Spring give way to many rare trees in full leaf when we visited. A walk, planted with roses and lovely seasonal borders down to the pool via the Glasshouse, planted in the shape of the Staffordshire knot. We then enjoyed lunch on the tearoom terrace

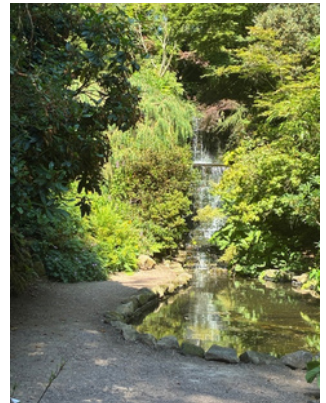
Norma and The team



May



June



July

Long and challenging walks

Well, my wish in the Spring that the next quarter would allow us to dust off our shorts, sunglasses and sandals certainly came true! As a result, the June Challenging walk, and two follow-up attempts in July were cancelled due to heat, as was July's Long walk. Now to the positive side...

Long walks: in May, Paul lead thirteen of us on his very rural route with great views and among some Hebridean sheep. Starting in Hanbury we passed the Old Vicarage and then Foxholes Farm before stopping at The Cock Inn for lunch. Rex managed to complete his walk in June despite the heat. Ten hearty souls met at The Markeaton Inn and enjoyed a circular walk that touched on the Bonnie Prince Charlie Walk and passed behind Kedleston Hall, with views of Charnwood in the distance.

Challenging walk: in May, I lead the first half of The Ecclesbourne Way. We bussed up to Duffield and had a free ride on the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway heritage train to Idridgehay, as no tickets were available at Duffield Station, or on the train. We enjoyed a nice 6-mile walk from Idridgehay back to Duffield.

In July we walked the second part of The Ecclesbourne Way. The weather was a tad friendlier for six of us to enjoy this outing. Due to the EVR train schedule, we drove to and from the train station in Wirksworth where we bought our tickets to Idridgehay – a single journey is £7.50 – and walked back. It was a very nice walk. We then enjoyed a pint at the quirky Feather Star afterwards.

Herb



Historic Churches

In May we went to All Saints Church, Rangemore, where we enjoyed an introductory talk from Phil Coleman, who had welcomed us recently to Tatenhill Church (and has since become a member of Burton u3a and our group!) The Friends of Rangemore Church then delighted us with the choice of refreshments they had provided.

We made a return visit to St Giles' Catholic Church in Cheadle in June. Only a 'return' for a few of us, as we have several new members (and some 'old' members) who hadn't been before. Father Kemball gave us a short talk and answered questions as we looked around the church. Pugin's richly-decorated 'gem' did not disappoint, and many of us then enjoyed coffee or lunch afterwards in Cheadle.

Most recently we made another 'return' visit to St Leonard's in Wychnor – no longer having regular services but available for weddings, baptisms and funerals (and u3a visits!) Most of our group hadn't been before, and really enjoyed its cosy feel and bright (on such a sunny day) stained glass. Afterwards one of our hosts at the church welcomed us back to her beautiful home for hot drinks and biscuits.

We are still busy planning our visits for this year, and starting to plan next year, too, 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



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 1

The Grove Pub, Stapenhill, Monthly on Tuesdays 1:30pm – 3:30pm. 1st Tuesday.
Contact Becky Brooks: 07967 529855

Shakespeare

Burton Library, Monthly on Thursday mornings, 1st Thursday
Contact: Ade: via the website

Books 2

Plough Inn, Monthly on Thursdays 12:00 pm–2:00 pm, 2nd Thursday
Contact: Mandy: 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 Plough, 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 10:30 am –
12:30 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 Advanced

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

French Intermediate

Weekly, Tuesday afternoons
Contact: Lynne: 07758 641343

French Intermediate

Weekly, Tuesday mornings
Contact: Kyrán: 07777 689780

German

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

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

Jazz

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

Music Appreciation

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

Singing

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

Ukulele

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

Social

Luncheon Group

Various locations

Monthly

Contact: Barry: via the website

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?

Stretton, 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: 07709 713191

Walking

Walks – Short

Various locations. Monthly on Friday mornings. 1st Friday

Contact: Sue: via website

Walks – Long

Various locations, Monthly on Fridays

10:00 am, 2nd Friday

Contact: Herb: 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 Tuesdays

10:00am – 12:00pm March – October

Contact: Rosemary: via the website

Crown Green Bowls OWLS

Winhill Bowls Club, Weekly on Tuesdays

2:00pm – 4:00pm March – October

Contact: Rosemary: via the website

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

Art for Pleasure

Weekly on Mondays 9:30 am–12:00 pm
Priory Centre, Stretton.
Contact: Debby via the website

Photography

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

Needlecrafts

Monthly on Tuesdays 10:30am – 12:30pm
Last Tuesday. Amber Wood Care Home.
Contact: Juliette: 07503 170976

Meet the team

Person	Committee role	Contact
Richard Dryden	Chair Newsletter editor	chair@botu3a.org news@botu3a.org
Kathy Hines	Treasurer	treasurer@botu3a.org
Kyran Fallon	Secretary	secretary@botu3a.org
Barry Gosling	Vice-chair Welfare lead	vchair@botu3a.org welfare@botu3a.org
Alan Poore	Financial assistant	finance@botu3a.org
Michael Bartlett	Interest group coordinator	groups@botu3a.org
Christine Davenport	Communications lead	comms@botu3a.org
Jane Hance	Publicity lead	publicity@botu3a.org
Jane Roberts	Committee member	
Bruno Gallone	Committee member	commbr1@botu3a.org

Person	Supporting role	Contact
Peter Wildsmith	Coffee morning meet & greet	
Chris Hance	Website Coordinator	web@botu3a.org
Jane Kent	Beacon coordinator Membership support	beacon@botu3a.org

Front cover photo

Gardening group trip to The Dorothy Clive Garden

Back cover photo

Craft group macrame

Riviera Travel

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

News from the Third Age Trust

Journeys worth sharing – u3a getaways

This exciting new initiative has been developed especially for u3a members, combining expert-led cultural learning, carefully selected destinations and the opportunity to share new experiences with like-minded people from across the u3a movement.

This Autumn members have the chance to join Appreciating Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon from 12 to 15 October 2026 – an opportunity to explore the Bard's life and works in his home town.

Learn more about the Shakespeare tour and explore the full schedule of future getaways by visiting: justforgroups.com/u3a-getaways

Please send in your news, stories, planned activities and photos for the winter newsletter by 31st October 2026. It is great to get photos in a mix of landscape and portrait format so I can fit more in.

Thanks,



news@botu3a.org



Craft Group: macramé