

U3A Clitheroe

Reports submitted by Group Convenors for AGM on February 20th 2020

Architecture Group: 1st Wednesday ~2 pm: Trinity Methodist

The January planning meeting was followed by two months of indoor activities. A presentation on the career of celebrated American Architect Frank Gehry was given by Philip Bradshaw was followed by a DVD on the construction of the Shard.

During the summer months excursions were made to Darwen Terracotta; Otley & Ilkley; Preston; Ashton under Lyne; Salford Quays and Burnley. The October meeting was cancelled because of illness and in November Maureen Pickup and Eddie Green did a follow up illustrated talk to their splendid tour of Burnley's Architectural gems. Members of the group are to be thanked for all their efforts in making this an enjoyable year. In December we concluded the year with a pictorial review of the year's visits followed by a quiz and seasonal refreshments.

Convenor: Philip Bradshaw

Art Appreciation: 4th Tuesday ~ 2pm in West Bradford Village Hall.

A busy year with presentations on a wide variety of topics: Pierre Bonnard; Stained Glass; 'Popular Artists'; Salvadore Dali; Tamara de Lempicka; works in the Musee Marmottan, Paris; a DVD on the work of Paul Klee. After the summer break a DVD on the Nukus Art Museum in Uzbekistan; C. R. W. Nevinson and finally in November a Moma/Tate Modern DVD on Matisse Cut Outs.

We are a lively group with an average attendance of about 25. The meetings are informative and stimulating. New members are welcome at any time so do please come and join us. The programme for 2020 is looking very good.

Convenor: Alison Hoyle, Convenor

Bird Watching & Nature: 3rd Thursday ~ to various venues in private cars.

Once again we were blessed with good weather this year for most of our trips. A new outing was to the owl and bird of prey sanctuary at Turbary Woods nr Preston where for a minimal cost you receive a very 'hands on' (even heads on) experience which we all enjoyed. October saw a visit to Martin Mere for the arrival of thousands of pink footed geese for their winter retreat!. We added 'and nature' to our title as we offer wander in places full of wild flowers and stumble across unexpected sights such as a stoat that entertained us at Southport's RSPB Marshside recently. Names should be put on the board at the monthly meeting if interested.

Convenors: Ann Kay and Wendy Richardson.

Book: 4th Thursday ~ 2pm: Clitheroe Library

We have had another successful year with 4 new members and an average attendance of 12. This is a good number for a discussion, any more doesn't give everyone the opportunity to participate.

We have developed a tradition of reading the Booker Prize winner at our January meeting. Not always a popular choice but this year we read 'Milkman' by Anna Burns.

January 2020 it will be 'Girl Woman Other' by Bernadine Evaristo.

We also enjoyed 'Olive Kitteridge' by Elizabeth Strout and will be continuing the trend by this year reading her new book 'Olive Again.'

To potential new members please note it is not necessary to attend every meeting, most members just come when they can. We are presently meeting on the mezzanine floor at the library whilst the meeting room is refurbished.

Convenor: Sue Mayor

Canasta: Fourth Friday of each month ~ from 6.30 pm

Canasta has proved popular with usually 2 tables of six players. Light refreshments & non alcoholic drinks are provided free of charge. Alcohol is provided by person or persons who wish it. Two games are usually played & maybe three depending on the time scale. Cards, card shufflers & all equipment are provided by the hosts.

Convenor: Suze & John Grant

Circle Dancing: 1st & 3rd Wednesday ~ 10.00 to noon: Pendleton Village Hall

In January several members enjoyed a dance holiday in Morocco. We also had demonstrations of Belly Dancing and the chance to learn a traditional Chinese dance and to watch an experienced Chinese dancer.

Our numbers vary from good-sized group to large group. In true U3A fashion we have a bevy of helpers to move chairs, provide refreshments,, collect our rental and catering money and sort out our administration.

This year we have added some modern tunes to our traditional dance repertoire. The group will have a go at anything and we have great fun doing it !

Convenor: Sally Maxwell

Discussion: Thursday following the Tuesday General Meeting ~ 2pm at Liz Lawson's house, BB1 5QZ

Another year of fun, friendship and fierce debate. We talk about anything and everything - no holds barred. WE all have very different points of view which makes for interesting discussion and entertaining afternoons.

Thanks is due to Liz Lawson for her generous hospitality. New members are most welcome.

Convenor: Sandra Allwood.

Food & Wine: 4th Thursday ~at 7.00pm at chosen location

The Food and Wine group gets more challenging each year. We started with another 80th birthday celebration in February - who will be next! We had 3 visits out, Blackburn Catering College, a local Food Processing factory and Afternoon Tea in Yorkshire. We have had local produce, French, Welsh and the most challenging a Vegan evening. We were fortunate with a lovely sunny evening in July for our annual Barbecue.

We haven't any new members, although there have been some enquiries. Looking forward to new ideas in 2020..

Convenor: Sylvia Foster

French Conversation: 3rd Monday pm ~ 2.00pm. Meetings: in one of the group's own home in turn.

The group continues to grow, we now have twelve members although the average number at the meetings continues to be five or six. We usually start by relating what we have done in the last month in a short prepared message in French. We still subscribe to the French magazine "Bien Dire" and one of us prepares an article from the magazine which we then listen to on the CD and then read a paragraph each and the translate by paragraph into English. We finish with refreshments and decide where the next meeting will be and who will lead it. New members are welcome.

Convenor: Barbara Pickup

Garden Study: 1st Friday; various venues and times

15 to 20 members meet at 2pm in the colder months in West Bradford Village Hall. Topics this year included Monty Don's DVD "The Great British Garden Revival", an illustrated presentation by David Earl from LCC on "Wild flowers of Lancashire", a planning meeting and Garden Quiz.

Monthly outings began in March visiting Cobble Hey at Cloughton to see the Snowdrops and then spring flowers at Dale House, Goosnargh. We enjoyed the gardens at Saunderake and Giles Farm, Chipping, especially the wild flower meadow. A shared coach trip with Clitheroe Garden Club to Mount Grace Priory at Northallerton was followed by a 'Talk and Tour 'with Jacqueline Iddon in her fabulous garden at Bretherton. Our visit in September was to the Exotic Garden, Oswaldtwistle and finally, in December, a lunch was held at Bashall Barn.

Convenors: Ann Kay and Sheila Harrison

Geology: 2nd Wednesday ~ 2pm: at Clitheroe Fire Station Community Room

The U3A Geology Group is now in its fifth year, and thriving with about 16 at most meetings, and 28 members. We all love learning about our fantastic world and how it is made, and our meetings are always enjoyable. This year we are spending some time refreshing our knowledge of Plate Tectonics and the ancient earth, as well as looking at the evolution of Scotland, the Castleton area, the Jurassic coast, and possibly New Zealand! Highlights of the last year have been visits to the Stone Centre in Derbyshire, and to the amazing geology of Anglesey. New members are always welcome, Remember - Geology Rocks!

Convenor: Frank Taylor, Geology Group

German Conversation: 1st Thursday ~ 2pm in members' houses in rotation

In this group we share a common interest in German by trying to practise our understanding and our ability to speak the language from whatever level of our current ability. We use a variety of sources, helping each other to gain confidence and to improve our familiarity with getting- by in German.

We share a wide variety of ability but a friendly exchange of mutual help in a relaxed group proves to be most encouraging. We have gained a little in membership but is likely to be a small group of about six or seven.

Convenor: Denis Cassidy

History: 4th Wednesday~ 2 pm at West Bradford Village

In 2019, the History Group continued to thrive. Members enjoyed a varied programme of speakers, visits and in house presentations. Topics by visiting speakers covered Palais Benedictine to Plumb Street, Burnley, the history of Great Harwood, Folk Magic, the Lancashire Cotton Famine, and Blackpool's development as a seaside resort. Members contributed a presentation on Ironbridge and a quiz on the anniversaries of 2019. Outside visits were made to the People's Museum in Manchester, and jointly with the Architecture Group, to the Ashton Baths, the Portland Basin and the Moravian Settlement in Manchester. A guided walk and afternoon tea in the lovely hamlet of Hurstwood on a beautiful sunny day in June was also enjoyed.

Convenor: Hazel Best

iPad: 4th Monday~ 2 pm at West Bradford Village Hall

While this group has over 60 "members", usually 10 to 20 attend each meeting depending, in part, on the topic. While new users join most months, others attend when there is a topic they wish to learn more about. In addition to the convenors the group has experienced iPad users who attend and share their knowledge with others in the group. Topics this year included 'Taking Control of your iPad', Emailing, 'Apps', Safari (Internet), Camera and Photos, Clocks, Music and Internet Security.

The group aims to help members learn how to use their iPad in a way that suits most U3A members. Each session begins with a presentation accompanied by clear, bespoke notes which are then emailed to each group member on the mailing list. This is particularly popular with group members.

The second half of each session allows individuals to share skills or solve problems one to one or in small groups; usually someone has the answer or can 'google' to find one!

Convenors: Jennifer Lockwood & Ann Taylor

Italian Conversation: 3rd Tuesday 2pm in members' homes (varied)

Italian Conversation- third Tuesday 2pm in members homes (varied). We gather together to give an account of our numerous holidays and family news all in Italian, interspersed with interesting readings, translations and discussions referring to items of news. Our New Year project will be to imagine New Year resolutions for prominent people i.e. politicians!

We are a group of eight (holidays permitting) who all have a love of Italy! and its language. We are very grateful to the few members who act as hosts.

Convenor: Wendy Richardson.

East Meets West: Journey Down Old Silk Road East Meets West: 3rd Wednesday~2pm: Clitheroe Fire Station Community Room

Around 20 members have travelled across Central Asia visiting northern India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, ending their year in mighty Persia. On the way they have visited Hindu and Sikh temples and a new mosque in Preston. Individually members have been visiting the British in India museum in Nelson. This museum is tiny but packed with fascinating exhibits from India, collected by a father and his son who lived and worked there.

From Persia our travels will take us to Iraq where Baghdad was considered the Library of the World, and on to Syria, Jordan and finally to Constantinople. Visits to a Jewish synagogue, an Armenian church as well as a Christian Cathedral are planned for early next year.

Convenor: Valerie Moreland,

Let's do Lunch: 2nd Thursday ~, 12.30

The Let's Do Lunch group still functions monthly and surprisingly, still finding different places to go. We usually have up to 20 attending members enjoying food in different establishments in the area. A friendly, chatty group. No accounts are involved as we just pay for our meals as we go along.

Convenor: Pauline Hutchinson

Music Appreciation : 1st Monday ~ 2pm in West Bradford Village Hall

Our membership is presently about 20 and we take turns to present something of our own choice, based on a composer, theme, instrument, period in time, style etc. This year we have had music with 'proper tunes', a French connection, dance music, works of Haydn, Johann Strauss II, linked with Paris, with revolutionary connotations, a programme from Beethoven to Berg, as played at the Plush Festival, and pieces from three other Summer Festivals. One member is preparing for his stay on the desert island and entertained us with some of his selection. The year was concluded with an enjoyable joint party lunch with the Singing for Pleasure Group, who presented 'Hallelujah Time 2019'. The meal was followed by seasonal music from our group.

Convenor: Margaret Cunliffe

Painting: 1st Tuesday ~2pm, Community Room at Clitheroe Fire Station

This is a small group using the Clitheroe Fire Station as its 'Art Studio'. We tend to do our own work/projects mainly in watercolour/pencils/pastels/ charcoal. We help each other with suggestions and enjoy the inspiration of seeing what others tackle, especially at the tea break. New members very welcome, bringing their own art materials.

Convenor: Mary-Ann Renton

Playreading: 4th Monday (except bank holidays)~1:30 pm, Clitheroe Fire Station

During the year our plays have included: Pygmalion, An Inspector Calls, Time and the Conways and two of Alan Ayckbourn's.

Convenor: Joe Boylan

Plodders: 3rd Tuesday at 11.00 am at the Sands.

The Plodders Group meet The Sands, which is outside the Abbey Walls, Whalley. We take an easy walk along the River Calder and do not do muddy or styles. We have a Plan B if the ground should be very muddy. We walk for about an hour and for those who wish, have lunch at The Dog Inn.

Convenor: Edna Clarkson

Poetry: 2nd Monday~ 2pm: Clitheroe Library Reading Room (upstairs).

The group is now in its tenth year and the conveyors, Alan Baker and Margaret Dugdale have decided that it is time that they are pensioned off. The group in future will be led by Alison McNulty and Annie Hoyle to whom all future contact should be directed.

We do not set out to read our own poetry, (just as well in my case), but we choose a theme or poet to discuss and read works relevant to that topic. This year we have read from the works of Lewis Carroll and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and sought works around the themes of Celtic poetry, Halloween and Portraits in poetry, (amongst others). The first meeting, January 13th this coming year, is usually a planning meeting though this may change with new conveyors.

Joint Convenors: Margaret Dugdale and Alan Baker.

Scrabble: 2nd Wednesday ~ 1.30pm: Convenor's home

We play at least two games, usually in two variable groups, with a refreshment break in between. We are competitive but, when asked, suggest to each other ways of gaining as many points as possible. The lively, friendly challenging afternoons are most enjoyable.

Convenor: Margaret Manning

Science and Scientific Enlightenment: 3rd Wednesday ~ 10am: Clitheroe Fire Station Community Room

We explore the history of the understanding of the world in which we live. We have looked at Atomic physics in Ancient Greece, Ptolemy at the beginning of the present era, Mendeleev's classification of elements in the 19th century, and advances in medical and biological sciences that emerged with the cholera epidemics in London.

We have also looked at topics of present-day science and engineering, including aero engine technology, the Ear and Hearing, Sound and Hi-Fi, and common misuses of statistics.

We discuss the "Science News of the Month", more topics than we can accommodate in the time available.

Convenor: David Grimes

Singing for Pleasure: 1st & 3rd Mondays 10am - noon~ West Bradford Village Hall

The Singing For Pleasure Group continues to flourish under the leadership of Alan Amos and Beverley Jones.

This year we had the pleasure of providing the entertainment at the U3A Summer Event held at Eaves Hall, West Bradford on a beautiful day in July. At the December group meeting we will be joining the Music Appreciation Group for "a mini Christmas Celebration". All U3A members are invited to attend.

The Group has been asked to sing at the Christmas Senior Citizens meal at West Bradford and in the New Year we will be visiting a Residential Home in Great Harwood to sing for the residents.

As with all singing groups we need more male voices - so please consider joining us - you will be certain of a warm welcome!

Convenor: Denise Atherton.

Strollers: Last Monday ~ AM: varied venues

Our group averages between 10 and 15 members for Strolls of about 3 miles or less. Our starting points for the Strolls this year, organised by group members, were Edisford Bridge, Ribchester, Worston, Barrowford twice, Old Langho, Coniston Cold, Salesbury, Pleasington and Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston. Our Strolls are usually leisurely ambles with a minimum of stiles and gentle gradients and finish with us having lunch together in the nearest hostelry. New members are always welcome.

Joint Convenors: Ann Kay and Wendy Richardson

Table Tennis for Pleasure: 4th Thursday ~1- 3 pm: Trinity Methodists

We have had another successful year with several new members and continue to have fun whilst exercising our bodies and our minds. We are currently meeting in the main church while building work is underway, and when it is completed we will investigate the possibility of acquiring a second table. New members are welcome and bats are provided.

Convenor: Janet Elliott.

Theatre: Winter months, visits to professional theatres in the North West

The arrangement re transport provision (with Burnley U3A) has been discontinued. Without it, visits to professional theatres has ceased.

Walking Group: 3rd Friday, meet 0945am at the walk location for a 4-5 mile walk

This year has again been successful despite the highly variable weather . We continue to meet on the third Friday of each month, usually for a 4 or 5 mile walk from an eating establishment where we have lunch. In general we take it in turns to select and organise each walk.

This year's walks have included:Tottleworth and the Old Railway line; Gisburn and Gisburne Park; Marles Wood and the Ribble; Birchshow Rocks from Giggleswick; Gannow Fell and Jeffrey Hill; Stoneyhurst and the Ribble Way; Giggleswick Scar and Feizor Thwaite; Lanes around Knowle Green; County Brook and Foulridge Reservoir; Higher Cliviger and Hurstwood.

New members are always welcome, so anyone interested keep an eye on the Newsletter or 'phone the Co-ordinator_ anytime for more details.

Convenor: Harold Foster

Wine Appreciation: 1st Thursday ~ 3pm Convenor's home

The year started with Wine Mans Bluff (Blind Tasting). We evaluated Sauvignon blanc from New Zealand and compared Cabernet Sauvignon around the world. In Italy we focussed on the Piedmont area of Italy and the island of Sicily -the vineyards and wines. In South America we looked at the rise in wine production of Chilean wines and when studying Australia we tasted the best ever Shiraz. There were unusual months where we looked at Lebanon, its wines and especially Chateau Musar, Georgian wines and Welsh wines. In Spain there was a special focus on sherry from Jerez. Our social events have included a garden party, a Christmas bottle and plate presentation and a Christmas wine dinner.

Convenor: Christine Snape