

2024

Leigh & District u3a

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends

A very happy new year to you all and here's to another successful year for Leigh & District u3a. In fact, we now have more members than ever, but we're always looking to welcome even more.

Since our last newsletter we've had a few new groups added to our list: Cycling, Coffee and Chat, Dickens Social History, History of Medicine, Singing for Fun and Italian Culture and Language. If you haven't yet tried out one of these new groups, why not give one or more of them a try?

Along with our regular group sessions, we had a very successful Open Day in August which saw around 150 people join us at Leigh Miners. Most of our Group Facilitators attended along with the Ukulele and Line Dancing groups who provided the entertainment. A Publicity Day was also held at the Spinning Gate Shopping Centre in November which again proved to be very popular.



Our Christmas Get Together in December was also a popular event and we're holding an Easter party on 15th March; please look out for further information regarding this.

One of our Committee members, Chris Lovelady, stepped down from the Committee in December and I must thank Chris for her work over the past few years. Chris was our Diversity and Equality person and we now need someone to replace her on the Committee. If this is something you're willing to do, please let one of the Committee members have your details.

For up to date information regarding Leigh & District u3a please look at our social media pages:

Facebook: Leigh & District u3a, and
Instagram: leighanddistrictu3a

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and don't forget to let me know if you would like to start a new group ... there's always room for more.

Thank you to all the Group Facilitators and Committee for their hard work, and to all of you for continuing to support Leigh & District u3a.

Cheers, Keith Anderton (Chair)

GROUPS AND FACILITATORS (from January 2024)

*Group meets at Family Welfare Centre
**Group meets at Kingsleigh Methodist
Community Centre

† Group meets at Leigh Miners Welfare
†† Group meets at Compassion in Action

***Acoustic Guitar:** Linda Worswick
guitar@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10am-12noon. 1st and 3rd Thursdays in month

***Astronomy:** Steve Fletcher 01942 538545
astronomy@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm-3pm. 2nd and 4th Fridays in month

***Book Reading & Armchair Critics:** Christine Lovelady
books@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 1st Monday in month

†**Bowls (Indoor):** Gill Fisher 07931 725160
bowls@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
This group is now at capacity. Please email to be added to the waiting list

Coffee and Chat: Christine Hart and
Kathy Hopper 07964 815192
coffee@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10.30am-12.30pm. Last Wednesday in month (starts Oct)
Holiday Inn Express, Leigh Sports Village

††**Creative Writing:** Joy Smith 01942 676127
writing@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. Last Friday in month

****Crime & Punishment:** Barbara Joyce 07516 225608
crime@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10.15am-12.15pm. 2nd Monday in month
Repeated 1pm-3pm on the same day

Cycling: Heather Lucey 07886 332089
cycling@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
For further details please contact Heather.

***Dickens Social History:** Kay Gorman 07932 211677
dickens@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm-3pm. 3rd Tuesday in month.

***Egyptology:** Maureen Lewis 01942 740269
egyptology@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 2nd Wednesday in month

***French (Intermediate):** Steve Lyon 07815 707816
french@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10am-12noon. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays in month

†**History of Medicine:** Frances Raftery 07969 259078
medicine@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm-3pm. Last Friday in the month.

***iPads and iPhones:** Marje Judic 01942 729560
ipads@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm-3pm. 4th Wednesday in month

***Italian (Intermediate):** Krystina Meinardi Rimmer
07590 489478
italian@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10am-12noon. 2nd and 4th Wednesday in month

***Italian Culture and Language:** Krystina Meinardi
Rimmer 07590 489478
italian@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10am-12noon. 1st Wednesday in month.

†**Line Dancing:** Jackie Anderton 07530 010157
linedancing@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10.30am-12.30pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month

***Local History:** Keith Anderton 07855 995586
localhistory@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 1st Monday in month

Luncheon Club: Al Foy 07885 165807
lunch@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm Meet. 2nd or 3rd Tuesday in month

***Maths:** Pat Todd 01942 799188
maths@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 4th Monday in month

†**Mixed Crafts:** Jackie Anderton 07530 010157
crafts@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10.30am-12.30pm. 1st and 3rd Mondays in month

†**Musical Instruments:** Brian Brittain 07990 587523
musical@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm-3pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month

†**Needlework:** Lilian Lockwood 01942 259013 &
Jill Bowker 01942 679686
needlework@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 4th Thursday in month

***Play Reading:** Kathleen Smith 01942 604790
plays@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 2nd Friday in month

***Poetry Appreciation:**
Temporarily closed pending a new Group Facilitator

***Quiz Club:** Iain East 07966 172601
quiz@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 2nd Thursday in month

***Relaxation/Support:** Christine Hart
relaxation@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10am-12noon. Last Thursday in month

***Shakespeare:** Janet Lythgoe 07591 073985
shakespeare@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm - 3pm. 1st Thursday in month

***Singing for Fun:** Jenny Allen 07502 006384
singing@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
1pm-3pm. 1st and 3rd Thursdays in month

Trips/Days Out: Jenny Allen 07502 006384
social@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
Monthly. Please contact Jenny for further details

†**Ukulele:** Alan Murphy 07768 842730
ukulele@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10.30am - 12.30pm. Every Monday

****Women in History:** Barbara Joyce 07516 225608
women@leighanddistrictu3a.org.uk
10.15am-12.15pm. 4th Monday in month
Repeated 1pm - 3pm on same day

Please contact Group Facilitator before attending a
group for the first time.

Registered Charity No 1158866

FRIDAY SOCIALS—DOORS OPEN AT 1PM, TALK BEGINS AT 1.30PM

Socials are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at Leigh Miners Welfare. Here are details of the speakers booked for 2024 so far

2nd February—Terry Daily “The History of Howe Bridge and it’s Volunteers”. Terry will be telling us all about Howe Bridge along with a brief historical tour of the area.

16th February—Neil Stevenson 'Expedition Cruising: The Ring of Fire- The Story of the Aleutian Islands'. Neil has travelled to some of the least visited parts of the world, parts with few or no inhabitants. These places can best be accessed by small cruise ships. His talk features the fauna and historical background of the places visited.

1st March—David Kay “Three Towns Amateur Operatic Society” with music from the Three Towns Choir.

15th March—Easter Extravaganza. Our Easter party will be from 1pm–3pm; with a buffet lunch, music from our Musical Instruments group so plenty time to sing and dance, and the bar will be open. Tickets are £4 each and will be available at the Friday Socials.

5th April—Joy and Kevin Siddall “A Musical Meander Around Britain”. You may remember Joy and Kevin from their recent excellent entertaining afternoon about the life of Frank Sinatra. This time they’re taking us on a musical tour of Great Britain.

3rd May—Roger Browne “The Life and Times of Scott Joplin”. Scott Joplin (1868–1917) was an American composer and pianist. Dubbed the 'King of Ragtime', he composed more than forty ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet and two operas. Most people are familiar with The Entertainer, and other Joplin compositions, that were featured in the film The Sting.

7th June—Steve Williams “Shifting Sands”. A regular visitor to Morecambe Bay, Steve's talk looks at the history and changes around the bay from Fleetwood to Arnside, Grange-over-Sands and the tip of Walney Island.

TRIPS AND DAYS OUT

I have provisionally booked 37 places on the following trip:

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY 2024 at BRIARS HALL HOTEL, LATHOM, ORMSKIRK— VALENTINES DAY PARTY AFTERNOON WITH LUNCH, ENTERTAINMENT BY TONY RAVEL, BINGO AND DANCING From 12.00 pm until 4.00 pm

COST IS:- £26.00 for lunch and entertainment
£12.00 pp for coach if 30 people travelling
OR £10.00 pp for coach if 37 people travelling
TOTAL:- £38.00 if 30 people travelling
OR £36.00 if 37 people travelling

If you are interested in the above trip, please contact **Jenny Allen** on **07502 006384** or email jennynem@hotmail.com. A deposit of £10 per person will reserve your place. **PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO LEIGH & DISTRICT U3A**

Many thanks

Jenny Allen (Social Secretary)



CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Hello, my name is Peter Yardley, and I am a member of the Creative Writing Group. We meet at 1pm on the last Friday of each month at the Compassion in Action building on Leigh Road. We are a small group but would like to invite anyone who is interested to join us, even if it just to sit in and listen to the stories, poems etc, and take part in the discussions we always have. Our facilitator, Joy Smith would certainly welcome newcomers as we all would.

The group published a book a couple years ago 'Tosca's Dress' which was sold as a fundraiser for the u3a. In November 2023, at the age of 78 years, 9 months, and 22 days, I published my first book, 'An Anthology of Short Stories, Poems and Other Things', with contributions from other members of the writing group, who also did some proof reading for me. All the stories and poems have been written by me and the group. The book has been published to raise funds for Huntington's Disease Association (HDA) and Scottish Huntington's Disease Association (SHDA).

Like every other charity, HDA and SHDA need to raise money to continue the vital role in support of people with HD and just as importantly, their families. HD is an inherited condition, both men and women can suffer from it, but generally it is passed through the female line. The symptoms don't usually appear until their late forties or early fifties. One of my sisters, Myra, died from this horrible disease, there is no cure. It is a defective gene in the brain that affects movement and speech, and results in the loss of a loved one. As a family we don't know if our Mum had it as she died aged 42, well before it would have been diagnosed.

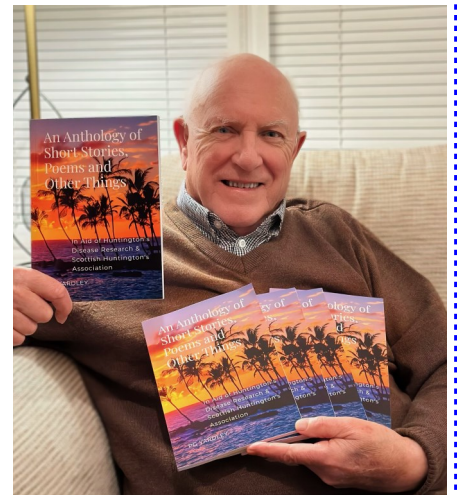
Myra had three children, Bobby, Margo, and the youngest Gillian. Gillian has been diagnosed with HD. She is the mother of three beautiful daughters, all three are still young women so it is too early to know if any of them has inherited the faulty gene. Gillian is one of the top fundraisers for SHDA, she has raised thousands of pounds. Her more recent exploits have seen her doing a parachute jump for the first time, and in 2022 she travelled down to Selby and did a wing walk on a Gypsy Moth aeroplane, doing four loop the loops and five-barrel rolls.

I am not that brave. I had started writing short stories and some poetry, so decided to do more and get them published if possible. I really cannot thank my Creative Writing Group enough for their encouragement and contributions.

Each month we decide what the subject for the next meeting will be. Joy suggested the subject was to write something for my book, I was knocked out by this, and they came up trumps for me. I would also like to thank, Keith (chair), Maree (publicity), Sue (treasurer and Jackie (group co-ordinator) and the u3a committee for their support in allowing me to promote the book through the Leigh and District u3a.

Books bought personally cost £10, books to be posted cost £12.50 to cover post & packaging. I hope to donate between five or six pounds from every sale, depending on any price changes. Anyone publishing a book for the first time you don't know how well it will sell, but as someone who has been involved in charity work for many years, I know that every penny donated is important to the cause. **ALL** profits from the book will be going to the two associations, as well as raising awareness of Huntington's Disease.

I can take payment by PayPal, Cash, for payment by cheque or other means, please contact me for details. My email address is: peter@yardley.me.uk



Thank you—PG Yardley

LINE DANCING

The Line Dancing Group is fast approaching its second anniversary, in February, and has proved to be a very popular group maintaining a high level of attendees. We continue to meet at 10.30am on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings of each month at the Miners using their large ballroom. Even though this is a beginners group we have made good progress over the two years learning new dance routines, with more complicated steps.



Over the past year we have had three dance parties with a Jacob's table. As always there was plenty of food to share and lots of very tempting cakes. The first party was held at Easter where we had spring colour as our theme. The second at Halloween with some great scary costumes and headbands. Our third and most recent party was at our December meeting to celebrate Christmas glitz and glitter, flashing Christmas lights and some brilliant Christmas jumpers. These parties have proved to be very popular with everyone saying how much they enjoyed them, we will continue the trend in 2024.

During 2023 at u3a events the group danced to music played by the Ukulele group. At the Open Day we had a demonstration led by Ray and Mildred which got lots of people up dancing and was an excellent opportunity to promote the group. As always Ray and Mildred, our dance leaders, have done a superb job keeping us on our toes and focused. All dances are walked through before dancing to the music so any new members are not left behind.

Jackie, the group facilitator sends out regular emails keeping all members up to date with information about the group and any changes which may occur.

Line Dancing is a great way to exercise and not too strenuous. It's good for the memory, remembering all the different steps and routines and gives you a sense of achievement when you master one of the more complex dances. It's an inside activity, so no chance of cancellations due to bad weather and it's a good way to keep warm in winter. Partners are not required, so it's also an opportunity to make new friends with similar interests.

We are looking forward to another fun year, dancing our way through 2024 and of course enjoying more parties.

Jennifer Peters

CYCLING GROUP



A new group started in Autumn this year – Cycling, or more specifically a Couch to 5 miles, 6 week course. Wigan Council have a very proactive cycling/health programme and we were very fortunate to enlist their Cycling Activator, Joy Lummis, and volunteer Clive Chatterton, to facilitate the course. Their services were free, and everyone had the opportunity to borrow a bike and/or helmet, also free, we didn't even have a room hire fee – what's not to like!

The session was split into 2 parts, starting in the enclosed tarmacked football area in Pennington Park and ending by going out into the beautiful Pennington Flash for increasingly long off-road bike rides. In the safety of the enclosed area we covered all we needed to know, and experience many bike riding skills, to build up our confidence for the real thing. Bike checks, clothing checks, mounting/dismounting, starting/stopping, emergency stopping, signalling, riding as a team, negotiating obstacles, even a game where we rode as slowly as we could in an ever-decreasing circle without putting a foot down – much merriment and competitive sparks were seen.

We were blessed with good weather (mostly) and very fortunate to have the many routes of Pennington Flash to explore. It's our intention to run this course again in the Spring and we're looking forward to it already. Keep a look out for the start date!

Heather Lucey

COFFEE & CHAT GROUP

Our Coffee and Chat Group is another of the new groups which recently started, and is proving to be very successful.

The group meet at 10.30am on the last Wednesday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express at Leigh Sports Village. The venue is fully accessible and very popular with our members providing a comfortable warm space to meet with fellow u3a members and our group facilitators, Kathy and Christine.

Please come along and join us.



Kathy Hopper

INDOOR BOWLING



October, saw us meeting indoors in The Miners, for the late Autumn / Winter period.

Immediately we proved to be very popular as we could claim straight away to be full. In fact we have a waiting list which is also starting to lengthen. Previous members, who haven't been for a while, at this moment in time, would be unable to join us yet, but would have to join the waiting list, alongside others.

We meet at 10.30am on the second and fourth Friday's of each month where, before the session starts, we have the unenviable task of putting out the bowling mats and a variety of other equipment. My thanks go to the group members who all help to do this and of course, at the end, put it all away again!

We can't claim to be expert bowlers – it can be very tricky – why does the bowl not go where you want it to? However we can claim to have a lot of fun and laughs!

Gill Fisher

CRIME & PUNISHMENT AND WOMEN IN HISTORY GROUPS

Crime & Punishment

The group was ahead of the game regarding the **Horizon Post Office Scandal** as this was our topic in August 2021. There was very little interest from



the media at that time, but it was clear that following the 'class action' in December 2019 that (very slowly) the convictions based on Horizon evidence would have to be quashed. Following the TV drama this will happen more quickly and the other compensation claims (for bankruptcy, loss of accommodation, loss of business, loss of reputation, mental health problems etc.) have to be dealt with. The current Inquiry is scrutinising these issues. I think that our members were appalled when we discussed this scandal and were even more concerned when they saw the recent drama. The moral of the story being that as a member of u3a you can learn about and discuss all kinds of things, including this issue which had yet to hit the mainstream news.

Curiosity, learning and good company keeps you young! Get all this for only £1.50 room hire per session.

Some highlights for the rest of 2024 include a presentation on 11th March 2024 on another case that arguably could be described as a miscarriage of justice. This was the case of '**Craig and Bentley**.' During the post war period there was concern that the younger generation was out of control. The crime rate was rising and a large proportion was committed by teenagers. Various explanations were put forward, including the effects of the war itself and the apparent 'Americanisation' of British youth via violent films and lurid comics. In late 1952 Christopher Craig shot a police officer dead in Croydon during a failed warehouse break-in. Craig was too young to hang, but his companion **Derek Bentley**, who did not use any violence at all, was executed. This not only led to public disquiet at the time, but also a campaign to clear Bentley's name which lasted more than 40 years. The presentation will examine all this as well as looking at the long term effects of the case on the legal system.

To learn about this and our other topics for this year please feel free to attend the group on the second Monday of the month. No need to book. You can dip in and out as the fancy takes you and non-members are welcome to 'try before they buy'.

Other topics for this year include '**Whole Life Sentences**', '**3 Welsh Unsolved Murders**', '**Lone Actors – Terrorists who Operate Alone**' and '**The Portland Spy Ring**'. For the full calendar please look at the 'Groups' page on the Leigh and District u3a web site.

Women in History

We will start off the year with our discussion of women we have lost in 2023. Many famous women died last year but some members may wish to discuss the lives of less well known females such as their sisters or mothers. We operate via a mix of presentations by a single member and discussion groups. Members are welcome to bring information for the discussions, but it is not compulsory. I am always grateful to members who search out unusual research and one member even brought her original Mary Quant outfit when we looked at female fashion designers last year!

Topics for the year will include '**Con Women**', '**The Cult of Celebrity**', '**Unsung Heroines of Leigh and District**' and '**Divorce**'. For a full list of topics please look at the Groups page on the Leigh and District u3a website. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month. The morning meeting starts at 10.15am and there is a repeat meeting at 1pm. We do have a number of men attending the group and we sometimes agree to disagree agreeably! But all views are respected and above all we aim to have a relaxed and fun meeting. All members are welcome and there is no need to book.

Both Crime & Punishment and Women in History meet at the Community Centre behind Kingsleigh Methodist Church in Leigh. The church is directly opposite the bus station. Parking is accessed via Cook Street and the gate is immediately left past Platinum House.

Barbara Joyce

BOOK READING GROUP

The reading group has had another few months of interesting books and discussions and we would like to thank Leigh library services for providing sets of books for our use. Thanks also to the Family Welfare Centre for providing our meeting place.

In August we discussed a book that was challenging because of its topic. 'American Dirt' by Jeanine Cummins is the story of a mother and son trying to escape from the clutches of a drug cartel. It tells of their harrowing journey to USA and the tales of their fellow travellers. We then discussed the movement of refugees across countries and continents.

In September, we were challenged to read a new genre and/or author. One of the books read was Stephen King's 'The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon'. Although King is a horror writer, this particular book was not so scary!

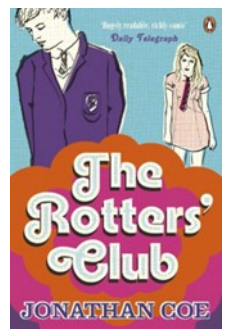
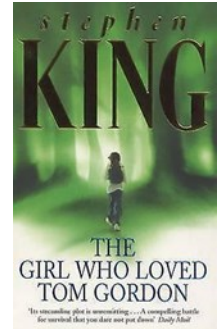
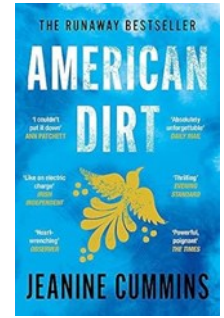
October saw us pay a visit to The Shakespeare North theatre in Prescott to see 'The Book of Will'. We were joined by members of the Shakespeare and Poetry Groups. It was a great experience and we were all impressed with the new theatre and look forward to future performances. We were glad that we had enjoyed the play as our chosen book for discussion was the only time we have been in 100% agreement. It went down like the proverbial lead balloon!

In contrast, in November we read, 'Water for Elephants' by Sarah Gruen and we all loved it. The novel follows the fortunes of a young man who runs away to the circus. His past and present intertwine and we meet some pleasant characters along the way and some nasty and evil folk. It's an engaging read.

We met in December to look at the books we read in honour of November's Disability Awareness Month. Rob Burrow's 'Too Many Reasons To Live' was a big favourite and if you like your Rugby League then this is a book for you. We talked about the impact of being a carer from both physical and emotional perspectives. The classic story 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson – Burnett is essentially a children's book about the power of the human spirit and of positivity. "One" by Sarah Casson is a Young Adult book about conjoined twins. It really brings home the problems and frustrations of adolescence and young love to someone physically linked to her sister. It's a very moving book and recommended to all ages.

In December we read 'The Rotters Club' by Jonathan Coe and we met early in 2024 to discuss it. It was definitely a 'marmite' book! Our first read of 2024 is 'The 10,000 doors of January' by Alix E. Harrow. Check it out and join us at our February meeting. We meet at 1pm on the first Monday of each month at the Family Welfare Centre.

Chris Lovelady



HISTORY OF MEDICINE

January's topics were A History of Madness and a History of Bolton Royal Infirmary which will have taken place by the time you read this newsletter.

However, please look forward to (studying, not contracting!) Puerperal (childbed) Fever, AIDS, the Sweating Sickness and Autopsy. Other interesting topics are to follow.



We have already looked at (yes, there are PowerPoint pics for every topic) prosthetics, parasites, malaria, dentistry, scurvy and syphilis, to name a few. There have been some good contributions from group members who have come across conditions as part of their previous work/knew someone/read something/saw it on TV etc. Members have also brought and donated books and history magazines – my grateful thanks.

Galen's pig dissection (in Autopsy topic – March)

So, if there's a hidden scientist, medical historian, doctor or discoverer somewhere inside you, come along and we'll share our findings together ... or, if this is just a subject you're interested in, please come along. We meet on the last Friday of each month at 1pm at Leigh Miners Welfare.

Feel free to contact me: Frances 07969 259078 or f.raftery42@gmail.com

Regards, Frances

MATHS GROUP

In recent months we have been working on converting between various units, geometry and algebra; David, from the Bolton u3a group, gave us an interesting presentation on speedy calculations. Finally, in January, we tried working in 3D.

The topics to come soon are travel graphs, ratio and some statistics.

New members are welcome as we offer assistance to those who find maths a bit frightening due to past experiences.

We meet at the Family Welfare Centre at 1pm on the fourth Monday of each month. Please come along and give it a try.

Pat Todd

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

The Needlework group meet at Leigh Miners Welfare from 1pm-3pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.



The group's Christmas competition was different this year because everyone had the same material but different ideas. Pauline won first prize and Lynda the second.

Our first meeting of the year will have the two winners



describing how to make their items. We will also be taking ideas for the coming year.

If you're interested in any type of Needlework please come along and see what we're doing. You'll be made very welcome.

Lillian

ACOUSTIC GUITAR & VOCAL GROUP

We said goodbye to our last session of 2023 with our Tinsel and Turkey session, a happy mix of Xmas songs such as **Rocking Around the Christmas Tree**, **Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer** and **Winter Wonderland** and nibbled on Festive nibbles before wishing everyone seasons greetings till the next time.

It was joyous and tuneful. Always a good combination when you're singing and playing guitars and tambourines acoustically in a large group.

Our first session back in 2024 was busy and fun again. Santa had brought a rather lovely guitar to some of us, despite our homes no longer having a chimney and others had bought guitar lessons . Very nice.

Our plans for 2024 are quite simple but profound: we are committed to keeping the **Fun in Fundamental Guitars and Vocals** by any means that make our people feel happy and valued. There's a huge wealth of experience and untapped potential in our group. People shine. People are chilled. So all is good.

Facilitator Dave Shep 's musicality is the backbone to our sessions and his boundless enthusiasm keeps it fun and dynamic. He also does the Facebook input and posts tips and jokes.

So, our plan for 2024 is... more of the same. And then a bit more again. If you'd like to join us come along to the Family Welfare Centre at 10am on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

Linda and Shep

QUIZ GROUP

Our regular monthly quizzes continue with usually about 20 – 30 members taking part. We meet in the Community Room at the Family Welfare Centre at 1pm on the second Thursday of each month. Recent quizzes have been presented by Chris, Sue, Les, Geoff and myself. They've varied in difficulty, style and format which has helped to keep things fresh and our quizzers on their toes!



The last quiz I presented had seven rounds including General Knowledge, Geography, Cars (the name of a car maker was in each answer) and a music round where I played a musical clip based on the theme of "Love" and our quizzers had to identify the title and artist. I also introduced a "Find the Link" round where our quizzers had to identify the link between the clues. The sooner they identified it, the more points they won.

If you haven't managed to take part yet but feel you would like to then by all means please come along, join in with a few others to form a team and have some fun quizzing.

Everyone welcome!

Iain East

LOCAL HISTORY

The Local History Group started 2023 looking at some of the food and meals that the people of Leigh & District would have been eating in the past. The answer was, not a lot if you were a member of the working class. Who could forget the **Higher Ince Bacon shape butty**? Fry a slice of Bacon in lard, put it between two slices of bread press down on the bread take the bacon out and give a slice of the bread to each child and mother and father had the bacon on his bread!

We also researched the outdoor market on Leigh parish church square, the Leigh Turnpike and the reason for it. The start of the local council estates, a visit and tour of Winwick church were also topics for discussion.

For 2024 some of the suggested topics are:

- a local murder
- local heroes
- people with honours
- musicians
- sports people
- inventors
- day trips out to the seaside from our local works clubs for kids
- history of Winwick hospital
- US airbase at Burtonwood.



If you'd like to join us, please come along to the Family Welfare Centre at 1pm on the first Monday of each month and you'll be made very welcome.

Regards, Keith Anderton

UKULELE GROUP

It's business as usual at Leigh and District u3a Ukulele Group. Attendance on Monday mornings is continuing to be between 35 and 45 ukulele players and a few members who come along just to sing. Yes, you can come along without a ukulele if you want a good sing song. The sessions are different each week with some members taking turn at choosing the songs and leading the set. A few brave people will lead the singing and everyone will join in. The weather may not be warm but the company is.

A "spin off" (as the TV shows call it) from our Group is the Leigh u3a Ukulele Band who have been performing at Care Homes and various venues around the district. Christmas was a particularly busy time which included performances at Spinning Gate Mall and of course the last social of the year at the Miners where the Band was joined by other players from the Ukulele Group and some members playing from their tables. It was a great event; if you weren't there, you missed out on some good fun.



Our new members and beginners from early on in the year are now looking like they have played (as the kids would say) "like forever" and we have a few learners who have joined recently. If you have been given a ukulele from Father Christmas or would just



like to play an instrument, we can give lessons in the first half of our Monday session. We also have a few ukuleles for loan until you decide to purchase your own. So, we meet every Monday morning, 10.30 till 12.30 at the Miners, come along and have some fun.

Alan Murphy

DICKENS SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP



This group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the Family Welfare Centre.

Thus far we have explored working conditions and education in 'Hard Times', the workhouse and crime in 'Oliver Twist', and Christmas traditions and themes in 'A Christmas Carol'.

In January the meeting had to be cancelled because of the weather which means on February 20th we shall be looking at 'Little Dorrit'. Prisons (various), government administration in the guise of the Circumlocution Office, and social hierarchy will be the order of the day. Humorous and depressing at one and the same time!

Why not come and join us? We're a small friendly group and it doesn't matter if you've read any Dickens or not, as this group also discuss the social issues around Dickens' time.

Kay

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS GROUP AKA THE ROLLING BONES

We are a mixed ability group comprising of 27 u3a members who enjoy playing together as a group. We have mainly electric guitars but also acoustic guitars, bass guitar, drums, keyboard, saxophone and ukuleles!

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month commencing 1pm until 3 pm in the ballroom at Leigh Miners Welfare Institute.

Our sessions are ably led by Mike Smith and we have created a songbook of over 100 songs which is available on our Dropbox. The music varies from Country and Western to rock so something here for every taste.



Our players' skills vary from good amateur to virtually professional level so if you can play proficiently and possibly sing along as well you will be very welcome. We also play occasionally at u3a socials with our next performance being at the u3a Easter party on 15th March 2024 at Leigh Miners Welfare Institute.

Why not come along and join in?

Brian

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