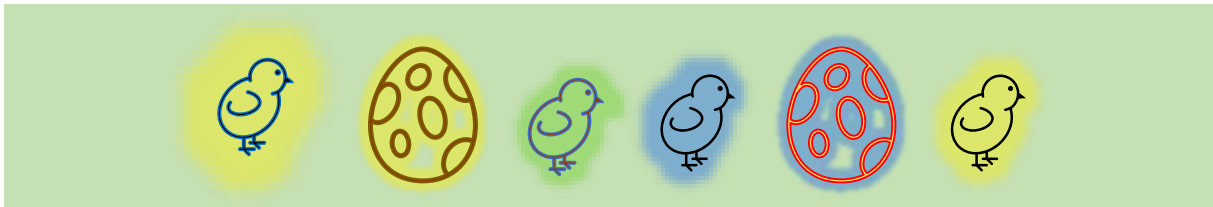




## Littleborough u3a Newsletter April 2024



Dear Friends,

Welcome to your April newsletter and a special welcome to new members. A very happy Easter to you all! I am sending this a couple of days early partly so that you have the whole of the Easter weekend to read it (bet you can't wait) and so that you can enjoy the short Easter quiz with family and friends. I hope the sun shines and that you are blessed with pleasant company.

In this newsletter are a number of important reminders and updates, news of some new groups, a quick Easter quiz and a handful of eggs-ellent jokes.

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

Bugs Bunny!

I can hear the groans already. More importantly, in this newsletter you will find:

1. News and Information
  - AGM and new committee members
  - Membership update
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch
2. Monthly Meetings
3. Outings and Events
4. Groups
5. An Easter quiz
6. Comic interlude
7. Quiz Answers

Why do people paint eggs for Easter?  
It's much easier than trying to wallpaper them!

### 1. News

## Littleborough u3a AGM and committee elections

We hold our Annual General Meeting at the June monthly meeting each year. This year the AGM will take place on Monday June 10th at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House. I am attaching your formal invitation. You are also invited to submit any motion that you would like to put to the whole of the u3a membership and to contribute to the nomination of individuals to be on the committee. All the necessary papers for the AGM will be emailed to members early in April as a separate message. If you do not have an email address, your papers are attached to the mailing with this newsletter.

Note that the formal meeting of the AGM is usually short and business-like and is followed by entertainment from our own groups and refreshments as usual. Please do come along.

New volunteers to join the committee: One of the documents that will be sent to you will be the nomination form for new committee members. Please note that all current committee members have to be elected every year so there are 12 places on the committee and we hope, each year, to bring in some new people as well as to keep some of our experienced members. **This year we are particularly keen to recruit committee members but also specific officers to take on the roles of treasurer and business secretary. Please do think about joining the committee. Just talk to any one of us to find out more or simply complete a nomination form.**

## Membership Update

We currently have a remarkable 376 members including 17 new members. However, 63 members have yet to renew their membership. Whilst membership fees are due by the end of March for the new year beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a tolerance period so we will hold your details for a while longer to give you the chance to renew. It is helpful if you can let us know if you do **not** want to renew your membership. Meanwhile, a big thank you to all who have renewed. If you have any questions about membership please contact our membership secretary: [membership.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com](mailto:membership.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com)

## Littleborough u3a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration event

At the last count, we had sold 202 tickets (you will get a ticket in due course) to the lunch with entertainment at Rochdale Town Hall on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>. This number include 12 non-members coming as guests of members. We continue to take bookings and will do so for another couple of months or until we reach the limit of 250. You can book at the monthly meeting or by bank transfer to the u3a treasurer using the reference TOWN HALL.

Before the **end of August**, we will notify you that the balance is due and we will issue tickets in September. We will also be asking you for dietary requirements and allergies in order to finalise the buffet menu.

At the same time, we will clarify your requests for the seating plan. **Groups, please note that each table seats 10 people.** Ideally you will give us names in groups of ten. These are round tables so good for conversation and we will try to seat larger groups on tables near to each other so that you can move around to talk to each other. It is a buffet meal so you will be moving around anyway.

Lastly, just to let you know that we continue to raise funds to subsidise this event and we have, thanks to your help and participation, already raised nearly £1000. We will continue to run a raffle at the monthly meeting and please remember that there is now a craft stall at the monthly meeting with some lovely cards and gifts handmade by our own members. Both these contribute to the

fundraising for the Town Hall event 10<sup>th</sup> birthday event. See under Outings and Events below for fun things you can join that are part of our fundraising activities.



### Cups, cups. Cups for coffee or tea:

Please can more members remember to bring their own cup to monthly meetings. It saves waste and we will soon be required to stop using disposable cups.

What do you get if you cross a rabbit with a French Emperor?

Napoleon Bunnyparte

(oh, that is so bad..)

**Money, money, money** – Please keep your change..., it's not much use to us if it is a coin of less than 50p because the Post Office won't let us bank it...



## 2. Monthly Meetings

Brian Topping filled a full room with stories of smugglers and tricksters. Our next monthly meeting is on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Coach House in Littleborough. Our speaker will be Peter Mellow talking about the Assassination of JFKennedy. Can you remember where you were when we heard the news of the shooting in Dallas? I can remember it quite clearly.

Our next monthly meeting is on Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> when we will hear from Allan Callow about his Years of being a Toastmaster.

Why was the Easter Bunny chosen for the job?

Because he had the most eggs-perience.

## 3. Outings and Events

A great day out was had in Llandudno in March. The sun shone surprisingly and the sea sparkled. The lunch was very good in a nicely refurbished hotel and there was time for a

stroll along the seafront looking out to the Great Orme and some retail therapy in the shops. So don't miss out – here are the things you could be signing up for:

**Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>: Coach trip to Thirsk** to include lunch and admission to the **World of James Herriot**, plus free time in town. Cost £29.

**Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>: ABBA** entertainment at Yeadon Theatre with lunch. Get ready to sing along! Cost £60. Deposits to be paid at the April monthly meeting.

**Rochdale Town Hall Guided Tours:** April 30<sup>th</sup> – only three places remain. May 21<sup>st</sup> – Full. These have proved very popular. Sandra will book another for June.

**Lytham Hall and Gardens** – this is not yet booked so dates (probably July) and costs not yet available but it was popular last year and there are already around 30 people keen to go this year. If you are interested please register your interest. The trip will include optional tour of the hall and optional afternoon tea.

### And Fundraising Entertainments

**Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>: Shaw Playhouse Charity Night at 7.30pm.** N.B. Only 10 tickets left - this is open to friends and family as well as to all u3a members. Tickets are £10 and most of the income from tickets contributes to fund-raising for our December event.



The play – **One Man, Two Guvnors** - is a very entertaining comedy with a twist about a skiffle player who is employed by two men, one a gangster and the other an upper class twit. James Corden played the starring role in the very popular West End production (okay I'm not promising he will be there in Shaw...).

Please sign up for all the above at the monthly meeting or contact Sandra Kokocki ([sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com))



Don't miss **LISTEN UP!** on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April** from **2pm til 4pm** at **Hare Hill House** when our Creative Writing Groups and Poetry Group will entertain you as you sit back, relax and sip a tea or coffee whilst tucking into delicious cake!

Tickets are £3.00 and are available from members of the groups or at the April monthly meeting.

This event is a fund-raiser for our **BIG BIRTHDAY EVENT** at the Town Hall in December, so please come and support us!

Why does the Easter Bunny have such a good complexion?

Because he eggs-fooliates.

## 4. Groups

### a) New Groups:

A number of new groups are launching this month including a **Beginners' Spanish** group, meeting weekly in Hare Hill House on Monday mornings from 10.30 – 12.30. Their first meeting is on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> and they already have a very good membership list but there is space for one more person.

**Philosophy Group 2:** This group is just getting ready to launch so now is a good time to sign up if you are interested in joining.

### b) Groups welcoming new members:

**The Scrabble Group** would welcome more members. The group meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons in Littleborough United Reform Church from 2 to 4pm. We have a number of Scrabble boards and are keen to see new players joining the group which is convened by Anthea Wood. Contact Anthea by clicking on the blue bird in the corner of the Scrabble Group page on the website.

### c) Group Reports

**Craft Group** meetings at Hare Hill House: April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>: Crochet. These sessions are for beginners and those with experience.

**Quiz Group** meeting in the Red Lion Pub: 2.30pm April 25<sup>th</sup>



#### **Bridge**

Christine Macmillan-Bodell, who convenes the Bridge Group says:

Thank you to the Bridge Group for volunteering for the third year to take part in the National u3a Bridge Competition on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 from 10am to 12.30ish. This is a charity event, this year raising funds for the Parkinsons Disease and for Cruse Bereavement to which a small donation will be made from the Bridge Group.

#### **Creative Writing 2**

Our task for our last meeting was to rewrite a fairy story. The brief produced interesting interpretations. Some fairy stories were easily recognised, others less so. Some characters were noticeably absent, others were neatly disguised. In each case the moral of the story remained the same although there were some reversals of the ending which were not always happy. But, to be honest, fairy stories did not always end well. We had the three little pigs as three mates from school making their way in the world and Cinderella as an example of modern slavery, Short, imaginative, stories often with a twist at the end.

Our task for the next meeting of the group is to write a poem, with or without rhyme as you choose, about 'Modern Times'. It might be a nostalgic look at the changes we have seen in our lifetime, it might be a lyrical welcome to AI, it is up to you to interpret the theme as you chose. When we meet, we will share our writing (no pressure to do this but it is a friendly and appreciative group) and talk about the task and our own experience of writing. We share ideas and tips.

The group meets in Littleborough Library monthly on a Monday afternoon and the next meeting will be at **2pm on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>**.



### Astronomy Group



Many people ask why the Astronomy group meets during the day. Well with being in the Greater Manchester area we have more overcast and cloudy nights than clear ones, so using telescopes becomes very intermittent. So as an alternative we watch rare programmes and discuss content.

Our March meeting explored planet detection and the search for intelligent life, including the Fermi paradox, which notes the discrepancy between the lack of conclusive evidence of advanced

extraterrestrial life and the apparently high likelihood of its existence.

It poses the question, with all the current searches, (Kepler, TESS, SETI, James Webb Space Telescope, Hubble Space Telescope, Giant Magellan Telescope, Europa Clipper mission.) why is the only life we know of on our planet alone?

When Fermi made his famous remark, the only planets scientists knew about were in our own solar system. But in 1992, astronomers spotted worlds circling a superdense stellar corpse known as a pulsar. And a few years later, the first exoplanet around a sunlike star was confirmed. The word "exoplanet" derives from the term "extrasolar planet," which hints at its existence beyond the influence of our star.

There are now more than 5,000 confirmed exoplanets, with more being found every year. The sheer number of alien worlds suggests that life may be plentiful



throughout the cosmos.

From time to time the group also visit the Astronomy Centre in Todmorden, or the Heaton Park Astronomy Group – so not everyone needs their own telescope.

If it sounds of interest to you, visit our next meeting at 10am on 11<sup>th</sup> April at the Bowling Club in Hare Hill Park.



### History Group

Our March meeting at the History room heard an entertaining illustrated talk from Iain Bowden, on the history of Hollingworth Lake.

We were introduced to the early pubs and pleasure grounds

run by local businessmen, and how the lake was built to feed water to the Rochdale Canal at Summit. The Beach Hotel occupied a commanding site and had a brilliantly lighted dancing stage capable of accommodating some 2000 people and adjoining grounds fitted out for all fresco sports.

Crossing the lake from one landing stage to another by paddle steamer was the picturesque Lake Hotel standing within large and tastefully laid out pleasure grounds, where drives lined with shrubbery could be found and a bowling green at the back and dancing stage at the front.

The History Group usually meet at 2.00 pm on every third Monday in the month at Littleborough History and Archaeological Society Rooms, Platform 2, Littleborough Railway Station, Littleborough, OL15 8AF

Access to Platform 2 is by steps or a ramp. The Rooms are wheelchair accessible with an accessible toilet.

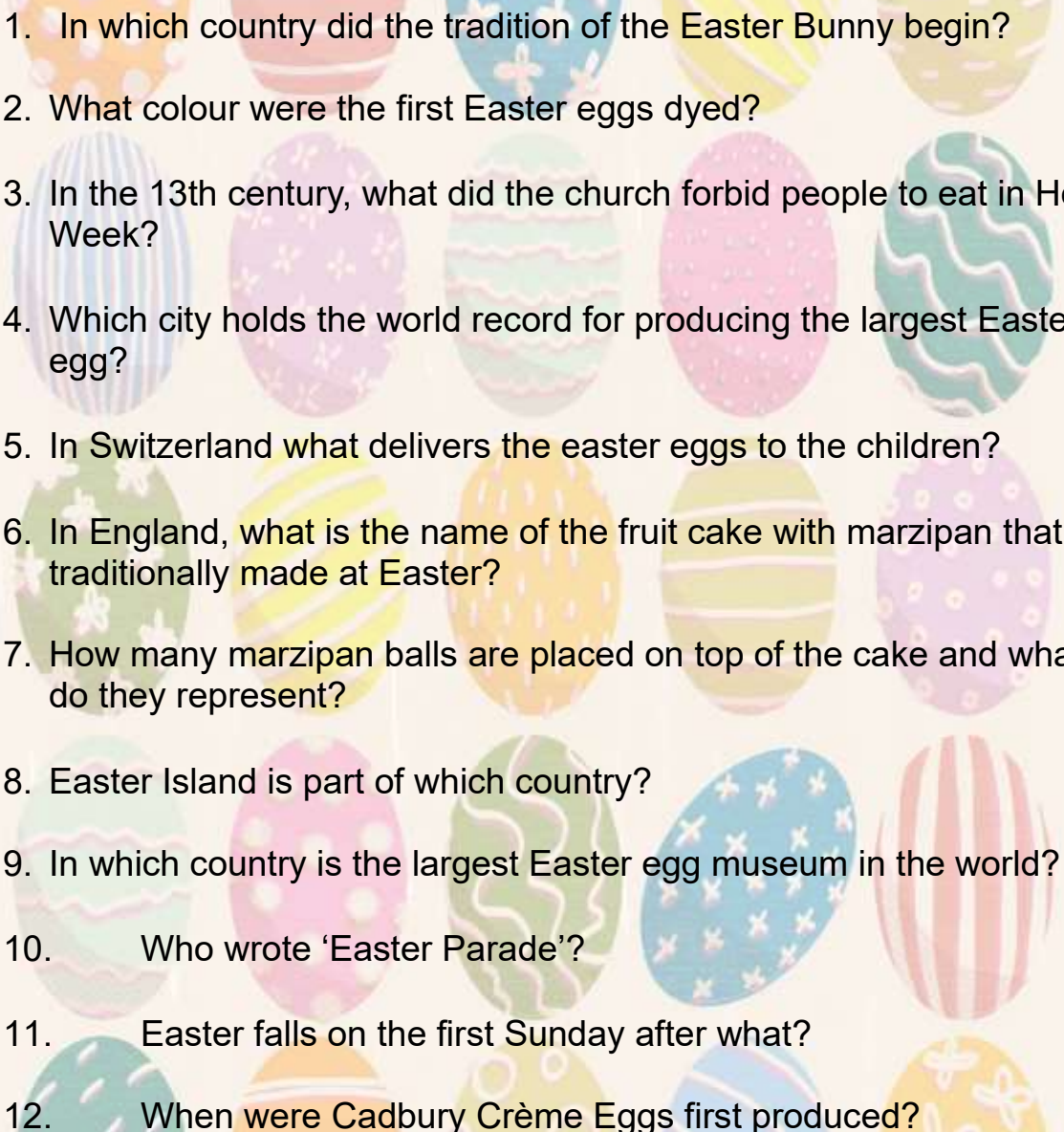
**Our next meeting is on Monday 15th April 2024.**

What kinds of stories do bunnies like best?

## 5. Easter Quiz

### A Quiz for Easter

Answers at the end of the newsletter. But don't look!!

- 
1. In which country did the tradition of the Easter Bunny begin?
  2. What colour were the first Easter eggs dyed?
  3. In the 13th century, what did the church forbid people to eat in Holy Week?
  4. Which city holds the world record for producing the largest Easter egg?
  5. In Switzerland what delivers the easter eggs to the children?
  6. In England, what is the name of the fruit cake with marzipan that is traditionally made at Easter?
  7. How many marzipan balls are placed on top of the cake and what do they represent?
  8. Easter Island is part of which country?
  9. In which country is the largest Easter egg museum in the world?
  10. Who wrote 'Easter Parade'?
  11. Easter falls on the first Sunday after what?
  12. When were Cadbury Crème Eggs first produced?



## 6. Comic Interlude

Who is the Easter Bunny's favorite actor?  
Rabbit de Niro

Why don't dinosaurs like Easter Eggs?  
Because they are eggs-tinct

Why are Easter Bunnies more tired when Easter falls in April?  
Because they've just finished a long March.

How many Easter eggs can you fit into an empty basket?  
Only one – after that it is no longer empty.

What do you get if you jump up and down on a rabbit hole?  
Hot cross bunnies!!

## 7. Quiz Answers

### Easter Quiz Answers

1. The Easter bunny first hopped about in Germany – actually it was a hare, not a rabbit...
2. Easter eggs were dyed red, representing the blood of Christ
3. Eggs were prohibited from the menu in Easter week in the 13<sup>th</sup> century
4. The largest Easter egg was made in Tosca, Italy
5. In Switzerland a cuckoo delivers Easter eggs
6. The traditional cake for Easter is a Simnel cake
7. There are 11 marzipan balls on top of a Simnel cake, representing the 11 apostles (without Judas).
8. Easter Island is part of Chile
9. The largest Easter egg museum is in Poland (Museum Rolnictwa)
10. Irving Berlin wrote Easter Parade and started the fashion for easter bonnets.
11. Easter falls on the Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox
12. Cadbury Crème Eggs were first produced in 1963.

So, finally I hope you have a lovely Easter and that you have found some fun in this newsletter as well as information. If you find the jokes just too corny for words, I will happily accept better ones to put in the next issue... Very best wishes to you all.

Jo Wiggans