

Littleborough u3a Newsletter

December 2023

Dear friends,

Welcome to this bumper December issue of your u3a newsletter full of things to do, stories to read, activities to plan for, and quizzes and jokes to entertain and tease. I am holding the answers to the quizzes until the January issue just so that you have something to look forward to after Christmas. If you have sent a contribution that is not in this newsletter, please look for it next month.

I am very grateful to all members who have contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Thank you. I cannot do it without you!



Lapland. Photograph by Alan Wade, u3a Photography Group

In this issue you will find:

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What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?

An abdominal snowman.

1. News

a) A Special note for NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a special welcome to you and so please watch out for your invitation to a New Members Coffee Morning in January. It will be an opportunity to get to know each other and find out more about Littleborough U3A and hear your ideas about what you would like to see in the u3a.

b) Sound System at Monthly Meetings and other Venues

Our u3a has been awarded a grant from the Pennines Township (of Rochdale Council) to buy a portable PA system capable of linking into our microphones to greatly improve speaker amplification at our monthly meetings (and where needed elsewhere within the u3a). It should be available for a test run at the December Christmas Social (11th December) and then brought into use from the January 2024 meeting onwards. We are going to see whether we can use it in conjunction with the portable hearing loop installed in the Harvey Room at the Coach House, which hopefully will be of benefit to those with hearing aids. Our u3a is grateful to the Pennines Township committee for awarding us a grant to purchase this equipment.

c) U3a National Poetry Competition

Launched on November 8th, this national annual competition is open to any u3a member. Full details are available at:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/poetry-competition>

If you do decide to enter, I would also like to print your entry in our newsletter so please send it to me. Good Luck.



One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was
looking out of the window when he said: 'It's going to rain'

How do you know? Asked his wife

Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear.

2. Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House on the second Monday of the month. Admission for members is £1 which always includes refreshments – tea, coffee, herbal and decaffeinated drinks with biscuits. If you can, please do bring your own cup as we have not been able to source affordable biodegradable cups. A few seats are always reserved at the front for any member who is hard of hearing. If you are willing to help us to put out the chairs and set up for the meeting, please arrive by 1.30.

Our next monthly meeting is on Monday December 11th and this is our Christmas event for members only. Entertainment will be provided by our own u3a choir, ukulele band, guitar group, and by our creative writers. Refreshments will include prosecco and mince pies as well as juice, tea and coffee.

Our January meeting will be on Monday January 8th and features our own u3a member and u3a Treasurer (and IT guru), Mark Pearson. His talk is titled: "Beating The Bounds - 18 miles around Littleborough".



December Sunset, photograph by John Cannell, u3a Photography Group

3. Outings and Foodies

U3a Christmas buffet

Due to a last minute cancellation there are two places available at the u3a Christmas buffet with entertainment at Hare Hill House on Friday December 8th from 11.30 to 2.30. Cost £18 per person. Please contact Sandra Kokocki on 07828 297991 as soon as possible.



Beetle Drive

Saturday 27th January we will be holding a Beetle Drive fund-raiser at Hare Hill House. Cost: £5.00. If you are interested, please sign up at the December or January meeting or email Sandra Kockocki sandrakokocki12@gmail.com.

If you could donate a prize for the raffle (Unwanted Christmas present??) please bring it to the January 8th monthly meeting.

4. News from the Groups

a) Reports from the Groups

Dancing

The u3a Dancing Group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 am at Smithy Bridge Methodist Church. Come and join in ballroom, latin and popular sequence dancing. If you are a beginner you may need a little extra coaching at the beginning of the session but you will soon pick up the steps.



Occasionally we do something special . On Wednesday 8th of November the dance group and friends travelled to Blackpool Tower for a day of dancing and early afternoon tea. We were the warm-up act for Strictly – just testing the floor to make sure it was suitable for them! This was followed by a visit to a fish and chip restaurant with a very quiet journey home. It was a most enjoyable day and one

person has already asked to be the first on the list for next year. The prize for guessing who is free tea and coffee at the next u3a meeting!



We are a very friendly group and anyone us is very welcome. Just go to the u3a contact Maureen, Group convenor on the Dancing Group page.



wishing to join website and

Creative writing Group 2



This group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 2pm in Littleborough library. The next meeting will be Monday January 22nd.

Members are preparing the following piece of writing.

The topic is "Newspaper Headlines" Here are a few ideas:-

- 1.And the OACAR goes to.....
- 2 Gold bar found in local car park.....
3. Coach and fifty passengers never arrive.....
4. Letter arrives 50 years after posting.....

Writing in any style, word limit 1,000, and if you want you can choose your own headline. It's a relaxed, friendly group. We have space for a few more members. Contact group convenor Ellen Cruise – ellen.cruise@talktalk.net



U3a Bridge Group

Due to the success of the U3A Open Day in September, the Bridge Group has welcomed three new members. This has taken our group membership to 19 players, with one member playing online due to ill health. Thank you to the Bridge players who attended and supported the event. Offering a realistic experience for potential new members certainly added to the ambience.

During Lock Down many Bridge players enjoyed playing Bridge online using BBO. A few of us on a weekly basis endeavour to support those players who are unable to attend face-face by playing for a couple of hours online. Our online session is Friday 10:30 am – 12:30 pm using BBO.

- Key BBO into your search bar.
- Click onto Bridge Base Online.
- Click onto Login or Register if you are new to this site.
- Key in your Username and then your Password.
- Click onto Casual.
- Click onto all Public and Private Clubs.
- Click onto HELLAS.
- And then either start a table or join a table. Invariably, I will be there, look out for my username CMB123.

The group works well, and they enjoy teaching our new members who are developing nicely. Should the group increase in number, it may mean starting a new group or moving to bigger premises. For the time being Littleborough Bowling Club suits our needs, and thank you to our hosts who are more than accommodating. Many of our members also play Bridge at alternative venues with very welcome results. It's a pleasure to note, Littleborough U3A is often ranked high. i.e. 1st or 2nd place when playing against other clubs, such as Tod' and or Rochdale. Hopefully, this good practice will stand us in good stead for the U3A Spring National Bridge Competition 2024.

Thank you to our 'Milk Monitors' who gladly assist by bringing Milk on a weekly basis. It would also be a great help if members could bring the correct money as change is often in short supply.

We are looking forward to our own Christmas party, and are currently in the early stages of preparing the menu, with each member opting to bring their own choice of Christmas Fayre.

Feliz Navidad. (Merry Christmas) and Kind regards,
Christine, Bridge Group Convenor
December 2023

b) Upcoming Group Meetings

Craft Group December 7th: Tea light holders. Please let Sandra know you are coming as places are limited. Email Sandra Kokocki at sandrakokocki12@gmail.com

Quiz Group at The Red Lion in Littleborough.
December 14th
January 18th

c) New Groups

Please also contact Sandra if you are interested in either beginners or Improvers Spanish or French. New groups are currently being formed and hope to start meeting in the New Year.



5. Quiz Number One

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. What is the name of the actor that plays Alan Partridge on TV.
2. Alphabetically what are the names of the first TWO Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
3. Solve these anagrams to reveal THREE classic French poultry dishes
 - a. UNCHECKED CORN BOI
 - b. GALA UNCORKE
 - c. CAKES IN CHURCHE

4. Can you identify these FOUR British songbirds.



5. What are the colours of the FIVE rings on the Olympic Flag.

6. In which languages do the following SIX words translate as EGG

a. OEUF. b. HUEVO. c. YAI . d. HUA MANU. e. WY. f. MUNA

7. Can you name these SEVEN British Olympic swimmers.



8. The milk from which animal is used to make the following EIGHT cheeses

a. CHAIGNOL (France).

e. ROQUEFORT (France)

b. JARLSBERG (Norway)

f. STINKING BISHOP (England)

c. CARAVANE (Mauritania)

g. MOZZARELLA (Italy)

d. DANISH BLUE (Denmark)

h. PULE (Serbia)

9. Can you name these NINE ladies who were winners or runners-up in BBC's Strictly Come Dancing.



10. Can you name the TEN works of fiction in which these Lords appear

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a. LORD GREYSTOKE | f. LORD ASRIEL |
| b. LORD MACDUFF | g. LORD EDDARD STARK |
| c. LORD PETER WIMSEY | h. LORD DRINIAN |
| d. LORD FARQUAAD | i. LORD EMSWORTH |
| e. LORD VOLDEMORT | j. LORD CELEBORN |

11. Can you identify these ELEVEN wind instruments that have had the vowels removed

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| a) FLT | e) HRMNC | I) CRNGLS |
| b) BGPPS | f) TRMPT | j) RCRDR |
| c) FRNCHHRN | g) B | k) TRMBN |
| d) PCCL | h) TB | |

12. Drummers.

- What is the opening line from "The Little Drummer Boy"
- Which member of The Carpenters played the drums.
- Name The Beatles original drummer.
- Honey Langtree was the female drummer with which 60's band who had a hit with "Have I The Right".
- In 2007 what was the Drumming Gorilla advertising.
- Which Island nation do Steel Drums originate from
- Which drummer was the original narrator in the TV series "Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends"
- Name the song with the Lyrics "There were copper bottom Tympani in horse platoons"

- i) Micky Dolenz, Drummer for The Monkees appeared as a child star in which TV series.
- j) In December 1984 Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen lost what in a car accident.
 - i) Eye ii) Arm iii) Leg
- k) Which drummer played the title role in the 1988 film Buster, about one of the thieves in The Great Train Robbery.
- l) Which fictitious characters lived in Oil Drum Lane.

6. Vegetarians for Christmas



Does anyone have a fear at Christmas when entertaining? Does the word “vegetarian” fill you with trepidation? Thankfully these days I haven’t heard the phrase “well what do you eat then?” Even as a child I didn’t like meat much. Seeing a sheep’s head bubbling in a pan for days didn’t thrill me. Or having a pig’s trotter looming on a plate with Mother saying “just suck out the goodness.”

Times were hard but we didn’t starve. Mainly due to an Aunt and Uncle that had a fruit and veg stall on the Edmonton (north London) market. There was always plenty of vegetables despite never hearing of a red pepper or courgette at the time. I haven’t eaten any meat at all since the 1970’s. Unbelievably I was referred to sometimes as awkward. I did have an ally in our daughter who once asked when looking at her dinner “what was this when it had legs?”

At Christmas time the whole family would help out on the stall and even at the age of nine or ten I was very often seen clutching a few oranges shouting “three for a bob”. A lovely time.

Trips to Spitalfields market with Uncle Sid on a Wednesday morning were great. He would pick me up in the little lorry at 3am and managed to get me to school on time. (Several “market kids” had a snooze in the corner of the classroom on blankets quite often.) Working on the stall meant my arithmetic was second to none!

Back to the vegetarian guest: So easy. Labelling is great these days. Paxo is vegetarian. Bisto granules (not chicken) are veg. A blessing. Just remember, vegetarians eat everything on the plate apart from the meat. And we don’t always want a lookalike sausage or burger.

People have often said “but don’t you miss the turkey?” I’d miss the roast potatoes, mash, roast parsnips, carrots, peas, sprouts and gravy more. Yes even the sprouts.

Happy Christmas,
Mo Chamberlain.

7. Feliz Navidad!

With thanks to Roger Crossley and his Spanish group

¿Qué dijo la silla cuando salió de la habitación?

What did the chair say when it left the room?

¡Silla! (*pronounced see ya!*)

¿Qué hace una abeja en el gimnasio?

What does a bee do at the gym?

Zumba! (*zumba is Spanish for buzz*)

¿Cuál es el día favorito del gato?

What is the cat's favourite day?

Miaucoles. (*miercoles is Spanish for Wednesday*)

¿Cuál es la fruta más paciente?

Which is the most patient fruit? **Es pera.** (*Pera is a pear. Espera means to wait!*)

What happened to the Spanish captain who said "Yes" too much?

He got sí-sick. (*enough said!*)

And finally

What do you call an angry bear?

FuriOSO.

**¿Cómo se siente un oso
enojado?**



FuriOSO.

WWW.SPANISHMAMA.COM

8. Quiz Number Two

A Greetings Quiz

Write the name of the language at the side of the greeting

1. Geseënde Kersfees	
2. Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo	

3. Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim	
Godom	
4. Hristos se rodi	
5. Feliz Navidad	
6. God Juland (och) Ett Gott Nytt År	
7. Srozhdestvom Kristovym	
8. Nadolig Llawen	
9. Feliz Natal	
10. Natale hilare et Annum Faustum!	
11. Buone Feste Natalizie	
12. Mele Kalikimaka	
13. Froehliche Weihnachten	
14. Joyeux Noel	
15. Zalig Kerstfeest en Gelukkig nieuw jaar	
16. Juddlime pivdluarit ukiortame pivdluaritio!	
17. Glædelig Jul	
18. Sretan Bozic	
19. Zorion eta Urte Berri On!	
20. Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadida	

9. Hindle Wakes: an Invitation to participate

Please see attached pdf document from u3a member Paul Mortimer.

Well, that's my lot for this year! I haven't put up my decorations yet but there's a potential snowman falling from the sky outside.

I wish you all a merry Christmas, with cosy days and people who care about you. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Warm winter wishes to you all.

Jo Wiggans

