



## FEBRUARY

## NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone!

Here we are into the shortest month, but with so much going on! We are all familiar with St Valentine's Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and Chinese New Year – the year of the tiger – on 1<sup>st</sup> February, and of, course the Winter Olympics starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, but you may not be aware of some of these events coming up...



- **World Play your Ukulele Day - February 2<sup>nd</sup>**
- **Time to Talk Day - February 3<sup>rd</sup>** <https://timetotalkday.co.uk/>
- **World Nutella Day - February 5<sup>th</sup>**
- **National Pizza Day - February 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **LGBT History Month February 1 - February 27**  
<https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/>

So, before we get too distracted, let's get on with this month's newsletter. Coming up:

1. News
2. Forthcoming monthly speakers
3. News from the groups
4. Contributions from members
5. Barrie's Photo challenge 21 answers
6. Barrie's FINAL Photo challenge 22
7. National u3a
8. Information Corner
9. Answers to January puzzles
10. February puzzle time – *thanks to Lynn Wild*

### 1. NEWS



#### Membership Renewals 2022/2023

**Members with emails.** You should have received your renewal notice on 9th January. If you have not received this, please check your spam. If you require another copy, please contact Lynn. Once you have renewed, you will receive a confirmation invoice with a pdf copy of your Membership card.

**Members without email.** You will have received your renewal notice in the post or with the January newsletter. Once you have renewed, you will receive a Membership card either by post, hand delivered or included in your Newsletter mailing.

**There will also be an opportunity to pay your membership fee in person at the 14<sup>th</sup> March meeting at the Coach House.**

Please inform Lynn if you **do not** wish to renew your membership, this will stop you receiving reminder emails or phone calls.

Any queries, please contact Lynn Wild at [memsec.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com](mailto:memsec.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com) or phone 01706 372401 or Mark Pearson on [m.j.pearson@me.com](mailto:m.j.pearson@me.com) or phone 07981 271005.

### The Really Useful Group

Back in the days when we met every month in the Coach House, there were 'Meeters & Greeters' and refreshments were served on a rota basis by volunteers from our various groups. This was organised by the '**Really Useful Group**'. As we shall be **returning to full meetings again in March**, and would like to be able to offer refreshments again, the Committee would like to know if the **Really Useful Group** is still available, as well as whether any members would be willing to **help out serving refreshments** at the **March** meeting. If you can help out in March, please contact Gillian Pearson our Groups Co-ordinator on [gillianpearson\\_u3a@icloud.com](mailto:gillianpearson_u3a@icloud.com)

### Murder Mystery

Following the huge success of last year's Murder Mystery Zoom, Marilyn Aldred is keen to know if there is interest for a follow-up. If you would like to take part, please let Marilyn know and let her know also if you would be willing to take on one of the characters: [marilyn41@talktalk.net](mailto:marilyn41@talktalk.net)

 **Heads up!** Several committee members will have completed their term of office in May, one of whom is yours truly. So, we need new committee members ... something to think about. Contact Bob Coley (chair) if you'd like to know more [bobcoley from u3a littleborough@outlook.com](mailto:bobcoley_from_u3a_littleborough@outlook.com)

## 2. FORTHCOMING MONTHLY SPEAKERS

**Marilyn Aldred** - Speakers Convenor writes:

I hope those of you who took up the invitation to view our January Speaker, Sarah Slater, talking about The Ghosts of Hampton Court, enjoyed the chilling experience.

Our February Speaker will also be via Zoom. Dr Marek Szablewski will talk to us in February about his own family's experiences in Warsaw during the Holocaust. This speaker was recommended to us by two of our members, so I hope that you will give him a warm Littleborough welcome.



Now that the Government restrictions have been lifted, **NORMAL SERVICE** will be resumed In **MARCH** as we return to the Coach House for our monthly meetings. Hooray!!

Date	Time	Information
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February Zoom	1.45 for 2pm	Dr Marek Szablewski who will give us an emotionally charged talk about <b>his family's experience in Warsaw during the Nazi occupation of Poland.</b>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March Coach House	2pm	Frank Vigon <b>The Golden Age of Radio 'Auntie BBC' - the TV sitcoms of 70's and 80's.'</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April Coach House	2pm	Noel Moroney <b>Storyteller</b>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May Coach House	2pm	Peter Sykes <b>Do it yourself surgery</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June Coach House	2pm	<b>LITTLEBOROUGH u3a AGM</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July Coach House	2pm	Brian Groom <b>Northerners: a history from the Ice age to the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>

If any member would like to give a talk at our monthly meeting, please contact Marilyn Aldred [marilyn41@talktalk.net](mailto:marilyn41@talktalk.net)

### 3. NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

**CHOIR** - Littleborough U3A Choir would like to extend a warm welcome to new members who wish to come along and join us. We meet at Littleborough Coach House on the first three Tuesdays of the month, from 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm. We're particularly short of men at the moment, so whether you sing tenor or bass, you'll be very welcome. **For further information contact:** Christine Longhurst, the Choir's Musical Director on 07766 404282/[christine.longhurst@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christine.longhurst@hotmail.co.uk) or Jenny marquis on [jayem321@outlook.com](mailto:jayem321@outlook.com)

**QUIZ GROUP** The February Quiz will be 17th at 2.30pm in the Red Lion. As in January, I will send out a reminder to check on numbers. If you are not receiving the emails for the quiz and wish to do so, please contact [sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com)

#### **WALKING GROUPS 1& 2** (Barrie Whitehead)

Both walking groups are up and meeting again and looking to recruit new members.



Walking Group 1 meets on the first Tuesday of each month, and Walking Group 2 meets on the third Thursday of each month.



Both groups walk locally for about 2 hours covering between 3 to 4 miles depending on the speed of participants. Longer walks will normally be notified in advance.

If you would like to join us, walks are posted on the website event page, and a message is sent to each Group member.

#### **POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP** (Marilyn Aldred)



We met at Littleborough Library on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> January to discuss war poets. The poems we discussed ranged from the Boer War in South Africa which broke out at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century to the poems arising from the 1914-18 First World War. The poems reflected a change in attitude to war from the jingoism of Rudyard Kipling to a more sympathetic view of the hardship suffered by the men on the Front Line and the suffering of the families who lost their loved ones.

We next meet on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February from 10am until 11am at The Library when we will look at a variety of Women Poets

#### **READERS GROUP 2** (Mark Pearson)



We met in January and welcomed new member Ann S. to the group, and we discussed [The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time](#) by Mark Haddon, which we read over Christmas. Not the longest read and written from the perspective of a teenage boy with autism/Asperger's syndrome. An intelligent young man lacking the normal social skills that advantaged his search for the person who killed his neighbour's dog. All of the group members enjoyed reading the book and felt that older children, young adults and the older generation could each read this novel and connect with it on different levels. A brutal story, if you stand back and analyse it and it led to a wide ranging

discussion on aspects of adjusting for children on the spectrum. Recommended as a read to all members.

We next meet on Tuesday 15th February to discuss our current read, [The Rainbow](#) by DH Lawrence. This novel follows the lives of three generations of the Brangwen family of Nottinghamshire from the 1840s to the early years of the twentieth century. If anyone would like to join our group, which meets over Zoom on (usually) the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, please message Mark Pearson for an invite at [m.j.pearson@me.com](mailto:m.j.pearson@me.com).

#### PHILOSOPHY GROUP – (Marilyn Aldred)

At our January meeting we discussed the novelist/philosopher Iris Murdoch, born in Dublin in 1919. Iris's novels centred on good and evil, sexual relationships, morality and the power of the unconscious and although Iris always denied the connections between her Philosophy and her novels, many have observed the parallel themes.



Made a Dame in 2008 Iris was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> on The Times list of the top 50 greatest British writers since 1945. She was an outstanding intellectual figure of the twentieth century. Even the briefest glimpse at Iris's achievements and breadth of knowledge reveals a woman of enormous talent.

Rather than assuming a neutral situation to which morality is added, Iris reminds us that morality depends upon the values that lie, perhaps hidden, in our detailed understanding of things, rather than theories and values we simply develop in our heads. This thought encouraged us to discuss good and evil and whether one could be wholly one or the other. Iris famously discussed the prison guard from Auschwitz who was said to be a good Father. Some of us wondered whether this was possible. All of or nine members were present for this quite challenging discussion.

At our next Zoom meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, we will discuss the Philosophy of Karl Marx, who lived and wrote in Manchester. (Marilyn Aldred)

#### 4. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

##### Chistes Parte Tres from the Spanish Improvers Group (Roger Crossley)

1. **Yo nunca cometo errores. Una vez pensé que si pero estaba equivocado.**  
*I never make mistakes. Once I thought I had but I was wrong*
2. **Cómo se llama una computadora que canta?... Adele.**  
*What do you call a computer that sings? A Dell.*
3. **Nací en circunstancias muy lamentables. Mis dos padres lo lamentaron mucho.**  
*I was born in very sorry circumstances. Both my parents were very sorry. Gracias a Norman Wisdom*
4. **Mi hijo masticaba y se tragaba un diccionario. Le dimos sales de Epsom, pero no podemos sacarle una palabra.**  
*My son chewed and swallowed a dictionary. We gave him Epsom salts but can't get a word out of him. Gracias a Les Dawson*
5. And finally, a bi-lingual joke:  
**¿Escuchaste sobre el mágico español? Dijo "para mi próximo truco, desapareceré a la cuenta de tres. Uno, dos.."**  
*Have you heard about the Spanish magician? He said "For my next trick I will disappear on the count of three. Uno, dos – but then he disappeared without a tres (pronounced "trace")*

**Sandra Kokocki**, after attending Sarah Slater's spooky zoom talk about the ghosts of Hampton Court, was inspired to share her very own ghostly experience with us: *Ghosts in France* ,,,



All my encounters took place in the PGL Centre in Hardelot Plage in Northern France. I was a teacher with different groups of children. The accommodation was a Victorian hotel called the Pre Catalan. The staff told us it was used by Queen Victoria, but I am not sure if that is correct.

On my first visit, our bedroom was on the ground floor. I had a small single annex room, adjoined to the bedroom of the two other female staff. It had a door to the outside. About halfway through our stay, I woke in the night to see a lady in white Victorian dress



standing inside the doorway. I screamed and woke the other teachers. They thought it was the children and went running down the corridor. On their return I admitted that I thought it was me and I must have been dreaming. On that first visit nothing else happened, so I presumed it had been a dream.

However, I returned to the same place several years later with a different school. I was sharing a room with another teacher. The room was on the first floor in a completely different part of the hotel. There was an ensuite bathroom which I had to use in the middle of one night. There was a glass framed picture of a yacht on the wall, but as I got up that night it was placed on the floor, face down, on top of a wooden bath board. Again, I thought nothing of it until the next night. In the room was a digital clock on a table. Neither of us touched it to set the alarm or put on the radio. In the morning the clock display had gone off. We assumed that there had been a power cut. When we checked the plug, it had been taken out of the wall and placed over the back of a nearby chair.

It was then I recalled the first incident and mentioned it to the PGL staff. They then proceeded to recount several encounters that had occurred. They told us to watch the dining room door opening and closing by itself. And we watched it happen several times.



Some of the girls from our school had sworn they had seen faces in the mirror in their dormitory, but we had dismissed it and said it was the lights of cars passing on the road. But that was mainly to stop them becoming hysterical!

I have to admit that after all the incidents, I spent every following night with my head under the bedclothes and in my head spoke to the spirits. I said I was happy that they were making their presence felt, but that I did not want them to disturb my bed whilst I was in it! They must have been listening because nothing else happened.

I had previously thought that ghosts did not exist but had to change my mind after these school visits.



## 5. Answers to Barrie's Photo Challenge No 21



As expected, the last challenge was indeed difficult, as one of the buildings has not existed for many years. The first photo is of the now demolished Woodcock Inn near Sladen Fold, off Blackstone Edge Road before you get to the Moorcock. It was near Sladen mill which burned down in 1926 to be rebuilt and demolished a couple of years ago. The second photo was of Lighthouse post office on Calderbrook Road.

**Ruth Philpott** was able to correctly identify the site of the Woodcock Inn, which is currently occupied by a pile of rubble!

**Rae Street** spotted the second site as Lighthouse.



## 6. Barrie's Photo Challenge 22 – The FINAL challenge

Can you stand where the photographer stood and get an up to date shot of these two?



## 7. National u3a

### U3a Poetry Competition

2022 brings in a new Poetry Competition. The theme is 'New' and poems must be no longer than 16 lines plus the title and rhyme. [Submit your entry before Friday 25 February](#). For more information and rules see: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/poetry-competition-2022>

### Listen to u3a radio now on podcasting platforms

The u3a radio podcast has now launched on podcast platforms.

Previously available to listen to on Youtube, members will now be able to listen on platforms including Spotify and Apple. Nick Bailey, part of the u3a radio team who put together the episodes each month, says 'this is something a lot of you have asked for. It will be a handy way to listen and we hope will help to spread the word of the u3a movement in its 40th year.'

In the January episode, the team discuss the Kindertransport learning initiative, talk to a member of u3a in Australia and hear about the milestone of 5,000 trees being planted in the u3a 40th anniversary wood.

Listen to the podcast on **Apple**, **Spotify** and **Google Podcasts**. The episode can also still be listened to on our **u3a YouTube channel**, with captions.

If you have a story you would like to share, get in touch by emailing [communications@u3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@u3a.org.uk)

## 8. INFORMATION CORNER

This section is for occasional non-u3a information which you may find of interest, but which is not promoted by Littleborough u3a.

### Thinking Ahead

HEYWOOD • MIDDLETON  
ROCHDALE • PENNINES

9. **Thinking Ahead** is a mental health service. We help with everyday issues that affect mental wellbeing and provide professional support for more common mental health difficulties, such as anxiety and depression. Thinking Ahead offers support for anyone over 16 who lives in, or has a registered GP with Rochdale, Heywood or Middleton.

The image shows a flowchart for the 'Thinking Ahead' service. It starts with a purple box titled 'Pick up the phone...' which includes the phone number 01706 751 180 and details about the service's coverage and response time. An arrow points to a second purple box titled 'What happens next?' which lists the steps from initial contact to the first appointment and then to the final support plan. A third purple box at the bottom asks 'None of the above apply to you?' and lists alternative options like supported referrals or signposting. A yellow box with a quote is also present.

**Pick up the phone...**

Call **Thinking Ahead** on 01706 751 180 and speak to one of our friendly team

We are here to help anyone (aged 16 and over) who lives in Rochdale, Heywood or Middleton and / or are registered with a GP in those areas.

Once you have been referred or got in touch, you will be contacted within 1 week.

**Thinking Ahead**  
YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICE

**What happens next?**

- When you are contacted by one of our friendly staff, they will ask you to tell us a little more about how you are feeling, and what you need help with.
- We will then arrange your first appointment (usually a phone call), typically within 4-6 weeks, but sometimes sooner.
- Then after 4-6 weeks, one of our professionals will give you a call and agree the best way forward to get you the help and support you need.

"I feel I can relate to a few of these things, but what do you have to offer?"

**None of the above apply to you?**  
No problem, we can explore other options, including:

- Supported referral into Thinking Ahead for support with lifestyle changes
- Signposting to relevant agencies

## 10. ANSWERS TO JANUARY PUZZLES

1. Rio de Janeiro 2. Heartbreak Hotel 3. Wolf. 4. Czech Republic and Slovakia 5. Ho Chi Minh 6. Slaves 7. d) Ernie Wise 8. Christiania 9. That he was not a god 10. 1958 11. 1901 12. a) 12 grapes.

Pantomime 1) The Bells of London. 2) Dandini. 3) Widow Twankey. 4) Jack And the Beanstalk. 5) The Sleeping Beauty. 6) The Jolly Roger. 7) Priscilla. 8) Alice in Wonderland. 9) Sneezzy & Sleepy. 10) Columbine

## 10. FEBRUARY PUZZLE-TIME

<p>1. <b><u>Anagrams: Types of Bean</u></b></p> <p>1) ERR NUN 2) A SOLO PAPA 3) CHIP CAKE 4) HI ACTOR 5) BAR DO 6) BET RUT</p>	<p><b><u>Missing Vowels: Types of Lettuce</u></b></p> <p>1) R _CK_ T 2) B _TT_ RH_ _D 3) R _D_ CCH_ _ 4) R _M_ _N_ _ 5) _C_ B_ RG 6) _ _KL_ _F</p>
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**Number Cruncher** Using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, can you make the number in bold by using the other numbers. You can only use the six numbers once but you don't have to use them all.

**866**     25, 6, 9, 10, 10, 6.

### **Multiple choice**

- Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck & Jimmy Page have played guitar for which band.  
a) The Yardbirds                      b) Pink Floyd                      c) Free
- Which American composer had a career in Insurance before finding fame through music in later life  
a) Aaron Copeland                      b) Leonard Bernstein                      c) Charles Ives
- What did Louis Lassen invent in 1900 in New Haven Connecticut  
a) Hot Dog                      b) Hamburger                      c) Chilli con carne
- The Human Rights Lawyer Amal Alamuddin, married which actor in 2014  
a) George Clooney                      b) Elliot Gould                      c) Andy Garcia
- Which Welsh castle was used in 2021 for I'm a celebrity get me out of here.  
a) Conway                      b) Gwrych                      Caernarfon

### **February. All these events happened in February**

- On the 15<sup>th</sup> February Britain went decimal, what was the year?
- Howard Carter unsealed the burial chamber of which Egyptian King?
- In 1937 Wallace H Carruthers received a patent for which man-made fabric?
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1984 the first edition of which dictionary was first published?
- What Horse race was first run on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1839?

# DINGBATS

01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08

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## And finally...

...keep smiling, spring is just around the corner!

Sue  
(suetemperleyu3a@outlook.com)



I told my doctor I have a problem with my left ear.  
"Are you sure?"  
"Yeah, I'm definite."

I joined a Carpenter's Class the other day. We haven't made anything yet..... we've only just begun

MY KIDS LAUGH BECAUSE THEY THINK I'M CRAZY.  
  
I LAUGH BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW IT'S HEREDITARY.