



Dear Littleborough u3a members,

Well, it's not exactly summery yet though I am hoping that the king can get it sorted next weekend in time for his coronation. And there is fresh greenery in the trees and gardens and pretty cherry blossom everywhere especially in Littleborough park. We just want the warm sunshine to enjoy it. Never mind because, as usual, there is plenty in your u3a to keep you busy. In this issue you will find:

1. News and reminders:
  - a. Membership renewals
  - b. AGM and committee elections
  - c. Payments to the u3a
  - d. Policy review: safeguarding policy
2. Monthly Meetings
3. Outings
4. News from the Groups
5. Photo quiz results.



Picture Number 1: Welcome to our little detail pictures. Can you identify where these things are in or around Littleborough?

I am very grateful to the Photography Group for finding and taking these.

Answers at the end of the newsletter.

## 1. News and Reminders

- a. **Membership Renewals.** Our membership secretary, Lynn Wild says: Attention all members who have not yet renewed for 2023/24. Please note that, if you have not renewed your Membership by the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, it will lapse. Your membership of any u3a groups will also lapse and you will no longer be covered by Littleborough u3a insurance and other policies. If you have any queries about membership, please contact Lynn Wild at [memsec.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com](mailto:memsec.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com) or phone 01706 372401 or Mark Pearson (u3a Treasurer) 07981 271005.
- b. **Littleborough u3a Annual General Meeting and Committee Elections.** The final date to nominate or be nominated for the u3a committee is fast approaching (May 19<sup>th</sup>) and forms will be available at the next monthly meeting to complete on the day. I am also attaching the nomination form to this newsletter. It's simple to

do – we just need the name of the proposed member, another member to nominate and one to second. And we need the signature of the person being nominated. We can't elect you without your agreement! As I've said before, all of us on the committee have other commitments, holidays, etc. and the more of us there are, the less of a burden the tasks are. You have already received the agenda and papers for the Annual General Meeting which takes place on June 12th. Please note that these will be on the screen at the meeting itself. If you want a printed copy, please bring it with you.

- c. **Payments to Littleborough u3a** – for membership and for trips etc. Mark Pearson, our Treasurer, says: 'Following a successful trial of our new card payment system, we are pleased to announce that members can in future pay their membership fee or cost of any social event at our monthly meetings by debit or credit card. We will always accept cash or cheques payable to Littleborough u3a for any event or for membership subscriptions and we continue to encourage members to pay by BACS transfer where they are able to. Card payments are just one further way of making it easy for members to make payments to our u3a in person at meetings. Any card payment will always be receipted when a member has an email address to which an e-receipt can be sent.'
- d. **Littleborough u3a Safeguarding Policy**. We have recently reviewed and revised several of our policies in line with changes in legislation and guidance from the u3a Trust. This includes our Safeguarding Policy which covers the responsibilities of all in the u3a to protect vulnerable members and report safeguarding issues should they arise. Should any u3a member have safeguarding concerns regarding another member, in line with the guidelines in the policy, he/she should contact:  
Bob Coley, Chair (bobcoley\_from\_U3A\_Littleborough@outlook.co) or  
Sue Temperley, Vice Chair, (suetemperleyu3a@outlook.com)  
The policy can be viewed on the Littleborough u3a website:  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/littleborough>



Picture Number 2: I want one of these for my garden! The birdwatchers sometimes see one from the hide on Hollingworth Lake. Where do you think the photographers spotted this one?

## 2. Littleborough u3a Monthly Meetings.

These are held on the second Monday of each month except when bank holidays or royal coronations intercede and push our monthly meeting to the third Monday of the month. Fortunately that didn't seem to confuse you last month and there was a very good turnout for Linda Sawley, our speaker, who was surprised to see so many people growing old disgracefully (this was her topic). I forgot to put on my purple lipstick and I suspect there will not be many more opportunities.

So, don't let the coronation confuse you because our next monthly meeting is on **Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House.** We will be entertained by stories about **the life and work of Charles Dickens** so if you are currently watching the controversial adaptation of Great Expectations on television, you might be ready to ask her what she thinks about it. Our speaker is **Veronica Walker**, formerly Vice President of the Dickens Fellowship.



As if that's not enough to entertain you, we have, following a member's request, now introduced decaffeinated tea and coffee and herbal tea to our refreshment table. We also have gluten-free biscuits. Please do ask for these and please be patient if dealing with these requests slows down our volunteers' service a little.



Did I mention that the June monthly meeting on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> is the AGM? Yes, I did! The entertainment line-up is looking good and there will be a plant swop provided by our gardening group so bring along any cuttings or spare plants.



Picture Number 3. Where?

### 3. Outings

Thank you members for your response to the offered trips. And thank you Sandra for organising them. These are all now sufficiently well subscribed to definitely run but, if you missed the earlier calls, there are still spaces on the following if you are quick:

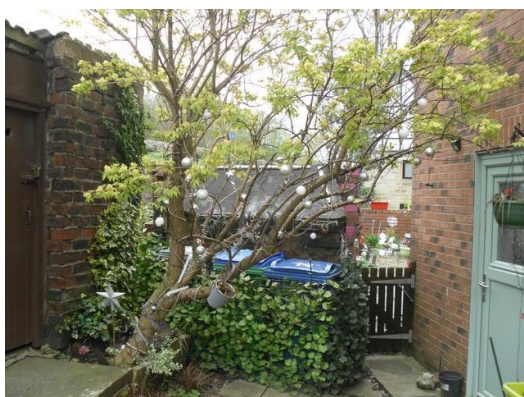
**Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>: Trentham Estate in Staffordshire.** Coach from Littleborough or Rochdale. Garden Centre, shopping village, cafes and country estate. Cost, payable in full on booking, £22. Additional charge for admission to the formal gardens: £11.50. **As this trip will soon be finalised, please let Sandra know as soon as possible and before May 4<sup>th</sup> if you want to join.**

**Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup>: Lytham Hall and Gardens, and Lytham St. Annes.** Coach from Littleborough and Rochdale. Guided tour of Lytham Hall with tea/coffee and biscuits. Visit the garden centre. Afternoon free time in Lytham and St. Annes.

**Manchester Architecture:** Meanwhile, it looks like those who were able to join the popular guided walk round the architecture of the city of Manchester had a thoroughly interesting day. John Alker proved a most informative guide and u3a members learned some new words – including ‘vermification’ which sounds unsavoury to me... Ask someone who was there what it means. Here are some pictures.



For booking enquiries for all trips please contact Sandra Kockocki: text or ring 07828297791



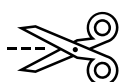
Picture Number 4.

## 4. News from the Groups



**Guitar Group:** this looks like it is up and running. Just working on the final details. Watch this space.... Or let Gillian Pearson know if you are keen to join.

A number of people helpfully signed lists to join groups at the last monthly meeting. Group convenors have been informed and should be in touch with you in due course.



### **Craft Group Meetings**

These are held at HareHill House from 1 to 3pm. The next planned meetings are:

Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>: canvas bag collage

Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>: gift bags





**Quiz Group:** next meeting in the Red Lion, Halifax Road, Littleborough at 2pm on Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>.



**Walking Group 1:** The Tuesday morning walking group next meets on Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am. Walks are guided and local, 4-5 miles long, suitable for fit beginners. Contact Barrie Whitehead via the website for more information.



Picture Number 5. If you walk with your eyes on the ground, you won't spot this one.

## 5. Answers to the Photo Quiz

How many of these did you guess or was there one that you recognised quite easily? All these are in my back yard almost and yet I recognised only one. I resolve to look more closely in future when I'm walking around Littleborough. I can see how interesting it is to point a camera at a very particular detail and how hard it can be to recognise that without its context. They are clever these photographers! Here are the answers:

Picture Number 1: Captain Pigwash: on a barge at Ealees

Picture Number 2: Hitching a Ride: another barge at Ealees

Picture Number 3: Bush Transport: outside the L shaped group of buildings where Ealees meets West Street

Picture Number 4: Xmas has bin and gone: East Street, near the Red Lion

Picture Number 5: Bus Stop for very tall people: high up on the wall of the corner building of Ealees.

And finally, the sun is shining now and I need to get out in the garden and repot my seedlings. I hope you are able to make the most of the glut of bank holidays. I look forward to seeing you at u3a events soon. Very best wishes to you all,

Jo Wiggans.