



## Littleborough u3a Newsletter March 2024

Dear Friends,



It's March 1<sup>st</sup> and the first day of spring. Unfortunately somebody forgot to tell the weather gods. I hope we will soon have some warm sunshine and the daffodils that are currently shivering in my garden will cheerfully open up their yellow trumpets.

When the weather is bad, there is plenty to do in the u3a and in this newsletter you will find:

- News and Information
- Events: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch  
National u3a Festival
- Monthly Meetings
- Outings and Foodies and Fundraising
- Groups

### 1. News

It has been a busy month in the u3a. We are making progress with the planning for the 10th Anniversary event as you will see below. We had our largest audience ever for the February monthly meeting which featured songs from the American songbook performed on keyboard by Roger Brown. The challenge to find enough chairs for that event – and we apologise profusely to those who had to stand – has prompted discussion and plans to reorganise the room for the March meeting. We also held our first New Member coffee morning which was enthusiastically attended by 16 new members. We will be doing this again. Membership subscriptions for the year ahead are pouring in and we continue to sell tickets for the 10th anniversary event. We are planning a meeting for group convenors on March 22nd.

So you see there's plenty happening. It's fun, we work together to make things happen and there's a sense of achievement when things go well. We look forward to new people coming forward to join the committee from June this year and that brings me to our first item of information.

## Littleborough u3a AGM

This year the Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday June 10th at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House. This meeting includes the election of committee members for the year ahead. Committee members are elected for one year only but can be re-elected to serve 3 terms. This year we will be sorry to see several key committee members standing down and so it is important that other members come forward to join the committee. In particular we need to elect a new Business Secretary but we welcome committee members who are willing to help with other general work as well. Please talk to any member of the current committee (find us on the website or see us at the various tables at monthly meetings) if you are interested in joining us. And thank you in advance!

## Paying the u3a by bank transfer.

We are keen to encourage the use of bank transfer for paying into the u3a accounts. It makes banking easier and it is secure. However, we have to operate two different accounts for membership fees and for social activities so please can you note the following information:

For membership fees please make your bank transfer to the main account:

- Account Number: 73290115
- Sort Code: 20-72-67
- Quote your membership number

For the Town Hall event and all other social events and outings:

- Account Number: 93985028
- Sort Code: 20-72-67
- See the particular event for the required reference

Your money will not be lost if you pay into the wrong account – just let us know and we will transfer the money across. If you prefer, you can of course pay by cash, by cheque or by bank card at the monthly meetings.

## Membership Renewals 2024/2025

For those members who have not yet renewed, your Membership fee of £15 for Individual Membership, £11 for Associate Membership is **due by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**.

If you require another copy of your renewal reminder or have any queries, please contact Mike Rowley at [membership.littleborough@gmail.com](mailto:membership.littleborough@gmail.com) or phone 07703 459422 or speak to Mike at the March monthly meeting.

Please note you need to advise the Membership Secretary of any changes to your details in order that we can amend our records accordingly.

Also, please inform the Membership Secretary if you **DO NOT** wish to renew your membership for 2024/25. Littleborough u3a may incur costs from the u3a Trust if we are not notified of your decision before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Plus we will stop reminding you!

## Emergency Contact Details

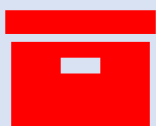
Look out for an email from Memsec regarding checking your emergency contact details if you are in a couple who attend events together and have each other as your emergency contact. We will be asking you to list a second contact.



**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.

**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...



**Appeal for help with storage**

Has any member got a dry garage or other storage space where we can safely store the u3a archive – a few boxes of paperwork that has to be kept for administrative purposes?

## 2. Events

### **a) u3a 10th Anniversary**

**BOOK NOW!!** 157 members have already booked their place at the u3a anniversary lunch on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> in Rochdale Town Hall. A total of 250 places are available and from March 1<sup>st</sup> members may book a place for a non-member who wishes to accompany them. Entertainment is being arranged and will include a member who will play the great organ as we arrive and, later, a

string quartet. More news as plans become clear. We will be in touch in due course to check dietary requirements and to confirm group table bookings. Here are the details

### **LITTLEBOROUGH u3a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**at ROCHDALE TOWN HALL**

**Saturday afternoon 7<sup>th</sup> December 1pm - 4.00**

**£20.00 members**

**£32.00 non-members**

**Members** (including Associate Members) can reserve their subsidised place with a £10.00 non-refundable deposit:

- **At the monthly meeting** by cash, card or cheque (*made payable to Littleborough u3a*)
- **By post** to the Treasurer\* by cheque (*made payable to Littleborough u3a*)
- **By bank transfer** to Account Number 93984028 Sort code 20-72-67 Ref TOWN HALL

#### **Non-members**

A Littleborough u3a member can reserve a non-subsidised place for a +1 (family/friend) with a £16.00 non-refundable deposit. Payments as above except:

- **By bank transfer** to Account Number 93984028 Sort code 20-72-67 **Ref TOWN HALL+1**

**Reciprocal members (i.e. members of Todmorden u3a who have a reciprocal membership with Littleborough and attend a Littleborough group)** can reserve a non-subsidised place with a £16.00 non-refundable deposit. They do not need a full member to reserve on their behalf. Payment details as above.

WE WILL NOTIFY ALL MEMBERS WHEN THE BALANCE IS DUE

\*TREASURER: 12 South View Terrace, Rochdale, OL16 2SW.

### **b) National u3a Festival 2024 in York**

The first ever national u3a Festival will be held in York this year over three days from Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>. All u3a members are invited to participate in a range of workshops and activities. Tickets are available for the day (£10 for a full day) or for all 3 days. Full details are on the u3a website dedicated page at:


<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024>

There is also a u3a Friends Newsletter which will give you further information. It's very simple to sign up at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

### 3. Monthly Meetings

On Monday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House our speaker will be **Brian Topping** and his subject is: **'A World of Mules and Minders'** Brian was a Customs Officer at Heathrow Airport. An afternoon of anecdotes and 'interesting' experiences awaits us. Maybe those mules are not four-legged...

Please note the following for monthly meetings:

- Bring your own cup
- Please respect the fact that reserved seats on the front row are for people who have difficulty hearing or seeing well or who have physical disabilities.
-  For the March meeting the Meeters and Greeters and those serving refreshments will be members of the Yoga Group. A big thank you to them.

### 4. Outings and Foodies including Fundraisers

**Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>: Coach trip to Llandudno** to include lunch at The Tynedale Hotel and time to explore the town and seafront. A few places remain but please let Sandra know by March 5<sup>th</sup> if you want to go. Cost £45.50.

**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. Deposits to be paid at the March monthly meeting.

**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 March monthly meeting.

#### And Fundraisers

**Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>: Shaw Playhouse Charity Night at 7.30pm.** N.B. this is open to friends and family as well as to all u3a members. Tickets are only £10 and much 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 meeting or contact Sandra Kokocki ([sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com))



**LISTEN UP!**

**Save the Date: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2pm til 4pm**

Don't miss this opportunity to indulge in a relaxing afternoon at Hare Hill House, where you can partake of complementary tea or coffee and delicious cakes whilst being superbly entertained by our Creative Writing & Poetry Appreciation groups!

Tickets cost £3.00 and will be on sale at the monthly meeting and all proceeds will go towards our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund-raising effort.

## 5.Groups

### a) New Groups:

See the Groups table at the monthly meetings for details of new groups and sign-up sheets to indicate your interest. If you can't get to monthly meetings and you want to let Cindy Drinkwater, our Groups Coordinator know you are interested in any of the groups below please contact her directly at: [cindysdw@gmail.com](mailto:cindysdw@gmail.com)

There is already interest from members in forming the following groups. It would be good to hear from you if you would like to join and even better if you are willing to help to host or convene the group:

- Map reading
- Using an Air Fryer
- Crochet
- Health and Nutrition
- Sustainability
- Psychology
- Music Appreciation

### b) Group dates:

The regular meeting times for groups are on our website. Where dates or venues vary, group convenors email group members directly so you need to be included as a group member to receive information directly.

**Quiz Group:** March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2.30 in the Red Lion pub, Halifax Road, Littleborough

**Craft Group:** March 14<sup>th</sup>: Die cuts to create cards  
March 28<sup>th</sup>: Book folding

All Craft Group meetings at Hare Hill House. Contact Sandra Kokocki (see details above)

Well, as you can see, there's plenty going on! I am always pleased to hear from you if you have ideas or comments for this newsletter. Meanwhile, here's hoping for some spring sunshine and looking forward to seeing you at a u3a event soon. Very best wishes,

Jo Wiggans

*Did you hear about the hyena who swallowed an oxo cube? He made a laughing stock of himself.*

*What's the best part about living in Switzerland? I don't know but the flag is a big plus.*

*What did the grape say when it was pinched? It said nothing but just gave a little whine.*

*What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care.*