

Littleborough u3a Newsletter

October 2023

Dear Littleborough u3a members,

Welcome to the October issue of your u3a newsletter. This includes a feature on the u3a Open Day held yesterday on September 30th. It also contains details of the next monthly meeting and of the outings, lunches and a theatre trip that are offered to members. As we are increasingly aware of the darker nights it is good to know that the u3a continues to offer so many activities to keep us connected and interested.

A special welcome to new members, especially those who joined us at the Open Day. You may be receiving this during the month of October when our membership secretary has had time to enter your details into the system. This newsletter is usually sent at the beginning of each month (that does vary by a day or two if I have a very busy time at the beginning of the month). The newsletter always includes information about the monthly meetings and the outings and foodies events on offer. It also includes news about new groups and other essential information (like membership renewals, call for committee members etc. depending on the time of year). If you have ideas or illustrations for the newsletter, I am pleased to hear from you.

From November I would again like to focus on reports from a few groups so that you can update members on your recent activities and news. Please can the music groups send me a short report of your recent activities: **Choir, Guitars, Ukuleles**. Pictures are also welcome if you have any. Maybe you have special plans for Christmas??

In this issue you will find:

1. **News: Littleborough u3a annual Open Day on September 30th**
2. **October Monthly Meeting**
3. **Outings and Foodies**
4. **News from the Groups**
5. **U3a Interest groups online**

1. News



u3a Open Day: Saturday September 30th in the Coach House. It was buzzing with energy! In spite of the pouring rain we welcomed more than 140 visitors to our Open Day, nearly 50 member volunteers beside the group display tables to talk to members and non-members alike about the groups, or making drinks, or taking membership money, singing and playing. An amazing 37 new members joined on the day! And others took membership forms to think about it and maybe ask friends and partners. Dozens – or more – people signed up to join groups. The Craft Group alone took 13 names for new members. The choir, Guitar group and ukuleles provided real atmosphere and musical interludes. When visitors arrived they immediately saw the bridge players doing their thing. We really showed off our groups. It was busy, busy, busy. I think we all concluded it was a resounding success. If you were there thank you for coming and for all your help.

Here are some of the things that people said about the event on the day:



"u3a people are so enthusiastic about the u3a"

"I need to do some juggling to fit in the things I want to do!"

"Well, there's certainly plenty to do I – I'm really spoiled for choice"

"I'm still working – but I will see you next year!"

"I didn't know anything about the u3a

before – it's full of interesting things"



"This has been a great event – I think we put on a really good show!"

Rochdale Mayor, Councillor Mike Holly and local Councillor Janet Emsley both visited the event. The ukulele band were quick to recruit them...



Here with u3a Chair Bob Coley and Vice Chair Sue Temperley on the left.



But you, the members of the u3a, were the stars of the show. You were amazing!

2. Monthly Meetings

Our speaker at the next monthly meeting on Monday October 9th at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House will be **Neil Hanson**. Neil is a successful author with 70 published books to his name as well as being a ghost writer for some household names. He can tell a story! His talk is titled **"Inn at the Top"** and is a laugh-a-minute tour of the highs and lows of running the highest Inn in Britain in 70s and 80s.

This sounds like a real tonic for an autumn afternoon. I look forward to seeing you there.

I am attaching a quick reference list of monthly meetings for your diaries or noticeboards.

3. Outings and Foodies

Check out all these opportunities. If you want to put your name down/check availability/ for any of the following please contact Sandra Kokocki (email: sandrakokocki12@gmail.com) or see Sandra at the Outings and Foodies table at the monthly meeting on October 9th.

October 29th: Sunday Lunch at the Cedar Tree restaurant in Newhey. Deposit of £10 required. The lunch menu offers 2 courses for £15; 3 courses £18

Saturday November 25th: Ulverston Dickensian Market. Coach costs £19 payable on booking.

Friday December 8th: Christmas buffet lunch with entertainment. 11.30am to 2.30pm at Hare Hill House. Total cost £18. £10 deposit on booking.

April 29th 2024: 'One Man, 2 Govnors': Playhouse 2 Theatre in Shaw have granted us a block booking which is open to u3a members and friends and family. Tickets cost £10 each. Please sign up at the monthly meetings.

4. News from the Groups



October Quiz Group meeting: Thursday October 12th in The Red Lion pub on Halifax Road, Littleborough, at 2pm



Craft Group meetings:

Thursday October 19th: Christmas cards

Monday October 30th: Hanging decorations

Group Convenors: if you want me to publicise particular activities in your group, please let me know the details at least 3 days before the end of the month.

5. U3a national online groups fair

In case we don't have just what you want here in Littleborough or in case you want more, check out the national online interest groups. They are having their own version of our open day this week.



A world of opportunities just a click away

**A week of taster sessions from laughter
yoga and astronomy to writing workshops
and more.**

2-6 October 10am, 11.30am and 3pm

Online

Find out more u3a.org.uk/igo

0208 466 6139

These sessions are free

Well, that's all for this newsletter. Next month I will be telling you about the music groups in the November newsletter. I wish you golden leaves and autumn sunshine and I look forward to seeing you at a u3a event soon.

Very best wishes to you all,

Jo Wiggans