



Newsletter 2022

Hello everyone!

Here is the May Newsletter – our new ‘slim-line’ version. It was felt that now we are getting out and about more and our groups are able to meet face-to-face, there is less need for the larger newsletter so we will be gradually returning to the original format of just providing u3a news. I would like to thank members who responded to my cries for help and provided me with so many interesting contributions since ‘lockdown’, making my job so much easier!! This newsletter will also be the last one to have a quiz included, and I thank Lynn Wild for her trojan efforts in providing our monthly puzzles and keeping our brains ticking over.

So, in this Newsletter we have:

1. News
2. Forthcoming monthly speakers
3. Outings - **NEW!**
4. News from the groups
5. **Barrie's photo challenge answer**
6. **Barrie's photo challenge**
7. Information Corner
8. Answers to April puzzles
9. May puzzle time

1. NEWS

AGM – this is next month on **Monday 13th June** and will be held at the Coach House, followed by entertainment from the ukulele group and the choir. **Anyone interested in being part of the committee should send their signed nomination form to Liz Walker by Friday May 20th.**

Really Useful Group – we really would appreciate anyone who could help out at monthly meetings - whether on a regular basis or just occasionally. If this is something you could offer, please see **Gillian Pearson** at the monthly meeting or email her and let her know at gillianpearson_u3a@icloud.com

Membership Renewals - membership renewals are now overdue and members have until the 27 May 2022 before their membership becomes no longer valid.

Membership Cards - have only been issued to members without email. All other members will have received an e-card. There is no need to print this out as the records on the Beacon system show which members have renewed. This information is available to Group Convenors who use the system or by contacting **Lynn Wild**.

If you have any queries, please contact Lynn Wild, Membership Secretary by email: memsec.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com or at a monthly meeting.

2. Forthcoming monthly speakers

Our speaker on **Monday 9th of May** is Peter Sykes, a retired surgeon, whose talk is entitled **'Do it yourself Surgery'**. Peter has written several novels and short stories. His talk revolves around the lighter side of hospital life: tales about interesting patients, amusing anecdotes and humorous events he has witnessed over his long career in the NHS. His aim is to be interesting, entertaining and educational.

This sounds like it could be just up our street, so why not come along and bring a friend.
(Marilyn Aldred)

Date	Time	Information
Monday 9 th May Coach House	2pm	Peter Sykes Do it yourself surgery
Monday 13 th June Coach House	2pm	LITTLEBOROUGH u3a AGM followed by entertainment from the ukulele group and the choir
Monday 11 th July Coach House	2pm	Brian Groom Northerners: a history from the Ice age to the 21st century
Monday 8 th August Coach House	2pm	Joanna Williams Abel Heywood, who was the mayor of Manchester mainly responsible for the building of Manchester Town Hall.
Monday 12 th September Coach House	2pm	Rochdale Touchstones Writers Group 'Steampunk'
Monday 10 th October Coach House	2pm	Brian Topping My time as Customs Officer at Heathrow Airport
Monday 14 th November Coach House	2pm	Roger Crossley 'The Spanish Ways, the Camino de Santiago'
Monday 12 th December 	2pm	Christmas entertainment by members
Monday 9 th January	2pm	The Danny restoration group 'The building of the ship canal'

3. OUTINGS NEWS

- **FOODIES** group outing to Lovegrows Tea rooms
Due to unforeseen circumstances and the change in date of the



“Folk Roots Festival”, the Afternoon Tea has been changed to:

Saturday June 11th 1:30 at LOVEGROWS Tea Rooms

Hebden Bridge - £15 pp (*Event Reference 07-11-LG*)

Closing date for bookings 14th May 2022

Artisan Breads choice of open sandwiches (2) freshly made, delicious chutney, Homemade cakes (2 pieces) and scones, choose on the day from a selection. Tea or Coffee. Gluten-free and non-dairy options are available if notified in advance.

Please note the venue is accessed by steep stone steps and has a staircase inside for access to the top floor and toilet.

This event coincides with the Hebden Bridge “Folk Roots Festival”. The 2022 events are now on the festival website. £5.00 deposit required to secure your place.

Payment Details -

At the May monthly meeting - please see Lynn or Peter on the Entrance desk during the refreshment break or after the meeting.

- Cash (exact money please) or Cheque made payable to: Littleborough U3A .

Before paying by the methods below, please ensure you have confirmed your place by contacting Lynn Wild email: lynnwild.u3a@gmail.com. Tel: 01706 372401

- **Cheques** may be posted to: *The Treasurer, Littleborough U3A, 12 Southview Terrace, Rochdale, OL16 2SW. (Please quote your Membership Number and the event reference)*
- **Bank transfer** to account **93984028** Sort code **20-72-67 Littleborough U3A Social Account**
(Please quote your Membership Number and the event reference)

Deposits are non-refundable in line with Littleborough U3A policy unless the event is cancelled, a substitute found or the cost of the event is not affected.

- **Visit to RHS Bridgewater**

We are looking for members who are interested in visiting RHS Bridgewater. There will be a cost for transport and a charge for people who are not RHS members. The plan is to go in June or July, but there will be more information later in May. Please let Sandra Kokocki know if you are interested: sandrakokocki12@gmail.com

4. News from the groups

The u3a choir will soon be singing at their first two engagements since before Covid! It will be the first time **Christine Longhurst** has conducted the choir since she took over from Peter Walker as Musical Director in September 2021.

The choir will be performing at:

1. **St. Andrew's church, Dearnley** as part of their Jubilee Celebrations on **Saturday 4th June at around 3pm**
and
2. **The Coach House** at the u3a AGM on **Monday 13th June**

Bridge Group - we are looking forward to the U3A National Bridge Competition in September 2022.

Mike has kindly agreed to support us and to facilitate with administrative details. (Christine Mcmillan-Bodell)

Readers' Group 2 - Readers Group 2 met on the third Tuesday in April and we discussed [engleby](#) by Sebastian Faulks.

Mike Engleby grows up in the 1960s and early 1970s in Reading and is on the autistic spectrum, not that it is diagnosed at that time. Highly intelligent, he succeeds in

scholarships that take him first to a grammar school that appears to be a hybrid between Eton and Gordonstoun, followed by Cambridge University, where he meets and becomes entranced by Jen, a fellow undergraduate. Jen disappears and we then follow Engleby's life as a Fleet Street journalist until his mid 30s, when Jen's body is discovered in the Cambridgeshire fenland, just as DNA profiling is beginning to be used successfully in police investigations. The group thoroughly enjoyed this book and many would recommend it to others. One member thought that it was one of the darkest and fascinating novels that we have read over the life of the group. A couple of us could not put it down and just wanted to keep on reading. 'Compelling', 'Brilliant', 'Heart-breaking' were some of the words used to describe the story. Well written and, if typical of Faulks' work, an author to look out for. Our current read is [Rodham](#) (by Curtis Sittenfeld) and we will be meeting over Zoom on the evening of Tuesday 17th May to discuss. Contact Mark Pearson (m.j.pearson@me.com) if you are interested in joining in.

Poetry Appreciation.

A full complement of the group of seven met at Littleborough library to discuss and discover poems about horses. We all managed to unearth some beautiful poems. Poems about horses in the first world war, racing horses, horses of the prairies and the moors above Hebden Bridge and a couple of fables about asses. The meeting was both stimulating and enjoyable and provided a great start to the weekend.

We meet again on Saturday the 28th May when we will discuss our favourite poets. To join the group email marilyn41@talktalk.net

The IT & Photography Group met for the last time fully on Zoom at the end of April and from the fourth Monday in May will return to face-to-face meetings in the History Centre at Littleborough Station. Chris Bigmore, our IT committee member, will trial hybrid Zoom for the first meeting to enable those who cannot attend in person to attempt to join. Pearl Wensley will be taking over from Mark Pearson as Group Convenor in time for the end of May meeting. The group considered whether to split in two, with IT and Photography going their separate ways. It was decided to keep the group as one, with Howard Gott supporting Pearl with the arranging of a monthly photography field trip in addition to the fourth Monday meeting.

We had a discussion of the pros and cons of Beacon, the CRM software that the U3A uses to manage membership, groups and communications. It does not facilitate discussion groups and Barrie W. Suggested that a discussion forum may be useful for our group to share ideas, hints and tips. We also had a discussion about the use of Gmail accounts and difficulties at least one of our members had with accessing them. It was suggested that as both email providers such as Gmail and web browser providers such as Firefox had recently updated their security settings, it may be prudent to delete the programmes from your computers and reinstall them - just make sure you have any required log-in details to hand!

Finally we shared photographs we had taken on the theme of "crossings" and John C. gave us a brief comparator between JPG and RAW photograph file types (RAW has 16 times more colour gradients, for example). He also showcased the use of [Darktable](#), free-to-use photo editing software that can handle RAW as well as JPG images. It was also noted that photo editing software built into the Apple operating systems for both computers and tablets/iPhones is a powerful free alternative, and of course, [Gimp](#), which has previously been discussed in our group. (Mark Pearson)

You may remember being asked a couple of months ago if you recognised where this was taken... is the 'brises soleil' on the **No1 Riverside** Rochdale



asked a you photograph ...the answer the side of building in



**ANS
ER
to**

BARRIE'S PHOTO CHALLENGE

Last challenge was rear of Rock Nook Mill, Summit.



Although the mill chimneys and most of the stone wall have long gone, St James church at Calderbrook was a clue and the empty fields are now occupied by Barnes Meadows estate.

Only 3 efforts received this time although one member was apparently having trouble sending their effort.

Here's Barrie's...

One from **Dave**



Cannon....

And Barrie thought the best effort was from **Ruth Philpott**, as she managed to get a shot from behind what is left of the stone wall which is now protected by a barbed wire fence.

6. BARRIE'S LATEST CHALLENGE - N° 24

Can you stand where the photographer stood and get an up-to-date shot?
 Answers to barriewatu3a@gmail.com



7. Information
 This section is for non-u3a which you may interest, but promoted by u3a.

Liz Walker recently sent an email to us from a Manchester University student who is looking for volunteers to get involved with her research - an EEG study investigating the relationship between language, executive functions and social interactions throughout adult life. If you are interested in getting involved, further details are in the email or contact josephine.kearney@manchester.ac.uk



Corner
 occasional information find of which is not Littleborough

sent an email to

8. ANSWERS TO APRIL PUZZLES

Anagrams 1. Toothpaste 2. Deodorant 3. Dental Floss 4. Shampoo 5. Shower curtain

Missing Letters 1. Pierre Cardin, 2. Yves Saint Laurent 3. Hubert De Givenchy 4. Christian Louboutin 5. Jean Paul Gaultier

Number Cruncher $8 \times 8 = 64$, $64 - 2 = 62$, $6 + 3 = 9$, $9 \times 62 = 558$

Multiple Choice 1)b. Lancelot 2)b. Chilterns 3)a. Sika 4)c. 150 5)a. Adrian Dunbar

Easter Bunnies 1) Bugs Bunny. 2) They continually grow. 3) Harvey. 4) Warren. 5) Mike Bat. 6) Lop-

9. MAY PUZZLE TIME

Anagrams, Animals of the Chinese Zodiac 1) ERG IT 2) BIB ART 3) SO HER 4) SORT ORE 5) AS KEN	Missing Letters: Actors who have played Sherlock Holmes 1) B_N_D_C_/C_M_E_B_T_H 2) J_R_M_/B_E_T 3) B_S_L/A_H_O_E 4) S_E_A_T/R_N_E_ 5) R_B_R_/S_E_H_N_
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The Merry Month of May

- 1) In the UK, the May Day Bank Holiday held on the first Monday in May was created in which decade?
- 2) The Author, Lady Browning, born on the 13th May 1907. How is she better known?
- 3) 14th May 1796, Edward Jenner administered the first vaccination against what?
- 4) The composer Gustav Holst died on the 25th May 1934. What nationality was he?
- 5) On the 21st May 1894, who opened the Manchester ship canal?
- 6) Born on the 23rd May 1918, which England cricketer & Arsenal winger was the original "Brylcreem Boy"?
- 7) On the 26th May 1994, who did Michael Jackson marry?
- 8) Can you name Britain's youngest Prime Minister born on the 28th May 1759?
- 9) There are two Zodiac signs that cover May, can you name them?
- 10) How long is the lifespan of the adult female Mayfly: 5 Minutes, 5 hours or 5 days?

And finally...

...I look forward to seeing you at the May meeting on Monday 9th. for a bit of do-it-yourself surgery (aargh)!

Thanks, as usual, to all our contributors, and if anyone would like to pick up the reins of the Newsletter Editor, please get in touch!

Bye for now!

Sue
suetemperleyu3a@outlook.com