

April Newsletter

Hello everyone!



We were delighted to finally get back together once again at the Coach House and, for a brief couple of hours, mingle with friends and ease the turmoil of the shocking events which are currently on our minds. The speaker, Frank Vignon, kept us well entertained and laughing as he took us down the memory lane of sit coms. Our next meeting at the Coach House will be Monday 11th April at 2pm with Noel Moroney talking about his time in the local textile industry.

As Covid is still very much with us, windows will be kept open – wear something warm!!

In this Newsletter we have:

1. **News**
2. **Forthcoming monthly speakers**
3. **News from the groups**
4. **Barrie's back!**
5. **National u3a**
6. **Answers to March puzzles**
7. **April puzzle time – thanks to Lynn Wild**

1. NEWS

Littleborough u3a AGM will be held on Monday 13th June 2022 and all current members are invited to attend. The AGM is when members elect a committee for the following year. As ever, **we need members to join the committee** – if you were at the March meeting you will know that we will be needing, from June, a Membership Secretary as well as a Newsletter Editor. Details of how to get involved, along with all AGM papers, will be circulated shortly by Liz Walker our Business Secretary. The meeting will be followed by entertainment from our members and refreshments.

Coffee & Chat Morning – WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL at 10.30 at CUPPACCINO's in the park.



Please join a few of the committee for a coffee and chat if you are interested in helping out at monthly meetings or if you would like more information about being on the committee (with no obligation!!) Contact me if you would like more information:

suetemperleyu3a@outlook.com

AGM Entertainment

If any group would like to be part of the entertainment at the AGM, please contact Marilyn Aldred via the website 'contacts' page <https://u3asites.org.uk/littleborough/contact>.

2. Forthcoming speakers

Date	Time	Information
Monday 11 th April Coach House	2pm	Noel Moroney Textile – my time in the local textile industry
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
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. News from the Groups

Quiz Group



Two dates for your diary: **April 14th** and **May 19th**.

All members are welcome at The Red Lion which opens at 2.00pm and the quiz starts at 2.30pm.

We usually finish by 4.00pm. (Sandra Kokocki)

Yoga group



The Yoga group has a couple of vacancies.

We meet every **Wednesday** at **13:00** at the **Boxing Club**, Littleborough.

For further information contact Lynn Wild via the web page or email: lynnwild.u3a@gmail.com or phone 01706 372401

Bridge Group



Christine McMillan-Bodell writes: During the last two years due to various lockdowns, the Bridge group has played online via BBO website. We continue to play online every Friday morning which supports players who are not able at this time to join us in person.

Since October 2021, we have met every Tuesday morning at Hare Hill House, Littleborough where we enjoy the spectacular views of the surrounding countryside, as well as playing Bridge face-to-face. Our attendance ranges from 4 to 16 players. Thankfully we are supported by Mike, who kindly continues to teach us. Thanks also to our marvellous 'Milk Monitors' and to the group who help set up and clear away. Hasta la semana que viene. (Until next week)

Reading Group 1



meets up in Littleborough Library on the third Saturday of the month at 10.30am. Sadly, we have lost quite a number of members due to ill health so would like to invite new members into this friendly group. This month we have

just finished reading **North and South** by Elizabeth Gaskell, set in Victorian Manchester and not universally enjoyed by the group. However, we had an interesting and wide-ranging chat about the book, including the Victorian attitudes to death and nineteenth century middle class attitudes to those in trade. Next month we're reading the Agatha Christie book **Murder on the Orient Express**. We usually borrow our books from the library Reading Group list but a couple of times a year we each bring in a favourite read from the last few months to share with the group. Our next meeting is 16th April. For more information about this group, contact Alison Gavagan via the website <https://u3asites.org.uk/littleborough/groups>

The Genealogy Group meets at Littleborough library on the first Monday of each month. We enjoyed our first meeting in early March, chatting about our family history researches and discoveries over the last few months. We had fun trying to decipher a legal document of 1733 relating to Keith's family history. We decided that it was an agreement for a betrothal if no other previous engagement existed. The document specified that the couple must marry publicly and even specified a time for the marriage. Hopefully next month a member of the group will chat to us about the advantages of DNA testing. (Alison Gavagan)

Spanish Group

Chistes cinco ... from Roger Crossley

¿Cuáles son las vacas más perezosas?
Vacaciones!

*What's the laziest type of cow?
Holidays ("vaca" means "cow" in Spanish)*

¿Que dijo el 1 al 10 ?
Para ser como yo debes ser sincero.

*What did the "one" say to the "ten" ?
To be like me you have to be sincere. ("sincero" – "sin cero" without a zero)*

¿Qué hace un pez?
¡Nada!

*What does a fish do?
Nothing/Swim!*

¿Cómo llamas a cuatro españoles ahogados?
cuatro cinco

*What do you call four drowning Spaniards?
You don't want it spelling out, do you?*

Entra un nuevo maestro al aula y se presenta "Buenos días, mi apellido es Largo."
Dice Jaimito "No importa, tenemos tiempo."

*A new schoolmaster enters the classroom and says "Good morning, my name is Long"
Jamito says "it doesn't matter we have time"*

And a poem...Ardillas

Esta semana voy a hablar de las ardillas.

Hay tres tipos de ardillas. Ardillas rojas, ardillas grises y hombres. Tenemos una ardilla gris pero es estúpida. Entierra sus nueces y olvida dónde las entierra. En consecuencia, en primavera desentierra todo nuestro jardín y tenemos muchos avellanos nuevos cada año.

Yo también soy una ardilla. También guardo tuercas, también pernos y tornillos y clavos de todo tipo. Nunca se sabe cuándo serán útiles.

También guardo herramientas de muchos tipos, algunas de ellas con muchos años. Tengo una sierra que mi padre lo compró. Nunca se sabe cuándo serán útiles.

Esta semana todos fueron útiles cuando convertí un panel de cerca en una nueva cubierta para mi cobertizo. También había guardado un poco de pintura que Ann usó para pintar el cobertizo.

Nunca se sabe cuándo una esposa puede ser útil.

Squirrels

Of squirrels, there are three,

There's grey and there's red and there's me.

We have one but he's not so clever,

He buries his nuts and forgets them forever.

He never knows when they will be useful

In spring he digs up my garden,

For that he loses my pardon.

Perhaps he thinks he's giving me free

Another bloody hazel tree.

I don't think he's being at all useful.

I too am a bit of a squirrel

I've so many tools – even two power drills

I've nuts and bolts and screws and nails

So many plant pots and five plastic pails.

You never know when they might be useful.

I've so many brushes and much aged paint

You may think a waste but it certainly ain't

With all the above I fixed up my shed

My wife then it painted – so glad we are wed,

You never know when they might be useful!

Philosophy Group.

The group, or should I say, half of the group, met on Zoom to discuss the living Philosopher Simon Blackburn who retired as Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge University in 2011.



Born in 1944 in Chipping Sodbury, Blackburn has written many books on Philosophy including 'Truth' and 'Lies', he describes himself as an infidel having no religious beliefs. He is a Patron of Humanists UK.

Simon Blackburn is particularly known for his work in metaethics and quasi realism.

The four of us who were not attending hospital or medical appointments, have found Simon Blackburn a difficult subject to understand. One of us described it as 'Mining for gold'. Although we had all struggled to get to grips with the essence of his ideas, we agreed that we had enjoyed the challenge.

It seems that we had all benefited from the journey through the mind of Simon Blackburn, likening it to exercise for the brain, which I think is exactly what Blackburn encourages us to do, to examine the unexamined. (Marilyn Aldred)

Poetry Group

The Poetry Appreciation Group met at the Library on Saturday the 26th of March when our subject was 'The Sea'. It was amazing how many different aspects of the sea have been covered in Poetry, which, as usual, generated lots of discussion about social and political history. Masfield's poem 'I must go down to the Sea Again' proved to be a favourite with all of us. We also looked at American and Caribbean poets, which have a different approach to the British poets we were more familiar with.



The group will next meet on the 23rd of April 10am at Littleborough Library when we will look at poems about horses. (Marilyn Aldred)

Readers Group 2



continues to meet on the evening of the third Tuesday of each month. In March, we discussed [The Eyre Affair](#) by Jasper Fforde, a surreal novel set in an alternative reality and which sees the heroine, Thursday Next, do battle with Acheron Hades, a criminal mastermind holed-up in the Socialist Republic of Wales and bent on depriving the Charlotte Bronte novel of its protagonist ... permanently! With her time-travelling father (inventor of the banana), and her equally inventive uncle and aunt thrown into the mix, Thursday finds herself transported into Jane Eyre, lurking in the back corridors of Thornfield Hall to save Jane from a fate worse than death. Meanwhile, in the alternative England, battle still rages in the Crimea against Imperial Russia. A marmite book with either "laugh out loud" moments for some and "I stopped reading after page 60" for others. The Eyre Affair is the first in a series of Thursday Next novels and whether members liked or disliked the story, it provoked an interesting and wide-ranging discussion.

We next meet on Tuesday 19th April to discuss [engleby](#) by Sebastian Faulks. We have decided to continue to meet over Zoom and welcome any member of the U3A who wish to join. Email Mark Pearson (m.j.pearson@me.com) if you are interested or want to know more about the group.

4. BARRIE'S BACK with another photo challenge

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



5. National u3a

This is information from the National u3a website about [The Spring Learning Programme](#): (www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/1279-spring-learning-programme-about-learning-opportunities)

You can now get involved in our new u3a Spring Learning Programme. It is packed with member-led initiatives from across the movement, sharing skills, talents - so there's lots of new things to learn.

*As a member of u3a, you can get involved with the u3a **Book Group Forum**, **Logic Puzzles for Fun**, **Extreme Crochet** and **Paper Craft**, to name a few.*

Alison May, Head of Member Services, says "We're so excited to launch the new Spring Learning Programme. We've been working with members across the movement to

showcase their talents and share with colleagues and friends in the u3a who want to learn something new. Our initiatives are always popular so don't miss out; sign up to try a new challenge."

Our Book Group Subject Adviser Richard is leading on the u3a Book Forum, Logic Puzzles for Fun are led by Norwich u3a member Gordon, Extreme Crochet is led by Trust u3a member and crochet enthusiast Chris, Kirigami by Forest Town & District u3a member Bob.

As well as these learning programmes, there are member-led events every month. Find them on [the online events page](#).

6. Answers to March Puzzles

Anagrams 1.The Office 2. Big Brother 3. Britain's got Talent 4. Fawlty Towers 5. Emmerdale

Missing Vowels 1.Bussell, 2. Fonteyn 3.Pavlova 4.Nijinsky 5. Nureyev

Number Cruncher $50-3=47$, $8+6=14$, $14 \times 47=658$, $658+1=659$

Multiple Choice 1) a. Camel 2) a. Bob Charles 3) c. Saturn V 4) b. A River 5) c. Tautology

Monarchs a) Charles II. b) Harold II. c) Henry VIII d) Anne e) Victoria

7. April Puzzle time

Anagrams Things you find in the Bathroom	Missing Letters French Fashion Designers
1) EATS HOT POT	1) P_E_R/_C_R_I_
2) DEAR DO NOT	2) Y_E/_S_I_T/_A_R_N_
3) SAND ELF LOST	3) H_B_R/_D_/_G_V_N_H_
4) MAP OH SO	4) C_R_S_I_N/_O_B_U_I_
5) SAUCER HINT ROW	5) J_A_/_P_U/_G_U_T_E_

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.

558 1, 6, 2, 3, 8, 8.

Multiple choice

1. What was the real forename of the famous landscape gardener Capability Brown
 - a) Arthur
 - b) Lancelot
 - c) Galahad
2. Haddington Hill is the highest point in which range of English hills
 - a) Cotswolds
 - b) Chilterns
 - c) South Downs
3. The name of which species of Deer is derived from the Japanese word for Deer
 - a) Sika
 - b) Roe
 - c) Muntjac
4. A Hippo can open its mouth to an angle of how many degrees
 - a) 90
 - b) 120
 - c) 150
5. Who plays Superintendent Ted Hastings in Line of Duty
 - a) Adrian Dunbar
 - b) Craig Parkinson
 - c) Stephen Graham

Easter Bunnies



1. Which cartoon character is famous for saying “What’s up doc”.
2. What is unusual about Rabbits teeth.
3. Name the invisible Rabbit that James Stewart imagines he sees in the film of the same name.
4. What do you call the place where a colony of Rabbits live in Burrows.
5. Who wrote Bright Eyes the theme tune to the Film Watership Down.
6. Name the kind of rabbit whose ears hang down alongside its head rather than stand upright.

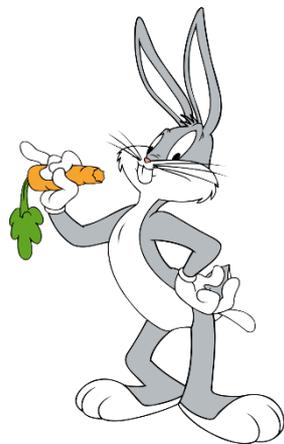
And finally...

... do you recognise where this photograph was taken?



Chris Thornton suggested that fans of *The Great Pottery Throwdown* might be interested in visiting the **Gladstone Pottery Museum** in **Stoke-on-Trent**. She went a few weeks back and really enjoyed it although she didn't see Keith, Rich or Rose but did chat to the lady who demonstrated flower making to the contestants.

So, as Bugs Bunny would say, until next time:



‘That’s all folks!’

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