



Dear Littleborough u3a members,

Welcome to the November issue of your u3a newsletter. I'm writing this as the spooks get dressed ready for Halloween. I'm not sure what I think about the increasing popularity of Halloween festivities. I like the pumpkin soup and the lights, the costumes and painted faces but I'm not so keen on the trick or treating but, to prove that I'm not a complete spoilsport, I've found you a short Halloween quiz below.

In this issue you will find information about opportunities in the u3a and especially a number of new groups that we would like to see launched but that need members or volunteers to convene and coordinate. Our next issue will be the Christmas issue and I would like to create a bumper issue full of entertaining pieces to keep you busy in the holidays. So please send me contributions. Particularly Christmas jokes (I will be a strict censor!) quizzes, pictures, puzzles. Thank you in advance.

In this issue you will find:

- 1. News**
- 2. Monthly Meetings**
- 3. Outings and Foodies**
- 4. News from the Groups**
 - a. Group news**
 - b. Upcoming group meetings**

c. New groups
5. Answers to the Halloween quiz

But first....

A Halloween Quiz

1. Who plays the title role in TV mystery crime drama *Jonathan Creek*?
2. On 31 October 1992, the BBC screened '*Ghostwatch*', a scripted drama that duped viewers into believing it was a live transmission from a haunted house. Which TV veteran presented the programme?
3. Name the eerie hotel in Stanley Kubrick's film '*The Shining*'.

1. News

Littleborough u3a record membership!

Following a very successful open event in September, we have signed up 45 new members in the last month bringing us to a record total of 345 members. That's a remarkable number for a small place. Over the last 9 years (yes, we are already thinking about our 10th anniversary next year!), a total of 669 people have been members of the u3a.

2. Monthly Meetings

At our October meeting Neil Hanson gave a well-rehearsed and highly entertaining talk about the inn where he worked and which he subsequently managed at the top of a remote hill in the Yorkshire Dales. Full of local characters and incident, the audience really appreciated his talk and many of us also bought his books.

Our next monthly meeting is on **Monday November 13th** at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House. The speaker will be our own member Mai Chatham who was a senior probation officer in Rochdale for many years. Mai's talk is based on her experiences and is entitled 'Both Sides of the Law'.

Our **Christmas meeting** is on **Monday December 11th** and we are, as usual, looking to our own groups for entertainment. We are assured of good and lively music from the choir, ukulele bank and the guitar group. If any other group would like to provide additional entertainment, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can put together a programme for the afternoon.

4. In the 1972 children's book of the same name, who or what are Meg and Mog?
5. Who wrote the novel Frankenstein in 1818?
6. The famous song 'Time warp' is from which cult comedy horror show?
7. What vegetable was originally carved to make a Jack-o-Lantern before the pumpkin became the symbol of Halloween?

8. 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 November 13th.

Ulverston Dickensian Market. Saturday November 25th. Only two places remain for the coach to Ulverston. The cost is £19 per person.

Christmas Buffet and Entertainment. Friday December 8th at Hare Hill House from 11.30 to 2.30. The cost is £18 per person.

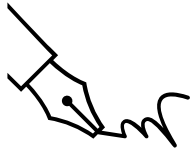
April 29th 2024: 'One Man, 2 Govnors': **Playhouse 2 Theatre in Shaw** have granted us a block booking which is open to u3a members and friends and family. Tickets cost £10 each. Please sign up at the monthly meetings.

8. What is the name given to the day after Halloween?
9. Which famous magician died on Halloween in 1926?
10. Transylvania is a region of which European country?
11. If you were born on Halloween, what would your star sign be?

9. News from the Groups

a. Reports from the Groups

Group Convenors: do please send me reports about your activities especially if you have done or are about to do something special or if you want to make sure members know what you are up to and are able to join you. In anticipation of our bumper Christmas edition, I would love to hear from you if your group has any special Christmas plans. Just send me your stories either in an email or as a Word document. Thank you!



Creative Writing Group One decided to meet at Riva restaurant by the lake for their October meeting instead of their usual Hare Hill House venue. Sue Temperley sent this report:

Our topic was to write about our favourite comedian or comedy programme. After spending some time studying the extensive menu, and after bringing the group to order (no easy task!) we finally got on with the task in hand. We read out our pieces between courses, each one creating discussion and, of course, much laughter. It was a great way to discuss our work whilst enjoying good food and each other's company in a relaxing setting.

Our favourite comedians/comedy shows were varied: Count Arthur Strong (Marilyn), Les Barker (Janet), Faulty Towers (Denise), Victoria Wood (Liz, Jo), Tim Vine (Julie), Tommy Cooper (Ken), Bob Mortimer (Sue, Pat).

We all enjoyed the occasion and the staff at the Riva were most accommodating. Back to normal in November!



And here is another group that has been getting out and about:



The u3a Choir

You will all have seen our u3a choir at our own events but perhaps you don't realise that they are also in demand to perform for other organisations and in other places. Here is what Christine Longhurst, our choir conductor, says:

The u3a choir has been trying to make more appearances in public. I believe music should be shared and that, in doing this, it also boosts the confidence of our singers and gives us pleasure in making other people happy.

Although we welcomed some new members following the open day, we are always keen to have more and especially we would like to see more men joining our singing group.

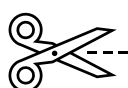
Since September, we have performed at the Dementia Café at Bamford Chapel, Cleggsworth House in Smithy Bridge, Stansfield Hall Care Home. We had a concert at St. Anne's Rugby Club for adults with educational needs. Of course we also performed at the u3a Open Day and we will be performing again at the Christmas meeting.



b. Upcoming Group Meetings



Quiz Group: Thursday November 16th at 2.30pm in The Red Lion pub on Halifax Road, Littleborough.



Craft Group meetings:

Thursday November 9th: Gift bags and tags

Monday November 17th: Christmas wreaths and table decorations

Contact Sandra 07828297991 for both these groups

c. New Groups

At the open event in September people were invited to sign up for groups they would be interested in joining and the group convenors have been busy contacting individuals where there are spaces for them to join existing groups.

Bonjour!

French language: a few people have signed up for either French Beginners or French Improvers but the numbers are, as yet, too small to create the two new groups that would be needed. If you have not yet signed up but you are interested in joining a newly formed

group either for Beginners French or for Improvers French, please sign up on the list at the next monthly meeting or contact Sandra (email: sandrakokocki12@gmail.com) Once there are enough names on a list (probably 6 is enough to start with) we will try to organise a meeting of those who are interested to find a volunteer or two to convene the first meetings and work out the best way to go forward with the group.

Hola!

Spanish language: An initial meeting for those who signed up to say that they were interested in learning Spanish was to be held on November 1st. Further information at the monthly meeting or in the next issue of this newsletter.

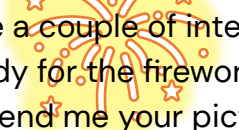
Guten Tag:

German language: A couple of people signed up to learn German. Not enough to create a group straightaway. There will be a sheet to add your name to at the next monthly meeting if you are interested. Or contact me: email: jowiggans@sky.com

There are spaces in quite a number of other groups so please do enquire with the group convenor if you are interested in joining an existing group. Some groups will set up a waiting list if the group is full – and you will be invited to join as soon as a space is available. The best way to contact the convenor is by going to our website, find the group on the Groups page and click on the bird in the corner. This sends an email to the group convenor. Go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/littleborough>

10. Answers to the Halloween Quiz

1. Alan Davies
2. Michael Parkinson
3. The Overlook Hotel
4. A witch and a cat
5. Mary Shelley
6. The Rocky Horror Show
7. Turnip
8. All Saints Day
9. Harry Houdini
10. Rumania
11. Scorpio

It has taken me a couple of interrupted days to finish this newsletter and now that Halloween is over, get ready for the fireworks! After November 5th there is no avoiding Christmas. Please remember to send me your pictures, jokes, and news contributions for our bumper Christmas edition due out on December 1st. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you at a u3a event soon.

Very best wishes,

Jo Wiggans

Email: jowiggans@sky.com

Tel: 07715 417424