



Dear U3A Members,

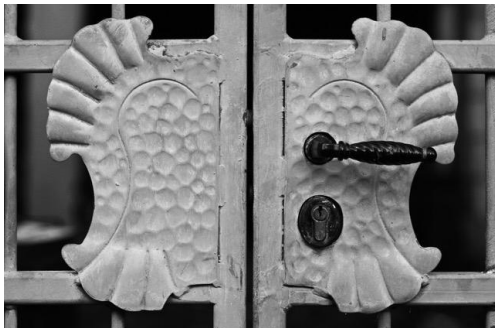
Welcome to your April Newsletter. There are more hours of daylight, there is more warmth in the sun, there is more green in the garden. Find out what is growing in the U3A.

Watch out for those April Fool tricksters today! Who remembers the failed spaghetti harvest...?.

Look out for the photographs of small details in Littleborough and see how many you can recognise. Answers at the end as usual.

In this issue:

1. News and notices
2. Monthly Meetings
3. Outings and Foodies
4. News from the Groups
5. Answers to the photo quiz
6. And finally ...



Photograph Number 1. Where in Littleborough is this? Answers at the end of the newsletter. Thank you to Howard Gott for these.

1. News and Notices

a) Membership Renewals 2023/2024

The new membership year starts today, April 1st! Lynn Wild, our membership secretary says: All members who have renewed should have received an email receipt with your e- Membership card. If you have not received this please email me and I will look into it.

For members without email you should have received your membership card (possibly with this newsletter). Or it will be available to collect at the April meeting.

If you have not renewed you still have a few weeks in which to do so.

Any queries, please contact Lynn Wild at:
memsec.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com or phone 01706 372401 or Mark
Pearson tel: 07981 271005

Please inform Lynn if you **do not** wish to renew your membership.
This will save on admin costs and time plus stop you receiving reminder
emails or phone calls

- b) **Littleborough u3a AGM**. You will shortly receive a separate email with the invitation and documents for the AGM on June 12th. We have a great track record for good attendance at our AGMs (I think you come for the entertainment rather than the formal meeting but who's counting). Let this year be no exception.
- c) **Don't miss out!** The really important document in those that our Business Secretary, Liz Walker, will send you this month, is the nomination form for new committee members. **Here is your chance**. All you need is your name and the signature of two other members to nominate and second you. Take the form along to one of your interest groups or ask your friends in the u3a. If you are unsure how to do it, please talk to any member of the committee. We will have paper copies of the nomination form to pick up at the monthly meeting.



Photograph Number 2. Is this
easier to recognise?

2. Monthly Meetings

We enjoyed the tour of the brands at the March meeting. It was very cleverly put together and interesting and informative.

Our April meeting is unusual in that it cannot be on the second Monday of the month – because that would be Easter Monday – so it is pushed back a week to April 17th. (Don't look now but this happens again in May when we accede to royal prerogative).

On Monday April 17th at 2pm our speaker will be: **Linda Sawley**. Linda comes from Read near Burnley. Linda was a nurse and nursing lecturer is the Author of many novels including “Pemberly in Waiting”, which imagines the continuing story of the Bennett sisters started by Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*. Currently Linda is an active member of her community as a tour guide, chorister and charity fund raiser. Her talk is entitled **Growing Old Disgracefully**, the fee for which she will donate to the Derrian Children's Hospice.



PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER 3.

Where in Littleborough?

3. Outings and Foodies



FOODIES APRIL EVENT. Sunday 30th April at 12:30

Event ref: WH30

Come join us for Sunday Lunch at The White House, Blackstone Edge, Littleborough OL15 0LG

Please register your interest by emailing lynnwild.u3a@gmail.com or phone 01706 372401 and leave a message. You may also register at the April monthly meeting if spaces are still available.

A deposit of £10 is required for this event. Payment may be made by the following methods:-

- Cash or Cheque (made payable to Littleborough u3a) at the April monthly meeting.
- Cheques may be posted to :- M Pearson, *The Treasurer, Littleborough U3A, 12 Southview Terrace, Rochdale, OL16 2SW.*
- *(Please quote your Membership Number and the event reference WH30)*
- Bank transfer to account **93984028** Sort code **20-72-67** **Littleborough U3A Social Account**
(Please quote your Membership Number and the event reference WH30)

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.

Littleborough u3a - Outings for 2023

From Sandra Kokocki: Here are the visits that are so far available until November.

Note that some of these are only provisional for now, as they cannot be booked until I have enough members. If you wish to join any of them, please let me know as soon as possible, so that coaches can be arranged.

April 27th, Thursday - **Architecture of Manchester Guided Walk** £10. Pay on the day. Make your own way to Manchester. This will go ahead so please let me know if you want to join us.

Manchester Architecture Thursday April 27th

Guided Walk - with John Alker



Meet: 10.30 am
Albert memorial,
Albert Square
The walk will last
approximately 90 -
minutes.



120

We will be exploring the buildings of Manchester, learning phrases to describe buildings, and learning how to 'read' a building. **£10 per person**

May 24th, Wednesday – **Trentham Estate and Garden Centre** £22; Gardens extra £11.50. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in this trip because we currently do not have enough people to fill a coach and the trip may have to be cancelled.



Trentham Estate



Wednesday May 24th. Cost £22.

Depart Littleborough Square at 9am.

Visit the Garden Centre, Shopping and estate. Additional Charge to enter the formal gardens: £11.50

July 19th, Wednesday – **Lytham Hall, Gardens and Lytham, St. Annes** £29 We need more interest if this is to go ahead. Currently there are not enough people signed up to fill a coach.



Lytham Hall and Lytham Wednesday July 19th

09.00 - Depart Littleborough

10.00 – Arrive Lytham Hall – tea/coffee & biscuits and Guided tour of the Hall

12.00 – Free time in Lytham and St. Annes.

Cost: **£29**

September 15th Friday - **Harrogate and Flower Show** Coach £22 Flower show tickets not yet available but likely to be £22 - £25. This trip will go ahead but please still let me know if you want to join.



Harrogate and/or Flower Show

Friday September 15th

Pick up Littleborough Square 9.00am

£22 for the Coach only

Tickets for the Show Available May 1st. (likely to cost approx. £25)

Cancelled: November 3rd Friday - A 3 Night stay in the Cumbria Grange Hotel, Grange Over Sands, dinner bed and breakfast and day excursions. I am sorry but we did not have enough interest in this so the event has been cancelled.

If the visits are to go ahead, I will be asking for deposits for the May and November visits at the April 17th meeting. You can also pay these by balance transfer, just ask me for the details.

Please contact me via the website, or text or ring 07828297991

Sandra Kokocki

4. News from the Groups



Picture Number 4. Keeping your eyes open.

New Groups

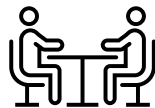
We have members who are keen to find others who are interested in getting together to form the new groups below. If you are interested, please contact Gillian Pearson, Group Coordinator: gillianpearson_u3a@icloud.com



Guitar - have you got a guitar sitting in a corner somewhere? Now is your chance to channel your inner Eric Clapton (or you choose..). Join the u3a guitar group.

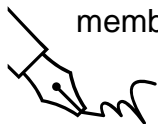


Music Appreciation – if you don't have a yen to play an instrument but would love to develop a language and ability to listen to music, how about joining a new music appreciation group and be part of choosing the styles of music you want to hear.



Discussion Group 2 – we already have one lively discussion group and we have a convenor ready to start a second group. Here is what he says:
This group will look at contemporary issues in politics, economics,, society, environment and culture. Members will choose the topics for discussion and all opinions and views are equally welcomed. So, just to get us thinking:

- An ageing population – what are the implications?
- Pandemics – are we ready for the next one?
- Brexit – the word no longer spoken?
- Climate change – can technology save us?
- Immigration – plague or necessity? Cars – do we all need one?
- Strikes – are they ever justified?
- Can we fix the care system?
- The BBC – its future and its impartiality?
- Social Media – how free should speech be?



Creative Writing Group 2: This new group has already met once but new members are still welcome. Our next challenge is to write a piece of blank verse on the topic of the weather. At our last meeting we had 5 very different pieces on the topic of 'Somewhere to hang your coat': a poem, a song, three very different stories. So interesting.

Group Reports

It is spring so we are celebrating creativity in our u3a groups.

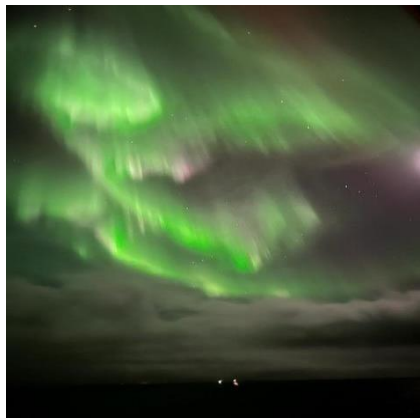
Photography

The u3a Photography Group meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We go outdoors and take photographs in the warmer months, and meet at the History Centre at other times.

Outdoor sessions are in various places - we have visited Hollingworth Lake country park, Summit, Rochdale town centre, the canal, various parts of Littleborough, and Healey Dell. We will try other locations as members wish. Returning to locations will give us opportunities for different light or seasons.

You don't need to be an expert photographer or have a "serious" camera. Simple cameras and phones can take great pictures, and the more experienced photographers in the group are always happy to help with advice.

Some images from our members, not all of them taken locally - have a guess!



Littleborough u3a Choir

The choir has been meeting since 2014 and now performs regularly at u3a events and elsewhere. We meet on Tuesday afternoons in The Coach House

in Littleborough and rehearsals are well attended and fun. There are no auditions and we are an informal and supportive group with no divas or prima-donnas amongst us. Just like-minded people who enjoy singing. We always welcome new members and we are always short of male voices. You don't need to be able to read music and all voices are welcome.

UKULELES

CONVENOR STEVE LISTER

Please let me know if you would like to join us.

BEGINNERS

This group meets at my home for an hour on Friday afternoons. Some are absolute beginners whereas others are returning for refreshment after long breaks.

In their first month, we covered basic chords and strumming while working through a set of 2-chord songs.

IMPROVERS

For various reasons, our numbers are depleted but the solid core of devotees remains. While looking at more advanced and technical styles of playing, we have tried out flamenco, reggae, and jazz.

Many of us attend a practice session with players from other groups at the Beal Cafe in Milnrow on Wednesday at lunchtime.

We have close links with the Whitworth U3A Ukulele group.

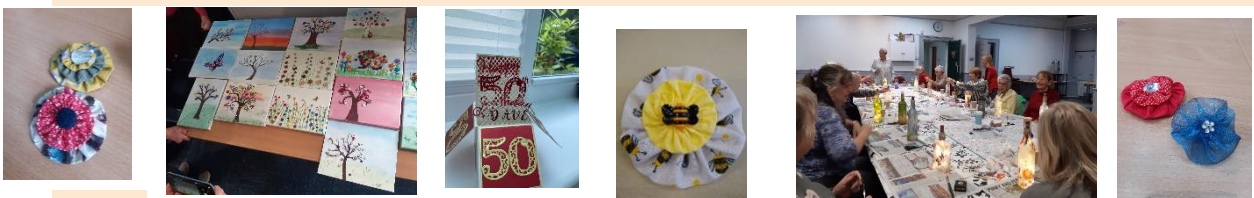
Craft Group – Open to everyone.

Meet at Hare Hill House on the second or third Thursday and the fourth Monday of the month. 1.00pm till 3.00pm

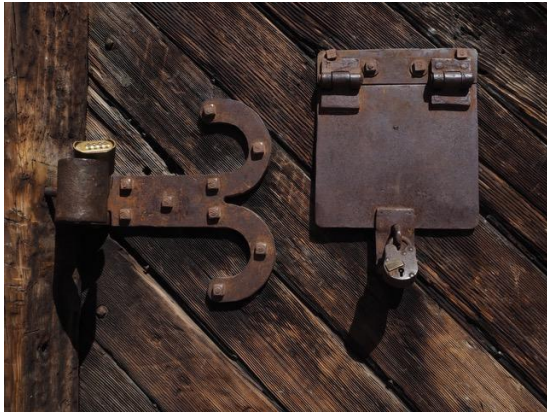
Come along and create something new each time. We have several members who are happy to share their Crafting Skills.

Costs are kept to a minimum to cover the hire of the room and any materials that need to be purchased. The usual cost is between £2 and £3.

Here are some examples of what we have created so far.



Contact Sandra via the website, or at the monthly meeting.



Photograph Number 5 and the final one in this month's tour of Littleborough details.,

5. Answers to the Photo Quiz

Photograph Number 1: Gate lock, Barehill Street
Photograph Number 2: Railing on the park bandstand
Photograph Number 3: Plaque at Harehill House
Photograph Number 4: Ineffective gate, end of Victoria Street
Photograph Number 5: Lock on old jail lockup, California (definitely not Littleborough!)
April Fool!!!

6. **And finally** I wish you all a very happy Easter. May the sun be warm on your back, the flowers bright in the garden and the chocolate rich and tasty.