

## November Newsletter 2022



**Learn, Laugh, Live**

Dear friends,

Welcome to the November edition of your U3A Newsletter. As the days get shorter and Strictly returns to our TV, you may be eager for something different to do and there is plenty on offer in the U3A.

Next month, and thereafter for a while, I would like to do a little feature on some of our groups so please can I ask the following groups to let me have a short piece about what they do, when they meet and whether they have space for new members:

**The Dancing group**

**The Walking groups**

**The Birdwatchers**

**The Gardening Group**

**The Yoga group**

It might encourage us to get out of the armchair... I will be in touch with convenors as well but group members are welcome to send me a note about their group to include. What do you like about the group?

### **In This Issue:**

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### **1. News**

Since April this year 51 new members have joined the U3A, many as a result of the September meeting. If you are a new member we very much hope you will find plenty to interest and entertain you in the U3A and we would be pleased to hear from you if you have ideas to share, or want to put your name forward as a future speaker, We now have a lively 296 members.

### **2. Monthly Meetings**

As usual, these are held on the second Monday of every month at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House. In October we were entertained with stories of the devious devices of smugglers and the detective skills of customs officers at Heathrow airport. It's amazing what

we learn about in the U3A! A full list of the schedule of speakers through next year is on our website: [www.u3asites.org.uk/littleborough](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/littleborough)

I am really looking forward to our next 2 monthly meetings:

Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>: Roger Crossley: '**Spanish Ways: the Camino de Santiago**'

Many of you will know Roger who is a member of Littleborough U3A

Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>: **Littleborough U3A Christmas event** with a quiz, entertainment from our members including the choir and Ukulele band and a seasonal twist on the refreshments. Christmas jumpers are welcomed but not compulsory.

### 3. Outings, lunches and other opportunities

#### Outings

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the last 2 planned outings due to lack of numbers. There must be places you would like to visit and sights you would like to see. If you have any ideas please let me know as below.

#### Foodies

Here is what the Foodies have on offer for these cold days:

**Coffee, Cake and chat** November 21st 11.00 till 12.30. River Beal Cafe, Ladybarn Lane Milnrow OL16 4GQ

This is a drop in event, so turn up at any time.

**U3A Christmas lunch** December 5th 1.00pm Coach House (upstairs)

Cost is £25 for 3 courses and tea or coffee.

There are only a few places left so please let me know asap if you wish to attend.

If you have not paid your £10 deposit, please follow the instructions below for your payment.

I will be in touch next week with the menu, as we will need your pre orders.

Payment by cheque to Littleborough U3A and posted to the Treasurer, 12, South View Terrace, Rochdale, OL16 2SW

Bank Transfer to Littleborough U3a Social Account 93984028 sort code 20-72-67

Please quote your member number and Christmas

If you wish to pay cash please bring along to the November meeting at the Coach House.

In all cases please ensure you have a booked place before making a payment.

For all of the above, please contact me either via the Littleborough U3A website, [sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com) or on 07828297991 Sandra

#### Basic IT Skills Course

We are pleased to announce that our u3a has been successful in its application to Rochdale Council's Pennines Township Fund for a grant to cover the cost of room hire and refreshments for a six-week Basic IT Skills course that the volunteer Tech Buddies plan to run over winter 2022-3.

The six classes will be held at **Littleborough Coach House** on a mix of Monday and Friday afternoons and spaced out over December 2022, January 2023 and February 2023, to give those members who

would like to attend, the opportunity of clearing space in their social diaries. The sessions will be free of charge and we will be providing hot drinks and biscuits.

Some members have already asked to be included in the course information being sent out. If you have not had a direct email from Mark Pearson but would like to be included in notifications/would like to register to attend, please contact him on either [m.j.pearson@me.com](mailto:m.j.pearson@me.com) or 07981 271005.

Feedback from members on topics for inclusion, has been used to plan the course and it will most likely take this format:

<b>Session 1</b> <b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer basics</li><li>• Computers, Tablets &amp; Phones</li><li>• Getting online</li><li>• Open Forum</li></ul>	<b>Session 2</b> <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keeping safe online</li><li>• Passwords &amp; authentications</li><li>• Internet &amp; email scams</li><li>• Open Forum</li></ul>	<b>Session 3</b> <b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emails</li><li>• Saving &amp; retrieving files/photos</li><li>• Backing up information</li><li>• Open Forum</li></ul>
<b>Session 4</b> <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Office” software</li><li>• Other essential software</li><li>• Cloud services and apps</li><li>• Open Forum</li></ul>	<b>Session 5</b> <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registering for online services</li><li>• Ordering online</li><li>• Internet banking</li><li>• Open Forum</li></ul>	<b>Session 6</b> <b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2pm-4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keeping your devices up to date</li><li>• Online support &amp; resources</li><li>• Recap on weeks 1-5</li><li>• Open Forum</li></ul>

You will see that each session includes an open forum, to give attendees the opportunity of asking any questions about any aspect of IT that puzzles them – so just because the topic you are most interested in understanding, is not on the plan, it doesn’t mean that it will be ignored.

There is no obligation to commit to all six sessions. There is also no need to feel apprehensive about attending – it’s going to be delivered in a style that will encourage you to learn but without making you feel like you’ve gone back to school.

If you do want to be included in the final invites and information that will be sent out, make sure you contact Mark Pearson if he has not already been in touch with you. Please also keep hold of this timetable, and if necessary, just turn up on those dates with your smartphone/tablet/laptop.

#### **4. News from the Groups**

U3A Groups have been really busy lately and several new groups are looking to get started. If you put your name down for one of these but have not yet heard please see below or just be patient – we are getting round to contacting people. Meanwhile a new craft group had its first meeting last week and the new Easy Walking Group is proving very popular.

#### **New Language learning groups**

**Beginners’ Italian** – I will be in touch with those who have signed up to arrange an initial meeting to discuss how, when and where to proceed and to seek a volunteer convenor. If

you have not already signed up and would like to join a Beginners' Italian group, please contact Jo Wiggans on 07715 417424 or see my email address at the end of this newsletter.

### **Beginners groups for Spanish and French.**

We are hoping to start up new groups for both Spanish and French.

If you are interested in joining either of the groups, please let me know. You do not have to be a complete beginner, but it does not matter if you are.

If you signed up on the Open day please contact again, so we can get an idea of numbers.

If you would like to be the Convenor of either of these groups, please also let me know.

I will be in touch within the next couple of weeks to arrange a first meeting if there is enough interest. Please contact Sandra – see details below under the Craft Group.

### **Craft Group**



Following a very successful first meeting here are the next 2 meetings at Hare Hill House at 1.00pm

November 7th - Illuminated bottles

November 28th - Fabric Paper.

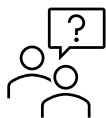
If you would like to attend either of these events where you will be creating your own items, and you have not already signed up to the group, please contact Sandra via the Littleborough U3A website, [sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com) or on 07828297991

### **Easy Walking Group**



The Easy Walking Group takes a 30 – 40 minute stroll through Littleborough with a bit of local history and interest along the way. We walk on paths and pavements so you need only good shoes, rainwear/umbrella if necessary and some coins for a coffee afterwards. Our next walk is on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2pm meeting at Littleborough Library in Harehill Park. It helps to let Barrie know you are coming -via the Easy Walking Group page on the website - just click on the bird in the corner to send Barrie a message.

### **Quiz Group**



Quiz Group meets next on November 24th at the Red Lion, Halifax Road in Littleborough. The pub opens at 2.00pm and the quiz will start at 2.30pm, usually lasting about an hour. Teams are sorted on the day. Please come along and join us.

### **Readers Group 2**



Continues to meet over Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month. In October, we met to discuss [The Shipping News](#) by Annie Proulx. Set mainly in Newfoundland, it tells of downtrodden, henpecked Quoye returning to his family roots and a position on a local newspaper reporting on shipping movements. For one member of our

group, it was a nostalgic trip back to his youth on the Canadian prairies and for another. a reminder of her mother's earliest years in Saskatchewan. We're clearly an international bunch! A dark story with some funny and some poignant moments and all agreed that Annie Proulx's writing was atmospheric and fitting of both the story and its setting.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, we will meet up to discuss [Go Tell it on the Mountain](#) by James Baldwin. *Drawing on James Baldwin's own boyhood in a religious community in 1930s Harlem, it tells the story of Johnny Grimes. Johnny is destined to become a preacher like his father, Gabriel, at the Temple of the Fire Baptized, where the church swells with song and it is as if 'the Holy Ghost were riding on the air'. But he feels only scalding hatred for Gabriel, whose fear and fanaticism lead him to abuse his family. Johnny vows that, for him, things will be different. This blazing tale is full of passion and guilt, of secret sinners and prayers singing on the wind.*

If you would like to join our group, we have a couple of spare places. Drop an email to [m.j.pearson@me.com](mailto:m.j.pearson@me.com) and Mark will include you in the next meeting invite.

## Philosophy Group



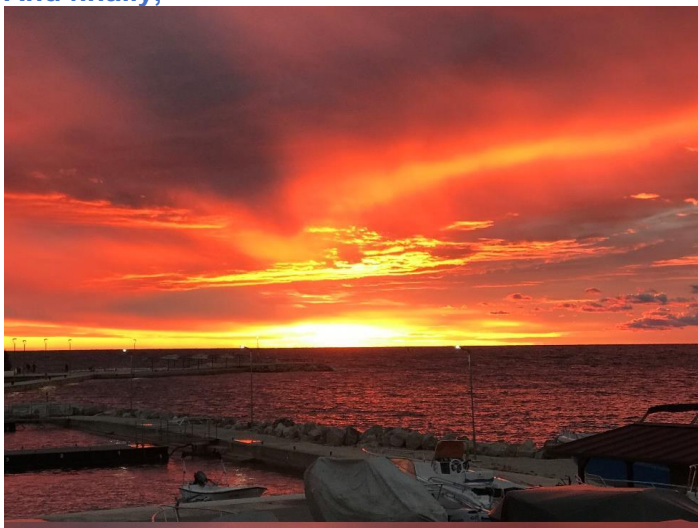
At the meeting of the Philosophy Group on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> October 8 of the group discussed Anthony Grayling, atheist, humanist author and professor of Philosophy. Guy Otten, a humanist celebrant himself, introduced A.C.Grayling as a man he is very familiar with. One of Grayling's main concerns is Ethics, how do we live, how do we treat each other and what is a good life?

Grayling believes that anyone can understand Philosophy, it belongs to us all, it is the questions mankind asks him/herself every day.

Our next meeting will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November when we will discuss The Philosophy of Art.

We are still down 1 member if you would like to join the group contact the convenor Valerie Bracken

## And finally,



Here, to keep us warm, is the wonderful sight of a Croatian sunset, winner of the U3A photography competition. Photo by Dianne Rowell.

Thank you all for your attention. I hope you have a good week and I look forward to hearing from you or meeting up soon. Very best wishes to you all,

Jo Wiggans

Email: [jowiggans@sky.com](mailto:jowiggans@sky.com)