



## Newsletter – January 2024

*A message from your Chair,*

Happy new year to everyone! Have you made any resolutions? I'm a bit nerdy when it comes to resolutions in the new year – I plan them out, write them down and get quite enthusiastic about the whole thing. I genuinely do see the new year as a new beginning and an opportunity to re-set, improve and generally make more of life. Of course the u3a can help with this as it provides so many options to take up new interests and learn new skills. As a refresher of what we offer locally we've attached to this newsletter the latest listing of all of our groups. So have a look and see if anything sparks your interest. And don't forget that the u3a national website highlights many courses etc. that are available online [see page 9 of this newsletter].

So please make the most of what is available and I hope that we all have a healthy and happy 2024.

***Kathy***



learn,  
laugh,  
live

# WALKING GROUP

## Kirkham Christmas Walk

All's quiet at the Kingfisher Pub at 9:30am on this cold bright Friday morning, a door cracks open at the kitchen entrance to receive a Starbucks delivery, a short time later a large group of familiar faces are gathered at the main entrance, mostly peeking out from under a variety of colourful headwear, lunches pre-ordered, now all gathered quietly listening to our leader Susan as she gives us a brief introduction to the history of Kirkham, mentioning some chap called Birley more than once and his flax/sail-cloth making business which was back at a time when Kirkham was the biggest town on the Fylde plain.



The hats move on to Kirkham Grammar school, which has a long history and has produced a variety of well-known personalities such as Clive Tyldesley (who's he? I hear you ask) and quite a few rugby players since its quoted inception of 1549. Sadly, none of the original building remains. Further up the road a glass case by the side of the road minding its own business contains 'The Last Loom', looking like it could do with a bit of TLC (don't we all) and today it is performing for 15 coloured tops.

After a brief stop off at the Memorial Park, we arrive at St Michael's church where we are honoured to be allowed to view the small upstairs museum, and the copy of the Roman Brass shield Boss which was discovered in Kirkham, thought to be from late 1st /early 2nd century, and is in excellent condition for its age, a bit like us really. The actual Boss is supposed to be in the British Museum, but it could equally be on eBay! On the return leg now and we pause at the main intersection of Poulton St, Preston St, Freckleton St and Church St and silently congratulate those responsible for being so sensible with the road names. This is the location

of 'A Lancashire Village, 1935' by LS Lowry. We imagine removing our hats and we are the stick figures acting up in this work of art.

Our next stop is Kirkham URC where we learn about the town shop front restoration project and the adjacent giant multi-coloured mural, showcasing many of the main elements of the history of the town. Past the Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial and onto the final stretch of the walk now and we cotton tops are stretched out among the trees as Susan lengthens her pace. We come to the biscuit factory and a free Rocky bar is our reward for getting this far. Passing by the factory and a strong and delightful aroma of cake mixture fills the air around us, making us hungry for our lunch. Hats off to the Chef for some quality food, the Starbucks did its job, the fish pie is popular, only 2 bones in mine and Ken is served first – it must be Christmas!



Happy Christmas xxx

**Mike**

## ***READING GROUP 1: THE FIRST EDITION***

Members of The First Edition, led by Ken Harries, enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at Salters Wharf.

Ken's wife, Jo Harries, came along and told us about her new book, 'Missing Marie', which she had written during lockdown.

'Missing Marie' is the third in the Merebank Bay Series and was published in December.

Our next meeting, we will be discussing

Victoria Hislop's 'The Sunrise', and we have a host of interesting reads for 2024.



## ***GARDENING FOR PLEASURE***

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd January at 2.0 p.m. in the cafe at Lytham Hall.

Come along and tell us your gardening plans for 2024 and gain ideas and tips from others.

All welcome

**Catharine Oldroyd**

## ***PAINTING AND DRAWING GROUP***

Hi everyone. If you would like to try our Painting and drawing group come along to Ansdell Unitarian Church Hall. We meet on the fourth Friday of each month for two hours. Feel free to use whatever medium you like with any subject matter. No teaching or judging but help and encouragement available! Please contact [allanlesley1@gmail.com](mailto:allanlesley1@gmail.com)

**Allan Lawton**

## **CHESS**

We had two sessions in December at our new venue with numbers reaching 10.

Two firsts were recorded being the arrival of a lady player to our ranks plus a match that against all expectations ended in a stalemate despite one player having two queens at their disposal.

The top of the table ladder game continues and now enters its third session after 4 hours of deeply considered exchanges. We have a wide spectrum of skill levels beginning with those just starting out. We also sometimes wear funny hats but our next meet is on Jan 8 and then every two weeks.

**Alan Shearn** [alanbevuk@gmail.com](mailto:alanbevuk@gmail.com)



## **PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP**

There was no meeting of the photographic group in December nor will there be in January due to holiday commitments. However we didn't just hibernate. We were set a task/challenge of capturing pictures of certain subjects, seasonal and otherwise.

We meet again in February, indoors this time. We still welcome any new members to our group. Please contact me if you are interested.

Roger Oldroyd. [rogeroldroyd126@gmail.com](mailto:rogeroldroyd126@gmail.com)

## **PLODDERS.**

The next Plodders walk will be on Thursday 22nd February, commencing at 10.45. We will meet by St Annes Pier and finish off the St Annes Trail walk we started in November. Our final stretch will be along the Promenade by the beach huts. Do hope to see you there. In the meanwhile, think of ideas for lunch and have a happy New Year.

Further details from Catharine at [Isau3a@theoldroyds.net](mailto:Isau3a@theoldroyds.net)

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **Never too old**

Over fifteen years ago I joined a new Scrabble group in the u3a. I soon found myself looking forward to the fortnightly meeting where we challenge each other to achieve the highest score. But the coffee break is a time to enjoy a chat and share our different opinions on a variety of issues. The camaraderie is an important part of our enjoyment. It doesn't matter which group you belong to, as long as you are learning and enjoying the company of other people. It may also give you the confidence to do something you've never done before.

I have always enjoyed writing and in 2016 I published my first novel, 'The Cockles of Your Heart,' set in a small seaside resort on the North West coast. It resembles Lytham St Annes, but of course it is a fictional place. You know the score; 'any resemblance to people or events is purely coincidental.'

To make it a sequel, I completed the 'The Secrets of Merebank Bay' at the time of the first lock down. I'm very pleased to say, I have just published the latest

volume, 'Missing Marie' to make it a trilogy. I am not going to give my age away, but I am well past the accepted time for attempting this kind of thing; and it feels good. As all members of the u3a know, we are never too old to start.

The books are available from bookshops and Amazon, but if bought directly from me there is a discount for u3a members.

If there are any small groups who would like to chat about the journey I've been on, you can reach me on 07484169516 or [kandj004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kandj004@yahoo.co.uk)

Happy New Year to you all

**Jo Harries**

## ***PLAY READING GROUP***

The Play Reading group will start the New Year with a comedy of manners – Hay Fever – written by Noel Coward.

The group will meet on January 24 at Vanessa's, continuing the practice of meeting in members' homes.

For 2024, Judith Smith will be helping Steve Kendall to run the group that currently has 15 members.

In February and March, there will be a return to crime drama with Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced.

**Steve Kendall**

## ***PRACTICAL GARDENING***

### **Festive fun**

Our winter programme includes visits to those local places which are of interest to garden enthusiasts. This December saw us (an impressive group of 20) in Bretherton, at the home (Hazelwood) of Jacqueline Iddon and her talented family. Over the years Jacqueline and her parents before her have been very much involved in plant and flower growing.



During the summer months the garden, open to the public, is a delight and worth a visit.

December saw us welcomed into a cosy (log fires) home festooned with winter artistry and twinkling lights.

Jaqueline demonstrated her skills with winter plant arrangements, Christmas wreaths and attractive table decorations – all put together with the things many of us have in our own gardens – holly, ivy, conifer, yew, eucalyptus, Christmas box – with berries, late roses, winter jasmine and hellebores for a shout of colour.

We picked up a lot of tips and our enthusiasm was further sustained by heart warming mulled wine, mince pies and shortbread.

The afternoon was rounded off with carol singing (to guitar accompaniment) by the log fires.

A great way to round off the year, exchange good wishes and to recognise the joy our gardens give us.

**Muriel Farrow**



## ***BEACON FOR u3a MEMBERS***

As you may be aware, Lytham St Annes u3a uses an online data management system called Beacon to manage our members, groups and finances. When you joined the u3a, you provided us with some basic information about yourself, and we store that information on Beacon, but did you know that there is a member's portal where you can view this information and change it?

To sign on to the Beacon members portal, first navigate to the Lytham St Annes u3a website (from Google, search for 'Lytham St Annes u3a' or even simply 'Isa u3a', then select one of the results, for example 'Lytham St Annes u3a: Groups') and from this web page, click on the Members tab. (This is the word Members in blue lettering on a yellow background at the top of the screen). You should now be on the Members page.

Alternatively, go there directly - <https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes/page/127530>

From here, you can go to the Portal sign on screen by clicking on the link '**Members Portal**'.

If this is your first time, you have to register for an account, so click on the blue text 'Register for a membership account'. To register you will need your membership number, and your name and postcode and email address. Follow the instructions and you should end up with an account which is your email address and a password. Now you can return to the portal sign in screen and sign in to Beacon.

Once signed in, you should see 5 options.

- **Renew your Membership** – ignore this option, as we don't do on-line renewals yet.
- **Lytham St Annes u3a Groups** – this option allows you to see a list of all of our active groups. You will be able to see details of each group, for example when and where they meet and a brief synopsis of the group. In some cases, you can click on 'join group' if you wish to join the group.
- **Calendar of Meetings and Events** – this option lists all scheduled group and general meetings in date order. Note that the group meetings will only be here if the Group leader has added them.
- **Update your Personal Details** – This option allows you to view and update the information we have about you. You can also add a photo of yourself or change your password. If you add a photo, then this will appear on your membership card next time it is issued. For best results, crop the photo to a square before uploading it. Please take the time to add emergency contact details. This information could be useful to one of your Group Leaders or a Committee member in the event of an emergency.
- **Email Replacement Membership Card** – This option allows you to get a copy of your membership card by email in case you have lost the original. And if you have added a photo, then that will be decorating your card in the top right hand corner. How good is that!

So, now you know a bit more about what Beacon can do for you. Why not have a go when you have a bit of free time.

**Mike** (Beacon Manager)



## **DECEMBER MEETING**

Our speaker and raffle winner at the December meeting



## **SOCIAL GROUPS**

If you would like information on any of the social groups, please talk to Sue at a general meeting, at one of the social groups or contact her by e-mail at [suelsau3a@gmail.com](mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com).

### ***u3a Online Events***

You can find several online events organised by u3a central here:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Insulate your home

Laughter Yoga

Chinese Wand Exercises

Exploring World Faiths

Fun Mathematics

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mindfulness and Meditation

Mosaic Art

Secrets of the Human Brain

Toulouse Lautrec – Paris Music Halls

### ***u3a MOVEMENT***

u3a has issued a video on Youtube, at the address below, with some of the highlights of its activities during the year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uztNg-gA5g>

# MEETING PROGRAMME 2024

Our General Meetings are open to all Members and are held on the second Friday of each month (except August) at St. Annes United Reform Church Hall, St George's Road, St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 2AE. Members gather from 10am for coffee and chat with other colleagues before sitting back and enjoying a talk that begins at 10.30am and, usually, ends by 12 noon. Members should always be prepared to show their current membership cards at each meeting.

Our speaker programme is as follows:

- January 12 – What Makes a Superstar? – Simon Mott
- February 9 – The JFK Assassination – Pete Mellor
- March 8 – tba
- April 12 – The Tale of Two Cliftons – David Hoyle
- May 10 – The DNA of British Musicals – Kevin & Joy Siddall

## CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any contributions that would be of interest to u3a members, please send them to the newsletter editor at the contact address below.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Our website:	<a href="http://www.u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes">www.u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes</a>
Northwest u3a website:	<a href="https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/home">https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/home</a>
National u3a website:	<a href="http://www.u3a.org.uk">www.u3a.org.uk</a>
Newsletter editor:	Vanessa Shone <a href="mailto:Vanessasu3a@gmail.com">Vanessasu3a@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	<a href="mailto:Isau3asecretary@gmail.com">Isau3asecretary@gmail.com</a>
Membership secretary:	Shirley Dickson <a href="mailto:Isau3amembership@gmail.com">Isau3amembership@gmail.com</a>
Beacon manager:	Mike Ripley <a href="mailto:beacon.lsa.u3a@gmail.com">beacon.lsa.u3a@gmail.com</a>
Groups Co-ordinator:	Sue Pullar <a href="mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com">suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>

**u3a Lytham St. Annes is a registered charity: 1013058**

**LYTHAM ST ANNES u3a: List of groups, leaders and dates: as of January 8, 2024**

If you are interested in taking part in any activity please contact the Group Leader listed.

If you have indicated to the Group Leader that you will attend an activity and are subsequently unable to go – **please let the Group Leader know!**

Group	Leader	Start Time	Day/date	Venue	Contact Number
Archaeology	Leader Needed				<a href="mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com">suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>
Painting & Drawing	Allan Lawton & Judith Smith	14:00	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	Ansdell Unitarian Church, Channing Road	01253733220 or 07849898709 or <a href="mailto:allanlesley1@gmail.com">allanlesley1@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Judithsmith@btinternet.com">Judithsmith@btinternet.com</a> 07530209778
Art Lovers	Rob Fielder	10:00	1st Tuesday	United Reform church, St Annes	<a href="mailto:robfielder50@gmail.com">robfielder50@gmail.com</a>
Birdwatching	Jeff Butcher	Varies	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Varies	<a href="mailto:j.butcher273@btinternet.com">j.butcher273@btinternet.com</a>
Badminton	Leader Needed				<a href="mailto:lsau3a@theoldroyds.net">lsau3a@theoldroyds.net</a>
First Edition Books	Ken Harries	14:00-16:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Members' homes	<a href="mailto:kandj004@yahoo.co.uk">kandj004@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Book Club 2	Margaret Mayor	14:15-16:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Fairhaven Pub	01253780439
Book Club 3	Bev Shearn	14:00-16:00	4th Tuesday	Members' homes	<a href="mailto:bevshearn@gmail.com">bevshearn@gmail.com</a>
Chapter & Verse Books	Caroline McDowell-Polke	14:00-16:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	Members' homes	<a href="mailto:Oakapple1907@outlook.com">Oakapple1907@outlook.com</a>
Bridge	Jack Henderson Marion Rigg	14:00 -16:00	Every Thursday	Lytham Bridge Club	<a href="mailto:Jack17lytham@gmail.com">Jack17lytham@gmail.com</a>
Chess	Alan Shearn	10:00-12:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Members home	<a href="mailto:Alanbevuk@gmail.com">Alanbevuk@gmail.com</a>
Cinema Club	Social Event	13:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Island Cinema	<a href="mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com">suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>
Coffee Morning	Social Event	10:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	Trawl Boat Inn St Annes	<a href="mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com">suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>
Craft Group	Diane Ripley	14:00-16:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Members Home	07759021342
Creative Writing	Anne Fielding	10:00-12:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Members home	01253 711123
Crown Green Bowling	Sandra Sanders	10:00-12:00	Tuesdays	Lowther Gardens Bowling Club	01253 729099
Day Tours	Leader needed	10:30	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Railway Hotel, Lytham	01253 713435
Discussion Group	Leader needed				
Eating Out Group	Leader Needed	17:30-19:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Various restaurants selected by members	<a href="mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com">suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>
Embroidery	Sue Bennett	10:00-12:00	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Members home	01253 735323 or <a href="mailto:suenet@yahoo.co.uk">suenet@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Family History	Jeff Butcher	10:00-12:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	St Thomas's Church, St Annes	<a href="mailto:j.butcher273@btinternet.com">j.butcher273@btinternet.com</a>
French Beginners	Christine Harrison	14:00-16:00	Fortnightly, alternate Mondays	United Reform Church	<a href="mailto:mimsicat@gmail.com">mimsicat@gmail.com</a>
French Intermediate	Susan Hampson	10:00-12:00	Alternate Thursdays	Ansdell Institute	01253 712571
Gardening for Pleasure	Norman Buckley	14:00	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Members' homes/visits	01253 728666

Group	Leader	Start Time	Day/date	Venue	Contact Number
Practical Gardening	Muriel Farrow & Martin Lammas	14:00-16:00	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	Member homes	01772690555 or <a href="mailto:martinlammas@btinternet.com">martinlammas@btinternet.com</a>
German Conversation	Bob Adkins	10:30	Alternate Tuesdays	Members home	<a href="mailto:eandr.adkins@btinternet.com">eandr.adkins@btinternet.com</a> or 07548524031
History	Tina Edwards	14:00-16:00	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	The Drive Methodist Church	<a href="mailto:u3alsacomm@gmail.com">u3alsacomm@gmail.com</a>
Jewellery	Angela Shute	14:00-16:00	Alternate Thursdays	Members Home	<a href="mailto:angelashute@aol.com">angelashute@aol.com</a>
Luncheon Club	Leader needed		3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Venues decided by attendees	<a href="mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com">suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>
Mah-jong	Janice Mairs	10:00-12:30	Monday	Hope Street Pavilion	<a href="mailto:d.mairs@tiscali.co.uk">d.mairs@tiscali.co.uk</a>
MOTO Group	Social Event/Maeve	13:00	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday	Various venues	<a href="mailto:maeveshaw7@gmail.com">maeveshaw7@gmail.com</a>
Photography	Roger Oldroyd	10.30 start	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Various	<a href="mailto:rogeroldroyd126@gmail.com">rogeroldroyd126@gmail.com</a>
Play Reading1	Steve Kendall		3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Members home	<a href="mailto:Stevekendall49@icloud.com">Stevekendall49@icloud.com</a>
Play Reading 2	Glenn Priestley	14:00-16:00	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Various [member's homes]	07590221424
Poetry	Joy Holden	14:00-16:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Various [member's homes]	07708539079
Science & Technology	Leader needed				
Scrabble	Leader needed				<a href="mailto:lsau3a@theoldroyds.net">lsau3a@theoldroyds.net</a>
Singing	Leader needed				<a href="mailto:suelsau3a@gmail.com">suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>
Spanish Improvers Class 1	Shirley Dickson	13:00-14:00	Tuesdays	Hope Street Pavilion	<a href="mailto:lsau3amembership@gmail.com">lsau3amembership@gmail.com</a>
Spanish Improvers Class 2	Christine Holland	12:00-13:00	Tuesdays	Hope Street Pavilion	<a href="mailto:christonyholland@yahoo.com">christonyholland@yahoo.com</a>
Spanish Intermediate	Sue Worden	14:00-15:30	Tuesdays	Hope Street Pavilion	<a href="mailto:sueworden@gmail.com">sueworden@gmail.com</a>
Spanish Advanced	Margaret Haddock	PM	Monday Fortnightly from 06 March	Via Zoom	01253343292 or <a href="mailto:maggie7596@gmail.com">maggie7596@gmail.com</a>
Tai Chi Fusion	Lynn Jackson	11:00-12:00	Wednesdays [waiting list available]	Hewitt Lecture Theatre/Library, Bannister St., Lytham	<a href="mailto:lynnbythesea@yahoo.co.uk">lynnbythesea@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Theatre Visits	Leader Needed	10:30-12:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Railway Hotel, Lytham	<a href="mailto:Suelsau3a@gmail.com">Suelsau3a@gmail.com</a>
Gentle Walking Group (Plodders)	Catharine Oldroyd	10:45 start	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	Various Locations	<a href="mailto:Lsau3a@theoldroyds.net">Lsau3a@theoldroyds.net</a>
Walking	Mike Ripley & Graham Rushworth	10:00 start	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Various locations	07718786856 or 07935371759
Wine Appreciation	Christine Holland		Monthly, as arranged by Christine	Various locations	<a href="mailto:christonyholland@yahoo.com">christonyholland@yahoo.com</a>