



Newsletter –February 2024

A message from your Chair,

After many months of trying, without success, to recruit some new members on to the committee, I am delighted to say that we have finally hit the jackpot! Jackie Barlow is to become our new Secretary and Linda Adams will be responsible for Promotion and Marketing – in taking up these roles they will both become Trustees to the charity. In addition, Judith Bateson is going to assist Sue Pullar who is the Groups Co-ordinator and Jean Hill will be responsible for the raffle at our Group Meetings. Jean will also help Jackie with the secretarial role if the workload ever requires some extra support and she can assist Linda if she requires an extra brain with the promotion work. We will put some photos of our committee in next month's newsletter. I am so very pleased with our new expanded committee, and I am very grateful to these members that have stepped up to help us run our u3a.

We still need someone to organise our monthly speakers and someone to assist the Treasurer – so please get in touch if you could help.

Kathy



learn,
laugh,
live

WALKING GROUP

Our LSA u3a Walking Group Year 2023

In January it has become customary to walk from St Anne's Pier to Squires Gate and back, and this year was no exception. Later in January we could have done with ice skates for our trip to Penwortham. It was nice and warm and cosy in the Brown Hare afterwards. February's the month of snowdrops and this year Ron led us around the Lytham Hall walk. Earlier this month Richard led a walk around Warton. March was a busy month with an extra walk for the Barnsley u3a Dancing Group added to the schedule and the walk was choreographed by Graham and Susan. On St Patricks Day Bill led us on a merry dance around the Crook O'Lune, and to the Station Hotel for a smart lunch after.

Picture below: The LSA u3a Walking Group at the Ribble Link in Preston.



April took us all the way to Rawtenstall, where we followed the Shoe Trail to the Halo which we nearly missed due to the thick fog! We recuperated in the Whitcuff Inn with a Dizzy Blonde. In May Graham led us on an old favourite, Rivington Pike. We

zigzagged up the stepped gardens taking in the Japanese Lake and the Pigeon Tower along the way, finally arriving at the Pike and having to shelter behind it to avoid being blown back down the hill. Later a pleasant lunch was provided by the Great House Barn café. Also in May, Susan took us on an interesting tour around Singleton where we talked to the Alpacas and learned about Preston cotton magnate Thomas Miller, and lunch was taken at the pub with 2 names. In June Susan took us to Cockletown (Bolton-le-Sands) where we enjoyed clear blue skies and great views and waved at Skeletons (thankfully they didn't wave back!), and had Morecambe Bay shrimps for lunch. July and we are back at the seaside again, Silverdale this time where we saw Jenny's Point, (but no sign of Jenny) and the Queens jubilee Pepper Pot, and where I left my phone on a bench, luckily it was only half a mile before I noticed! Later in July Sita and Peter took us to the Yarrow Valley and I believe less than 3 recces were required! We parked by the Skate Park but no-one was keen to use it. A great lunch was had at the Euxton Mills pub. We took a break in August, then in September we revisited Nicky Nook

on a very hot day, with lunch at the Applestore Cafe then later in September we walked in Tolkien's footsteps, but we didn't see a single Hobbit. I guess they were all still enjoying their 2nd breakfast. Lunch at the Shireburn Arms was magical. On a blustery day in October we visited Sunderland Point and managed to avoid getting our feet wet. We almost lost Ken who almost missed out on Susan's cake in the bird hide. In November we revisited Roddlesworth to enjoy the autumn colours and fast flowing streams and waterfalls and we all managed to remember to pay for our food in the pub this time. December saw us in Great Mitton, postponed from earlier due to Storm Babet, where Sita sat on the Throne and we all had a nice visit to the All Hallows Church before a smashing meal at the Aspinall Arms, then later in December Susan treated us to her guided tour around Kirkham with a free Rocky Bar and we enjoyed Christmas Lunch in the Kingfisher, a great way to end an excellent walking year.

Thanks to all Walking Group members for supporting our LSA u3a Walking Group in 2023 and a Special Thank you to all of our Walk Leaders.

Graham and Mike

GARDENING FOR PLEASURE

Gardening for Pleasure Group will meet on Tuesday 27th February at 2pm in the cafe at St. Annes Garden Centre (formerly Trebaron) to share experience and ideas.

Norman and Christine Buckley

PLAY READING GROUP

The Play Reading group kicked off their 2024 season with a fun rendition of Noel Coward's comedy of manners, Hay Fever.

Denise Fagge starred as the actress mother of a family that loves to verbally spar with each other.

She last read the part – played on stage by Dame Maggie Smith and Penelope Keith – in 1967 and enjoyed every delicious nuance.

The group meet again on February 21 to read Agatha Christie's 'A Murder is Announced'.

Steve Kendall

POETRY GROUP

The new u3a poetry group is already quite established and friendships are being forged, which is an added bonus.

The first meeting was held in October and was well attended. Everyone contributed either their own poem or read a particular favourite or both. Lots of interesting discussion ensued, revealing such a wide range on interests and opinions.

Following on: November's topic was 'War Poetry'; December's topic 'Christmas' and January's theme was a broad interpretation of 'Fresh Starts; 'New Beginnings' etc. February's topic is 'Weather'.

The group members are eager to embrace each person's choice: reading published poetry and/or writing their own. There are no restrictions.

Joy Holden (Group leader)

SPRING GARDEN 2024

When I think of a fresh start
My inspiration is the garden
Patch of land; potential work of art
Transforming, reinventing through the year

Mysteriously coloured with spikes of green
Is a brown carpet of rotten leaves
As snowdrop fingertips are first to be seen
Delicate strength pushing through the soil

Despite wet, wind and frost
Rock hard borders are no barrier
Not a hyacinth or crocus is lost
In the cold beginning of spring

Nature's journey is a joy to see
Cold elements recede as white, purple, yellow and blue
Like a carpet of sprinkled confetti poke through

New year, new beginnings, new life again

J.E. Holden u3a Poetry Group

SPANISH

Improvers Group 1, improvers group 2 and intermediates.

Message from the 4 group Leaders:

We are all at capacity, members and group leaders wise. So there will be no absolute beginners class as there has been, for so many years in the past. If there are members wishing to form a new absolute beginners group they should contact Sue Pullar, Groups coordinator.

This will mean, from now on, anyone wishing to join any of the 3 groups listed above should contact any of the 4 group leaders to be put on the appropriate waiting list depending on knowledge and confidence.

Christine

HISTORY GROUP

The January meeting was well attended and we were treated to an excellent talk on "The History Of Lighthouses" by Chris Wrigley.



This ship's aid to navigation is a fascinating subject and the questions came thick and fast. From candles to GPS, lighthouses have come a long way.



Next month's talk is on the "The History Of Musical Theatre"

If you are interested in joining this group please contact me via Lytham St Annes u3a web page or on u3alsacomm@gmail.com.

Tina Edwards (History Group Organiser)

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The group has changed venue, back to our original meeting place in the Community Room at The Drive Methodist Church (corner of Clifton Drive and East Bank Road) in St Annes. We meet on the third Friday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon. Anyone interested in genealogy, in researching family members or writing family history is welcome to join us.

In January, we tidied up some loose ends on our First World War topic and then looked at the 1841 Census as the first modern-style census.

The February meeting (on the 16th) will be an opportunity to talk about problems we have found in researching family information. Please bring your laptop – we hope to have internet connection. If we run out of troubleshooting, we'll start looking at Parish Registers.

Any member with a story to tell, or a subject to talk about, will be welcome to give their contribution at future meetings.

Unfortunately, we can no longer meet as a group at St Annes Library as the Library Service is not prepared to give us a group booking. Obviously, individuals can visit their local library to use the computers there to carry out research and some libraries have Family History Groups you can join.

Jeff Butcher

CHESS GROUP

A new year for us with an enlarged pool of chess sets following the gift from James of a glass set plus further charity shop purchases. We even start to have preferences on which ones we like to use!



We meet twice this month with Feb dates being Monday 5th and then 19th, 10 am in the main lounge at Sandhurst Grange. We have new people playing which is great and there was a fair bit of activity at the top of our Chess Ladder. One can challenge two players above and a win places you in that spot with the loser dropping down one.

Our group have mainly lost the competitive nature of earlier years and just meet, chat and play for fun. But.....deep down one detects those final embers of a burning fire that rise to the surface when confronted with a challenge.



The top positions changed a few times with long games being conceded after hours. It is pleasing that we have new players who wish to start the climb although as we say it is really just a bit of fun.

Some pictures capture some of these moments.

Joining the ladder on Jan 22 were Christine and Alan (C) with Vanessa, perhaps our second lady player, reaching for the next rung.

Alan Shearn alanbevuk@gmail.com

BIRDWATCHING GROUP

It was a chilly morning on 9th January when seven hardy members in full winter plumage ventured forth at Stanley Park. During a two and a half hour walk along the lakeside and through woodland, the group identified thirty-two bird species including one not so common common gull, several ring-necked parakeets, a great-spotted woodpecker, heron and numerous waterfowl. A number of grey squirrels and one dirty rat were also spotted, but no sign of James Cagney,

We saw 2 two black-headed gulls that each had a plastic blue ring on their left leg; (see photo).



Such sightings can be recorded on a website <https://waterbirdcolourmarking.org/black-headed-gull/>

using the ring number. Both birds had only been recorded at Stanley Park, one several times since January 2023 and the other only once, in February 2022.

The group was led by Jeff Butcher for a final time and our thanks go to Jeff for leading the group so effectively last year. I will try and pick up the reins although as a novice birdwatcher I cannot hope to match Jeff's extensive knowledge, but

with input from the more experienced members it is hoped that the group will continue.

Our next trip will be to Lytham Hall on Tuesday 13th February, meeting 10.00 by the Rear Gate of Lytham Hall on Forest Drive opposite Hall Park Centre FY8 4PS. The gate may be open earlier but Lytham Hall could not guarantee that as it depends on staff availability and whether any checks are required around the grounds. The car parking at Hall Park centre is currently restricted. Parking on Broadwood Way is probably the safest. We walk up Green Drive past the Hall and around woodland. The paths are a bit muddy so good walking shoes or boots needed. Cafe and toilets available. Should finish about noon.

Peter Hulme

BRIDGE CLUB

From the start of the year, the Bridge Group has enjoyed modest growth. This is encouraging to our members who welcome new members to a friendly social game which is both challenging and endlessly interesting. All that, with tea and biscuits too!

We hire Lytham Bridge Club, 4a Pembroke Road Lytham St Annes on Thursday afternoons, starting our sessions at 2.00 pm so, if you are interested, please arrive no later than 1.45 pm. Being an experienced player or a bit rusty and wanting to ease your way into the game again in relaxed ambience, you are welcome to join us.

Partnerships are good but if you come alone, you are not alone, we find a way for all to have a game.

Stimulate your mind, meet others and enjoy the competition, but with the essential ingredient of having fun.

Jack Henderson (Group Leader) Contacts: Tel. 01253 739752 or 07793086665

Email – Jack17lytham@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Do you take photographs ? Yes of course you do. Everyone does. We've all got mobile phones and the quality of pictures you get is excellent. So why bother with one of these fancy cameras ? Well there are advantages and disadvantages

of each. Why not join us at our next meeting on Wednesday 28th February and find out. Email Roger for details of meeting point etc.

Roger Oldroyd, rogeroldroyd126@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Colleague,

GROWING OLDER IS GOOD

I'm sure that some of your members / network will be interested in my free public lecture on February 5th at 5pm in the Darwin Lecture Theatre, University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), Preston. The link to book your place is www.uclan.ac.uk/events/listing/growing-older-is-good

This event will explore: Finding the way to hold onto our personhood in an ageist and discriminatory society – Challenging the growing brutality of data-driven services. The talk will be followed by an interactive, chaired debate with audience members.

Note that this marks a stronger focus being given by UCLan on 'active and healthy ageing'. A matter that is clearly important for all our futures!

Malcolm J Fisk, Professor of Ageing and the Lifecourse – mfisk@uclan.ac.uk

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our following new members:

Kathleen Vargerson	Andra Campbell	Joanna Ambery
Rose Shepherd	Marjorie Short	Irene Halsall
Kathleen Dudley	Jackie Barlow	Judith Bateson
Janice Bradshaw	Marjorie Crabtree	Chris Holley
Judith Lakin	Edwina Layfield	Anne Matthews
Beverley McKears	Peter McKears	Karen Middlehurst

u3a Online Events

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

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

History (Holocaust Memorial Day);

Art (Mosaic Art, David Hockney and the Theatre);

Lifestyle (Laughter Yoga, Flowing yoga, Mindfulness and Meditation, Retirement Housing);

Brain Stretchers (Aviation – Apollo 11 and 13, Locks and Keys, Cryptic Crosswords, Pathogenics and Botany, the Brain – Sleep and Dreams, Public Health – Semmelweis, Fun with Numbers).

SOCIAL GROUPS



The life of a Social Butterfly

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

Dates for next social meetings

Date	Group	Where	Time
6 Feb	Cinema	Island Cinema, St Annes	13:00
12 Feb	Coffee	Trawl Boat Inn (Wetherspoons)	10:00
20 Feb	Lunch	Blossoms Pub, Ansdell	13:00
28 Feb	Eating Out	ISARA Thai and Japanese Restaurant	17:30

FUTURE EVENTS

Below are proposed dates and locations, where known. Arrangements will be confirmed to group members prior to the event.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ANY SOCIAL EVENT, JUST TURN UP AND YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

Eating out (5.30 pm)

28 Feb	ISARA Thai and Japanese Restaurant
27 Mar	TIGGIS
24 Apr	ZEN
22 May	Flame – Greek
26 Jun	Anatolia – Turkish
24 July	Olivers
28 Aug	Le Patio
25 Sep	Un Momento
23 Oct	Lorenzo
27 Nov	Dalmeny Hotel

Cinema Dates	Coffee Dates	Luncheon Dates
Island Cinema or Lowther: all 1 pm	Trawl Boat Inn (Wetherspoons) all 10 am	Locations vary: all 1 pm
6 Feb	12 Feb	20 Feb: Blossoms
5 Mar	11 Mar	19 Mar: Salters Wharf
2 Apr	8 Apr	16 Apr: Jai Lounge
7 May	13 May	21 May: Tiggis
4 Jun	10 Jun	18 Jun: Pavillion, Ashton Gardens
2 Jul	8 Jul	16 Jul: Le Patio
6 Aug	12 Aug	20 Aug: TBC
3 Sep	9 Sep	17 Sep: Fish & Chips on the pier
1 Oct	14 Oct	15 Oct: TBC
5 Nov	11 Nov	19 Nov: TBC
3 Dec	9 Dec	17 Dec: TBC

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 over the page.

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. Anne's United Reform Church Hall, St George's Road, St Anne's, 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 at about 12 noon. Members should always be prepared to show their current membership cards at each meeting.

Our speaker programme is as follows:

- February 9 – The JFK Assassination – Pete Mellor
- March 8 – tba
- April 12 – **AGM**; The Tale of Two Cliftons – David Hoyle
- May 10 – The DNA of British Musicals – Kevin & Joy Siddall

CONTACT INFORMATION

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u3a Lytham St. Annes is a registered charity: 1013058