



## Newsletter April 2024

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### From the Chairman elect

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John McKellar – [chair@maccu3a.uk](mailto:chair@maccu3a.uk)

Dear All,

With spring, the seasons rotate once more – and the u3a similarly cycles on; driven by the many people who give their time and knowledge unselfishly. We should be very grateful for the kindred spirit and generous efforts of them all, of you all. The Macclesfield u3a is a busy association with 440 odd members with a plethora of interests; it is my ambition to grow the membership and increase the number of activities. I'm very grateful that our retiring chair, Alec Johnston, has passed the association over in such fine health and that he is staying on in a communications role – he might not appreciate how much work he is giving himself.

Like the new growth in the woodlands, your u3a will grow – but the speed and direction of that growth is up to us all. New growth can build on the solid branches of the established groups; now let us identify new groups which reflect other aspects of our lives and interests. The more we create, the more we offer and the more we

obtain from our membership. This will need more leaders, more of the same please, with the same energy and commitment.

Here is to the new season ...

John McKellar

Chair Elect

[chair@maccu3a.uk](mailto:chair@maccu3a.uk)

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## From the Membership Secretary

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Phyllis Thomas – [membership@maccu3a.uk](mailto:membership@maccu3a.uk)

All 2023/24 memberships expired on 31st March and the annual membership renewal period is open. Many thanks to all those who have already renewed.

The subscription remains at £28.00 for Individuals (and has been reduced to £24.00 for Associate members, that is, those who belong to another national u3a group).

Because the bank charges us a fee for each cheque, the preferred method of payment is BACS and the bank details are the same as last year. However if you don't do online banking, then cheques and cash are still accepted. Further details on how to pay have been sent by email or post (if an email isn't registered with us). If you haven't received a communication from me in mid-February and a reminder in March please contact me. Since we have about 450 subscriptions to process, many thanks to those who have already renewed!

If you do not wish to renew for 2024/25, I would appreciate hearing from you; your status can be changed to Lapsed (if you might rejoin in the future) or Resigned (if you likely won't ever renew). If you choose to Resign, please may I have this in writing (email is fine).

If your personal details have changed (address, phone numbers) or if you no longer belong to another u3a group or are not enjoying the free Third Age Trust national u3a magazine, please let me know.

I can be reached by email at [membership@maccu3a.uk](mailto:membership@maccu3a.uk), Thanks,  
Phyllis

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## From the Groups' Co-ordinators

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Shirley Stretton and Mandy Orton – [groups@maccu3a.uk](mailto:groups@maccu3a.uk)

The recently formed Ukulele group seems to be going well. They are still happy to accept new members if you fancy having a go.

The popular winter indoor bowls and pickleball at the Leisure Centre are now coming to an end. Outdoor bowls and pickleball will get going in April, although some hardy pickleballers are already playing at Macclesfield Tennis Club on Wednesday and Friday mornings when the weather allows. Pickleball now has a short waiting list, but we hope to accept a few more members to the Wednesday sessions.

Unfortunately, the Knit and Natter group has not attracted enough members to make it feasible for the time being. We are therefore closing the group for now but hope that it may start up again sometime in the future.

We continue to explore ideas for new groups. Look out for news of a resurrected Creative Writing group and a new Afternoon Games group.

Shirley and Mandy

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## From the Newsletter Editor

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Peter Whitham [editor@maccu3a.uk](mailto:editor@maccu3a.uk)

This Newsletter provides a link for each group, which (if you are connected to the internet) will take you to the group's web page. You can always access all the groups' webpages at

<https://u3asites.org.uk/macclesfield/home> as well. Our aim is to provide you with news and updates, rather than repeat material from the Year Book and website. I always welcome any comments and suggestions to improve the Newsletter.

The Committee is planning a printed Year Book in September.  
Peter Whitham

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## Members' Mornings

From the Members' Mornings Co-ordinators

[speakers.secretary@maccu3a](mailto:speakers.secretary@maccu3a)

Members' Mornings usually take place on the third Monday of the month, at the Masonic Hall in Riseley Street. There is parking for 35 cars there, but perhaps think about sharing lifts, just in case.

Future Members' Morning dates are:

- Monday May 20th      Speaker from Blood Bikes
- Monday June 17th      Speaker is Frank Vigon
- Monday July 15th      Speakers June and Jackie Boulton talking about Parkside

We hope to see you at as many of these as possible.

Anna Franks and Diane Styles

[speakers.secretary@maccu3a.uk](mailto:speakers.secretary@maccu3a.uk)

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## Notice of the Annual General Meeting

MACCLESFIELD u3a NOTICE

2023-4 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 30th April 2024 10am-Noon

Coffee at 10am followed by AGM at 10.15 then at 10.45am:

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Chris Brooks [u3a member] on

"Why is Macclesfield called the Silk Town"?

Venue: All Saints' Church, Brough St. West (off Oxford Rd),  
Macclesfield, SK11 8EL

Please advise the secretary if you have any questions for the Committee concerning our u3a by Monday 22nd April 2024. We cannot take any detailed questions if not provided before the meeting.

The committee request nominations for the post of Vice Chairman to Macclesfield u3a to be voted upon at the forthcoming AGM. Form from the secretary.

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## General news of group activities

Please note: If there is no news listed, the group is continuing, and the details can be found on the website (or in the last Year Book).

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## Allotment Gardening

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## Art Appreciation

- Co-ordinator Chris Johnston
- Subject Leader Julia Marwood

The Art Appreciation group currently meets on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings from 11am. We choose a topic together, then each of us does some individual research which we then share with the group. There is no pressure to contribute, but Julia is happy to find images and share them with the group.

We are very happy to welcome new members.



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## Bird Watching

Upcoming planned visits:

14/03/24	Moore Nature Reserve	Warrington	10:00
11/04/24	Carsington Water	Ashbourne	10:00
25/04/24	Dawn chorus walk	Fernilee	
09/05/24	Gradbach		10:00
13/06/24	Derbyshire Dales		10:00

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## Bookworms 1

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## Bookworms 2

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### Bookworms 3

I really look forward to the 2nd Thursday in the month when book worms 3 meets. We get together at a member's house with a cuppa and lively discussion of the book. Each person can choose a book to which we all listen to or read. We have 7 members and could welcome one or two more. Please contact me for the meeting place.

- April *A sense of ending* by Julian Barnes.
- May *Possession* by A S Byatt.

All the best Margaret Burnham

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### Bookworms 4

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### Bookworms 5

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### Café walks

Over the winter we have walked in West Park and Macclesfield cemetery; Tytherington Woods; Prestbury with a late Christmas lunch, and more. Walks at Dane's Moss, Finlow Hill and Sutton Reservoir are planned for the coming spring. Anyone who can walk two miles is welcome.



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### Card Making

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## Country Dancing

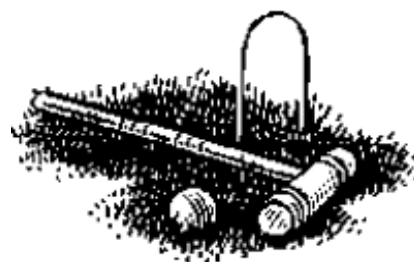
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## Crafters Together

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## Croquet

Our group is about to enter its seventh season, and has grown from strength to strength in that time. We play on the outfield of Macclesfield Cricket Club on Tuesday mornings, and Thursday afternoons, during the season (April to October), and remain the only group playing Croquet in the whole of the Macclesfield area. The group has built up a regular playing membership of about thirty players, but we are very keen to attract new folk this season, as we shall now have six lawns available.



If you are at all interested in joining us, we have a gentle induction programme for newcomers ~ in truth, very few of our current players had ever played before joining us. Croquet is the most fascinating of all sports ... it has been likened to a mix of bowls, chess, and snooker – can we tempt you?

In addition to our twice weekly sessions, we have developed close links with the U3A group in Congleton and have also enjoyed reciprocal visits to the Buxton Group.

We do see ourselves as a social group, playing Social Croquet first and foremost, with the very clear aim to have fun! We do, however, play to the rules of Association (as opposed to Golf) Croquet.

We restart on Tuesday, 2nd April. Please get in touch if you would like any further information, or just to say you'd like to come along.



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## Crown Green Bowls

Outdoor bowling is starting!!!

After a successful winter session for our new indoor bowling group, it is time to polish up your outdoor bowls for the summer season!

Crown green bowling starts again at West Park on Wednesday April 3rd at 10am till 12 noon. We are a sociable crowd and whether you are a new player or one with expert skills, we would welcome an addition to our group. If you are interested in giving bowling a try please contact the group leader, Shirley Stretton via the message link on the crown green bowling webpage of our u3a website.

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## Indoor Bowls

Our first season for winter indoor bowling sadly finished in March. We had a good regular turnout with some players showing a real flair for the sport. Hopefully a few of the members will move on to our crown green bowling group which starts on Wednesday April 3rd at West Park. We are planning to continue with the indoor bowling at the beginning of October this year. Do give it a try!

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## Discussion

Some of the topics planned for the next few months include:

- The water industry
- Litter, waste and recycling
- How to encourage necessary artisans e.g. carpenters, plumbers, electricians etc?
- Byzantine!

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## European Studies

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## French Conversation 1

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## Geology



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## German 1

- Kate Bonson

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 2-4pm.

We meet in various members' homes. The members of this group have varying fluency in German, but we enjoy the varied topics arranged by a different member each session. This usually consists of a written German article which we, in turn, read a section, and translate into English. The article to be studied can sometimes be a sound recording – it's good to hear 'real' German spoken. There is usually a break for refreshments at 'half-time'.

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## German 2

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## Italian – Beginner Fumblers

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## Italian Conversation

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## Mah Jong

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## Make and Create

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## Painting and Art

We are a friendly growing group of enthusiastic artists, who enjoy trying out a large variety of different mediums of art. This may be watercolour, acrylic mixed media, glass painting, geli printing, collage and other mediums. We aim to try new topics, themes where we can to keep the artistic juices flowing.

As much as we are about sharing knowledge about art, people come for a chat with friends, a coffee or tea and of course a biscuit. At times we can be lively, and others quiet when we are concentrating on our work.

So if you like the sound of our group come along and join us.

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## Pickleball

Wednesday and Friday sessions 10am-12pm are available at Macclesfield Tennis club. Cost is £2 a session. We currently have a short waiting list, but we will reassess the situation when the sessions fully get going. We can probably welcome a few more members to the Wednesday sessions – please get in touch via the website.

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## Indoor Pickleball

Indoor sessions at the Leisure Centre are now ending.

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## Psychology Forum

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## Rummikub Plus

Ever felt like you need to get your brain working a bit more? Well look no further! We are looking for new members to join our very friendly Rummikub group which meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Starting at 2.00pm, each session lasts two hours with a sociable coffee (or tea!) break and a home baked cake at half time. Whether you have played Rummikub before or are a complete novice, you will be made most welcome. So come along and give it a try – you don't know what you are missing!!

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## Spanish Improvers

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## Table Tennis

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## Technology & Science

We started 2024 with an extremely interesting talk by Professor Dave Johnson on the role of fungi in providing the key nutrients to plants both in the forest and elsewhere. We were shown evidence of better growth of trees grown in the presence of fungi compared to those grown in similar but sterile soil. The relationship between the fungi and plants is symbiotic – the plants gain nutrients and the fungi, sugars from photosynthesis – so both benefit.

In February, one of our members, Ron Pierce, described the processes used to ensure complex systems are safe, and in March, Dr Sarah Jones on reducing animal usage in drug development.

Future talks include plastic recycling, novel drug development and Tera-Hertz radiation, which has always existed, but access to this part of the electromagnetic spectrum is fairly recent.

The programme so far is:

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**Tue Apr 23rd Professor Arthur Garforth, Professor of catalysis, University of Manchester**

Circular Economy and the up-scaling of Polymer Waste to Chemicals.

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**Tue May 28th Professor Jayne Lawrence, Professor of Pharmacy at University of Manchester**

Neutron scattering and the development of novel drug formulations.

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**Tue June 25th Dr Darren Graham, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester**

Tera-Hertz radiation – A new research tool from the electromagnetic spectrum.

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## Ukulele

- Macclesfield and Congleton Scout District HQ, 32 West Bond St. SK11 8EQ
- 10.30am 1st and 3rd Thursdays

The brand new Ukulele Group is up and strumming (and singing). We are a small but enthusiastic group and are mostly recent absolute beginners, plus a couple who have played before. We would be happy to welcome new members, both beginners and improvers, to come along and join in.

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## Walkers 5 Milers

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## Walkers Mid Week

The Walking Mid Week group is not active at present. Anyone wishing to undertake similar walks should consider joining the [Walking Mondays](#) (below). Their walks are similar to ours but usually a mile or so longer.

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## Walking Mondays

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## Walking with Dogs

The Walking with Dogs group started again on March 20th after the winter break. Please get in touch with the group leader via the contact link on their webpage if you are interested in joining the group. Friendly dogs are more than welcome and please bring your owners along too!

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## Wild Flowers

Dates for visits on Mondays, generally a 10.30 start:

29th April	Jacksons Brickworks, Middlewood, Higher Poynton. grid ref SK 947 843 Post code SK12 1UT Take turning up Park Lane Poynton to its junction with Middlewood Road and bear left past Davenport Golf club, follow road some 1.5 kms and entrance is a turning right through a small housing estate and over canal. Car park free but no toilets.
13th May	Solomon's Temple Grinlow Quarry caravan Park – donation to car park & toilets Buxton grid ref SK 049 720 Post Code SK17 6UJ
10th June	Upper Lathkill Dale, Monyash Grid ref SK152 665 Due East of Monyash village on B 5055 Post code DE45 1JH Small parking area near toilets and road side verge.
24th June	Millers Dale Station Grid Ref SK17 8SW Post Code SK 17 8SN Car park fee, toilets and café.

8th July	Hartington Station Grid ref SK 149 612 Post code SK17 OAZ Car park fee and Toilets Access off A515 onto B5054
29th July	Bellamy's Bank, [Grid ref SK 154 731] Ravenstor. [Do not access via YHA] Park at Tideswell Dale Car park off B 6049. Paid for car park and toilets.
12th August	TBA

Personal visits could be made to Henbury millennium meadow;  
Swettenham meadows; Canal at Nelson Pit, Higher Poynton.

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## Open Group meetings

Open Groups are groups at nearby u3a's that welcome our members to their meetings. You do not have to join the other u3a to attend. There is often a contribution required from visitors.

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## Technology for Everyone (Cheadle Hulme u3a)

- Roger Law

The Technology for Everyone (The Appliance of Science) Group of Cheadle Hulme u3a is the latest addition to the North East Cheshire Network as an "Open Group". This Group invites Speakers on technical subjects that we all come across in our day-to-day activities. You are therefore invited to attend any of their meetings on the first Tuesday of the month (Feb to April, and Oct to Dec inc.) at 2pm in the Heald Green Village Hall, Outwood Road, Heald Green, SK8 3JL. Admittance fee is £3 including Tea/Coffee and Cake/Biscuits.

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## Electricity Generation, Storage and Usage

Tuesday 2nd April at 2pm

Royce Lowis, from Poynton u3a, will deliver his talk on "Electricity Generation, Storage and Usage". This will include the generation and distribution of electricity and how the National Grid meets the fluctuating demand.

## List of Group Leaders and Contact Numbers

Allotment	Steve Fallows
Art Appreciation	Christine Johnston
Bird Watching	Noel Massey
Bookworms 1	Vicky Darlington
Bookworms 2	Linda Godfrey
Bookworms 3	Margaret Burnham
Bookworms 4	Liz Lawson
Bookworms 5	Pete Caulkett
Café Walks	Anna Franks
Card Making	Joy Kewney
Crafters Together	Jackie Boulton
Country Dancing	Jill Smart
	Jane Turner
Croquet	David Lee
	Andrew Redwood
Crown Green Bowls	Shirley Stretton
Discussion	Chris Hewitt
European Studies	Norton Wragg
French Conversation 1	Val Cutter
Geology	Adrienne Noble
Admin	Beryl Beattie
German 1	Kate Bonson
German 2	Nicky Campbell
Italian – Beginners	Phyllis Thomas
Italian Conversation	Val Cutter
Indoor Bowls	Shirley Stretton
Mah Jong	Pete Caulkett
Make and Create	Janet Parkinson
Painting and Art	Jackie Gibbs
Pickleball	Mandy Orton
Indoor Pickleball	Mandy Orton
Psychology	Angela Raval
Rummikub Plus	Denise Jones
Spanish Improvers	Mary Pollard
Table Tennis	Sue Whyatt
Technology & Science	David Burnham
Ukulele	Steve Hodgskiss
Walkers 5 Milers	Linda Hallatt
Walking Mondays	Valerie Herbert
	Frank Nicholson
Walking with dogs	Sheila Carolan
Wild Flowers	Alec Johnston

Please ensure that the details of contact names are not publicised outside Macclesfield u3a.

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## u3a General Committee Members & Contact Numbers

*Please ensure that the details of contact names are not publicised outside Macclesfield u3a.*

Chair Elect	John McKellar	<a href="mailto:chair@maccu3a.uk">chair@maccu3a.uk</a>
Vice Chair	vacant	
Secretary	Marion Grant	<a href="mailto:secretary@maccu3a.uk">secretary@maccu3a.uk</a>
Treasurer	Steve Hodgskiss	<a href="mailto:treasurer@maccu3a.uk">treasurer@maccu3a.uk</a>
Web Master & Beacon Management	Tony Middleton	<a href="mailto:u3a@middleton.me.uk">u3a@middleton.me.uk</a>
Membership Secretary	Phyllis Thomas	<a href="mailto:membership@maccu3a.uk">membership@maccu3a.uk</a>
Groups' Co-ordinator	Mandy Orton	<a href="mailto:groups@maccu3a.uk">groups@maccu3a.uk</a>
	Shirley Stretton	<a href="mailto:groups@maccu3a.uk">groups@maccu3a.uk</a>

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### Other post holders

Publicity	Alec Johnston	
Members' Morning Co-ordinators and Speakers' Secretaries	Anna Franks	<a href="mailto:speakers.secretary@maccu3a.uk">speakers.secretary@maccu3a.uk</a>
	Diane Styles	<a href="mailto:speakers.secretary@maccu3a.uk">speakers.secretary@maccu3a.uk</a>
Newsletter Editor	Peter Whitham	<a href="mailto:editor@maccu3a.uk">editor@maccu3a.uk</a>



## List of Group activities Times & Dates

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
All	10am Italian Beginners 10am Wild Flowers (Summer only, alternating Mondays)	10am Croquet (Summer only)	10am Crown Green Bowls (April-September) 10am Outdoor Pickleball (summer only)	10am Table Tennis 2.30pm Croquet (Summer only)	Painting & Art (during school term) 10am Pickleball (summer only)
1st	2pm Country Dancing 2pm Mah Jong	10am Indoor Bowling (Winter only) 2pm German 2 2pm Spanish Improvers 7.30pm European Studies		10am Discussion 10am Walkers 5 Milers 10.30am Ukulele 2pm Bookworms 1 2pm Crafters Together	10am Indoor Pickleball (winter only)
2nd	9.30am Walking Mondays 10am Café Walks 2pm Rummikub plus	10am Italian Conversation 11am Art Appreciation 2pm German 1	10am Make & Create	10am Bird Watching 10am Bookworms 3 10am Psychology 2pm Bookworms 2	10am Geology
3rd	2pm Crafters Together 2pm Country Dancing 2pm Mah Jong	10am Indoor Bowling (Winter only) 1.45pm Local History 2pm German 2 2pm Spanish Improvers	2pm Bookworms 4 2pm French Conversation 1	10am Bookworms 5 10am Card Making 10am Walkers 5 Milers 10.30am Ukulele	10am Indoor Pickleball (winter only)
4th	9.30am Walking Mondays 2pm Rummikub plus	10am Italian Conversation 11am Art Appreciation 2pm German 1 2pm Spanish Improvers 2 2pm Technology & Science	10am Café Walks	10am Psychology 2pm Allotment Gardening	
5th	2pm Mah Jong				