



MACCLESFIELD u3a

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Alec Johnston

I hope that you have all been enjoying the good weather over the summer, at least most of the time and of course your Macclesfield u3a activities.

This newsletter is to update you on the group activities and alert you to the groups that can take on more members. Our u3a is open to all, is an open welcoming organisation and can offer support to new groups and interests. The u3a ethos is to share your skills, develop your interests and enthuse/encourage others to enjoy the world around them and, of course, meet some incredible people with a lifetime of knowledge and experience.

We have had over 30 new members in the last months and the setting up of some new groups as well. Do you know someone who would like to join and stimulate our interests with new ideas? We plan an open morning at the Salvation Army HQ in October—date to be finalised.

As mentioned before, we urgently need new committee members for the posts of vice chairman, members' morning coordinator, group leaders' coordinator, and now a newsletter/yearbook editor. Peter Roberts is standing down, as he is moving away from Macclesfield, so to keep all members involved and up to date with activities, we need this post filled. Peter would be happy to speak to

anyone who wishes to contact him to explain how the editor's job functions and how little time it takes, if you think you might take it on.

If we cannot get new committee members, when our existing committee periods end, Macclesfield u3a may have to close. This would be a desperate shame.

Please consider your position and offer help in any way you can. Job role descriptions are available to peruse so you would know in advance what each post entails. The committee meets infrequently, and these jobs are not onerous. We need you.

Please email me with your thoughts.

With best wishes
Alec Johnston

Chairman

RETIRING EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Peter Roberts

I am sorry to be obliged to retire from the position as your newsletter editor, but my health has taken a turn for the worse. So, I have decided to move south for the next few years.

Having introduced a new, lively, and colourful format for the newsletter, I hope that it may serve you well into the future.

I have made many friends in the Macclesfield u3a, and I shall be sorry to part from them. It has been my pleasure to have been a Macclesfield member.

With best wishes to you all,

Peter Roberts.

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE MACCLESFIELD u3a GROUPS

Thank you to all the group leaders who managed to get in their timely contributions. Well done!

Where no contributions were received, I have simply copied and slimmed down the spring 2022 edition's versions or created my own.

ALLOTMENT AND GARDENING

Leader: Steve Fallows

Leader: Patti Chu

Meet every fourth Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm.

Meet at Byrons Lane Allotment or Fairways Garden Centre—confirmation of venue will be sent a few days prior to meeting depending on the weather forecast.

At present **there is one available vacancy**

ART APPRECIATION

Leader and coordinator: Julia Marwood

Meets on the second Tuesday (Zoom) and fourth Tuesday (at the leader's home) from 11.00 am - 12.00 noon.

Some members come to just one of these, but most come to both. We all agree on a topic and enjoy a relaxed hour sharing the pictures and information we have found. Julia is happy to find and share pictures for any member who isn't as comfortable with the necessary technology! No previous knowledge of art is required. We still have room for just one or two more members, so please contact Julia Marwood if you would like to know more'.

BIRD WATCHING

Leader: Tony Middleton

Second Thursday of the month

8 th September	Lapwing Lane, Mere Farm Quarry and Radnor Mere
13 th October	Sandbach Flashes
10 th November	Lamaload Reservoir
8 th December	T.B.A.
12 th January	Astbury Mere Country Park plus lunch
9 th February	Brockholes Nature Reserve
9 th March	Morecambe / Heysham
13 th April	Wildboarclough
11 th May	RSPB Combes Valley
8 th June	T.B.A.

Further details can be found on our web page -
<https://u3asites.org.uk/macclesfield/page/26662>

BOOKWORMS 1

Leader: Vicky Darlington

Meets on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm

BOOKWORMS 2

Leader: Linda Godfrey

Second Thursday 2.00 pm at each other's homes.

Each member chooses a book in the Autumn for the following year.

We start the meetings socially with tea or coffee then discuss the book chosen for the month.

We are a very sociable group and would be pleased to welcome one or two new members, if you would like to join our group, please contact me.

OUR BOOKLIST FOR 2022

11 th Aug	Watching You - Lisa Jewell
8 th Sept	Piranesi - Susanna Clarke
13 th Oct	Elon Musk - Ashlee Vance
10 th Nov	Poems - Chosen by members!
8 th Dec	Christmas lunch

BOOKWORMS 3

Leader: Margaret Burnham

Second Thursday of the month at 10.00 am at members' houses.

We would welcome a few more participants.

Our book list is:

August	"Little" by Edward Carey
September	"The last thing she told me" by Linda Green
October	"The Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyers
November	"Polar" by T.R. Pearson
December	"Lullaby" by Leila Simani

BOOKWORMS 4

Leader: Maggie Hayes

Third Wednesday of month at 2.00 pm

We are a lively group of twelve with many different interests and opinions.
Every month we meet in someone's house to discuss a book.

I am afraid we have no vacancies in our group.

BOOKWORMS 5

Leader: Peter Caulkett

Leader: Chris Johnston

Third Thursday of the month, 10.00 am–noon at a member's house.

BRIDGE

Leader: John Fisher

Meeting first, third, and fifth Wednesday afternoons, starting 1:30 pm–4.00 pm
Venue for meetings St. John's Church Hall, Earlsway (entrance on Wilwick Lane, then upstairs).

Meetings are temporarily suspended, and we are considering resuming in October, but John will keep members in touch.

If you are interested in joining us in the autumn, please contact John because new members will be very welcome.

CAFÉ WALKS

Leader: Anna Franks



We are a newly formed group—so new that I didn't realise I had to provide a photograph—for people who like a short walk with social time as well. The idea sprang from a conversation on a five-mile walk.

At the moment we meet on the second Monday and fourth Wednesday of each month. 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

So far, we have walked around West Park and the cemetery, in Henbury, along the canal from Clarence Mill tearoom, and around Tegg's Nose. Each walk has been about two miles.

We are a friendly group and would welcome you, and your suggestions for walks you may know which would suit our group.

Anyone who doesn't feel up to the walk can join us at the cafe at the end. Full details are provided before each outing.

CARD MAKING

Leader: Joy Kewney

Third Thursday of the month at my house. Please ring or email if you are interested in joining this group. 10.00 am–12.00 noon.

If you want to join this group, you will be most welcome and you will have great fun and produce something you can be very proud of.

CLEMENT ATTLEE - At the theatre in Liverpool

A temporary Group

Leader: Anna Franks

or

Josephine Jain

Marion Grant recently circulated a flier about a new play, written by Francis Beckett, former Editor of Third Age Matters. The play, entitled *Clement Atlee*, has had great reviews. It will be playing in Liverpool for two nights only.

It is proposed to organise a trip to see it on Monday September 26th. We would travel by coach, leaving Majestic Wine at 5.45 pm. The play is on at the Epstein Theatre at 8 pm and is about 2 hours long. The return coach would cost £21.25 each, and the tickets for the play are £19.

Are you interested? It's a rare opportunity to see something by an eminent U3A member, and to have a night out without driving. Friends, neighbours, and relatives would be welcome to join us, as we need to make sure the trip is viable. We would need numbers by the middle of August.

You could also use the coach for a night out in Liverpool without seeing the play.

If this appeals to you, please contact either of the leaders.

No money needed yet—just express your interest at this stage.

COUNTRY DANCING

Leader: Jill Smart

First and third Monday of each month between 2.00–3.30 pm
Henbury Church Hall.

The Dancing is co-ordinated by Jill Smart and Jane Turner.

The Dancing is (very ably) led by Christine Smith and the music by Graham Smith

New members would be welcome. Contact the Leader.

CRAFTERS TOGETHER

Leader: Jackie Boulton

First Thursday and third Monday 2.00–4.00 pm

Gawsworth Methodist Church Community Hall

We are a friendly and enthusiastic group of crafters who give a warm welcome to new members.

We are now meeting back in the Gawsworth hall, together again. So, if you like to knit, sew, quilt, or do any craft really, we would be happy for you to join us. If there's something you've always wanted to try, someone will almost certainly be able to help. Complete beginner – no problem!

I look forward to getting together again with members both old and new.

CREATIVE WRITING

Leader: Chris Hewitt

Leader: Veronica O'Connor

Meeting second and fourth Fridays of the month at one of the leaders' houses.

We urgently need new members.

Do you enjoy reading? Most people do; whatever your choice of genre, have you ever wished someone would write a new slant on your favourite sort of story? Perhaps you should have a go at writing the perfect story or even a book as told in your own unique way.

At the moment the Creative Writing group are looking for new ideas, a new slant on writing and more importantly new writers.

We are a friendly and informal group, you don't need to be an experienced writer, everyone has their own perspective and their own voice. So, why not come along and explore yours?

Please contact Chris Hewitt to talk about joining us.

CROQUET

Leader: Dave Lee

Every Tuesday morning from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon, and Thursday afternoon from 2.30 pm until 4.30 pm. Contact Dave for meeting details. We play on the outfield of Macclesfield Cricket Ground.

CROWN GREEN BOWLS

Leader: John Hayes

Leader: Sylvia Bostock

Each Wednesday at 10.00 April to September, West Park, Macclesfield

With our numbers peaking at 39 last year, we have had to close our membership to new members for the time being.

Nonetheless, we may be able to offer some taster sessions in the autumn. There are some spare sets of bowls available for beginners to try. Please contact one of the group leaders for details if you are interested.

DISCUSSION

Leader: Chris Hewitt

Meet on the first Thursday morning each month at 10.00 am–noon. Meetings are at Sandra Moss's house in Sutton.

New group members are welcome. Why not come along and join in the fun?

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Leader: Norton Wragg

Meets first Tuesday in the month. For details of meetings contact the leader.

Europe hasn't gone away just because we have left the European Union. There are lots of interesting things to talk about and learn about. We are currently looking at colonisation by European countries and its impact good and bad on

all the countries involved. We really didn't know how the world was shaped by these events. We are not always as serious as this—we do look at things like culture and food as well!

FRENCH CONVERSATION 1

Leader: Allan Trayes

Third Wednesday every month throughout the year, except August.
Meeting at members' houses.

The group works with a membership limit of 12, on the assumption that normally around 8 or less people will attend. This works well in establishing a workable conversation group size, allowing everyone to participate. New members are welcome, we will maintain a wait list if we have no space at the time you apply.

Please see the MaccU3A website for more information and an introduction.
Click on the following link:
[Macclesfield French Conversation 1 Details](#)

FRENCH CONVERSATION 2

Leader: Sally Lowden

First Wednesday of the month at 2.00 pm at members' homes.

Bienvenue à ce groupe de conversation française. Nous nous rencontrons le premier mercredi du mois aux maisons de nos confrères et consœurs. Si vous savez un peu de la langue et vous voulez pratiquer dans un milieu très sympa, veuillez venir nous rejoindre pour parler de la belle France. Cependant, ce groupe n'est pas convenable aux novices; il faut savoir comprendre et parler français—pas beaucoup, mais un peu.

GEOLOGY

Leader: Adrienne Noble

Meet usually the second Friday of the month.
The group is fully subscribed at the present time.

GEOLOGY STUDIES

Leader: Peter Roberts (for the time being)

After just four months, this new group already has thirteen members and has completed a successful summer foundation course, but, unfortunately, owing to ill health, Peter Roberts is unable to continue as the leader beyond September this year. So, if anyone else is interested to act as leader, or knows of someone who might lead this active and keen group, please contact Peter, or contact Linda Maher. Otherwise, the group may, sadly, have to discontinue.

GERMAN 1

Leader: Kate Bonson

Meets in different members' homes on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 2.00–4.00 pm.

Please phone Kate to know the venue. This group is not a teaching group, but is suitable for anyone with some conversational German.

We currently have 9 members and for practical reasons there is a limit of 12 members, so we are on the look-out for new members.

LOCAL HISTORY A new group

Leader: Steve Hurley

This is a new group we are setting up for those of us who are interested in learning more about the history of our local area. To join the group, you don't need to be an expert. An interest in local history is all you need!

We intend to run the group very much on collaborative lines. The group leader will coordinate content and arrange meetings, but members will find out about topics themselves and present back to the meetings, although no one will be forced to contribute until they are ready.

We would like members to set the direction of the group, but one thing which would be interesting would be to actually visit some of the places of historical interest in our local area.

MAH JONG

Leader: Peter Caulkett

First and third Mondays of the month (and fifth if there is one).
2.00–4.00 pm. St. James Church Hall, Sutton (ample car parking)

PAINTING and ART

Leader: Jackie Gibbs

Meets every Friday during the school terms at 10.00 am – 12.00 noon and
Independent Artists 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm at Langley Church, Langley.

The annual subscription of £28 to Macclesfield u3a covers your membership of our group, however an additional fee is now made to cover the room hire costs.

We would love to welcome more members to our friendly group. We have abilities ranging from absolute beginners to more accomplished artists in our group, so all art lovers are welcome.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Leader: Ray Jordan

Meets third Thursday of every month. Time varies.

Most meetings consist of day visits, but during the winter months meetings have been held indoors, usually between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

The group consists of 18 members. Visits being considered include Avro Aircraft Museum, Macclesfield town centre, St Helens glass, Port Sunlight, Sandbach, Trentham Gardens and others.

The Photography Group welcomes new members, of any skill level, and with any type of camera (don't be put off because "all" you have is a mobile, as these are generally capable of taking excellent photographs). And remember the photographer's maxim - "The best camera is the one you have with you"!

PSYCHOLOGY FORUM

Leader: Angela Raval

Meeting second and fourth Thursdays of the month

Location- Macclesfield and Congleton scout district HQ

32 West Bond St, Macclesfield SK11 8EQ

Parking on the street or in the rear car park to the HQ (both free)

The Psychology Forum has started off very well and is already full with 26 members. But we are keeping an active waiting list just in case.

RUMMIKUB PLUS

Leader: Denise Jones

We meet at Gawsorth Methodist Church Hall on the second and fourth Monday of each month. 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

The church is on the main road out to Congleton. We are a very friendly group, and everyone enjoys the meetings. Rummikub sets are provided. So just bring yourself and enjoy meeting the other members. The church is warm in the winter, so don't worry about that. Coffee, tea, and a cake 50p.

We welcome new members so either contact Denise or just turn up and introduce yourself.

SPANISH IMPROVERS

Leader: Pam Herring

First and third Tuesdays 2.00–4.00 pm

We are a small, friendly group who meet up in members' homes on a rotational basis with the aim of keeping our Spanish alive in a relaxed and enjoyable way!

We would warmly welcome any new members.

TABLE TENNIS

Leader: Christopher Dahlstrom

Leader: Sue Whyatt

Thursdays 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

At the Macclesfield Leisure Centre.

New members welcome. Contact Christopher or Sue.

TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE

Leader: David Burnham

The Technology and Science Group meets at 2.15 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month except for July, August, and December.

We shall be meeting at Oakley House, 1 Riseley Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 1BW for the remainder of 2022. There is a carpark available (claims 45 cars), but street parking is difficult in the vicinity. Whalley Hayes carpark is about 200 m away. I am working on finding speakers and so far, we have:

Tue Oct 25th. Gillian Gibson.

"Unnatural Cycles: impact on human and planetary health."

WALKING 5-MILERS

Leader: Phil Davies

First and third Thursdays 10.00 am start from various locations

New members are always made welcome. All you need are suitable footwear and clothing and a cheerful attitude to walking in the Great British Weather.

WALKING MID WEEK

Leader: Ciaran Fleming

First and third Wednesdays of the month.

Meeting outdoors at the point described in advance each time. But we usually rendezvous at Arighi Bianchi's East car park for departure to the start of the walk at 9.30 am on walk days.

We are small in number (about 7 to 8) and are happy for other walkers—new or experienced—to come and give us a try.

WALKING MONDAYS

Leader: Valerie Herbert

Leader: Frank Nicholson

Walks organised on the second and fourth Mondays of each month
Start point—various locations; normally at 10.00 am

The group has 41 members currently and unfortunately, we are unable to accept any more members as our walks are attracting approx. 30 members. We are happy to add your name to a waiting list should you wish.

Future walks are all advertised to members of the group as soon as they become available - normally 2 weeks before the walk. At the same time details are put on the u3a website.

WILD FLOWER

Leader: Alec Johnston

Various Mondays. New members will be welcome. Please contact Alec.



We have had several very interesting visits this year with help from Julia Gow of the Peak district National Park and Richard Gregory a former Ranger from the National Park.

The visits included Millers Dale Station, Derbyshire Wildlife conservation area at Hartington station and Warton Crag, near to Carnforth, as well as Solomon's Temple at Buxton. Deep Dale at Sheldon is also on the list to visit. Many thanks to those who helped with the visits.

The flower list added up to over 85 species with some really notable ones. Fragrant Orchid at Solomon's Temple; Bee Orchid; Great Butterfly Orchid; Fairy Flax and one I have not seen since the 1950's in Hampshire, the Spiny Rest Harrow at Warton Crag.

The program for 2023 will begin in late April with some new locations as well as some of the above. If you would like to be part of our Macclesfield u3a wild flower group please email me and of course suggest other venues too.

Website:

www.maccu3a.uk

for the latest information, activities and events

Group Leaders

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

Allotment and Gardening	Steve Fallows Patti Chu
Art Appreciation	Julia Marwood
Bird Watching	Tony Middleton
Bookworms 1	Vicky Darlington
Bookworms 2	Linda Godfrey
Bookworms 3	Margaret Burnham
Bookworms 4	Maggie Hayes
Bookworms 5	Pete Caulkett
Bridge	John Fisher
Café Walks	Anna Franks
Card Making	Joy Kewney
Country Dancing	Jill Smart Jane Turner
Crafters Together	Jackie Boulton
Creative Writing	Chris Hewitt
Croquet	David Lee
Crown Green Bowls	John Hayes Sylvia Bostock
Discussion	Chris Hewitt
French Conversation 1	Allan Traves
French Conversation 2	Sally Lowden
Geology	Adrienne Noble
Geology Studies	Peter Roberts
German 1	Kate Bonson
Italian - Beginners	Douglas Hughes
Local History	Steve Hurley
Mah Jong	Pete Caulkett
Members' Mornings	Alec Johnston
Painting and Art	Jackie Gibbs
Photography	Ray Jordan
Psychology Forum	Angela Raval
Spanish Improvers	Pam Herring
Table Tennis	Chris Dahlstrom Sue Whyatt
Technology and Science	David Burnham
Walking 5-Milers	Phil Davies
Walking Mid Week	Ciaran Fleming
Walking Mondays	Valerie Herbert Frank Nicholson
Wild Flower	Alec Johnston

u3a GENERAL COMMITTEE

Chairman	Alec Johnston
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	Marion Grant
Treasurer	Steve Fallows
Deputy Treasurer	Keith Boulton
Web Master & Beacon Management	Tony Middleton
Membership Secretary	Linda Clegg
Groups Co-ordinator	Vacant
Publicity	Pete Caulket
Speaker Sec	Vacant
Members' Morning Co-ordinator	Vacant
Non-Committee Post Newsletter editor	Vacant

Macclesfield U3a Groups - location and timings of meetings

There will be no Yearbook this year, 2022, so all the details of activities are either in the newsletter or on the web site at www.maccu3a.uk. There will be a paper version of the newsletter for new members and non-internet users.

Allotment and Gardening	4th Thursday 2.00 pm
Art Appreciation	2nd (Zoom) and 4th (live) Tuesdays 11.00–noon
Bird watching	2 nd Thursday
Bookworms 1	1 st Thursday 2.00 pm
Bookworms 2	2 nd Thursday 2.00pm
Bookworms 3	2 nd Thursday 10.00 am
Bookworms 4	3 rd Wednesday 2.00 pm
Bookworms 5	3 rd Thursday 10.00–noon
Bridge	1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Wednesdays 1.30–4.00 pm
Café Walks	2 nd Monday & 4 th Wednesday 10.00–noon
Card Making	3 rd Thursday 10.00 am–noon.
Country Dancing	1 st and 3 rd Monday 2.00–3.30 pm
Crafters Together	1 st Thursday and 3 rd Monday 2.00–4.00 pm
Creative Writing	2nd & 4th Fridays. For times, contact leader.
Croquet	Every Tues 10-12 & Every Thurs 2.30-4.30pm
Crown Green Bowls	Wednesdays 10.00 am April–September
Discussion	1 st Thursday 10.00 am to noon.
European Studies	1st Tuesday. For times, contact the leader.
French Conversation 1	3 rd Wed every month. For times, contact leader.
French Conversation 2	1 st Wednesday 2.00 pm
Geology	2 nd Friday
Geology Studies	Looking for a new leader. May discontinue.
German 1	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays 2.00–4.00 pm
Local History	Not fixed yet. Contact the leader.
Mah Jong	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Mondays 2.00–4.00 pm
Members' Mornings	4 th Thursday of the month except in summer.
Painting and Art	Fridays (term time) 10.00 am–12.00 pm and Independent Artists 1.30– 3.30pm
Photography	3 rd Thursday every month. Time varies
Psychology Forum	2 nd and 4 th Thursdays of the month
Rummikub Plus	2nd and 4th Monday each month. 2.00-4.00pm
Spanish Improvers	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays 2.00–4.00 pm
Table Tennis	Thursdays 10.00–noon, all year round
Technology and Science	4 th Tuesday 2.00–4.00 pm
Walking 5-milers	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays 10.00 am
Walking Mid-Week	1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays of the month. 9.30 am
Walking Mondays	2 nd & 4 th Mondays normally 10.00 am
Wild Flower	Various Mondays. Contact the leader

Members' Morning programme

Put this into your paper or electronic diary now, before you forget!

Thurs. 27th October

Next Members' Morning after the summer break.