

# Newsletter January 2023

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# Chair's Comments

### Alec Johnston <a href="mailto:chair@maccu3a.uk">chair@maccu3a.uk</a>

### Dear All,

Many thanks to Peter for producing this edition of our Macclesfield u3a Newsletter. He will also be providing our Year Book for March / April so we will all have a hard copy if required.

The months since the August Newsletter has been quite busy with most of our groups running well. The Members' Morning in October was very well attended by nearly 100 people mainly I feel due to the excellent stands put on by the groups, so thank you to them. We also signed up five people on the day with several more having forms to complete. Membership now stands at 442.

Every new member's subscription helps to spread out the costs of venues and brings new thoughts and ideas to our u3a. If you have any suggestions for new activities please get in touch. I have had a few enquiries for a u3a family history group so let me know if you could help set up a group.

As many of you know Linda Clegg, the Membership Secretary died in November. She was well known by the Members' Morning attendees and of course new members whose first contact to join our u3a was through her. I wrote to her daughters, on behalf of us all, to send our condolences.

I have mentioned before the need for Committee members and I have pleasure in letting you know that Phyllis Thomas has taken on the role of Membership Secretary and Andy Redwood will be taking on the role of Treasurer from 1st April 2023. Mandy Orton and Shirley Stretton will jointly be taking on the Group Leaders Co-ordinator role and I am sure that you will make them all very welcome. This still leaves the URGENT need for someone to run with a small team the very popular Members' Mornings. They have been very popular in the past and do allow new and potential members to get a flavour of our great Macclesfield u3a activities. Do ring me TODAY or contact me by email <a href="maccu3a.uk">chair@maccu3a.uk</a> if you have any offers or thoughts
The AGM will be on Wednesday 19th April 2023 at All Saints Church Hall from 10am until 12 noon so please put this in your diary.
With very best wishes for a New Year full of promise, fun and learning with our Macclesfield u3a,

Alec Chair.

# From the New Membership Secretary

### **Phyllis Thomas**

I have taken over from Chris Johnston as the Macclesfield u3a Membership Secretary. I am relatively new to u3a having just joined earlier in 2022. This summer I became the new group leader of the Beginner Italian group and found the experience so delightful that I am rising to the challenge of being the new Membership Secretary. I retired from AstraZeneca where in my final role was a departmental administrator of their global electronic library.

I thank Chris for her excellent handover of the Membership Secretary role and look forward to serving the Macclesfield u3a community.

### A reminder

Membership subscriptions are due in March for the 1st April start of the Macclesfield u3a year.

The subscription is £28 for 2023-24.

### From the New Editor

### Peter Whitham <a href="mailto:editor@maccu3a.uk">editor@maccu3a.uk</a>

I am sorry that Peter Roberts, having established an exciting new layout for the Newsletter has had to relinquish the editor's rôle. We wish him all the best in his move.

This Newsletter is very much a team effort, with the Group Leaders

and the Committee providing all the interesting material. The Groups show an extensive variety of activities, and what a diverse membership we have, and I hope this Newsletter reflects this.

We have recently received the u3a Brand, and this Newsletter is Peter's design updated to reflect the brand.



The Committee is planning a Year Book in April.

Best wishes, Peter Whitham

# Sue Whyatt's England Cap

We congratulate Sue Whyatt on collecting her England Football cap. Sue writes:

My 1972 team mates and I were honoured at Wembley on 7th Oct before the game between England Lionesses European Champions and USA who are World Champions. We were also presented with our caps which we have waited 50 years for!! When I first started playing for Macclesfield Ladies we were still banned from FA pitches and many public pitches. Suzie Davis of our Table Tennis group kindly took this photo. The number 17 is my England Football Legacy number from 50 years ago, there are now 227 of us.

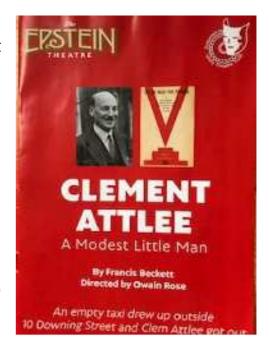


### **CLEMENT ATTLEE**

### A Modest Little Man

Back in the summer, a few of us hoped to organise a trip to Liverpool to see Clement Attlee, A Modest Little Man. This play was written by Francis Beckett, a U3A member, and was well reviewed nationally. Its performance in Liverpool coincided with the Labour Party conference at the end of September. Sadly, there were not enough of us to make the trip viable. Well, you missed a treat.

Two things particularly remain with me. One was the humour. The plot was built up over a number of conversations between



Attlee and his wife, politicians who didn't want Attlee to stand, King George, and Nye Bevan.

Attlee was a man of few words: to quote Wilfrid Fienburgh, "A conversation with Attlee is like throwing biscuits to a dog – all you can get out of him is yup, yup, yup." Attlee himself in the play said (I paraphrase) "There are three ways of dealing with poverty. One is to ignore it, one is to leave it to the mercies of charitable institutions, and the third is to address it. I advocate the third". And that was all. Again, asked by a journalist what he thought of a current issue, he replied "It's nonsense". "Could you elaborate on that?" asked the exasperated journalist. "Utter nonsense". These sayings and others like them came over as very funny, all through the play.

The second thing was the drawing of parallels with today. Attlee said, "Once they've got the NHS, they'd never be fool enough to get rid of it". We wish! Attlee's integrity and lack of showmanship as portrayed on stage invited comparisons with more recent politicians. "He used silence, modesty and understatement as weapons. Long may he remain the exemplary PM" (Lord Peter Hennessy).

Altogether a most entertaining and thought-provoking evening. Anna Franks

# Notice of forthcoming 2022-3 Annual General Meeting

### MACCLESFIELD u3a NOTICE 2022-3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date and time: 10am-Noon Wednesday 19th April 2023 Venue: All Saints Church, Brough St. West (off Oxford Rd), Macclesfield, SK11 8EL

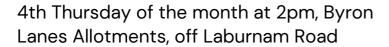
Please advise the secretary if you have any questions for the Committee concerning our u3a or wish to submit any resolutions to be considered at the meeting, by Monday 20th March 2023.

# General news of group activities

A very big thank you to all the Group Leaders for submitting their contributions in good time for this Newsletter.

# **Allotment Gardening**

- Steve Fallows sifallows@btopenworld.com
- Patti Chu
   pattimychu@gmail.com





This is divided into sub plots, with each Group member responsible for their own area. We each grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruit and flowers for our individual use. We also have a shared greenhouse and tool shed. It's a friendly and informal group with mixed levels of experience.

As a group we meet on the allotment at 2pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. If the weather happens to be unfavourable, we meet at Fairways Garden Centre on Bullocks Lane – generally for a catch up and to grumble about the weather!

Anyone interested in joining is welcome to contact us, as plots do become available from time to time. We currently have a short waiting list.

# **Art Appreciation**

Julia Marwood

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11am. Various Event Locations

This group is for anyone who is interested in learning about art – you don't need to have any prior knowledge. Members are free to contribute as much or as little as they like to our explorations of a wide range of topics. We are currently meeting on the 2nd Tuesdays on Zoom and the 4th



Tuesdays at a member's house, and we have room for new members.

# **Bird Watching**

Tony Middleton

2nd Thursday

Various Event Locations

Meetings take place on the 2nd Thursday of the month visiting a variety of locations in our local area throughout the year. We usually have a walk to explore habitats in the area visited. Meetings usually continue until early afternoon with members bringing sandwiches and drinks, although we do try to ensure that it is practical for members to leave at lunchtime.



This is a friendly group and welcomes both those experienced in bird watching and those who are totally new to it. New members are always welcome.

Meetings planned for the remainder of the year:

12th January	Astbury Mere Country Park plus lunch	
9th February	Brockholes Nature Reserve	
9th March	Morecambe / Heysham	
13th April	Wildboarclough	
11th May	RSPB Combes Valley	

### **Bookworms 1**

Vicky Darlington

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 2pm in various members' homes.

As a Book Club we have continued to use our local library to collect the books each month, which are



obtained from the Central Library, near Chester. At present we have no vacancies in the Group, but please do not hesitate to contact if you are interested in joining the group in the future.

# Bookworms 2

Linda Godfrey

2nd Thursday at 2pm in members' houses.

We start the meetings socially with tea or coffee then discuss the book chosen for the month, taking turns to give our thoughts. This is then followed by a more general discussion about the book and any issues arising from it. We often finish by sharing thoughts about what we have been reading recently.

Members choose books a few months ahead. We have diverse tastes and consequently there is a good variety of books, both fiction and nonfiction and easily available. It is an excellent way to be introduced to new authors.

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

### Bookworms 3

Margaret Burnham

2nd Thursday at 10am in members' houses.



### Bookworms 4

Margaret Hayes

3rd Wednesday at 2pm in members' houses. The group is currently full.

### Bookworms 5

- Peter Caulkett
- Christine Johnston

3rd Thursday at 10am The group meets at members' houses.

# Bridge

John Fisher

Currently suspended due to lack of numbers. Please email me if you would like the group to start up again.

### Café walks

Anna Franks

2nd Monday and 4th
Wednesday at 10am.
We will meet for a short walk
(about two miles) with a café
stop either in the middle or at
the end. All welcome.
We have been to Clarence Mill,



Henbury, Tegg's Nose, Fairways Garden Centre, Tatton Park, Gawsworth, Sutton and Alderley Edge. Our walks are about two miles long. People seem to enjoy them, and it is lovely to have time to get to know each other at the end, over a hot drink or whatever takes their fancy – All welcome.

# **Card Making**

Joy Kewney

3rd Thursday 10am At the leader's house. Card Making is very therapeutic and full of fun.

We use dies, embossing folders, distressing inks, paints, stencils, stamps, teabag folding, Iris folding, scraps, Backing sheets, Ephemeral items, Washi tape

There are many forms of card making ... Gate fold, Z fold, Easel cards, Teabag folding, Iris folding. Rocker cards, Box's, Origami, Reveal cards, Shaker cards, to name a few. We also make Christmas decorations. There is such a feeling of achievement when you leave, at the end of two hours, with something that is unique to you.

You will be most welcome to join the group. Please send me an email or phone me if you are interested.

# **Country Dancing**

- Jill Smart
- Jane Turner

1st & 3rd Mondays at 2pm St Thomas's Church Hall, Henbury, Macclesfield

Dance Caller: Christine Smith Music Provider: Graham Smith



# **Crafters Together**

Jackie Boulton

1st Thursday and 3rd Monday at 2-4pm

Gawsworth Methodist Community Hall, Dark Lane, Gawsworth SK11 9QZ If you knit, sew, cross-stitch, rug make, embroider, do felt craft or patchwork and quilting, we may be the group you



are looking for. We are a chatty, friendly group of crafters who make new members welcome. Don't feel you need to be an expert, there are always people to help you learn a new skill or revisit an old one. Come and join us!

# **Creative Writing**

- Veronica O'Connor
- Chris Hewitt

2nd & 4th Friday at 10a.m., every month.

The group is currently meeting at Chris Hewitt's house, who is also standing in for Veronica at the moment.



### Croquet

David Lee

Every Tuesday morning from 10am-12 Noon, and Thursday afternoon from 2.30-4.30pm. Macclesfield Cricket Club, Victoria Road.



The group does not play in the Winter – we plan to restart in early April. Newcomers are always welcome, and absolutely no previous experience needed to try this fascinating activity!

### Crown Green Bowls

John Hayes

Wednesday at 10am. South Park Bowling Green.

Our season begins in April and runs continuously through to the end of September, every Wednesday morning. We have an end-of-season competition each year.

The group has temporarily re-located to South Park Bowling Green for 2022 and 2023.



### Discussion

• Chris Hewitt

1st Thursday 10am every month Sandra Moss' house until further notice.

Members each choose and present a topic for discussion on average about once a year, this gives us a range of topics and makes for added interest.



# **European Studies**

Norton Wragg

1st Tuesday 7.30pm
Leader's house
We welcome everyone who wishes
to learn more about our European
neighbours. It isn't about politics and
the European Union! We try, using
our experiences and research, to
learn about the geography, history,



culture and economy of individual countries. If you would like to learn more, please contact me for details of our meetings. There are no experts, just enquiring minds.

We are currently looking at all aspects of colonialization of the European countries since the 15th century.

### French Conversation 1

Allan Trayes

3rd Wednesday at 2pm At members' houses

Lived in a francophone country? Own/rent a property in a French speaking country? Got a good basic standard of spoken French? Want to improve or practice your ability to communicate in French speaking places? Come and try out our conversation group and meet people like you for an entertaining 3rd Wednesday afternoon, once a month.



You'll be sure of a warm welcome followed by some tea and cake towards the end of some free and easy banter. If you haven't spoken French for a while, don't worry – we have dictionaries and will willingly help you on your way. Contact Allan and arrange to come along for a couple of trial meetings.

# French Conversation 2

• Sally Lowden

1st Wednesday 2-4pm every month At members' houses



# Geology

- Adrienne Noble
- Admin Beryl Beattie

Meeting 2nd Friday every month.

Most of our meetings are outdoor visits, often following geology trails that give new insights into well-known landmarks.



The group is currently full but there is a waiting list.

# German 1

Kate Bonson

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 2-4pm. Various members' homes



### German 2

Nicky Campbell

1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 2-4pm In group members' houses.



# Italian – Beginners Fumblers

• Phyllis Thomas

Mondays at 10am Zoom



### **Italian Conversation**

Val Cutter

2nd & 4th Tuesday at 10am Italian Conversation is aimed at people with some knowledge of the language, who wish to practise



what they know, and expand their grammar and vocabulary. We read and listen to audio books, devise exercises and games, to improve our skills – and enjoy general chat. We are a very friendly group.

# **Local History**

Steve Hurley

3rd Tuesday at 1.45pm in the leaders' house.

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

Pete Caulkett

1st, 3rd & 5th Mondays at 2pm. Sutton St. James Church Hall



### Make and Create

Janet Parkinson

2nd Wednesday at 10am-12 St. James Church Hall, Sutton.

We are a lively group, willing to explore new things and do something different, perhaps out of our comfort zone.

We do a different, led project each month and everyone takes home something new.

Recently Lynn led us doing Neurographic art,

Stephanie made paper hexaflexagons - and tetrahexaflexagons.

And we are now making acrylic Christmas window hangings and Christmas Tea Lights.

We generally use materials we have got at home.

Everyone is experimenting, no one is an expert and we learn from each other and share our ideas

It is exciting to see how we all approach the task in a different way and end up with different results.

No experience or preconceived ideas needed.

You are welcome to come and play with us

# Painting and Art

Jackie Gibbs

Fridays, am and/or pm, during school term time (see website for schedule)

Langley Methodist Church Hall (Cock Hall Lane entrance), Langley, SK11 OBU

The morning is led with a topic or theme, and the afternoon allows artists to be free to do their own work. The morning welcomes beginners and accomplished artists alike, who want to be amongst like-minded people, in a relaxed atmosphere.





# Photography

Ray Jordan

3rd Thursday
Various locations and times
The group has had some
successful outings this year,
beginning with a trip to Rode Hall
in February, to see their
extensive show of snowdrops.



In March we had a fascinating visit to Avro Heritage Museum. This was followed by an historic and interesting walk round Macclesfield town centre in April.

August took us to the Gauntlet Birds of Prey Centre at Knutsford, where we saw many flying displays of impressive birds of prey.



In October we went to Pilkington's World of Glass Museum at St Helens. As well as a tour of their museum, we were given displays of glass blowing, with the production of a beautiful glass bowl. Our Photography Group has gained several new members this year. We welcome anyone who is interested in

photography to come and join us, whatever your level of skill, and whatever type of photographic device you have, whether it's a DSLR or a mobile phone camera.



# Psychology Forum

• Angela Raval

2nd & 4th Thursdays at 10am-12 Macclesfield and Congleton Scout District HQ, 32 West Bond St. SK11 8EQ

Our group runs lively discussions with presented material about a variety of phenomena from Psychology. We are a new group but have already tackled issues and studies in Social Psychology and are about to start a few weeks looking at the Psychology of 'Normality'.

The group currently has a waiting list.

### Rummikub Plus

Denise Jones

2nd & 4th Mondays at 2pm. Gawsworth Methodist Community Hall, SK11 9QZ.

Rummikub is a great game to keep the "little grey cells" working.

We are a friendly group and tea/coffee and cake provided, 50p. Large car park off Dark Lane.

What is there not to like? Come and give it a try. All very welcome.



Pam Herring

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2pm Meet in members' homes (rotational basis)





### **Table Tennis**

Sue Whyatt

Thursday at 10am – 12 noon

Macclesfield Leisure Centre

We don't have the ability to teach beginners but
there is a wide range of abilities and anyone can
come and have a go. Some members go for a
coffee upstairs at the end of the session. Everyone welcome. £1 per
session for those not paying annually.



David Burnham

4th Tuesday at 2 pm for 2.15 pm start, except for July, August and December Oakleigh House, 1 Riseley Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 1BW

We have settled into our new venue Oakleigh House and we have now booked this through to June 2023. The room and acoustics seem to be good enough for us not to use a PA system and, although a hearing loop may be help to some, the majority of hearing aid users seem to be happy with the current arrangements. The move to face-to-face meetings has led to a fall of in attendance – averaging about 28 compared to about 40 online and more than that before the pandemic.

We have had some excellent speakers in the last few months covering a wide range of subjects. Professor Ian Morison gave an excellent account of the position of our galaxy in space and time. Ron Pierce enlightened us on the radiometric dating and how we work out the age of rocks and fossils. In October Gillian Gibson gave a very interesting talk about how we are creating unnatural cycles and the impact that these have not just on the environment but on our health and wellbeing. This talk provoked the most lively and interesting discussion that we have had for a long time.

I am currently working on the programme for the spring and there a few gaps at the moment. In January we have Dr Anna Bonaldi, a project Scientist from the SKAO. The square kilometre array organisation (SKAO) is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to astronomy. Its headquarters are in the UK at Jodrell Bank and it will operate sites in Australia and South Africa, with the two largest and most complex radio telescope networks ever conceived to address fundamental questions about our universe.

In April, Professor Jamie Gilmour from Manchester University will talk about Meteorites and the Early Solar System and I think he will include some discussion on the processes that created the elements that we are all made of.

We switch away from astronomy on 28th February when we welcome Professor Perdita Barran and Joy Milne. You may well have heard of the lady who can smell Parkinson's disease; well, that is Joy Milne and Perdita has undertaken the challenging analytical work to identify the compounds that are associated with the disease.

The programme for 2023 so far is:

# Tuesday, 24th January Dr Anna Bonaldi

Project Scientist, SKAO, Jodrell Bank The Square Kilometre Array

# Tuesday, 28th February Professor Perdita Barran and Joy Milne

University of Manchester Detecting Parkinson's disease

### Tuesday, 25th April Professor Jamie Gilmour

Professor of Planetary Science, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Manchester Meteorites and the Early Solar System

### Walkers 5 Milers

Phil Davies

1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10am. Various locations. Distance between 4.5 to 5 miles – easy/moderate terrain



# Walkers Mid Week

Ciaran Fleming

Meet 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at Arighi Bianchi's east Car Park (behind the main building).



# Walking Mondays

- Valerie Herbert
- Frank Nicholson

2nd & 4th Mondays at or after 9:30am, every month. Each walk is advertised on the website and new members of the group are welcome.

### Wild Flowers

Alec Johnston

2022 had a good series of outings to the Peak District and Lancashire identifying over 180 different species with some not seen before by the group.

Solomon's Temple, Hartington Station, Miller's Dale Station and quarry and Wharton Cragg were visited and it is planned to go to some of them together with Lathkill Dale, Dane in Shaw meadows and Jackson's Brickworks again.



Great Butterfly Orchid - Hartington

Dates are Mondays from 24th April, May June, July to be agreed – about 5/6 outings. If we find a speaker we can have an indoor meeting in March.

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

# List of Group Leaders and Contact Numbers

Allotment 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 Crafters Together Jackie Boulton Jill Smart Country Dancing

Creative Writing Veronica O'Connor

Chris Hewitt

Croquet David Lee

Crown Green Bowls

Discussion

European Studies French Conversation 1 French Conversation 2

Geology

Admin
German 1
German 2
Italian – Beginners

Italian Conversation Local History Mah Jong

Make and Create

Photography

Members' Morning Painting and Art

Psychology Rummikub Plus Spanish Improvers

Table Tennis Technology & Science Walkers 5 Milers

Walking Mondays

Wild Flowers

John Hayes Chris Hewitt Norton Wragg

Allan Trayes Sally Lowden Adrienne Noble Beryl Beattie

Kate Bonson Nicky Campbell Phyllis Thomas Val Cutter

Steve Hurley
Pete Caulkett
Janet Parkinson

Vacant

Jackie Gibbs
Ray Jordan
Angela Raval
Denise Jones
Pam Herring
Sue Whyatt
David Burnham
Phil Davies
Valerie Herbert

Alec Johnston

### u3a General Committee Members & Contact Numbers

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

Chairman Alec Johnston

chair@maccu3a.uk

Vice Chairman Vacant

Secretary **Marion Grant** 

secretary@maccu3a.uk

Treasurer Steve Fallows

sjfallows@btopenworld.com

**Keith Boulton** 

keithw.boulton@ntlworld.com

Treasurer elect Andy Redwood

(for 2023)

Web Master & Beacon Management

**Tony Middleton** 

u3a@middleton.me.uk

Membership Secretary

Phyllis Thomas <a href="mailto:membership@maccu3a.uk">membership@maccu3a.uk</a>

Groups' Co-ordinator

Mandy Orton groups@maccu3a.uk Shirley Stretton groups@maccu3a.uk

### Other post holders

**Publicity** Vacant Speaker Secretary Vacant

**Newsletter Editor** Peter Whitham

Members' Morning Co-ordinator Vacant

# 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 Table Tennis 2.30pm Croquet (Summer only)	Painting & Art (during school term)
1st	2pm Country Dancing 2pm Mah Jong	2pm German 2 2pm Spanish Improvers 7.30pm European Studies	9.30 Mid-Week Walkers 2pm French Conversation 2	10am Discussion 10am Walkers 5 Milers 2pm Bookworms 1 2pm Crafters Together	
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 Creative Writing 10am Geology
3rd	2pm Crafters Together 2pm Country Dancing 2pm Mah Jong	1.45pm Local History 2pm German 2 2pm Spanish Improvers	9.30 Mid-Week Walkers 2pm Bookworms 4 2pm French Conversation 1	10am Bookworms 5 10am Card Making 10am Photography 10am Psychology 10am Walkers 5 Milers	
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	2pm Allotment Gardening	10am Creative Writing
5th	2pm Mah Jong				