

Skelmersdale u3a December 2023- January 2024 Newsletter



Halloween Singing for Fun

u3a is a UK wide, cooperative movement of people no longer in full time work who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests. Our branch of the nationwide U3A is now in its twelfth successful year. If you are interested, you are most welcome to join us for **a free taster visit to one of our activities**. For further details please Telephone **01695 726660** or visit **Skelmersdale u3a:Home**. Joining us in Skelmersdale u3a is a great way to find and develop new interests and make great friends in a relaxed environment. Membership fee is only £12 a year.

Covid restrictions, enforceable by law, have been lifted and we now have ADVICE. However, when in the Ecumenical Centre we must comply with the Centre's requirements. These can be found on the redesigned Ecumenical Centre website <https://the-eccy.co.uk>

Groups News

Sunday Lunch

A good day, good company and a great good lunch was had by a group of members at the Cricketers Sunday, 29th October. Despite the clocks going into winter time, a couple forgot to change clocks, and wondered why their lifts had not turned up. All was well and the meal was excellent, a very nice company and the service welcoming. Would recommend a visit. Once again thank you for your support, let us hope it continues, Sally

Bowls

The last 2023 Bowls meeting will be Wednesday, 13th December 2-4pm in the main hall at the Ecumenical Centre, and will recommence Wednesday, January 10th 2024.

Ann sends Happy Christmas and New Year Greetings and thanks to all members of the group.

Curry Club

Next curry night will be on Thursday 23rd November at Babar Elephant in Billinge, WN5 7DJ, and we will meet at 6.30. As usual contact me for a place at the table, thanks. Elaine



Discussion Group

At the Discussion Group meeting held on 2 November David spoke about the West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan 2012-2027 and its current review. This allocates land to various uses across the borough and provides a benchmark for the officers and planning subcommittee of the WLBC to consider and approve (or reject) planning applications. It is currently being reviewed so a new plan will run from 2023 -2040 and the WLBC will be holding public consultation shortly. He is concerned that land be allocated for a secondary school on the former Glenburn/West Bank site off Yewdale rather than used for housing or industry.

The "Our West Lancashire" group of independent councillors successfully prevented land allocation for warehouse development by the M58 Junction 3 in Bickerstaff and 2 new "villages" between Skelmersdale and Ormskirk a few years ago. Members interested in planning should email office@ourwestlancashire.com and ask to be added to their circulation list to receive their Planning Bulletins .DC

Book Club

We met at Pimbo Garden centre on Sunday 12th November to discuss 'That Night' by Gillian McAlister. Two sisters and their brother are on holiday with their families. One sister kills a man by knocking him down with her car, the siblings help to cover up the crime by burying the body. Was it an accident or deliberate? Someone finds out and blackmails them. The brother kills him. The first body is discovered so the brother confesses to both crimes.

This month's book is 'The Olive Tree' by Lucinda Riley.

Jenny

Craft Group

The next meeting of the craft group will be on Monday 27th November when we will be making Christmas Wreaths. I will supply the rings, and ribbons. I do have some baubles but not a great range of colours, so if members can bring some along with them and anything else they would like to put on the wreath. I will be making homemade pea & ham soup for lunch served with a crusty roll.

Spaces are limited due to space, so it will be on a first come basis. Please contact me on 07964136379 or marji66@aol.

Committee Secretary News

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday 23 November at Skelmersdale library. Please could as many members attend as your input is important to the running of our u3a.

As you are aware Sally has been running both the Sunday lunch club and the Gardening group for many years. Sadly, Sally will be stepping down after the AGM, so we are looking for members who would like to run these groups so we can keep them going. The committee would like to thank Sally for all her hard work over the years and look forward to her continued support as vice chair on the committee.

Ann has been organising the Christmas outing for the last 11 years and is also stepping down. Thank you, Ann, for all the hard work you have put in over the years.

Ann will continue to run the bowls group every Wednesday afternoon.

Alan is organising this year's Christmas do which will be held on Thursday, 7 December at Briars Hall.

I am very pleased to be offered the role of secretary, I will do my best to serve Skelmersdale u3a. If you have any ideas how we can encourage new members and set up new groups please let me know. MR



Merry Christmas

Dear members

As we come towards the end of 2023, our groups will be winding down for their Christmas breaks. The committee would like to thank all the group leaders for their hard work keeping the groups going and members for their valued support over the last 12 months! Wow!! Where did 2023 go?

<u>Group</u>	<u>Finishing Date</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Singing for Fun	19 th December	16 th Jan 2024
Bowls	13 th December	10 th Jan2024
Debating	7 th December	1 st Feb 2024
Gardening Group	14 th November	TBC
Walking group	Finished	TBC
Yoga	11 th December (tbc)	8 th January 2024 (tbc)
Craft Group	27 th November	30 th January 2024
Coffee afternoon	18 th December	15 th January 2024
Curry club	23 rd November	TBA
An Evening at the Cinema	TBA	TBA

All the groups will be up and running in January, except for Debating. We are always looking for fresh faces to join us!

If we do not have a group that interest you and would like to start one do not be shy! Our committee are very approachable and will be happy to help you get something started. We all have our own set of unique skills and experiences to share and learn from others and it is good to keep busy.

Other dates for your diary

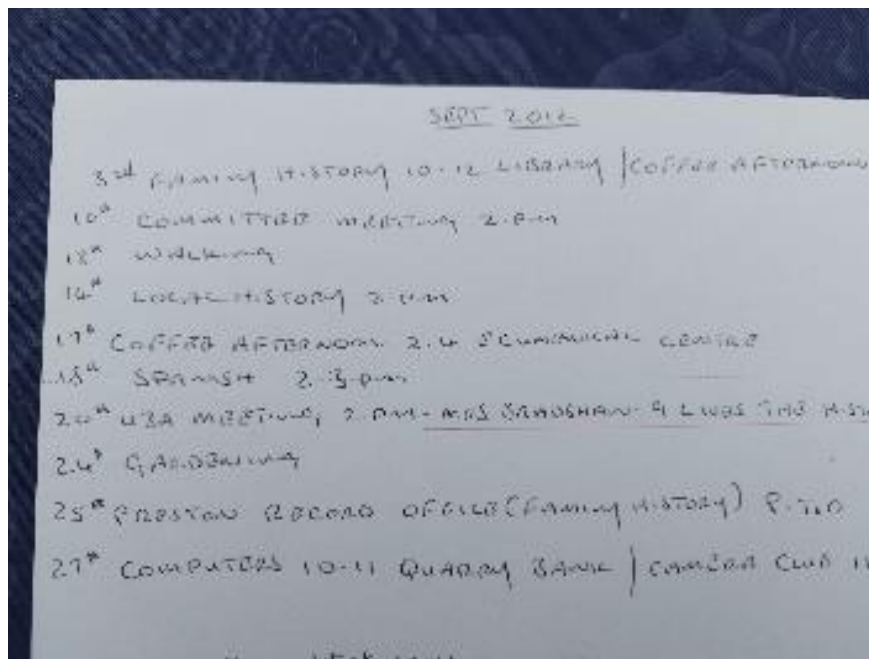
Date	Purpose
16 th November	General meeting, Speaker from SSAFA, discussing future of Skemu3a,
17 th November	Llandudno trip
23 rd November	Skem u3a AGM. This is an important meeting. Please could members attend or please notify Marji if you are unable to attend ! marji66@aol.com
23 rd November	Curry club at Bah Bah Billinge .Please contact Elaine if you would like to attend brownlaine65@gmail.com . This is the last 1 for this year.
7 th December	Christmas do at Briars Hall
21 st December	Last general meeting for 2023! Come along for a bit of festive fun, the Singing for Fun group will be entertaining us with Christmas Carols and we will be serving mince pies and hot drinks. A nice jolly way to end 2023.

Let us make 2024 a great year for Skem u3a! Marji

A little bit of Skelmersdale u3a Newsletter History 2011+

'Not a lot of people know that ...'

...Handwritten flyer [by Ann] showing the forthcoming monthly events: greatly appreciated by the then membership of around 30.



...Extract from 2012 Newsletter published on first website

July /August newsletter 2012

Dear Member

Despite the atrocious British 'summer' July was an eventful month.

Monday July 2nd, the Family History group met at Skelmersdale Library. It has been noted that many researchers hit a brick wall, which can lead to frustration, due mainly to the lack of free available resources; however more about how this problem might be addressed, later in the newsletter.

Since SKU3A began last August, we have endeavoured to find a suitable venue for an extra monthly meeting, where members can just meet, chat, chill out and catch up with the latest news. Following on from a massive doorstep drop to find new members, **Monday July 9th** at the Ecumenical Centre Coffee Bar, was our first meet and greet.

Thursday, July 12th Hey Ho! What a beautiful day for our monthly walk led by Brian. At 10.00am, 15 members met at the Saracen's head, Halsall. A super walk Brian. Many thanks.

Monday July 23rd 19 members attended our first bi-monthly games, chat, and chill café at the Ec Centre. Scrabble and cards were played. This event could become very popular, especially if more current members can attend and be encouraged to introduce a friend to join.

Thursday July 26th members attended the computer group at Quarry Bank. Work on a new and updated website in progress.

Thursday July 26th immediately following on from the computer group was the first meeting of the digital photography group led by Ron and attended by members

Monday July 30th 9 members met at Warbeck Garden Centre for lunch. We welcome new member. Not many plants were purchased however the jewellery counter proved to be most attractive.

...Photos and flyers displayed on EC. Centre Notice Boards.

...Encouraging poem submitted c. 2012.

*Have you an idea or something to say?
Talk to fellow members at our meeting today
This is your chance to put forward your view
And maybe discover a thing or two
We all want success of our Group and our plans
So, if you have a friend with time on their hands
Please, bring them along to join our merry band
For a biscuit and drink and maybe lend a hand
By imparting their knowledge or doing nothing at all
Because the idea of the U3A is just 'having a ball'[NW]*

Thanks is given to all who regularly submitted news, reports and photos throughout the year.
A larger version may be accessed at
<https://u3asites.org.uk/skelmersdale>

Extra late news may be added to the Pick 'Mix page.

Looking forward to 2024, our next newsletter will be the Spring issue for distribution at the Monthly meeting in the library, 2-4pm, Thursday, 18th January. 2024. Deadline:- 14.01.24



