



Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at Hallfold Church Whitworth. Refreshments are served at 1.00pm and speakers start at 1.30pm. New members are welcome for an annual membership of £15 and £2 monthly meeting subs.

5th April 2023

Martin Lunn MBE FRAS – Ramble through the Solar System

3rd May 2023 meeting

Mel Latham from Holly Cottage – talking about Preserves and Chutneys using local Cheshire produce

7th June 2023

Our own Paula Bradbury - On the buses!! Her adventures around the country using her bus pass.

5th July 2023

Brian Topping – the life of a Customs Officer

2nd August 2023

A representative from Greater Manchester Blood Bikers

6th September 2023

Annual General Meeting

4th October 2023

Sarah Slater – Hampton Court Guide, Ghosts of Hampton Court (via zoom)

U3a 'Tappers' Group

This month we have welcomed two new tappers into the group. Our next tap dancing "gig" is Sunday 7th May at the Coronation Celebrations at the Ashcroft in Whitworth. We will be doing two spots but not sure of the times as yet.

We meet on the last two Thursdays of every month at Hallfold Chapel schoolroom 1.30pm-2.30pm.

Please contact Paula Bradbury for any further details. 07914903208



Letter from the Chair

Dear all,

I think we are off to a pretty good start to the year! A comfortable new venue which seems to have good acoustics; an excellent outing to Piece Hall and Shibden; speakers coming in person to give us understanding and food for thought on all sorts of subjects (and of course our very own Paula coming in June). We have a photography exhibition starting at the gallery at the baths, in April, which I do hope you will pop in to see. Groups are also active – walking, visiting nice gardens, a specialist workshop on cyanotype photography, lunching out, as well as several groups being held in people's homes' were all are learning new skills. It's becoming hard to mention all 17 groups in one letter! Something else we felt was really needed was basic first aid for convenors. Dawn from community first responders offered an excellent course on Resuscitation, choking and defib. You never know when you might need it! And meeters and greeters have been recruited, trained and organised, with rota So important to ensure any new member receives a friendly welcome. Not bad in three months, I know you will agree.

In the style of Monty Don, now I'm suggesting your 'jobs you can do for the weekend'

Could you be a meeter and greeter? Is there a group you wish we could offer and could you be a group convenor? Or give a talk? Or become a committee member? Have a think this weekend. You just never know! None of us thought we would ever create a u3a, thriving and offering so much to so many. All thanks to members, doing things, for and with, members.

Enjoy spring, whatever the weather

Pat

Interest Groups

For insurance purposes only members can join Interest Groups – details are available on our FB page, website or at the meetings. You can contact the Group Leaders for information on dates, times and venues for group activities. Lynne, our Groups Coordinator can be contacted on 07718913131

Group Leaders

Amblers:

Phil Ellis 07907 854891
Lynne Hutton 07718 913131
Helen Illingworth 07860 314968 **Art:**
Lindsay Fairhurst 07800 820096
Julie Latham 07801 306776

Birdwatching:

George Scaife 07956 294775

Book Club:

Helen Illingworth 07860 314968

Creative Writing:

Kay Grayson 07903 570008

Family History:

Jean Ainsworth 07790192120

Flower Arranging:

Nina Gardner 07411 520771

Garden Inspiration:

Pat Matson 01706 853691

Learning Italian Together:

Meg Starkey 01706 343381

Luncheon Group:

Marcia Rigg

Photography:

Doreen Brown 07813 056481

Play Reading:

Mary Cawley 01706 356109

Tap Dancing:

Paula Bradbury
g-pbradbury@outlook.com

Walking:

Garry Bradbury 07486 009581

Wellbeing:

Sheila Daly 0772 757925

Ukulele:

Deborah Whitham 07776 332 666

Ukulele Group

Flushed by the success of our first performance at the Whitworth U3A December meeting we are hoping to attract some new players to swell our ranks!

Beginners and more experienced players are equally welcome. Anyone feeling a little nervous about joining as a complete novice please get in touch and I will arrange some introductory sessions to get you started. Believe me, you will soon be strumming along with confidence. We have some spare instruments if you don't have your own. If you already play another instrument that you think may fit the mix, or just want to sing along, please also feel you can come along.

The Uke3A group has been busy working on loads of new songs. We now have quite a repertoire to draw on and are beginning to inflict it on the community! In March we played at the Monday Coffee Morning at Riddiough Court. A particular shout out to all who attempted "Love Potion Number 9" - first time in public - not bad at all!!! In April, we will be playing at Barley View Care Home, in July we stretch our wings further and combine with Heywood Ukulele Band to perform at Summer Strum in Rainford.

Sign A Song will start on Tuesday 9 May, 7-8pm, It will run through May & June. I hope we will be able to perform a song during the July monthly meeting.

This will be a relaxed introduction to deaf awareness and sign language by learning how to sign a couple of popular songs.

It would be helpful if I could have an idea of how many are likely to be turning up. Ideally, I would like names and a means of contact but folks are welcome to just turn up.

We meet at 77 Cowm Park Way North at 7pm every Monday evening. £1 per session to cover costs.

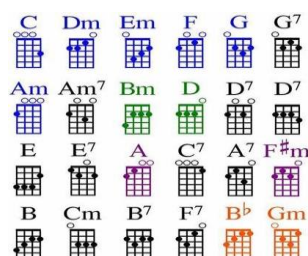
I look forward to seeing some of you soon.

Contact:

Deborah Whitham

debwhitham@googlemail.com

07776332666



Interest Groups

Philosophy Group

Plans are coming to fruition for the proposed Philosophy Group which will be convened by John Hall. After looking at various venues it has been agreed that Hallfold RUC will best suit the group's needs. There will be a small charge to pay which will depend on how many members attend each meeting. Ten people have expressed an interest so it should only be £1 - £2 for each session. The next thing to decide is the day and time which is unlikely to suit everyone due to other commitments. If you have expressed an interest and will be attending the Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, would you please stay behind afterwards to meet with John and Shirley to make final arrangements as it is hoped to have the first session in April.

Helen Illingworth

Flower Arranging Group

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Falinge hub. We like to do seasonal arrangements using foliage from gardens if possible. We sometimes do experimental arrangements as well as some of the more traditional ones, but most of all we like to have fun and enjoy what we do.

Nina.



Luncheon Club

Following recent visits to the Top Brink, The Healey and Owens at Ramsbottom, Margaret Croxon has volunteered to arrange the next lunch at the Lake Lounge on Wednesday 28th April. She will be e-mailing members shortly with more details. If anyone would like to join the group, please let me know and I will add you to the contacts list.

Helen



Craft Group

Beautiful Easter arrangements by the Craft Group.



Amazing 'Decoupage' by the Craft Group
how talented they are



'Decoupage'

Interest Groups

Walking Group

Lovely February walk led Gary, starting from Landgate, Shawforth near the old Red Lion pub then follows the wind farm road up over Hades Hill and down into Todmorden near Gordon Riggs where the group could enjoy a hot drink and tasty treats.

The next walk in March started from Ramsden Wood Road, Walsden. The walk was about 4 miles with dramatic scenery, water falls, deep valleys and bridges including Ragby Bridge. It was a great walk, good company topped off with some tasty sausage sandwiches.



Amblers

Since the New Year the group have had some pleasant and varied walks. In January Phil led the amble from High Crompton across fields towards Royton returning via Low Crompton where the ladies enjoyed their visit to a florists. Paul led the February amble around Watergrove which was well attended despite the Walking Group being out the day before. March's amble on a chilly day was a circular from Syke to Wardle led by me.

Our next amble on Wednesday 12th April is a perennial favourite – Hollingworth Lake. We'll be meeting on the Dale View estate off Wildhouse Lane and walking down to the Lake via Peanock Farm and the hamlet of Bib Knowl. There is a short incline up the side of a wood and two ladder stiles to negotiate but the rest of the walk is easy. Half way round we'll stop off at the visitor centre for a coffee at the newly opened Woodlands at The Lake before continuing along the lakebank back to Peanock Farm. The walk is no more than 3 miles and if you haven't been on an amble before, you will be made very welcome.

Helen