



Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Ashcroft 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.

4th January 2023 Meeting

Dr Chris Babbs – Music and Medicine

7th February 2023 Meeting

Peter Horgan Legal Advisor everything you need to know about Estate planning, Power of Attorney etc

7th March 2023

Andrea Sarginson – Local Author, talking about her book 'Man of Glass'

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.



Our 'Tappers' and 'Ukulele' group entertaining us at the Christmas monthly meeting

Letter from the Chair

Hello all

I hope you are managing to keep warm in this awful cold snap, especially as everyone is so worried about the cost of fuel! My plea is that it won't last forever and that everyone will keep themselves warm and cosy, until warmer days return. Plus, looking at some of the groups that are active just now, it seems you are brilliant at finding ways to keep moving and stay warm! The Christmas party was a great success this year – undoubtedly because of our own home grown talents in the tappers' group and the ukulele band. And it was so good, I know other groups such as the play readers are already planning 'an event' for next year. So if you are in a group and think you'd like your group to do something for next year.....don't say you weren't given enough time to plan!

I am so delighted that our u3a is growing, from strength to strength and I don't think its just me who is pleased that we are developing a sense of community, of knowing others and finding common interests, as well as developing new friendships. That really is what a u3a is about and we are certainly doing just that. I hope to see you all next year, either in a special interest group or a monthly meeting. Until then, may I wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2023.

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

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

Photography:

Doreen Brown 07813 056481

Play Reading:

Mary Cawley 01706 356109

Qi Gong: (Tai Chi)

Di Scaife 07905 899586

Tap Dancing:

Paula Bradbury

g-bradbury@outlook.com

Walking:

Garry Bradbury 07486 009581

Wellbeing:

Sheila Daly 0772 757925

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.

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



Testing the waters!

I have heard rumblings that some people might like to have a U3A choir. I am not offering to run a choir but am thinking about organizing a couple of "short term" activities if enough people are interested in a few rehearsals & perform the end result at an appropriate forum - yet to be decided.

If anyone interested in either of the following?

– Learn to sign a song - Learn a silent Hallelujah Chorus

([Silent Monks Sing the Hallelujah Chorus](#))

Expressions of interest to debwhitham@googlemail.com

Proposed New Groups

There have been suggestions to start two new interest groups - Philosophy and Cycling. At this stage it would be good to have expressions of interest to see if either group would be viable. Then we can get people together to decide on dates, times and venues.

So if you're interested would you please contact me at

helen@illingworth.org.uk

Interest Groups

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.



Art Group

In 2022 we worked with pencil, inks, watercolour, acrylics and canvas, and visited local museums and galleries.

The U3A art group members come together once a month to discuss themes/subjects of interest, designs or any medium they wish to explore. During group sessions we attempt any new techniques, try out new mediums, practice quick sketches and standard art lessons to promote increased confidence and skill.



It is a friendly welcoming group, everyone's art choices and skills are as different as they are, the only requirement is enthusiasm. The Art group meets every first Thursday of the month at Whitworth Library at 2 o'clock.



Luncheon Club

Thanks to Marcia who arranged the last lunch in November we had a lovely time at Summerseat Garden Centre. The menu was interesting and very reasonable and the garden centre now has waitress service. The shopping afterwards was good too!

Peter is currently organising the lunch on 25th January at the Top Brink, Lumbutts. More information will be available when he has completed the arrangements.

Helen

Interest Groups

Walking Group

Lovely November walk led by the fab 2, Kay and Keith, starting from Lobb picnic site near Todmorden. Walk up to Rodwell, quite steep to a lovely hamlet. Head up to Great Rock locally known as Devil's Rock, over grouse moor to Hippins and back down Jumble Hole Clough passing ruins of Staups Mill, this is quite a steep climb. Then gently return along the canal to the to car park. Thank you Kay and Keith

Paul



Amblers

Unfortunately, the last amble of the year was cancelled due to the icy condition of the footpaths around the Lake. It was a shame as the scenery would have been magical with the snow on the hills but it wasn't worth taking the risk.

Our January amble to be led by Phil will be in the High Crompton area. He assures me it will be no more than 3 miles so if you've eaten too much over Christmas and want some exercise, come and join us at 10 am on Wednesday 11th January at the public car park near the top of Rushcroft Road, OL2 7PP. If you haven't been on an amble before please let me have your contact details and I'll add you to the e-mail and WhatsApp group. (My e-mail address is helen@illingworth.org.uk)

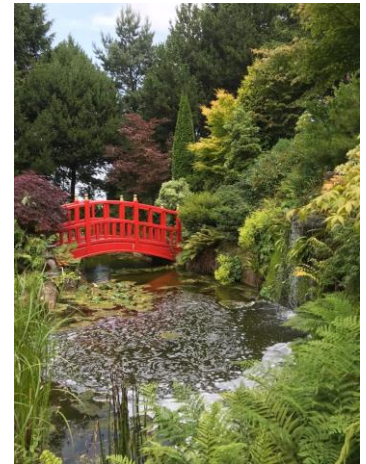
Helen

Interest Groups

Garden Inspiration Group

I have just loved being convenor to the garden inspiration group this year. We met in January (at a nice pub, of course) to plan what trips we would like to do this year and then had a thoroughly great time visiting them. We also seem to have developed quite a nice routine: plan a trip, then sort out who is willing to drive and who needs transport. Then we are off! We don't seem to mind travel (I'm ignoring the stress of the new bridge at Runcorn!) and on arrival, its time for a coffee before we potter about looking at beautiful gardens. We complete our day with lunch and a bit of a shop (window shopping is fine!). We will be planning next year, in January, if you'd like to contribute. If you like the sound of it, come and join us!

Pat



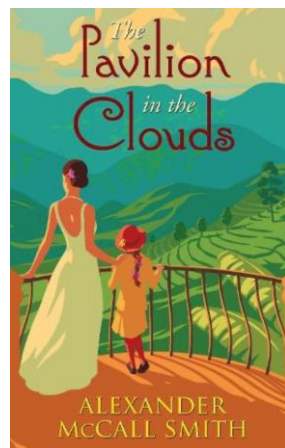
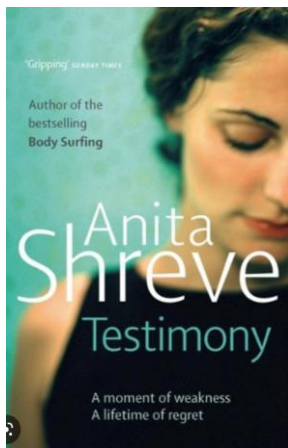
Book Club

At the last meeting before Christmas members enjoyed discussing *Testimony* by Anita Shreve. Due to a clash of dates at Falinge Hub we met at Hallfold United Reformed Church and felt so comfortable that we've decided to stay.

For our first meeting in the New Year we will be discussing *The Pavilion in the Clouds* by Alexander McCall Smith. You might know the author's name from the No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series which is very easy and entertaining reading. I've also read a number of The Sunday Philosophy Club books which are based in Edinburgh. However, *The Pavilion in the Clouds* is a stand alone novel set in 1938 Ceylon and the final days of the British Empire. The story centres round the Ferguson family, owners of a tea plantation high in the clouds, and their colonial lifestyle.

Hopefully, it will be a nice easy read for curling up on the sofa with on Boxing Day!

Helen



Tappers Group.

10 ladies in all-but would welcome some budding Fred Astaires'. Beginners and experienced tap dancers' welcome. We meet, usually the last two Thursdays of the month at Hallfold UR Church school room, on Hall Street, Whitworth at 1.30pm-2.30pm. £3.00 a session to cover the rent etc.

Main and most important criteria for joining the group is the ability to have lots of fun and laughter whilst developing a new movement skill. You even, do not need to have tap shoes at the start-as we have spare ones to borrow.

After our "successful performances"?? in December, the "Tappers" may be "resting" in January 2023 but all details will be on the Whitworth U3A website.

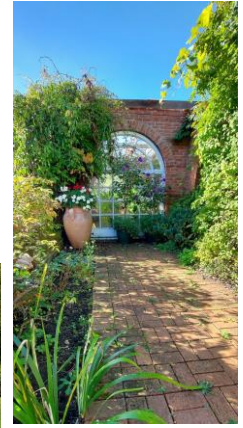


Interest Groups

Photography Group

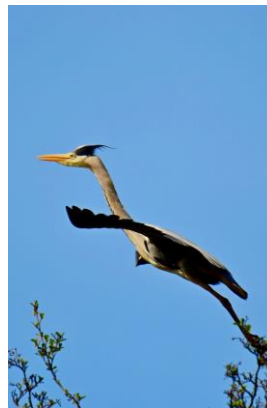
I asked the members of the Photography Group to submit one photograph each, the selection below is their second best photos, I am looking forward to their best photos which will be displayed later in 2023 at the Whitworth Leisure Centre and the Library.

It is good that we have been able to meet more regularly in 2022. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month and from time to time have additional "Zoom" meetings to share and enjoy each other's photographs.



We started the year with 12 members and during the year we have been pleased to welcome 4 new members to the group.

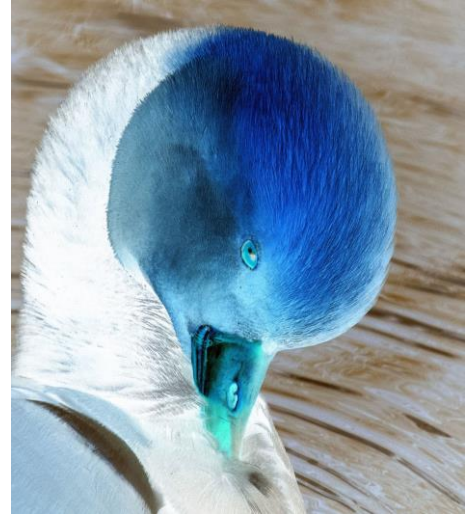
Some of the places/events we have visited in 2022:-
Hollingworth Lake
Todmorden Car Rally
The Carding Shed in Holmfirth
Halifax Piece Hall
Manchester Cathedral
Formby Red Squirrels (not one to be seen!! - so we had to be content with the "Iron Men" on Crosby Beach)



Earlier in the year we had the opportunity to display some of our photographs in the Leisure Centre and then in the library. A big thank you to Paul and Dave for all the preparation work they did for these displays. We are hoping to have the opportunity to have a further display in 2023 so keep your eyes open when you visit these venues.

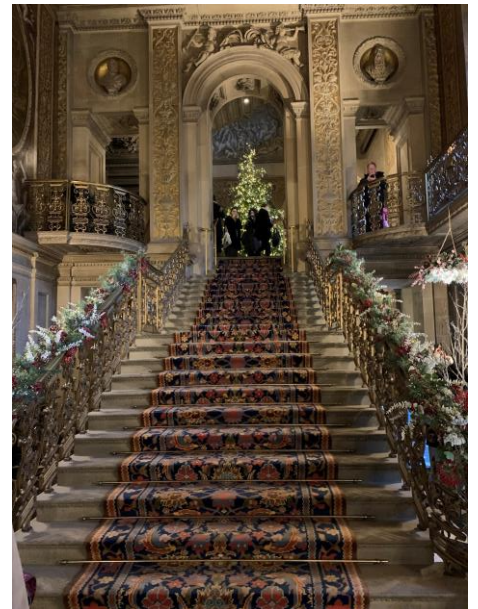
Interest Groups

Photography Group continued



We always enjoy each other's company and whenever we meet, we always find a café!!

Anyone wishing to join us can contact me on 07813056481
Doreen J Brown



November visit to Chatsworth House and Christmas Markets

It was a great outing again, Thankfully the weather was kind to us a bit cold but glorious sunshine for most of the day, the house was beautifully decorated for Christmas and the Markets were brilliant. Thank you to Lynn Brady for organising the trip.

