



April

CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

-Lindy Porter

Welcome to April and longer days.

New members coffee morning is Friday, 5th April at St. Hildas 10.00 a.m. Do come along and meet other new members and begin to develop new friendships. It's usually a very pleasant morning.

The next monthly meeting on Thursday, 11th April is a Special Ordinary Meeting at The Ashley Club, an important one for us all when we will discuss an increase in membership fees and receive information on Gift Aid.

Our trip to Florence offered a rich tapestry of experiences. From wandering the historic streets lined with Renaissance architecture to marvelling at masterpieces in the Uffizi Gallery, Florence captivated us with its cultural richness and artistic legacy.

The city has a profound impact on art and history, whether it's savouring gelato by the Ponte Vecchio Bridge or climbing the iconic dome of the Florence Cathedral, each moment in Florence is a journey through time and beauty. A trip enjoyed by all.

Thinking caps on for the next one and where to.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 11th April. I must say The Ashley is very different from the Little Theatre, it is a large social room with tables and chairs, some will love it, some will hate it but it's just two hours a month.

Please send contributions to u3aNewsletterWyre@gmail.com
When finished with this issue, please forward it to a friend

I ask for your understanding and patience on our first meeting there. I promise I have done my best to enable our meetings to be seamless. Thank you from Lindy.

My thought for the day, "You only live once, but if you do it right, then once is enough".

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

- Susan Cox

My apologies to members who are not receiving an electronic copy of the newsletter. The membership PC is somewhat temperamental and doesn't always save any changes. If you are not receiving your copy, please let me know and make sure I have your correct email address.



SPEAKER'S SECRETARY

- Diane M Whitworth

Thursday, 11th April at The Ashley Club

Sir Bill Taylor's talk is entitled, "One in a Million". Bill, a former Mayor, council leader and constituency agent will present an account of his personal and political experiences over many years.

He has launched his new book "One in a Million", which details his public and private life in the Borough of Blackburn. It reveals the challenges he has faced during almost 50 years delivering public services and what motivated him to become one of that council's most well-known personalities and public servants.

Thursday, 9th May at the Ashley Club

Phil Cawley's subject is, "Restorative Justice". Forgiveness can be an important part of Restorative Justice. When it happens, it can be extremely powerful.

Could you forgive if someone killed your son or daughter?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monthly Meetings are now held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at **THE ASHLEY CLUB, Victoria Road East, Thornton, FY5 5HQ.**

Speakers:

Thursday, 11th April

Speaker: Sir Bill Taylor

Subject: "One in a Million".

Thursday, 9th May

Speaker: Phil Cawley

Subject: "Restorative Justice".

SOCIAL EVENTS ORGANISERS -

*Diane M Whitworth, Helen Kehoe
and Norma Culshaw*

social.wyreu3a@gmail.com

Coach Trip to Llandudno.

Monday, 15th July

Llandudno is a Victorian-era seaside resort situated on the picturesque north coast of Wales. It has a plethora of excellent shops, bars restaurants and art galleries. If you fancy a stroll there is a lovely, wide Promenade with plenty of seating along the way and you will be rewarded with stunning views along the waterfront.

Alternatively, you may wish to take the tram to visit the Great Orme Copper Mines and if you continue your journey to the summit of the Great Orme you will be rewarded with a wonderful view of Llandudno.

Names and a payment of £22.00 pp. will be taken at the Monthly Meeting in April and at subsequent Monthly Meetings.



*Lunch at Saswick House Farm
and Tearoom*

*Roseacre Rd, Roseacre, PR4 3XD.
(Near Elswick).*

Thursday, 18th April at 12 noon.

Menus will be available for your choices and payment taken at the Monthly Meeting in April.

Chester Races

Friday, 13th September 2024.



For us to secure tickets to the Racecourse at a reasonable price, we require a non-refundable deposit of £10.00 per person.

Names will be taken at the Monthly Meeting in April and at subsequent Monthly Meetings

If you require more information about the above events, please contact the Social Events' Organisers by email:

social.wyreu3a@gmail.com

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR

- *Diane M. Whitworth*

groups.wyre3a@gmail.com

Sincere thanks to all our Group Leaders for their continual dedication and enthusiasm with their respective groups.

Ann Burley has decided to stand down as Group Leader of the French Refresher's Group. I would like to thank her for her commitment over a lengthy period of time.

I am pleased to announce that the group will be continuing as Elaine Wilshaw has kindly offered to take over the role of Group Leader and members of the group have agreed to take it in turn to facilitate the sessions.

The Wyre u3a Facebook Page is a Private Group for Wyre u3a members only. It provides a forum, where our members are invited to express their views, and share information, photographs, and funny stories.

Used Postage Stamp Collection for Charity

There will be an RNIB collection box inside the foyer at Thornton Little Theatre at the monthly meetings. Please leave a one centimetre of envelope packaging around the stamp.

A reminder from the Committee

Please note that, unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on any walks.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The Amblers - Jim Swain

The March Amble took place on Thursday, 28th when twenty-three Amblers started from the Stanley Park, Blackpool car park by their Art Deco Café, ably led by Alex and Kay Herschell.

We ambled inland, across the main road and alongside the hospital until a path presented itself to our right which took us past Blackpool Zoo (Previously Stanley Park Aerodrome 1929-1957) and Staining village to reach Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) where we stopped to enjoy the view and the wildlife. On recrossing the main road, we reached our cars and entered the cafe, where contrary to previous advice, a large table had been set out for our lunch. An excellent meal to taste was enjoyed by twenty-two remaining Amblers.

Thanks go to Alex and Kay for an excellent walk, though Jim's claiming responsibility for the sunshine. A great day out!!

The April Amble will be on Thursday, 25th starting at 10.30 a.m. from Knott End car park (near the ferry).

From Knott End the walk goes over the Golf Course following the Wyre Way then via Coat Walls farm to Preesall, returning along a green lane which is quite muddy now, but hopefully has time to dry out.

The walk is approx. 4.9 miles, mostly on flat ground with one short incline and, except for the green lane, on hard surfaces, with a short distance on the road.

Lunch can be taken at the Bourne Arms but they require numbers in advance.

The menu is on the Bourne Arms website and will be copied to the WhatsApp group.

Please contact Derek Woodhouse to join the walk and order food if wanted.

Keep up to date by joining the Amblers WhatsApp group

Crown Green Bowling - Ken Speakman

The group has started meeting up again even before the season has begun, 1st April is the official start of the season.

We will once again be bowling at the HASSRA Bowling Green on Anchorsholme Lane, Thornton-Cleveleys FY5 5EE. Meeting on every Monday morning at 09:50 to begin play at 10:00.

We are a friendly bunch who enjoy getting out in the fresh air (when it is not raining) for a bit of exercise and friendly banter and of course a bit of bowling.

All standards of players are welcome from the pure beginner to the fully experienced. I do have access to some extra bowls if necessary but having your own is preferential.

If you are a u3a member and just want to watch you are also welcome.

Dining Group - Irene Evans

I've booked the Briardene Hotel and Restaurant for our April meal, but I have to say it is fully booked.

If anyone would like to join our evening meals out, and would like to join our WhatsApp chat group, please call me and as soon as I book the venue for that month, I send all the details to you on the group and you can then reserve your place.

Hope to see you on the next meal.



Family History - Cindy Potter

March saw a small but enthusiastic group meeting at Carleton Memorial Hall.

It was great to welcome a new member who has yet to delve deeply into her ancestry and we were able to pair her with an experienced researcher and get her going.

Both April and May's meetings fall on Bank Holidays but it has been possible to change the dates JUST FOR THOSE MONTHS.

In April we will meet on Wednesday, 3rd and in May on Wednesday, 1st.

Both meetings at Carleton Memorial Hall at 2.00 p.m.

April's topic will be "How to record your findings".

French Conversation - Clive Jones

On the 11th and 25th March we took part in general conversation and then listened to some interesting French language podcasts: 'Beaute Botox', 'Le Commissaire Jules Maigret' and a short story 'La Maison dans la foret'.

The language and vocabulary proved interesting for all and yet challenging enough for more advanced members in the group.

Numbers were low at the second meeting as our members consist of some keen travellers to far flung places!

Next meetings 8th and 22nd April.

New members as always most welcome. -
(Barbara and Stephen Flower)

Gardening - Kathleen Smith

The Garden group had a really good meeting. There were so many exchanges of ideas and plants that, most members left with more stuff than they expected. Once again, the so called group leader couldn't make it and was not a happy bunny.

History - Susan Cox

Peter Davies gave us an interesting talk on Fylde shipwrecks at the March meeting.

At the next meeting on Monday, 8th April we will be hearing from Heather Davis, Conservation Officer at the Lancashire County Museum. Her subject will be the hidden history waiting to be discovered in the Lancashire museums.

There is proposed trip to the new Showtown Museum in Blackpool on Monday, 9th September.

The cost will be £11.25 if we have a minimum of ten people. There is no charge for Blackpool residents.

Please contact Susan Cox if you wish to take part.

History of Art - Martin Johnson

We saw how Ireland had made a significant contribution to early Christian Art, through its stone Celtic crosses and beautifully illuminated Bibles. The long-running conflict with England prevented the conditions for specifically Irish art to flourish, though Dublin can boast many fine Georgian buildings.

The stirrings of nationalist art began in Victorian times, though acclaimed artists usually had to move to London to get full recognition. Interest in Ireland's troubled past, folklore, and the peasantry was becoming the subject matter, rather than idealised portraits of Anglo-Irish landowners.

This Celtic Revival, in Art & Literature, is our study, and Henry, Lavery, and Jack Yeats will figure. If there is time, a quick circuit of Dublin's National Gallery will be taken.

Italian Group - Clive Jones

The two meetings this month have been well attended as usual. The group has now increased to fourteen members.

We are still working from the grammar book on pronouns and prepositions, but the end is in sight as we are now doing the revision exercises. Meanwhile we continue with the short stories book and have finished the tale of the girl who wanted to be a 'pizzaiola' (a female pizza chef) in Naples, but thought it was impossible as she was a girl.

One group member related an interesting piece about her visit to Manchester when the Chinese New Year was being celebrated. Another member had been on holiday to Dorset and visited Wimborne Minster where there were leaflets in several different languages.

We read and translated the leaflet for the church from Italian and consequently learned quite a few new ecclesiastical words which no doubt will come in handy when visiting Italy.

We also examined a news article from an Italian news website about the International Day of Happiness - 20th March. Out of many countries examined by the United Nations, it seems Finland keeps winning and has won for

the last seven years. Italy's position was number 41 surprisingly.

The next two meetings are on 9th and 23rd April in Poulton library starting at 11.00 a.m.

(*Margery Hart*)

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

We are growing in numbers again. Luckily, we are two groups, first hour as the beginners get the hang of the dances. Does it matter that we go wrong? No way.

Adding a different dance sometimes is OK with most of the group. Sometimes it means the looks that go around show that confusion occurs.

I just wish that the first session members would trust themselves instead of having no confidence in what they can do.

The second session is for dances which have been learned, sometimes one of the older dances is thrown in to see if they can remember it. Once the music plays a light bulb switches on.

Thankfully there are others in our group who are happy to demo or teach. Thanks to everyone for being there.

Live Music - Pauline Powell



A very sad and unusual month for us. Even though we were still able to meet, it was shrouded with

sadness, as we tried to take in the dreadful news about one of our musicians and singers, Dave Taplin, who after a short illness, has sadly passed away. The meeting was very subdued, but we sang a few songs, smiled at funny moments about Dave and reminisced of the lovely times we've all shared with him.

At our meeting, scheduled for Thursday, 18th April we will present a 'Tribute to Dave', celebrating his life with the LMG, it will be held at the Ashley Club, Thornton, FY5 5HQ. The meeting will start at 2.00 p.m. prompt.

All u3a members are welcome to come along.

Play Reading - Graham Bannister

In March, the Group started to read "Fred & Madge" by Joe Orton.

Written in 1959 when he was 26, Fred & Madge is Orton's first play. The title characters seem to be the stereotype middle-aged

couple, bored with each other, talking in clichés. However, their relationship is set in a bizarre world of mundane employment and fantasy scenarios.

Throughout the play, Orton's extraordinary way with one liners shines through, with dialogue that reeks of hilarious sexual and social innuendo.

Quiz and Games - Cindy Potter and Jean and Alan Steele

This month, six teams fought it out over seven rounds including for the first time for over a year, music!

Well done Jean!

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the variety on offer and there were no challenges about marking! "Easter eggs" were the prizes and we even managed some for the refreshments too. We welcomed some newcomers this month and hope to see them and anyone else who would like to join us, on our next Games afternoon on April 22nd.

Travel - Mick Carey

At the meeting on 20th March we enjoyed a presentation from Dorte Ravenscroft on her recent holiday with her family in Tunisia. Apart from beautiful beaches and benign weather Tunisia offers a wealth of cultural and historic attractions and Dorte's pictures gave a fascinating insight.

As if that were not enough, she then treated us to a foretaste of a presentation she will do (later this year we hope) about Hamburg. Dorte has an in-depth knowledge of this exciting city and whetted our appetites with some quirky items.

At the meeting on 17th April, Val Fillingham, another of our stalwarts, will talk about a cruise she took in the Central Mediterranean. We know we can look forward to a generous helping of great photos as well as an interesting story.



Walking - Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby



This year's Walking Group holiday was held in Derbyshire, at the southern end of the Peak District. Thirty-five keen walkers made their way to the HF hotel, Peveril of the Peak at Thorpe. The hotel provided a good base for our walks and excellent facilities for walkers including a well-equipped boot room and an extensive menu for our packed lunches. There was a good choice at both breakfast and dinner.

Day One saw two walks. Firstly, some twenty of the group completed a loop of around 8 miles up to Milldale and then through Dove Dale, passing Lovers Leap, the famous Stepping Stones and back to the hotel.

A shorter walk was on offer centered around the lovely village of Ilam, but the terrain underfoot was extremely muddy and the going difficult. Fortunately the weather was good with some blue skies and sunshine. Day Two, and for those on the long walk, another 8 miles, visiting four churches at Thorpe, Mapleton, Okeover and Blore. A small group made their way to the National Trust property at Kedleston Hall and incorporated a good walk around the grounds as well as visiting the Hall and Tea Room. Other locations visited included Chatsworth and Haddon Hall.

The final full day saw about half the group complete 10 miles including a stretch on the Tissington Trail, returning to the hotel via Mapleton and Ilam.

The short walkers – 'short' referencing the length of the walk – made their way to the interesting village of Tissington where the Fitzherbert family were much in evidence. The final day, twenty-five of the group made their way to Tittesworth Water for a 5-mile walk

around the reservoir followed by lunch and the drive home.

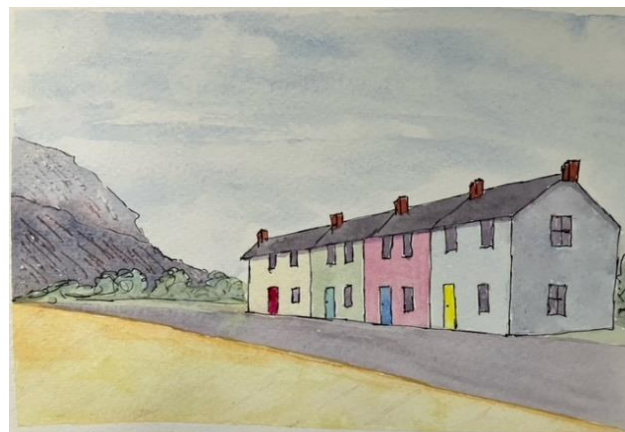
We were able to join in the evening entertainment provided by the hotel – a quiz, curling and skittles – but sad to relate we failed to carry away any trophy! Other guests in the hotel were mainly on the HF guided walk programmes and were happy to share notes and comments on local routes over mealtimes. Judging by the comments we receive both personally and via WhatsApp everyone enjoyed the holiday, appreciated the camaraderie within the group and reflected positively on the hotel.

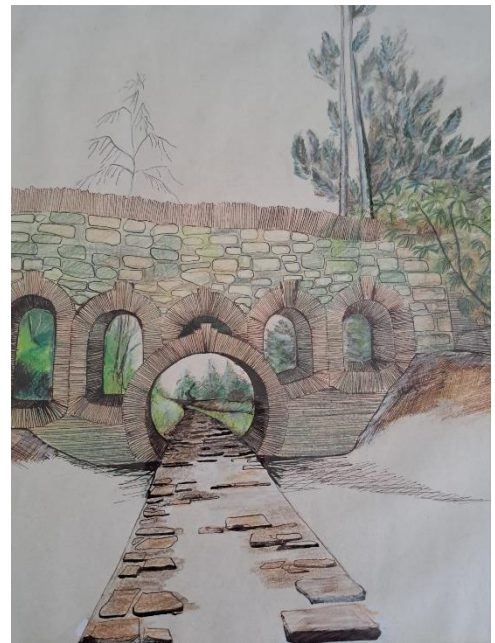
We are much indebted to our walk leaders and to those who provided games and quizzes to keep our little grey cells as well-exercised as our limbs!

In a late addition to the monthly walk programme, Sue Wolstenholme led a small group on a route of 7 miles around Delph Quarry - a very enjoyable walk amongst delightful scenery, including new lambs, a packhorse bridge and rhododendrons in flower! The route took the group past Bleasdale Tower with lunch being taken at Bleasdale Church, when the heavens opened, and soggy sandwiches were "enjoyed" by all! At the end of the walk, refreshments were taken at a smart hostelry - the Roebuck - then home.

Watercolours - Ann Davies

There was only a small group met last month, thanks to Bill for opening up for me. Our theme was perspective which can be quite challenging. We hope you enjoy our efforts.





Carleton Memorial Hall
Bookings should be addressed to Peter Farrell.
Peter must be notified, in advance if the hall is not going to be used otherwise a charge will be made for the room.

Wyre u3a Newsletter
This newsletter is published for members of Wyre u3a. Any opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the newsletter team, or of the Wyre u3a committee, or of the u3a Trust.

Risk Assessment Advice
Members are reminded that, when participating in Wyre u3a activities, they do so at their own risk. This is particularly relevant when undertaking any physical activity.

Registered Charity Number: 1184776

Wyre u3a

learn laugh live

Committee Contact Details

Chairperson:	Lindy Porter:
Vice Chair:	Kath Rawcliffe
Secretary:	Mark Morris:
Treasurer:	Ted Armitage:
Assistant Treasurer:	Chris Morris
Membership Secretary:	Susan Cox:
Groups' Co-ordinator:	Diane M. Whitworth: groups.wyreu3a@gmail.com
Speakers' Secretary:	Diane M. Whitworth
Front of House	Jennifer Machell
Property Co-ordinator:	Mark Morris:

Other Contact Information

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Wyre u3a Website:	http://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs
u3a National Newsletter:	https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues

If unsure about any aspect of a Group meeting, always check with the Co-ordinator

Activity	Regular Meeting	Co-ordinator Contact	Venue
Amblers Walking Group	4 th Thursday Time to be arranged	Jim Swain	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Artists and Paintings in the 19 th and 20 th Centuries	3 rd Monday at 1.00 p.m.-2.30 p.m.	Barbra Cropper	Check with Co-ordinator
Badminton	Weekly on Wednesdays 10.00 a.m.-12 noon	Alison Hamer Pauline Ronson	All Hallows Church Hall Bispham.
Book Group (Monday)	1 st Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Helen Scarborough	Thornton Library
Book Group (Wednesday)	2 nd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Brenda Ormrod	Poulton Library
Crown Green Bowling	Weekly on Mondays 9.50 a.m. for 10.00 a.m.	Ken Speakman	HASSRA Green Anchorsholme Lane
The Dining Group	See Newsletter	Irene Evans	See Newsletter
Family History	1 st Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Cynthia Potter	Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays at 3.00 p.m.	Elaine Wilshaw	Fleetwood Golf Club
French for Improvers	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays At 1.30 p.m.	Christine Holt	Fleetwood Golf Club
French Conversation	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"	Clive Jones	Thornton Library
Gardening	3 rd Wednesday at 2.00 p.m.	Kathleen Smith	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Gentle Movement to Music	Every Monday 1.00-2.00 p.m.	Lindy Porter	St. Hilda's, Carleton
History	2 nd Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Susan Cox 8	Carleton Memorial Hall
Italian Group	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"	Clive Jones	Poulton Library
History of Art	2 nd Tuesday at 10.30 a.m.	Martin Johnson	Check with Co-ordinator
Line Dancing	Every Friday from 1.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. 1 st hour beginners.	Kathleen Smith	Carleton Memorial Hall

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues

If unsure about any aspect of a Group meeting, always check with the Co-ordinator

Activity	Regular Meetings	Co-ordinator Contact	Venue
Live Music	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays 2.00 pm to 4.00 p.m.	Pauline Powell	The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East, Thornton, FY5 5HQ
Philosophy	4 th Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Linda Parkins	Carleton Memorial Hall
Play Reading	3 rd Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Graham Bannister	Carleton Memorial Hall
Poetry for Pleasure	1 st Thursday at 10.30 a.m.	Ann Fewson	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Quiz and Games	4 th Monday 2.00 p.m.to 4.00 p.m.	Cindy Potter Jean & Alan Steele	Carleton Memorial Hall
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Stephen Fewster	Carleton Memorial Hall
Sewcial Bee	3 rd Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Alison Hamer Linda Johnston	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.	Arthur Jones	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	Fortnightly on Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Enid Vindel	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Travel	3 rd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Mick Carey	Carleton Memorial Hall
Walking	Last Wednesday of each month.	Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 st Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.	Ann Davies 07711 510445	Carleton Memorial Hall



The Ashley Club Victoria Road East
Thornton

New Venue for Wyre u3a Monthly Meetings



u3a

Wyre

Rectangular Sign

learn,
laugh,
live