



ACTING CHAIRMAN'S CHAT -

Kathleen Smith

Where do I start?

It is June already and everyone must make a decision. Is the Wyre u3a something important in your life?

It is to me and I hope it is to you all as well. How many members take part in their groups and how many don't? I am in three groups and am the named contact as "Team Leader" but, everyone in those groups take part in the "sharing" of knowledge. Without that support none of the groups would keep going. I know many other group leaders get help as well. So, this is where you decide if you are prepared to take a step forward to share some of your skills to the Wyre u3a as a whole.

Joining the Committee is not just about giving, it is about gaining experience about things we hadn't, necessarily, done before.

Give it a go.

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR -

Diane M. Whitworth

Once again, grateful thanks to all Group Leaders for their tireless and conscientious contributions to members of their respective groups.

Both the newly reformed Amblers and

the Dining Group have enjoyed successful events and will be arranging future ones on a monthly basis.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monthly Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Thornton Little Theatre.

9th June 2022

Speaker - Geoffrey Cowell

Subject - Part 2 of "How changes occur to natural earth when humans get involved."

14th July 2022

Speaker - Dave Carlos

Subject - "Police advice on staying safe online."

SOCIAL EVENTS -

*Diane M. Whitworth, Helen Kehoe
and Norma Culshaw.*

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Names have been taken, menu choices selected and arrangements are all in hand for our three-course evening meal on Friday, 10th June at the Park Club, West Drive Cleveleys.

Doors will open at 6.30 p.m. for a 7.00 p.m. start. It promises to be a wonderful evening!



A Trip to York by coach on Thursday, 28th July

A fantastic opportunity to visit the beautifully, preserved Cathedral City of York. Lots of interesting places to visit including York Minster, the Jorvik Viking Centre and the Railway Museum. Discover the historic building of Clifford's Tower, roam the city walls and walk down the quirky, cobbled Shambles Street.



Names and a non-refundable payment of £18.00pp will be taken at both the AGM on Thursday, 9th June and the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 14th July at Thornton Little Theatre.

Coach Trip to Cartmel Races on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August

This is proving to be a very popular outing as there are only a few places left.

Names will be taken at the AGM on Thursday, 9th June at Thornton Little Theatre and payment will be taken at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 14th July at Thornton Little Theatre.

If you require more information about any of the above events, please contact the Social Committee by email.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Amblers Walking Group

The next Amblers walk will be led by *Geoffrey Cowell* on **Thursday, 16th June starting at 10.30 a.m.**

Meet at the Garstang town car park, it is pay and display and the charge is 3hrs for £2. Those going to Booths Cafe could then take their cars to Booths at the end of the walk and enjoy a meal along with free parking. The walk, via Greenhalgh Castle, Lingart Lane, Woodacre Hall and Garstang Millennium Green is on footpaths with some steps, farm tracks, across fields and short sections on quiet roads.



Garstang Millennium Green

Total mileage five miles which if necessary can be reduced to four. There are no hills, just a modest incline and no difficult stiles. Just before the end of the walk there are picnic tables near the bend of the river, ideal for a picnic.

Please let Geoffrey Cowell know if you plan to join the walk:

A reminder from the Committee

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

Creative Writing - Ann Fewson

The Bulldog Spirit proved a more difficult subject for some of us (me!) than others, though everyone produced pieces of writing which definitely fulfilled the remit without once mentioning any canines.

There were stories with a background in wars, others who had characters, both real and imagined, with stubborn determination and one very effective poem with a clever play on the same suffix throughout.

Next session - June 13th at 10.30 a.m.

Subject -The Journey.

Crown Green Bowling - Ken Speakman

I am beginning to wonder if the members of this group are in some way evil. As the saying goes, 'the sun shines on the righteous'.

Having been rained off for the first time this year on the 16th, we have yet to see the sun shining on the wonderfully prepared green. I am thinking of applying to the committee to get some sunshine booked for us.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen a couple of new members joining the group and some of our longer-term members are still missing.

Putting that aside, today (23rd May) saw fifteen members enjoying the fresh air and a certain amount of exercise. The green started out a little damp but dried out as we played.

The half-time brew is always a welcome sight and is time for a chat with the other group members.

Dining Group - Irene Evans

Our next meal will be at the Shovels Inn, Green Meadow Lane, Hambleton, FY6 9AZ on Tuesday, 14th June at 6.00 p.m.

Please let me know. if you are going to attend or not by texting or calling my own mobile number which is 07889 761757.

We now have a Dining-Group WhatsApp so I can send information about the next meal.

Please do not use it for replies to avoid everyone being disturbed with 30 + people pinging. If you wish to be on the WhatsApp, please contact me by phone

Thank you.

Hope to see you then.

Family History - Shaun O'Hara and Joanne Mathews

The Family History Group met for the first time on the 7th of February with new leaders and a totally different way forward.

After basic housekeeping, we discussed different methods of keeping the family tree outside of online organisations like Ancestry.

We also held workshops and helped people to move forward with their family tree research. This will become a feature in the future - consistent mentoring of our membership and handouts containing vital information about external websites, many available free from charges.

French Conversation - Clive Jones

Two meetings were held on 9th and 23rd May. The next two meetings are planned for 6th and 20th June.

With another new member joining the group this month, the potential group size is now nine, although 4-6 people is a more realistic attendance figure. This is the highest figure of group members since the group's inception in 2014. With the addition of new members, this year the standard of spoken French has never been higher and makes for challenging and enjoyable conversation. As a general principal we are running the group by means of spontaneous French Conversation rather than by prepared work or individual presentations, by encouraging free-flowing discussion without the fear of making mistakes or drying up. Our conversations this time covered a multitude of topics including what we have been doing lately, diets, a Ukrainian Vodka now on sale

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in the UK the profits from which will support humanitarian causes for the people of Ukraine in the ongoing war with Russia, visits to the United States and Mexico in the past, the game of Chess (our new member is a leading member of a local club) and an article by 'Laetitia' who is based in Paris and publishes interesting articles online (on this occasion about 'La dame souriante et le poète' – The smiling lady and the poet) – which was a very useful reading and translation exercise, among others. New members are always most welcome to join us.

French Improvers - Christine Holt

For the first meeting in May, I had asked the group to talk about a holiday. There was lots of travel in Europe, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Of course, France featured in some holidays, a holiday in a gite in the grounds of a chateau, a visit to Montpellier and a journey through Northern France.

We also heard how one member of the group flew to Singapore on Concord. Another wonderful holiday was travelling through Argentina and Uruguay, seeing wonderful scenery and watching a performance of the tango, danced in the street. I must admit to being envious of this holiday.

During the second meeting, we listened to, read and translated a text about the role of a master baker who sent his product to the Elysée Palace.

We also read about the customs and traditions about eating and making bread.

French Refreshers - Ann Burley

Our two meetings this month continued along the lines we had worked on previously. For the most part, we concentrated on speaking French but made sure that we included some grammatical revision.

The first meeting concentrated on the past tense (the passé composé), and each of us contributed sentences describing our activities in the past.

The second meeting took a slightly different direction when we approached the construction of the past tense that is supported, in the French way of never forgetting to introduce irregularities to the

language, by the auxiliary verb être (to be). Once again, each of us voiced a couple of sentences following the new construction. We plan to continue with speaking the language as much as possible, but at the same time ensure we do not forget to work on revising and improving our grammatical knowledge.

Gardening - Kathleen Smith

What a great day that was. How it even took place was with luck.

I got confused about where we were meeting. This is where the group teamwork won over the day, well mostly. One member didn't get the proper email! Another member misheard the address! My heartfelt apologies were accepted, thank you.

We are all still wondering what our mystery bulbs are and will have to wait until they flower.

Then we ended up with another mystery plant to try identifying.

Anyway, the June meeting will be held in Knott End. Maybe we will have solved the riddle by then.

History - Susan Cox

First let me say how sad we were to hear of the death of Ann Kelly, who had been our excellent leader for many years.

At our meeting on Monday, 9th May, we had a talk by Roy Winter on C19th Local Railways. He explained how the Preston to Fleetwood line which originally formed part of the route from London to Glasgow, was opened by Sir Peter Hesketh in 1840. The Poulton to Blackpool and Kirkham to Lytham lines were added in 1848 to much celebration.

Lytham station is where the fire station is now. The Lytham to Blackpool South (single track line) was opened in 1873, bizarrely from a different station so passengers had to walk from one station to the other and change trains in Lytham.

The coming of the railways had a huge impact on all the areas.

On Monday, 13th July we will hear about the Allen Family of Rossall by John Clark covering approximate periods of 1490's to 1600. This will be at 2.00 p.m. in the Carleton Memorial Hall. New members welcome.

History of Art - Martin Johnson

With the history of Still Life painting stretching back to at least the Egyptians, there was only time to consider a few of those artists who specialised in this field.

The Dutch Golden Age painters produced glorious flower displays, groaning banquet tables & mortality warnings classed as 'Vanitas'. The humble kitchen objects of Chardin were a contrast and then the Spanish monk Cotan brought spiritual power to his arrangement of food portrayed both realistically & symbolically.

Next will be more on the modern Mural-the Mexican Diego Rivera, with another look at his wife's work, Frida Kahlo.

Italian Group - Clive Jones

Two meetings were held at the Poulton Library on 3rd and 17th May, both of which were well attended, and a further meeting is planned for 31st May. The next meetings after that are planned for 14th and 28th June. We are running the group by means of spontaneous Italian conversation rather by prepared work or individual presentations, by encouraging free-flowing discussion without the fear of making mistakes or drying up in the conversation. This theme is also augmented by studying further articles on various aspects of Italian life and culture and learning exercises on the use of pronouns and prepositions. We have now completed all of the exercises in the Read and Think Italian text and are now moving onto the 3rd edition of the same book on 31st May, starting with articles on the Vespa Scooter and the Exportation of Italian Wine.

In April, we discussed articles on food and drink topics such as 'Le braciolo' (which is a type of filled roll similar to cannelloni) and the origins and history of the famous rice dish, 'Risotto'.

We also had some good conversations in Italian on the use of cards as opposed to cash, the regions of Venezia and Bologna and a Ukrainian Vodka now on sale in the UK the profits from which will support humanitarian causes for the people of Ukraine in the ongoing war with Russia, among others.

New members are always most welcome to join us.

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

One of our meetings was handed over to a few members of the group, as I had something else booked. They don't need me all the time anyway. My brain doesn't always work.

Quite a few dancers have natural dancing style and take part in demonstrating how to do the steps. I cannot get over how many dances we are getting to grips with.

Live Music - Pauline Powell



Great to see so many friends at our Spring Concert on 24th April, thank you for sharing our evening with us. We raised £80 in the raffle for Trinity Hospice.

JUNE MEETINGS: The meeting at the Sandyforth on Thursday, 2nd June is cancelled due to potential clashes with any Jubilee Celebrations taking place. Also, the Thursday, 16th June meeting has been moved to Thursday, 23rd June.

We meet every 1st & 3rd Thursday in the month at the Sandyforth Arms, Trunnah, Thornton, at 2.00 p.m.

Come along for an afternoon of easy listening music and a drink with friends, we look forward to seeing you.

Play Reading - Graham Bannister

The Group met at the Carleton Memorial Hall and started to read "Boeing-Boeing", a comedy written by Marc Camoletti and Beverley Cross.

The play was first presented at the Apollo Theatre London in February 1962, when the cast included Patrick Cargill, Carole Shelley and David Tomlinson.

It is set in a bachelor's flat in Paris and rotates around his engagements with three air hostesses. He organises the three relationships around the timetables of the three different airlines that employ the women. As is to be expected, unforeseen changes in the schedules lead to the inevitable chaos.

Philosophy - Linda Parkins

The May meeting had a lively discussion on the subject of Forgiveness. It is not a straightforward topic, having many nuances and related concepts. We considered the perpetrator and the victim's viewpoints, realising these were not always clear-cut.

The speaker put the whole thing into the context of Virtue Ethics, the subject of April's meeting.

We were able to frame the discussion in situations that were societal and also individual.

As always, no clear answers but plenty of questions.

Next month we will look at Decolonisation of ideas. How does colonialism still feed into generally held ideas. This topic was in part stimulated by a question that came up on Dragon's Den. Can fairies be black?

Poetry for Pleasure - Ann Fewson

We had another excellent morning spent reading and discussing the work of John Betjeman, Poet Laureate (1972-1984). He was one of the most prolific and accessible poets in modern times and as a frequent presenter in radio and television he was popular with a wider audience than is often the case for poets!

We looked at a selection of his wide and varied output, some familiar to all of us but some that we had not read before.

His other great passion was architecture, most specifically Victorian, and he disliked "grimier contemporary developments, shopping arcades and bogus Tudor bars". Like his writing of poetry, his love of history and buildings lasted a lifetime.

There will be no meeting in June so the next meeting, on Keats, will be on Thursday, 7th July at 10.30 a.m.

Recycling - Kathleen Smith

Taking place on the second Tuesday each month. Just have a task in mind and make sure we know you are coming.

Spain Beyond the Costas - Sue Clark

At the May meeting we looked at three distinct areas to the north of Valencia: the 'Maestrazgo', the Priorat wine-producing area, and Tortosa with the delta of the River

Ebro. The 'Maestrazgo' is sometimes called the 'Tuscany of Spain' due to the green, rolling landscape and the high quality of its food products, particularly olive oil, cheese, ham, lamb, trout and mushrooms. Rural tourism has been significant in halting economic decline and agriculture is the other main activity.

The Priorat produces intense, full-bodied red wines, now highly regarded internationally. Grape growing and wine production dates from the 12th C, introduced by the monks from the Carthusian Monastery Scala Dei. It is quite a mountainous area and the vines are often grown on terraces, on rocky soils.



Carthusian Monastery Scala Dei

In the second half of the meeting there were group activities to research different aspects of the River Ebro and its delta.



River Ebro Delta

The Ebro is the longest river entirely in Spain; it rises in Cantabria and flows 580 miles southeast into the Mediterranean. The delta is famous for rice-growing and for its wildlife, with nearly 100 breeding species of birds and is an essential stopover point for large numbers of migratory birds and waterfowl. *There is no meeting in June. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 6th July, normal time and place.*

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Travel - Mick Carey

At the meeting on 18th May, Clive Jones gave the concluding part of his talk on his visit to Sydney earlier this year. The presentation covered all sorts of places and themes beyond the usual scope of travelogues and gave us a real understanding of what this city is all about.

On 15th June, Mick Carey will talk about his visits to Scotland. Scottish members are invited to come along and set the record straight!

Walking - Graham & Susan Essex-Crosby

Some twenty-four walkers signed up for the May walk. Unfortunately, one member was let down by her car satnav and wasn't able to make the start at Jumbles Country Park. Could it be that she was put off by the damp start?

The walk, to the north of Bolton, took the group around the reservoirs of Jumbles and Wayoh and along the Bradshaw valley. Along the way, members passed a recent home of former England and Man Utd footballer Gary Neville and the impressive Turton Tower, which was started in 1420. Just before the English Civil War the house was bought by one Humphrey Chetham.



He was a Cromwell supporter and the Orrell family, who remained in residence, were Royalists. When the war began, Chetham provided accommodation for Cromwell troops. Maybe back door exit for the Orrells? The walk proceeded along a short section of the Witton Weavers Way, which afforded a view of Holcombe Moor and Peel Tower, a memorial to local lad Robert Peel, who was

twice Prime Minister and founder of the Metropolitan Police.



The pretty villages of Chapelton, with its pub, the Chetham Arms and former school funded by the Chetham family, and Edgeworth were on the route as was the lovely Wayoh Viaduct, carrying the Manchester to Clitheroe railway.

A fossilised tree near the walk end allowed varying opinions of its actual location. Apparently, the missing walker eventually found the café at the start and end of the walk and was advised about a walk of her own. She finished by visiting a friend locally. A good day for all then.

The walk on 29th June will be led by Geoffrey Cowell and is a follow-on to Geoffrey's last walk in the Chipping area.

Details nearer the time.

Watercolours - Christine Cutts

We had the delightful and very appropriate theme of Birds, Bees and Butterflies as we all enjoy watching them in our gardens and the countryside now everything is bursting into life.





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.

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

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Registered Charity Number: 1184776

Wyre u3a

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Committee Contact Details

Acting Chairman:	Kathleen Smith:
Secretary:	Angela Porter Maher:
Treasurer:	Graham Essex-Crosby:
Membership Secretary:	Ann Davies:
Groups' Co-ordinator:	Diane M. Whitworth:
Speakers' Secretary:	Kathleen Smith:
Social Committee:	Diane M. Whitworth, Norma Culshaw and Helen Kehoe:
Property Co-ordinator:	Kenneth Speakman:

Other Contact Information

Newsletter Team:

Zoom Master:

Webmaster

Wyre U3A Website:

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
The Amblers	Monthly (see Newsletter)		See Newsletter
Artists and Paintings in the 19 th and 20 th Centuries	3 rd Monday at 1.00 pm-2.30 pm		Check with Co-ordinator
Badminton	Weekly on Wednesdays 10.00 a.m.-12 noon		All Hallows Church Hall Bispham.
Book Group (Monday)	1 st Monday at 2.00 pm		Thornton Library
Book Group (Wednesday)	2 nd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.		Poulton Library
Canasta	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.		Thornton Library
Card Making	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays at 2.00 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall
Creative Writing	2 nd Monday at 10.00 am		Lodge Cottage
Crown Green Bowling	Weekly on Mondays 9.50 am for 10.00 am		HASSRA Green Anchorsholme Lane, Thornton
The Dining Group	See Newsletter		See Newsletter
Family History	1 st Monday at 2.00 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays at 3.00 pm		Fleetwood Golf Club
French for Improvers	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays At 1.30 pm		Fleetwood Golf Club
French Conversation	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"		Thornton Library
Gardening	3 rd Wednesday at 1.30 pm		Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Gentle Movement	Every Monday 1.00-2.00 pm		St. Hilda's, Carleton
History	2 nd Monday at 2.00 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall
Italian Group	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"		Poulton Library
History of Art	2 nd Tuesday at 10.30 am		Check with Co-ordinator
Line Dancing	Every Friday 1.00-3.30 pm 1 st hr beginners		Carleton Memorial Hall

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues (continued)

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

Activity	Regular Meeting	Co-Ordinator Contact	Venue
Live Music	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.		Sandyforth Arms Trunnah Road Thornton
Philosophy	4 th Tuesday at 2.00 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall
Play Reading	3 rd Tuesday at 2.00 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall
Poetry for Pleasure	1 st Thursday at 10.30 am		Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Recycling	2 nd Tuesday		Contact Co-ordinator
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday At 1.00 pm.		Carleton Memorial Hall
Spain beyond the Costas	1 st Wednesday at 2.00 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	Fortnightly on Monday at 2.00 pm		Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Travel	3 rd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.		Carleton Memorial Hall
Unsolved Murder Cases	To be arranged		Various venues
Walking	Last Wednesday each month.		Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 st Tuesday at 1.30 pm		Carleton Memorial Hall



The University of the Third Age



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