



u3a
Wyre

learn,
laugh,
live

newsletter

Issue 2.23

Registered Charity Number 1184776

March 2023



Spring at St. Chad's, Poulton le Fylde

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT -

Kathleen Smith

I am sure you don't need a reminder but you are getting one anyway.

Our u3a needs a lot of new Committee Members and it is down to us all to do our bit to get it sorted. I know we are all fully or semi-retired and think that now is the time to lay back and let others do the work. Sorry guys that is a no-no. Can you think of yourself sitting at home, doing nothing all day? When you were at work you were needed and it felt good. Nobody is of no use or has no experience after 40+ years of employment and being needed and useful, keeps us all going.

This month is the time to discuss with other members whether you, or they, would propose or put the name forward for the Committee. Some posts that need filling are, Chair, Secretary, Speaker's Secretary, Assets Manager, plus, as there will be some members whose term will be over next year, it is important to have some members willing to work with them to learn the role.

Well, I can say no more. It is all down to you now. Please send your nominations in via email or by handing in to a member of the Committee asap. Please make sure the proposed person is in agreement.

The Committee met on the 21st of February and at the end of the meeting, Susan Cox,

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

Membership Secretary, Ted Armitage, Treasurer, and myself set to work on finishing off the nonsense of getting the banking sorted. Ted and Sue were, I must say, amazing and, after a very long time, bills were getting paid !!!!!

I cannot tell you how much of a load was lifted from our shoulders.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Susan Cox

Would group leaders note that any new members joining between now and the AGM will pay a reduced fee of £9.

If you are not receiving your electronic copy of the newsletter, please email membership.wyreu3a@gmail.com so that we can check the correct address.

u3a NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The National Newsletter is published monthly and is free to all members. It contains many links and offers a wide range of information about courses, events, workshops, advice to members and ideas from other u3a groups across the country.

For more information and to sign up to receive the National Newsletter follow:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR -

Diane M. Whitworth

groups.wyreu3a@gmail.com

Many thanks to all the Group Leaders for their continual encouragement and shared learning with their respective groups. 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, share information, photographs and funny stories.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

SPEAKERS:

Thursday, 9th March

Roger Browne - The Golden Age of Radio

From "Take it From Here" to "Round the Horne" to "Letter from America" to "Journey into Space" and beyond.

Thursday, 13th April

Wyre u3a AGM

(Speaker to be arranged).

Thursday, 11th May

Professor Judith Ellis OBE - World Health

Global Health matters to all?
With an insight into Mulago Hospital, Kampala, Uganda.

SOCIAL EVENTS -

Diane M. Whitworth, Helen Kehoe and Norma Culshaw

Easter Lunch

We are holding a lunch at The Level 6 Restaurant, Blackpool and The Fylde College, Ashfield Road, Bispham at 12 noon on Thursday, 23rd March.

Names, menu choices and a payment of £14.95 p.p will be taken at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 9th March at Thornton Little Theatre.



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The Coronation of King Charles III



We are planning a three-course Evening Meal at The Park Club, West Drive, Cleveleys on Friday, 12th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Names, menu choices and a payment of £25.00 p.p will be taken at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 9th March and the subsequent Monthly Meetings at Thornton Little Theatre.

For more information about any of the above social events contact:

social.wyreu3a@gmail.com

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Foodbank

A collection for the Foodbank is currently being made at each Monthly Meeting. Martin Johnson will be on hand to receive any donations which are distributed in Wyre.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

A reminder from the Committee
Please note that, unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on any walks.

The Amblers

Tuesday, 28th March - Pilling to Knott End
Meet at Knott End Ferry to catch the 11.00 a.m. number 89 bus to Pilling. Walk back along Fluke Hall Lane and the sea front to Knott End.

Optional lunch at The Bourne Arms.

Please let Susan Cox know if you wish to join the walk.

Deadline for the next issue is Thursday, 30th March 2023
DW 26th February 2023

Crown Green Bowling - Kenneth Speakman

Hooray!

As the weather is starting to get a little warmer and the days a little longer my thoughts have turned to getting back outside for a breath of fresh air and seeing all my bowling friends.

I have been in contact with our HASSRA contact. He has said that whilst there still remains some winter work to be completed, we are welcome to start using the green again on the 20th of March 2023.

We are welcome to use the kitchen in the clubhouse, however we are to use the kettle rather than the water heater.

I look forward to seeing all bowlers (old and new) on the 20th, weather permitting of course.

Creative Writing - Ann Fewson

The Little Red Box was a subject that few of us had approached writing about with any great enthusiasm. It is strange how some topics spark off ideas more readily than others.

We needn't have worried, though, because there were some excellent interpretations of the significance, and, in some cases, what was revealed inside the little red boxes. Post boxes figured in more than one account along with boxes that contained varied memorabilia about past lives.

What is especially pleasing as far as this group is concerned is that individual writers are challenging themselves to write in different and surprising ways.

It was also good to welcome a new member to the group.

Next meeting: Monday, 13th March

Subject: A Dedicated Follower of Fashion

Dining Group - Irene Evans

Our next dining out will be at the Castle Gardens pub on Wednesday, 15th March, 6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

Please text or call me if you wish to attend .



Family History - Shaun O'Hara and Joanne Mathews

At this month's meeting one of our members, Mike Coyle, gave a presentation on how War Memorials can aid family history research. He explained that some memorials are plain while some can be very ornate, the information can be basic name, rank and regiment. Others contain a lot more information, we looked at examples of different memorials and materials they can be made of as not all are made of stone, It is not unusual for war memorials to be found in the most unlikely places, cricket clubs, sides of building and so on. The presentation was followed by a workshop.

French Conversation - Clive Jones

Two meetings were held at the Thornton Library on 6th and 20th February. The membership number is still as strong as ever and new members are always most welcome. The next two meetings will be on 6th and 20th March.

We continue to focus on spontaneous French Conversation rather than by individual work or presentations, by encouraging free-flowing discussion and subsequent questions without the fear of making mistakes or drying up in the conversation.

There were some excellent conversations on a range of topics, including a recipe for the famous French potato dish 'Gratins Dauphinois'. We continued the theme of audio inputs from a French-language podcast on the traditions of Christmas celebrated in France and, at our latest meeting, the subject of 'Marriage in France – how it differs' and the many aspects of getting married that differ considerably from those of the UK.

The audio input theme will continue at the next meetings.

With one potential new member attending the latest meeting by way of introduction we gave short individual presentations in French on ourselves.

French Refreshers - Ann Burley

Our group met twice during February and continued, firstly, refreshing their memories of the use and construction of a negative

expression. Then we ventured into the understanding of simple conversations that arise during visits to France. Firstly, we listened to a tour guide speaking briefly to the touring group about the plans and timings for the following day which was destined to be the last of their current visit to France.

Because we quite enjoyed that experiment, we used all of our second gathering of the month listening to an owner showing the lessee around the holiday cottage they had rented. Each member of the group then had the opportunity to ask questions, for instance about items that the owner had not covered.

On both occasions, the vocabulary used was largely of simple words that are in everyday use and are mostly already well known.

French Improvers - Christine Holt

At our meeting we talked about music we have listened to, past and present. Quite often there were similarities when we talked about music we liked in our youth.

I was surprised when, I mentioned a group that I didn't think anyone would have heard of, someone else had and we had watched them, in our youth, at the same local venue! Musical tastes ranged from jazz to opera. Famous names, common to a few of us were of course the greats Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald. A very interesting meeting with lots of memories.

For our second meeting we read a series of short articles about French society. Some of which led to interesting discussion.

Gardening - Kathleen Smith

I must apologise for not getting my report from January over to the newsletter team. It was a really good meeting so I am including it in this month's reports.

Susan, our host, had recently moved to her new home and she loves it. Unfortunately, the back garden isn't what she had wished for. The previous owners had, almost, everywhere paved. Even where there were planting beds, underneath was more rubble. We all conversed about how to go forward. There are some lovely plants struggling to grow. Sue had placed holly stems around them as there is, at least, one squirrel visitor daily. So much new growth

was showing through and Arthur is determined to dig through the rubble to find the soil. Also, when the recycling group starts again, raised beds are on the cards. I am sure it will be a wonderful garden eventually.

For the February meeting we had our Scorton Picnic Site snowdrop walk. Because this is such a natural environment, walking along the path, seeing the flowers, trees, river, birds and wildlife, just makes it so special. There were some lovely things growing so we took a few pictures.

After the walk, we went to Daisy Clough Cafe for a brew. Or should I say some of us, others ended up having full English!!

Anyway, it was a very enjoyable and one of our annual outings.

We all got chatting with a lady who, had been trying to see whether the u3a would be something she would enjoy. I think she will be joining soon.

Gentle Movement to Music - Linda Porter

The aim is to help us live life to the full, keeping us mobile, independent, healthy and happy in both body and mind.

I regularly change the routine to stop boredom setting in, keeping our minds active as well as our body.

Meetings are weekly.



Immediately after the programme, we have a social gathering with coffee, tea, cake and an alternative for diabetics or gluten free.

Let's care for ourselves and get a quality life.

History - Susan Cox

In February we were educated on the Poor Laws by Geoffrey Cowell. Up until early 20th Century, care of the poor had been the responsibility of the local Parishes in which you were born. Parish workhouses were provided and used for overwintering farm workers, care of the elderly and providing a maternity service.

At our next meeting, on 13th March, Graham Topping will talk about the Industrial Revolution.

History of Art - Martin Johnson

Two American Realist painters of the late 19thC were our concern, with the work of Thomas Eakins emerging from obscurity to rightfully claim prominence in recent times. It was fascinating to see how he used the new photographic medium to express his artistic vision.

Winslow Homer also soaked up the fresh ideas in Paris, learning especially from the Impressionists how to lighten his palette. Homer not only portrayed the dignity of Afro-Americans after the Civil War, and powerful images of rough seas, but also harked back to more peaceful times when children were at play.

This month we will look at the world's greatest art store, the Royal Collection. Each successive monarch added to it according to their taste, good or bad, so only the highlights of painting can be covered.

Whether our King, a practising art-lover, should throw open these treasures to the public for minimum costs, might provoke discussion!

May I just add a reminder to our members that we are still collecting to aid our local food bank?

Italian Group - Clive Jones

Two meetings were held at the Poulton Library on 7th and 21st February. The membership number is still strong and increasing. So, as a result of recent interest shown in offering beginners' level Italian learning, we are now running a 45-minute beginners' session from 10.15 a.m. at the Poulton Library before the main group session starts at 11.00 a.m. and are currently

working through two initial sections of work to introduce the language.

This facility was advertised at the u3a monthly meeting on 12th January. This group currently comprises four potential new members. This is a final call for any members wishing to take up this facility who, if interested, should contact the group leader without delay.

Our next two meetings will be on 7th and 21st March. We continue to study articles on various aspects of Italian life and culture and, for learning exercises, we are well into the work on the use of prepositions.

Recent articles included the sweet salt of Cervia in Romagna and one on the famous Italian architect, Andrea Palladino. Also reading and listening exercises from a book of Italian short stories and an interactive quiz-type exercise (Chi sono io? Who am I?) to identify a famous American showbiz star.

We will move onto new sources of cultural and literary (story book) articles at our next meeting. There was also plenty of very good general conversation in Italian on a variety of topics.

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

Nothing stops the Dancers!

There are so many dances we have learned that, when the music comes up for one we haven't done for ages, confusion fills the room. At least it means we all have to start from scratch. It amazes me how some can remember the harder dances better than the easy ones. It certainly helps me get the steps right.

Play Reading - Graham Bannister

This month the Group started to read "Habeas Corpus", by Arnold Bennett.

The play was first performed at the Lyric Theatre in London in May 1973, when the leading roles were played by Alec Guinness and Margaret Courtenay.

Bennett's first play is a comedy set in Brighton, where the lust and longing of the permissive society has well and truly taken hold of the apparently respectable Wickstead family.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday, 21st March when we hope to read, "When We Are Married", by J.B. Priestley

Poetry for Pleasure - Ann Fewson

Who would have thought that the subject of Food and Drink would have inspired poets throughout hundreds of years to both sing the praises of as well as bemoan the folly of eating and drinking to excess?

Spoilt for choice as we were, we looked at too many to mention individually, but reading and discussing them provided the group with great enjoyment as well as considerable nostalgia about favourites from earlier times and the extent to which diets have changed over the years.

Next meeting: Thursday, 2nd March

Subject: Light Verse

Quiz and Games - Cindy Potter/Jean Steele

Our first meeting was held in January.

Lack of a door key delayed our entry but with the help of the members, especially Tony, we were in, set up and ready to go for an enjoyable quiz afternoon.

Our next meeting, on Monday, 27th February, will be a Table Games afternoon. We will provide a number of different games e.g. Scrabble, cards, dominoes.

Qwirkle will be introduced to the group and instruction given. Feel free to bring your own favourite games to share. March's meeting (Monday, 27th) will be our second quiz and we hope that the members will assist us to introduce a "random" team selection. This will be a chance to meet new friends and benefit from shared knowledge.

All welcome. Having fun is compulsory.

Science and Technology - Graham Topping

We had another good turnout for the second meeting of the group. Forty-one members attended a talk by Howard Robinson entitled "Elf and Bloody Safety".

Howard's presentation was in two parts.

He began with the impact of the industrial revolution and the legislation brought in to protect young children. He then took us through the role of factory inspectors, environmental pollution and the legislation covering ill health of workers. He concluded with the up-to-date legislation aimed at

protecting workers and the changes to working day practice, particularly the role of the health and safety executive.

The second part began with the elimination, reduction and isolation of hazards and then onto his own experiences of incidents when he became a health and safety inspector. He concluded by covering the type of prevailing accidents, including their impact on long-term health of some workers.

It was clear that this talk was much appreciated by the audience.

Our next meeting at Carleton Memorial Hall will be on 20th March at 2.00 p.m. when Geoffrey Cowell will give a presentation entitled "Austin 7 centenary and an update on Lake District Archaeology".

Spain Beyond the Costas - Sue Clark

There wasn't a meeting in February. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 1st March when we will look at the invasion of Spain in 711 by the Moors and where they came from.

The other main topic will be some famous Spanish painters.

Travel - Mick Carey

At the meeting on 17th February, Clive Jones gave two very different sessions.

The first was something different; an interactive display of Clive's collection of hats from all the continents of the world. Though we were not too successful at identifying the sources of the items, it was fun trying and we learnt a lot of arcane information about headwear.

After the break, Clive gave us a more conventional, but no less interesting, talk on a visit to Marrakesh and Morocco's Atlas Mountains.

In March Julie Kay will be giving a presentation about her trip to Scandinavia, especially the beautiful country of Norway.

The programme for the following months has been pencilled in and will include:

April - Show and tell.

May - Dorte Ravenscroft on Bangkok.

June - Claire and Bryan Fretwell - Parker on Scottish islands.

Walking - Susan and Graham Essex-Crosby
February's walk saw twenty keen souls rendezvous in Grange Over Sands before setting off on a six and a half mile hike through woods, over limestone and meadows.

The first part of the route took us up through Eggerslack Wood then Hampsfell before emerging onto the limestone area of Hampsfell. The total ascent was over 1,000 feet with the highest point being the Hospice on Hampsfell at 730ft.



Hampsfell Hospice

Constructed in 1846 by the vicar of Cartmel, Hampsfell Hospice was built to provide shelter for travellers; it also provides a 360 degree view towards the Lakes, back across Morecambe Bay towards Arnside and even (on a clear day) Blackpool Tower.

The second half of our route saw a descent towards Fell End and then onto the Promenade for the return to the start.

We passed the derelict site of the Lido for which funding has just been announced to kick-start some renovation work.

Our final destination, The Commodore Inn, provided much needed refreshments. With little rain to speak of, the weather overall was better than forecast.

There is no regular monthly walk in March as many of the group will be enjoying our annual walking holiday, this time based in Skipton.

Watercolours - Christine Cutts

Our February theme was Line and Wash which is a painting process using ink to define washes of watercolour.

I love the end results of this technique and our Group have produced some lovely work.





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.

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.

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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Committee Contact Details

Chairman:	Kathleen Smith:
Secretary:	Kathleen Smith:
Treasurer:	Ted Armitage:
Membership Secretary:	Susan Cox:
Groups' Co-ordinator:	Diane M. Whitworth: groups.wyre3a@gmail.com
Speakers' Secretary:	Kathleen Smith:
Minutes Secretary:	James Morgan
Social Committee:	Diane M. Whitworth, Norma Culshaw and Helen Kehoe: social.wyre3a@gmail.com
Property Co-ordinator:	Jennifer Machell:

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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
The Amblers Walking Group	Arranged monthly by the leader (see Newsletter)	Changes monthly (see Newsletter)	See Newsletter
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
Card Making	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m.	Carla Clark	Carleton Memorial Hall
Creative Writing	2 nd Monday at 10.00 a.m.	Ann Fewson	Lodge Cottage
Crown Green Bowling	Weekly on Mondays 9.50 a.m. for 10.00 a.m.	Ken Speakman	HASSRA Green (Closed until 20 th March)
The Dining Group	See Newsletter	Irene Evans	See Newsletter
Eat and Heat Group	To be arranged	Tony Ward	Please contact Co-ordinator
Family History	1 st Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Shaun O'Hara and Joanne Mathews	Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays at 3.00 p.m.	Ann Burley	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 1.30 p.m.	Kathleen Smith	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Gentle Movement to Music	Every Monday 1.00-2.00 p.m.	Linda Porter I	St. Hilda's, Carleton
History	2 nd Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Susan Cox	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

Live Music	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays 2.00 pm to 4.00 p.m.	Pauline Powell	Tee Time Golf Centre Fleetwood Rd Thornton FY5 1RN
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 Steele	Carleton Memorial Hall
Recycling	2 nd Tuesday	Kathleen Smith	Contact Co-ordinator
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Graham Topping	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.	Arthur Jones	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spain beyond the Costas	1 st Wednesday at 2.00 p.m.	Sue Clark	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.	Christine Cutts	Carleton Memorial Hall



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