



u3a
Wyre

learn,
laugh,
live

newsletter

Issue 02.24

Registered Charity Number 1184776

March 2024



Daffodils - Harbingers of Spring.

Did you know that, in the Northern Hemisphere, the Meteorological beginning of Spring occurs on the first day of March?

However, the Astronomical beginning of Spring does not occur until the March equinox, which is on the 20th or 21st day of the month.

CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

-Lindy Porter

One thing certain in our life is that spring will follow winter, and I have to say I am thankful we are heading there. Seeing the snowdrops and crocus popping up is proof things are warming up.

Members, at Monthly Meetings, please observe the marked seating areas for our friends with everyday challenges.

There are a number of items for your attention this month and some of them, ladies and gentlemen, are very important. So, could you please give this newsletter a moment of your time.

For your information, Ted our treasurer has been setting out our financial situation and circulating the figures at each meeting, and also in print at quarterly intervals.

I will now get right down to business, and this is concerning our membership fees and the way forward for our u3a. These issues with the *proposed options* will be raised at the March meeting.

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

Membership Fee

Option 1. Membership fee to rise to £25.00 a year equalling 48 pence a week. There will be a cap on any room hire at £1000.00 a year.

Option 2 Membership fee of £20.00 a year, equalling 38 pence a week, and a cap on any room hire at £500.00 a year.

Both will include reduction of year length, (for one year only) and staying at The Ashley.

For a lot of our members the due date is rather confusing and not everyone is certain when the due date is. To help make this very clear for everyone involved, the committee have thought very hard about this and feel that the due date should be the same as the start of any new tax year, i.e. April. Members would still get three months grace in which to pay their membership fee. If the membership fee is not paid by the end of June, this would mean that our member desires one of two things.

1. They no longer wish to be a member, or
2. They have not been able to renew their membership in the grace time.

This is not a problem. They will be welcomed to rejoin at any time which suits them.

The issues will be raised for voting at the April Special meeting, to be held at The Ashley.

I have decided to organise a giant beetle drive to raise funds for our u3a. See below in *Dates for your Diary* for detailed information. Jean and Alan Steel, and Cindy Potter will be running the drive, Pauline Powell will be selling tickets at the meeting in March, the fabulous Carousel are catering, and The Ashley are hosting. Please support it if you can.

The date for the trip to Port Sunlight Village and Lady Lever Art Gallery has had to be postponed. The date for this is now Saturday, 11th May. This is due to National Museums strike action. Phone: xxxxxxxxxx for further details, or Martin Johnson will be able to offer help and advice.

The new members coffee morning was again a great success. We have some very interesting new members, and some members returning after a break because of covid, now

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A.A.H. 29-02-2024.

that they feel safe again. From this meeting, a new members lunch has been arranged to help and encourage members to integrate easier into the larger lunch and dining groups. I think I have said enough so here is my "Thought for the Month".

"An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backwards. So, when life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means that it is going to launch you into something great. So just focus and keep aiming".

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Speaker's Secretary - Diane M Whitworth



Thursday, 14th March 2024

Speaker: Geoffrey Cowell

Subject: "Where did we all come from?" Part 2.

The evolution of Homo Sapiens via our common ancestor with chimpanzees and our many hominid "cousins" until we emerged about 200,000 years ago. Then how we spread across the whole World and emerged with a variety of facial features and skin tones.

Thursday, 11th April 2014.

Speaker: Sir Bill Taylor.

Subject: "One in a Million".

Sir Bill Taylor, 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.

CHAIRMAN'S FUNDRAISER
PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT OUR
WYRE u3a

GIANT BEETLE DRIVE

PIE AND PEA SUPPER
ASHLEY CLUB, VICTORIA ROAD EAST,
FY5 5HQ.

at 7.00 p.m. on SATURDAY 6th APRIL.

Tickets £8.00 available
at the monthly meeting
on Thursday, 14th March.



Visit to Port Sunlight Village And

Lady Lever Art Gallery.

Please note that this trip will now take place on Saturday, 11th May.

If this new date should cause a problem to anyone who has already booked, please call ----- . If anyone now wants to join the trip, call the same number.

Social Events Organisers

- Diane M Whitworth, Helen Kehoe and Norma Culshaw.



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 Meetings in March and 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 at the March Monthly Meeting.

Tickets will still be available to purchase in the months that follow but will inevitably be more expensive.

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

social.wyre3a@gmail.com

Membership Secretary - Susan Cox

There is nothing to report this month.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Groups' Co-ordinator

- Diane M. Whitworth.

Grateful thanks as always to all the Group Leaders for their continual dedication and motivation with their respective groups. Interest groups are the lifeblood of u3a. To become a Group Leader no qualifications are sought or offered, as learning and enjoyment are the prime motives. If any member is interested in setting up a new group please contact Diane by email at:

I would be only too pleased to offer support and guidance.

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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.

The Amblers - Jim Swain

Twenty-nine Amblers met at the Wyre Nature Reserve car park (at the end of Jameson Road, past the tip and the water treatment plant) at 10.30 a.m. We crossed the Nature Reserve in a Northerly direction and passed new riverside housing before crossing the swing bridge at the channel entrance to the Wyre Dock.



We then turned right opposite "Freeport" to join the riverside footpath bordering Jubilee Quay.



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A look at the newer wrecks in the dock preceded a walk around parts of Fleetwood town with talks on the quays, the structure and layout of Fleetwood and its parks, and the three lighthouses with their significance by Ken; and the railway history by Jim, terminating at The Three Lights for lunch, after which we return through the Nature Reserve (without crossing the swing bridge again) to our cars.

The March Amble will start from the carpark by the Art Deco Café in Stanley Park, Blackpool. We will amble inland, in a generally easterly direction, till the edge of the village of Staining is reached. The return route will take us through Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve, which is recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Keep up to date by joining the Amblers WhatsApp group. Call xxxxx xxxxxx.

Dining Group - Irene Evans

Hi Diners!

I've booked Bistro Italia, Poulton, for Wednesday, 13th March for our next meal. Parking in Booths car park and 6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. as usual. I hope you are all happy with that.

They do require a pre order and their menu is online and is up to date. We are to be seated at a large u-shaped table. So, there is no choice there if we are all to be seated in the same area. Also, there is a maximum limit of 40 covers.

Please text me on 00000 000000 to reserve your place if you would like to join us .

Family History - Cynthia Potter

The first meeting of 2024 gave us an opportunity to discuss the future, when we hope to encourage beginners to join and become involved researching their Family History. We aim to provide a workshop where members can further their research in the company of others who might be able to assist them if they get "stuck".

At the March meeting, Graham Lougher will speak about Parish Registers and other Church Records. We will also need to discuss contingency plans for the following two meetings as both fall on Bank Holidays. Watch this space for alternative arrangements!

French Conversation - Clive Jones

At the latest meetings, held on 29th January and 12th and 26th February, we immersed ourselves in some very good general French conversation centred on the use of the subjunctive tenses.

Additionally, we listened to several French language podcasts covering accounts of short stories and biographies on the La Petite Maison dans La Forêt, the life of the French nobleman the Marquis de Lafayette and the life of the French philosopher and wife of Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir.

Our next two meetings are scheduled for 11th and 25th March. New members are most welcome to join the group.

French Improvers - Christine Holt

The theme for our meeting was 'hobbies'. One of the group's very exciting hobby was hot air ballooning. For all of us, it was fascinating hearing about the exploits and the places visited when ballooning.

I think for the rest of us, our hobbies seemed a bit mundane. Other hobbies included researching the family tree, gardening, amateur dramatics, swimming, knitting, etc. None of them could compete with hot air ballooning.

At our second meeting we learned about the little known but beautiful Swiss Jura. We also looked at some abbreviations and truncations that are used in everyday life.

Gardening - Kathleen Smith

Last month, our intended hostess was unwell. So, as usual, another member volunteered to take over and save the meeting. And, as usual, we had yet another good meeting.

Obviously, we had all been looking forward to the trip arranged by the Social Group. But with the hiccup of the coach unavailable, Diane told us we are able to go to Bridgewater Gardens instead. As long as we can get out for the day into a garden, most are happy gardeners.

Many subjects were discussed at the meeting including strange and unseasonal growing times being experienced by us all. According to doubters, climate change, does not exist! Or does it?

Those who couldn't attend can catch up on our goings-on in our WhatsApp group.

History - Susan Cox

The February meeting was a presentation by the Poulton & Wyre Railway Society, outlining the history of the line and current work by the volunteers. Apologies for the poor presentation. A visit to the work site will be offered to u3a members later in the year. The March meeting will be member Peter Davies talking on Wyre shipwrecks.

History of Art - Martin Johnson

Last month, we delved into the knotty subject of Orientalism as Imperialism, when we looked at how 19th Century European painters portrayed the culture of the Middle East and North Africa.

Whilst these artists faithfully caught all the colour and details of street or desert life, some chose to depict only stereotypes like snake charmers, indolent hookah pipe-smokers, and especially harems, for which there was a ready market back home.

The best artists, through long stays in these countries, not only captured the exoticism, but also gave a dignity to the people shown at work, leisure and prayer.



The Chess Game Ludwig Deutsch

J. F. Lewis of Britain, Alberto Pasini of Italy, and Ludwig Deutsch of Austria were considered to be the best.



Market in Istanbul Alberto Pasini 1868

Dublin as an artistic centre is our next subject. We will discuss the excellent collection at the National Gallery of Ireland, and some Irish painters whose work is seldom seen outside of that country.



Helliilil and Hildebrand, the Meeting on the Turret Stairs.
Fredrick William Burton. 1864.
The National Galley of Ireland

Italian Group - Clive Jones

The latest meetings were held on 30th January and 13th and 27th February. We have had some very good general conversation in Italian at those meetings and we have continued with revision grammar exercises on Pronouns and Prepositions.

Our next two meetings are scheduled for 12th and 26th March. New members are most welcome to join the group.

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

A few new members have joined us over the last year. This means that many of our older dances are still being taught. But, according to those attending the first session, they don't mind going through the steps again.

I think we have learned so many dances over the years, we cannot remember all of them. Thankfully, when I cannot remember some of the steps, there is always someone else in the room who can jolt my memory.

Live Music - Pauline Powell



We send you a very warm welcome to join us at our new venue, The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East, Thornton, FY5 5HQ. Here we are in our new meeting place. It is nicely located in Thornton, near Thornton Methodist Church and close to Four Lane Ends. It is a lovely room, warm and welcoming, where we enjoy our music, songs, banter, have fun and gain friendships.

We have a group of talented musicians and singers to sing and play for you. So, join us! We meet at 2.00 p.m. every 1st and 3rd Thursday in the month. Please note that, at the bar, it is cash sales only.

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Philosophy - Linda Parkins

At our February meeting, we discussed the concept of Trust. We realised what an important part of our lives it is and factors which affect it. In March, we will explore Happiness and the problem of Evil.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Quiz and Games - Cindy Potter and Jean and Alan Steele

Twenty-one members were present at the February Games group meeting and enjoyed a variety of Games including Qwirkle, Banagrams, Canasta, Rummikub and Uno. Help was given as always in learning new games. Please feel free to bring any games you may have at home to introduce to us at the next Games meeting which will be on 22nd April. The meeting on 25th March will be a quiz.

Last month, members were asked to name the ten least used letters of the alphabet. As promised, the answer is as follows....

X Y Z K V B Q J G P.

Science and Technology - Stephen Fewster

On 19th of February, we had an expert talk on 'Technology and retailing' given by our member John Pal. John has previously worked as a High Street retailer and more recently as a lecturer at Manchester University Business School. He has also been a regular expert on the BBC.

Computer technology has transformed retailing and John was able to explain how such technology has improved the supply of goods and allowed shops to reduce their stock. Shops monitor which items are most popular with customers in order to improve sales. They also use monitoring to maximise the shop layout and use facial recognition to assess the type of customers a shop attracts. John's talk stimulated a lot of Questions and Answers. Everyone left having had an enjoyable afternoon.

Singing for Fun - Arthur Jones

Our last meeting was a special one because it fell on 14th February, Valentine's Day. So, the theme chose itself and we explored many different versions of songs about love. It was also unusual in that just for once we didn't have a bit of nonsense in the show. However, next month's meeting, at 2.30 p.m. on

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Wednesday 13th March, falls in a month with two of our national patron saints, St David, and St Patrick. So, who knows, we might just get a double dollop of nonsense. Come along and find out!

Travel - Mick Carey

At the February meeting, Clive Jones gave a presentation on Sydney and New South Wales. Clive is a regular visitor to this part of the world and gave an interesting talk on many parts that simple tourists just don't reach.

At the March meeting, Dorte Ravenscroft will talk about Hamburg and the surrounding region. Dorte is very familiar with this part of the world and again we can look forward to insights that are not available to every visitor.

Walking - Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby

In last month's Newsletter we forecast that January's walk "would be 7.5 miles of gentle terrain around the Rivington and Yarrow Reservoirs. After storms Isha and Jocelyn, we can probably expect the going to be wet and muddy". How right we were! It was one of the muddiest walks we can recall and a real test after the festive break. Everyone survived (just) and we were able to enjoy a celebratory hot drink and convivial company at the Great House Barn in Rivington.

The February walk was kindly led by Geoffrey Cowell. Here is his report.

Nineteen members set off from the Garstang High Street car park when a light shower had just about finished. We were already running a little late because of the complexity of the new car park ticket machine. Indeed, one member who only managed to get a ticket for £1.00 worth of parking left the balance in a packet on the windscreen with a note. On return, there was no fine notification so it appeared to work. The walk followed the river Wyre to its confluence with Grisedale Brook, then followed the brook to the road leading to the Bridge, where a coffee stop was made with cake or mints for a birthday girl.

The walk then carried on into Scorton and the track found to take us under the railway, over the river Wyre and crossing the A6 to Green Lane and the canal towpath where lunch was taken.



The afternoon was spent walking alongside the canal back into Garstang, and then along High Street to the car park.

A range of distances walked were discussed from 8.1 to 8.5 miles. Apart from a very few drops of rain, we enjoyed another dry day for the u3a walk, but there was plenty of mud though.



There will be no walk in March. After two 'gentle' walks in January and February, 36 members of the group will be in the Derbyshire Peak District for the annual walking holiday. The terrain is likely to be more challenging and hopefully not too muddy! We shall be linking up with Holiday Fellowship (HF) and staying at one of their hotels dedicated mainly to ramblers and walkers.

The usual programme of monthly walks will resume in April.

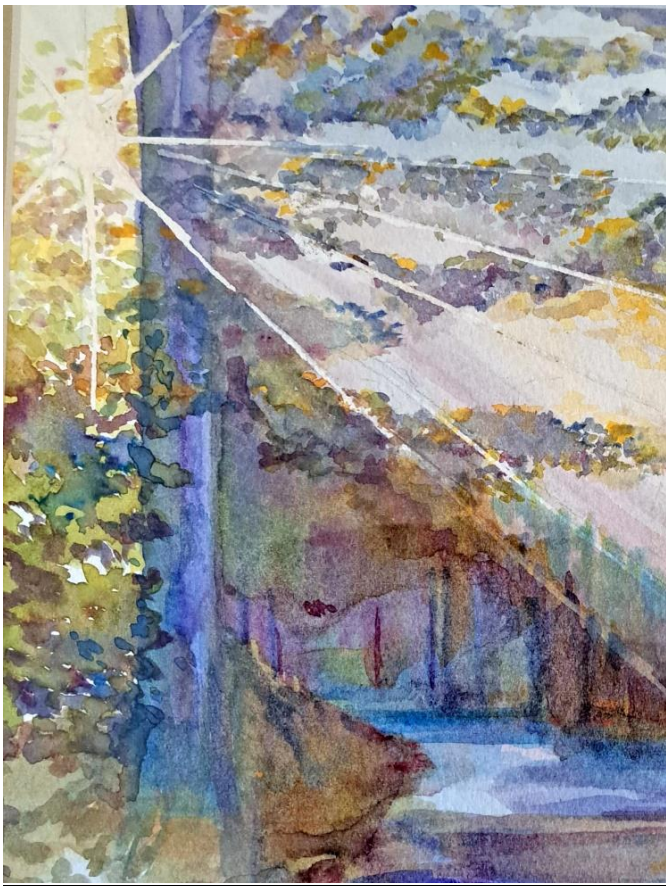
Watercolours - Ann Davies

We had a lovely meeting in February with a couple of newer members joining our group. Our theme this month was shadows, and we hope you enjoy our selection of varied paintings.

If you would like to have a go, please let me know and come along to our next meeting on 5th March when we are going to work with "perspective" as our theme.

Watercolour Gallery for March

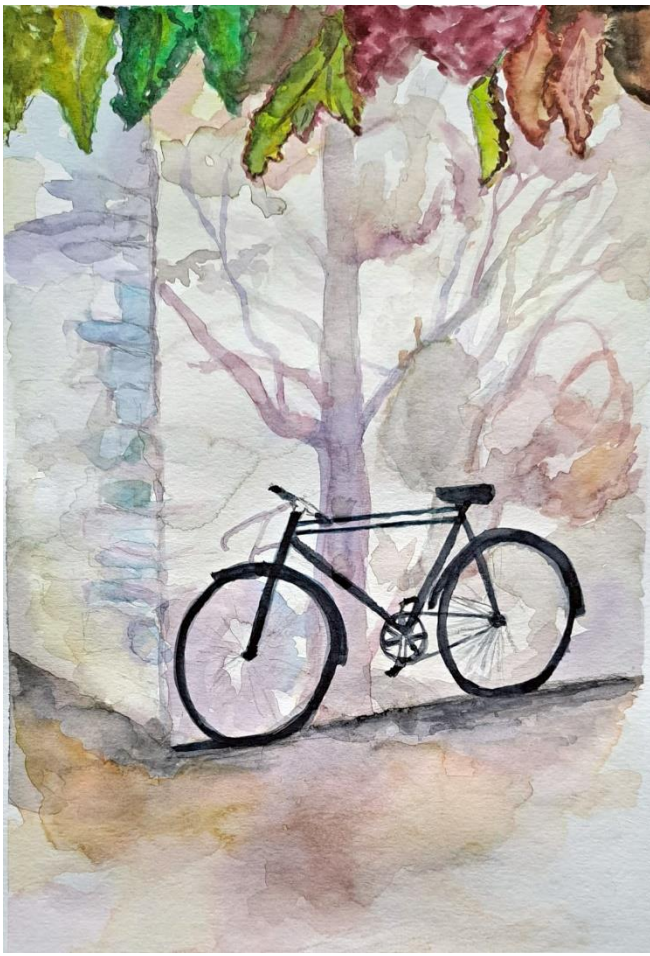




Carleton Memorial Hall

Bookings should be addressed to Peter Farrell on 00000 000000 or

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

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Committee Contact Details

Chairperson:	Lindy Porter:
Vice Chair:	Kath Rawcliffe:
Secretary:	Mark Morris:
Treasurer:	Ted Armitage:
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Morris:
Membership Secretary:	Susan Cox:
Groups' Co-ordinator:	Diane M. Whitworth:
Speakers' Secretary:	Diane M. Whitworth
Minutes Secretary:	Mark Morris:
Property Co-ordinator:	Mark Morris:

Other Contact Information

Social Events Organisers Diane M. Whitworth, Norma Culshaw and Helen Kehoe: social.wyreu3a@gmail.com

Newsletter Team:

Webmaster:

Wyre u3a Website:

u3a National 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
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
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.	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 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	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

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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
ememSewcial 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	Carleton Memorial Hall



The University of the Third Age

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