



u3a learn,
Wyre laugh,
live

newsletter

Issue 4.22

Registered Charity Number 1184776

May 2022



May is named after Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility. It's Birth stone is Emerald. It's Flower symbol is Rosa chinensis.

ACTING CHAIRLADY'S FOREWORD

Kathleen Smith

I love this role. All I do is sit and listen to what the Committee have been up to.

I tell you what, there have been some huge leaps and bounds by some of them.

Communication is vital and there can be no complaints from anyone about that.

Membership is growing again and the groups are being used by more people. Ann is, or maybe pretending, to take it all in her stride. Whichever, she is doing an excellent job.

Then there is the secretarial work being kept up-to-date by Angela. Most people will agree that the Secretary's role can be the hardest on any committee. She is doing an amazing job as well.

You will see, from the Treasurer's report, that the new bank account at NatWest is up and running. His report includes all you need to know. We seem to be getting to the point where real money will not be accepted any more.

Diane, apart from being Groups Co-ordinator, is also part of the Social Committee. The events that have been organised have been so well received by everyone, - - -so far (only joking ladies). I did say I have to make sure they all work hard.

Equipment is being kept in order, with Ken keeping a check on its usage. He keeps in contact with Dave Carlos, who is great at all computer stuff.

Our latest Committee members, Joanne and Sue, are still dipping their toes in the water.

They will be taking on a role sometime, which role will be up to them.

Don't forget that the AGM will soon be taking place and everyone needs to do their bit. Think hard about the hidden skills you have and maybe become involved in helping to take our u3a forward. Your committee needs more help.

TREASURER

Graham Essex-Crosby

Financial Update

Just a reminder that we are changing banks from HSBC to NatWest; from an organization that has introduced activity charges to one where we can, at least whilst it lasts, enjoy free community banking. Unfortunately, we have seen many local branches close and one of the effects has been to make it more difficult to deal with coins of 50p or less. The Post Office will not take coins other than £1 unless in bags of the correct amounts. So, if you are paying for a social event or your subscription, please help by paying direct to bank (preferred) or by cheque. Subscriptions are due on 1st July and the amount payable will be determined at our AGM in June.

The new bank account details are, for the Main Account Sort Code 01-02-11 Account number 22304444.

For Social activities (events, trips etc.) then it is Sort Code 01-02-11 and Account number 22304452.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Ann Davies

Welcome to all of our new members. Our membership now stands at 446 and our numbers are continuing to grow.

I am pleased to advise you that the committee has agreed, that from 1st July 2022, completion of a Membership Form will only be required for new members, or those re-joining after a break in membership. This

will make renewing your membership much easier. Full details will be provided following the AGM in June.

Please remember to advise me and any relevant Group Leaders of any changes to your contact details especially your phone and email addresses.

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR

Diane M. Whitworth

Thank you to all Group Leaders for their continual encouragement and shared learning with their respective groups.

I am pleased to announce the resumption of two Groups, albeit under new titles.

"The Amblers Group", a walking group, are intending to meet on a monthly basis. The walks, which will be approximately four miles in length, will be led by various leaders on different days of the month.

Irene Evans has kindly offered to assume the Group Leadership role of the "The Dining Group".

SPEAKERS' SECRETARY

Kathleen Smith

The 12th May talk will be given by Dave Carlos on two subjects. Dave is a very talented computer bloke. He takes old computers, laptops etc. and cleans them out of old information, fixes them and then passes them on to deserving groups. He also knows which type is perfect for individuals. He is going to advise us on how to get what is right for us. Not to buy what we are convinced is right by a sales assistant.

Dave is also part of the Fleetwood Transport Weekend and we hope to get some updates about that event.

The 9th June talk is by our own member Geoff Cowell. His talk will follow-on from the one he gave when he spoke about how changes occur to natural earth when humans get involved.

ZOOMED-IN NEWS

Graham Lougher

Monthly meetings and many other group meetings have returned to normal face to face meetings without using Zoom. Currently no group is using the Wyre u3a Zoom account for their meetings. The Wyre u3a

Zoom account is still available for use for Wyre u3a activities until June 2022.

At the May Committee Meeting, the Wyre u3a Committee will need to decide whether this Zoom subscription should be renewed. Please could Group Leaders contact the Wyre u3a Committee if they wish the subscription to be renewed.

SOCIAL EVENTS

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

Coach Trip to Hutton-in-the-Forest

Report by Kathleen Smith.



Hutton in the Forest is North of Penrith on the edge of the Lake District. Our coach driver, Ian, was great. The road trip was smooth and comfortable. When someone else is driving, you get to see the views from a higher level. We live in a mostly rural area, so when we get about ten minutes out of town, our "Green and Pleasant Land" becomes reality. It took one and a half hours to reach our destination so, you can imagine us, between sightseeing, nattering with our fellow travellers.



On arrival, we were greeted by the head lady, who told us where everything was. We could choose to enter the hall when we wanted, enjoy the huge gardens and forest areas or go to the cafe for a brew.

Some of the group went into the house whilst others went straight into the huge gardens. I cannot comprehend the thought of living in such an opulent place. Such huge rooms with much dark wood, large paintings on every wall and many pieces of Chinese pottery on every surface. And this was just one floor. The family still live there, in another area which was not open to the public.

The walled garden has many beautiful plants. In bloom were *Fritillaria imperialis* and Tulips of all colours and sizes.



To those members, who were unable to take the trip, I certainly saw and learnt so much that I have been trying to break everything down into smaller pieces, (not the china) so I can understand more about that kind of life. A huge thank you to the Social Committee for finding such a treasure of which some of us had never even heard.

Our forthcoming social events are listed below in 'Dates for your Diary'.

A Request from the Social Committee

If any Wyre u3a events, day trips or holidays are being planned in the future by Wyre u3a members, we, the Social Committee, would sincerely appreciate it if we could be informed of your plans as soon as possible please.

This information will then enable us to plan our events accordingly so that, as far as possible, dates don't clash.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONTHLY MEETINGS



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

12th May 2022

Speaker:- Dave Carlos

Subjects:- Computers and Fleetwood Transport Weekend event updates.

9th June 2022

Speaker:- Geoff Cowell

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Dining Group - Irene Evans

Our first meal will take place at The Venue on Tuesday, 17th May at 6.00 p.m.

You can contact me on 07889 761757



Visit to RHS Garden, Bridgewater on Thursday, 26th May.

The coach will depart from the bus stop on Fleetwood Road South, Thornton at 9.00 a.m. and pick up opposite The River Wyre Hotel at 9.05 a.m.

We will be departing from RHS Bridgewater between 3.30-4.00 p.m.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



A Celebratory, Platinum Jubilee 3 course Evening Meal is planned on Friday, 10th June at The Park Club, West Drive Cleveleys.

A non-refundable payment of £20.00 per person by cash or cheque can be made at the Monthly Meeting at TLT on Thursday, 12th May.

Menus will be available for members to select their meal.



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

Names will be taken at the Monthly Meeting at TLT on Thursday, 12th May.

More detailed information to follow.

Early booking is advisable as this outing has proved to be very popular in previous years.

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

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The Amblers *(A different leader each walk.)*

The first walk of this newly reformed group took place on Thursday, 28th April. We walked along The Prom at Cleveleys then convened in The Venue for refreshments and discussion.

Sue Wolstenholme will lead the next walk from Hest Bank on Thursday, 19th May. Meet at 10.00 a.m. at TLT for car sharing, or Hest Bank for an 11.00 a.m. start. This four mile walk will start at the Shore Car Park, Hest Bank, LA2 6HQ, on the seaward side of the level crossing, stopping for lunch at The Alium Eatery and Garden Centre.

If you wish to join this walk please email Sue at

Creative Writing - *Ann Fewson*

As has become the norm for this group, as well as pieces of writing on the month's topic of "He said, she said", there were other more individual pieces, both poetry and prose. The outcome of this is twofold. First, there are even more opportunities for free ranging, diverse discussion! Second, it is clear that some members of the group have previously been hiding their prowess as versifiers under a bushel!

Next meeting: Monday, 9th May.

Subject: The Bulldog Spirit.

Crown Green Bowling - *Ken Speakman*

We are now five weeks into our Crown Green Bowling Season. Whilst the green has been quite busy, we have so far managed to get all who turn up on the green. If there are ever more than 20 bowlers turning up I have a cunning plan to make sure that everyone gets on the green, but not all at the same time. So, if you are thinking of joining us on any Monday morning, please do your best to arrive by 09:50 a.m. so that we can make sure everyone gets a game.

We look forward to welcoming new players as well as the regulars.

French Conversation - *Clive Jones*

As a general principal, by encouraging free-flowing discussion, we are running the group by means of spontaneous French conversation rather by prepared work or individual presentations. Our conversations this time covered a multitude of topics from *how to clear out a loft to sell what you find*, to *famous French chocolate brands*, among many. The next two meetings are planned for the 9th and 23rd May.

French Improvers - *Christine Holt*

At our first meeting of the month, we talked about our working lives. It turned out to be a very interesting meeting. We heard about many different jobs and roles. Some people had travelled to many and varied far-flung places. Others had worked all over this country. It was interesting how people had progressed in their careers, some to high-

ranking roles. But, it was the tales they told which, I think, we all enjoyed.

I was unable to attend the second meeting. Tom, very kindly, stepped in. I sent the group some texts to read and translate. They were about the music festivals in France.

This meeting also revised the past tense (the *passé composé*) of regular *-er* verbs.

French Refreshers - *Ann Burley*

During our two meetings in April, we continued to talk about subjects which we decide upon in advance. In our first meeting, we each talked about our hobbies. Not unsurprisingly, given the size of our group, there were some hobbies mentioned that one would not have expected to hear about, and this session was informative and entertaining.

Our second meeting focused on the future and what we thought it would bring for us. We heard several hopes for personal trips overseas, and wistful wishes for trips to places visited overseas in earlier days. The conversation turned, as is to be expected, to current worries about the dangers of world climate change and how this threat would darken the future for our grandchildren.

All these discussions, apart from being interesting and entertaining, have encouraged us to seek new vocabulary and helped in the grammatical construction of sentences.

Gardening - *Kathleen Smith*

There was a good turn out for this month's meeting. But there was a problem with the group "leader" for whom reading maps is not a strong point. The phrase, "Round and round the garden, like a Teddy bear" comes to mind. Anyway, I was pleased to see another member arrived a minute after me.

The great thing about garden people is that they don't need a leader to get the party started. One of our newer members had invited us to see and comment on her garden. There were so many possibilities discussed and the best advice given was, take it one step at a time. Anyone who tries to solve every problem, all at once, will end up feeling shattered, and all pleasure is gone. Plant sharing went ahead as usual.

Gentle Movement - *Linda Porter*



This is our Easter lunch with our gentle movement group. What a fabulous buffet this was.

Now back to it with new music and new moves throughout May, even bank holidays.

History - *Susan Cox*

Our March meeting was an audio-visual presentation by Geoffrey Cowell of the early industrial archaeological sites around Lake Windermere. Evidence was found of iron and copper smelting sites.

The next meeting is on 9th May. It will be a talk by Roy Winter entitled 'The Railway comes to Lytham St Annes'.

Offers of talks of a historical nature by U3A members would be most welcome.

History of Art - *Martin Johnson*

This month's subject was "A potted history of fresco painting". We considered some technical information on how to preserve this particular form of art for future centuries.

However, Leonardo's sadly faded 'Last Supper' showed what will happen if oil pigments are painted onto dry plaster.



Next month we will survey the great range of Still Life paintings. We will concentrate on Flemish food and flower paintings, Chardin's domestic art, and the simple but powerful religious work of Spanish masters, Coton and Zubaran.

Italian Group - Clive Jones

The group size is now eight. It operates by encouraging free-flowing discussion by means of spontaneous Italian conversation rather than by prepared work or individual presentations. Our wide-ranging discussions took us from *an article on Marilyn Monroe* to *what it's like to travel by air at the moment*, among many other topics. 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. The next meetings are planned for the 3rd, 17th and 31st May.

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

I have been very happy with the numbers of dancers taking part. One of the best parts is when a new member keeps moving with the beat, even if the steps aren't quite right. It doesn't matter; be proud of yourself for not giving up.

It is also great to know there are dancers who are able to help others by dancing beside them so they can follow their steps.

The biggest challenge my group have had was on Friday, 22nd April. I left them to go to an Energy Conference in Penrith hosted by the Cumbria u3a. (See my report below).

I know so well that they don't need me there all the time. The more experienced dancers are more than capable of leading a dance without me. Isn't that what u3a is all about? Sharing! I bet they have learnt a new dance that they will have to teach me next week.

Poetry for Pleasure - Ann Fewson

This month we looked at poems by both Elizabeth Bishop and Elizabeth Jennings, the former American and the latter English. Though very different in some respects there were some similarities too. Jennings said of her approach "I write fast and revise little". On the other hand, Bishop was much more painstaking in the way she worked, often leaving poems unfinished for a long time before she returned to complete them. Nevertheless, they were both accomplished poets, each using description very effectively. We particularly enjoyed the session and, because there were absences from our usual group, it was good to welcome

someone on the waiting list to join us for a 'taster'.

Next meeting: Thursday, 5th May.

Subject: John Betjeman.

Recycling - Kathleen Smith

I have not had many takers for the group yet. It can depend on the weather as well. That doesn't stop Ken getting on with it. I turned up to finish the cold frame I had started.

He has certainly been busy collecting the wood needed for our future projects. I did notice loads of bird feeders and nesting boxes already finished.

Come on Wyre u3a members, you must want to create something from wood! If there is something you would like to make, don't forget to let us know in advance. With limited space available at the workshop, you have to squeeze in between the stacked wood. So you need to let me know if you want to join in.

Science and Technology - Graham Topping

On 26th April, eleven members of the group had a guided tour of the UCLAN's Engineering and Innovation Centre (EIC) by Paul Critchley, the EIC's Technical Manager. This field trip had been suggested by Tony Ward, for which we are very grateful.

Although Paul was our guide throughout the afternoon, his colleagues in each section of EIC were on hand to elaborate and demonstrate the various components of their work. We began with combustion tests of flammable products and then, over the next three hours with a break for tea/coffee at the halfway stage, were guided through sections dealing with 3D printing, aerospace and car design, aircraft and helicopter simulator training, hydraulic testing in flumes, tensile strength testing, fabrication and finally the main workshops with their ultra-modern machines for milling and drilling. This resumé scarcely does justice to the wide-ranging and nationally recognised work being carried out by EIC. It's not surprising that UCLAN's reputation has grown and continues to grow if EIC is typical of the rest of the university.

The Science group was treated to a well-organised, informative and enjoyable tour of the EIC's facilities. The enthusiastic nature

and competence of the staff, particularly Paul Critchley, was clear to everyone.

The group has no meetings from May to July. Regular meetings will restart on 15th August when Tony Ward presents a talk on "Recent history and current applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI)".

Spain Beyond the Costas - Sue Clark

There wasn't a meeting in April as we were in Spain, doing essential research for the next meeting. We will report back on our travels in three different areas north of Valencia: the 'Maestrazgo', the wine-producing area 'Priorat' in southern Catalonia and the delta of the River Ebro.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 4th May at 2.00 p.m. in the small room of Carleton Memorial Hall.

Travel - Mick Carey

At the April meeting, members enjoyed a presentation by Clair and Bryan Fretwell-Parker on their recent stay on the Mediterranean island of Gozo.

On the 18th of May Clive Jones will give us the concluding chapter of his Sydney presentation, featuring some less familiar corners of the city and its environs.

Walking - Graham & Susan Essex-Crosby

There is much to report this month; with three walking group activities organised since the last Newsletter.

1. Given the proximity of our normal last Wednesday in the month (March 30th) to the walking holiday at Portinscale, we had decided not to run with the regular monthly walk. We were very pleased however when Sue Wolstenholme offered to lead a walk from Knott End. Several members joined with Sue, completed eight miles with the weather being better than forecast and enjoyed a well-earned beverage at the conclusion of their efforts.

2. Twenty nine members of the walking group made their way to Portinscale, near Keswick, for the annual holiday. Over our stay we managed to provide at least two walks every day – an easier one and a more challenging route. The scenery never failed to delight. We are very grateful for the walk leaders and the very necessary backmarkers. Sadly, the

weather was not the best and wet weather clothing was often the dress code for the day.



Derwentwater looking north from Surprise View.

Ironically, the finest weather was reserved for the journey home! The hotel provided live music on a couple of evenings, and we also played board and card games. David Mitchell and April Wilby both produced quizzes which proved somewhat competitive between the various teams – the quizmaster's decision however was final!

3. The normal monthly programme resumed in April with a 7.5 mile walk starting and finishing in Arnside. Our walk leaders, Bob and April Wilby, produced a most enjoyable walk with some short ascents, great vistas and even managed to provide some good weather. Twenty seven members completed the course and found enough energy to lift a well-earned drink in the Ye Olde Fighting Cocks Inn. Our picture, courtesy of Chris Sheridan, shows part of the group on the descent from Arnside Knott - lots of smiling faces, clearly pleased to have some warm sun on their backs.



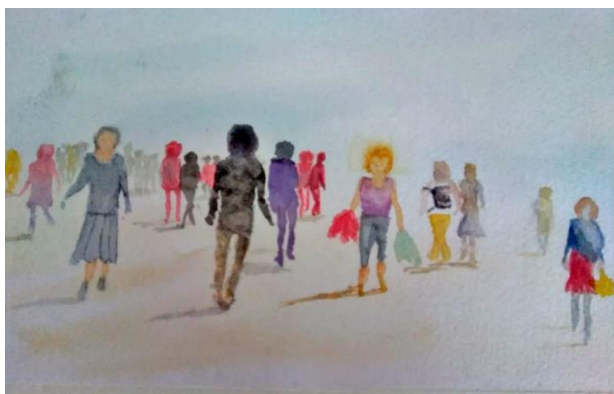
Details of the walk on May 25th will be circulated in due course. Our destination is the Jumbles Country Park near Bolton.

Watercolours - Christine Cutts

Some time ago, unfortunately, I had to close membership of our group due to lack of space in the hall. Now I can offer three places on a 'first come first served' basis for those interested in joining us. It doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner or someone who has painted before. You will be made very welcome. Please contact me by email if you are interested.

Our theme last month was 'Someone doing an everyday activity' and here are some of our paintings.

The Watercolour Gallery for May





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.

Energy and Climate Change Conference Report by Kathleen Smith



I attended this conference, organised by Cumbria u3a. I highly recommend that members go to the following web site and find out what, really, is happening to the planet.

I really do not know where to start to communicate all that was said and heard in this day of expert reports. I will need some time to go through all my notes before putting more details in the newsletter. All I can say is

that, from now on, I am going by public transport whenever possible.

Shortly, I will make available all the power-point displays which will be provided for me to forward to any group leaders interested.

Please be aware that they are supplied by the speakers on condition that they are used for discussion within u3a member groups only. They must not be made available to any outside organisation or individual.

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

Ann Kelly

I am sad to record the passing of Ann, a most remarkable and devoted servant of Wyre u3a. Ann was one of five who worked together with the Lancaster u3a extension team, between February and June 2011, that organised the public meeting that started Wyre u3a.

At that June gathering, she volunteered to serve on the first committee with the role of Groups Co-ordinator. She started the History Group and held her first meeting on 13th June 2011.

She only handed over the reins to Susan Cox after her meeting on 8th November last year. Even if you did not know Ann personally, you would meet her at monthly meetings in TLT. She was always seated to the left of the door where she checked the register and recorded your attendance before you walked into the hall.

AAH

Registered Charity Number: 1184776

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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)	Each month's walk leader, 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	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 pm	Helen Scarborough	Thornton Library
Book Group (Wednesday)	2 nd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Brenda Ormrod	Poulton Library
Canasta	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Marion Mangham	Thornton Library
Card Making	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays at 2.00 pm	Carla Clark	Carleton Memorial Hall
Creative Writing	2 nd Monday at 10.00 am	Ann Fewson	Lodge Cottage
Crown Green Bowling	Weekly on Mondays 9.50 am for 10.00 am	Ken Speakman	HASSRA Green closed until 2022
The Dining Group	See Newsletter	Irene Evans	See Newsletter
Family History	1 st Monday at 2.00 pm	Shaun O'Hara	Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays at 3.00 pm	Ann Burley	Fleetwood Golf Club
French for Improvers	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays At 1.30 pm	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 pm	Kathleen Smith	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Gentle Movement	Every Monday 1.00-2.00 pm	Linda Porter	St. Hilda's Carleton
History	2 nd Monday at 2.00 pm	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 am	Martin Johnson	Check with Co-ordinator
Line Dancing	Every Friday 1.00-3.30 pm 1 st hr beginners	Kathleen Smith	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.	Pauline Powell	Sandyforth Arms Trunnah Road Thornton
Philosophy	4 th Tuesday at 2.00 pm	Linda Parkins	Carleton Memorial Hall
Play Reading	3 rd Tuesday at 2.00 pm	Graham Bannister	Carleton Memorial Hall
Poetry for Pleasure	1 st Thursday at 10.30 am	Ann Fewson	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Recycling	2 nd Tuesday	Kathleen Smith	Contact Co-ordinator
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00 pm	Graham Topping	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday At 1.00 pm.	Arthur Jones	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spain beyond the Costas	1 st Wednesday at 2.00 pm	Sue Clark	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	Fortnightly on Monday at 2.00 pm	Enid Vindel	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Travel	3 rd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Mick Carey	Carleton Memorial Hall
Unsolved Murder Cases	To be arranged		Various venues
Walking	Last Wednesday each month.	Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 st Tuesday at 1.30 pm	Christine Cutts	Carleton Memorial Hall



The University of the Third Age

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