



THE CHAT FROM THE CHAIR - Linda Porter

We are heading into our winter, the clocks are due to be put back, we gain an hour that day, after that as you know our days become so much shorter. Please think about taking some extra vitamin D to make up for the lack of daylight and try to have a half hour walk three times a week if you can. It will all help with your health.

This month you committee have been concentrating on the budget, by looking at ways to try and make ends meet. Treasurer Ted, has prepared a mini budget for you to see how the year is progressing, and things seem to be going to plan. Please be assured we are doing what we can for the best outcome for all our members.

The mini bookcase will be in the café area again this month with some new material Thank you to everyone who helped to replenish our book exchange, and for the money in the honesty box. I am pleased to say that we raised £6.

Our November speaker is someone new to us, He has been highly recommended for his humour and interesting talk about his life as a lighthouse keeper. I am looking forward to

seeing and hearing him. We are lucky to have him as I do understand this is his last talk. December is looming with Christmas cheer, and all the festivities, meals out and, of course, our Christmas concert. Our live music group will entertain us with a mixture of Christmas and popular tunes, and I can say that rehearsals are well under way. You will not be disappointed on either of these dates, neither November nor December, so some good stuff coming your way to enjoy. I look forward to welcoming you to the meeting in November, do take care and stay safe.

My thought for this month. *“Peace is not something you wish for: It is something you make, something you do, something you are, and something you give away”.*

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR - Diane M. Whitworth

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

I am pleased to announce that Ann Davies has kindly offered to assume the role of Group Leader for the Watercolour Painting Group.

I am still hopeful that a willing volunteer will take over the role of Group Leader of the Family History Group in January 2024.

Any member who is interested in assuming this role and would like further detailed information please contact Diane by email at 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.

*Remember, remember the 5th of November.
Gunpowder, treason and plot.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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

Thursday, 9th November

Speaker:- Jim Doran

Subject:- "My life as a Lighthouse Keeper".

Jim will give an interactive presentation, beginning with a brief history of the Lighthouse Service provided by Trinity House. It then develops through an exploration of a variety of artefacts to a number of anecdotes from the speaker's life and further detailed information about the development of the lighthouse service to present day.

Thursday, 14th December

Christmas Concert

The very talented singers and musicians of the Wyre u3a Live Music Group will be performing an eclectic range of music including an assortment of Christmas compositions.

Social Events Organisers

Diane M. Whitworth, Helen Kehoe and Norma Culshaw.

SATURDAY, 2nd DECEMBER



Christmas Social
7.00-11.00 p.m.
The Ashley Club
Victoria Road East
Thornton-Cleveleys

There will be a Hotpot Supper, Quiz, Games and a Raffle.

(Donations of Raffle Prizes are required please).

Music will be provided by a local DJ playing an eclectic range of 50's, 60's and 70's music.

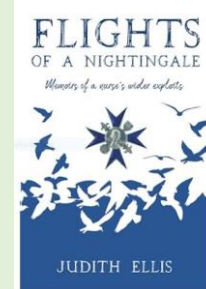
Please send contributions to u3aNewsletterWyre@gmail.com
When finished with this issue, please forward it to a friend.

Tickets will be available to purchase at the Monthly Meeting in November.

Your support for all the Wyre u3a social events is always very much appreciated.

If you require further detailed information about any of the above events, please contact the Social Events' Organisers by email: social.wyreu3a@gmail.com

For your Information



On Thursday, 11th of May the speaker at our monthly meeting was Professor Judith Ellis OBE. The subject of her talk was "World Health – Global Health Matters to All". It gave an insight into Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

She offered for sale copies of her book, "Flights of a Nightingale", but on the day, she ran out of copies and promised to forward additional copies to me, Kath Smith. Unfortunately, she became ill and did not do so.

If you paid for one and are still waiting to receive it, please contact me by email on

so that I can ensure you get your book.

A reminder from the Committee

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

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The Amblers - Jim Swain

At 10.00 a.m.. on a damp Thursday 26th of October, 19 Amblers set off from the main car park (the former Garstang Town railway station site) following Geoffrey Cowell Pied Piper style along the River Wyre footpath. Leaving the river path to pass the site of the old Garstang bus station, we crossed the

river at the main road bridge to turn left down Castle Lane.



Passing the Greenhalgh Castle ruins where a very detailed notice board has been erected, we arrived at Greenhalgh Castle Farm, an old building built soon after the castle itself was part destroyed on the orders of Oliver Cromwell. We turned right down a lane and over a stile into a soggy field (a fact verified by one Ambler) then through a second similar field and over canal bridge 56 to



follow the Lancaster canal towpath. After about 12 minutes, we came to the ornate aqueduct over the River Wyre 34 feet below! After using the towpath to pass opposite The Old Tithebarn (formerly host to a local Masonic lodge) we emerged onto Moss Lane

and returned via Garstang centre – where a tentative query established that a party of 17 could not be victualled on Market Day – whence we disassociated to enable Amblers to return home or find sustenance where they could.

Thank you Geoffrey for your ready expansion of the Blue Plaque historical knowledge of this interesting old town.

Our November 23rd Amble sees us take the no.75 bus (10.11 a.m. Thornton Centre, 10.20 a.m. from Poulton) to get off at CHAIN CAUL WAY to meet at The Beach Hut PR2 2FS – parking nearby if preferred – and start at 11.00 a.m. prompt walking along the River Ribble to Avenham and Miller Parks with lunch at The Continental. Bus passengers can then return from the centre of Preston, or car users retrace their steps.

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

Creative Writing - Ann Fewson

“The Kindness of Others” was a much more popular subject than some that have been the focus of our writing recently!

Once again some of the group chose to write factual, discursive pieces whilst others created some excellent imaginative writing, with well-developed credible characters.

Next meeting: Monday 13th November.

Subject: No Regrets.

Dining Group - Irene Evans

Our dining out in November will be at The Clay Oven, Thornton on Wednesday, 22nd November at 6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

If you would like to join us, let me know by text on .

Everyone welcome.

Family History - Shaun O'Hara and Joanne Mathews

There was no meeting in October. The meeting on the 6th of November is a talk by Mike Coyle on the ‘Blackpool Regiment’. For anyone who had relatives who served in this regiment, or is just interested in military history, this talk is a must. You never know what may turn up. The last talk of the year on the 4th of December is by Mike Coyle on ‘Christmas Food of our Ancestors’ and a summary of the future of Family history.

At the end of this meeting, I will be stepping down as the group leader for the Family History group due to personal circumstances. Any member who is interested in assuming this role and would like further detailed information, please contact Diane by email at groups.wyreu3a@gmail.com.

French Conversation - Clive Jones

The group attendance has been good during October. Meetings were held on the 2nd and 16th October with further meetings scheduled for 30th October and 13th and 27th November leading to the final meeting of the calendar year on 11th December when we'll break for Christmas and New Year. The first meeting of the New Year will be on Monday, 15th January 2024.

In terms of subject matter discussed, we have continued with the audio podcast article and general discussion and presentation themes amongst ourselves that members bring to the table on typical news and socio-cultural topics in France and at home. This gives us good practise in listening, translation and discussion. This included a podcast on Louis Braille, the French educator and inventor of the famous reading and writing system named Braille after him, for use by visually impaired people. We also had some excellent general conversation on what we have all been doing recently by each member giving a brief update in French at the start of the meeting. Other topics discussed included old French cars, the problems with electric cars and a visit to London, among others. In addition, including 'News in slow French', news and media websites are always a good way to learn or improve on your chosen language. New members are always most welcome to join.

French Improvers - Christine Holt

This month we talked about holidays. We are a quite well-travelled bunch. This topic is always interesting and gives us ideas for places we might like to visit. It also brings back happy memories for others who have visited the same place. Our holidays included trips to Florence, a French holiday that included a visit to Carcassonne, several visits to New York which started with a wedding and a trip back home to England. This was a

holiday, by one member of our group who spent many years living in other countries. At our second meeting we read and translated several short articles. These give us an insight into French life. The articles included the problems created by cruise ships, how bookstores are fighting back against online sales, and the decline of certain French brands again because of online shopping.

Gardening - Kathleen Smith

In October, once again, Irene proved to be a wonderful hostess. Even although our conversations wandered away from gardening, (I bet it happens to all groups), we did do quite a bit of knowledge sharing. We had a session on pruning fruit trees and managing Wisteria; on wormeries and sharing some special worms. We also shared lots of Calla Lilies and some of a short type of Inula.

We are getting a bit competitive too, as we are going to see which member can make the best leaf mould ready for next Spring.

We tried to identify a plant which had caused confusion at our last meeting.. A few suggestions came up, such as, Himalayan honeysuckle.



Here's a pic I've just taken of my Leycesteria in case it helps in identifying the berries brought to the meeting. It is definitely from the same family. I have discovered that there are a few hybrids The one I brought was L. Formosa Pheasants berry. Then there was one that Sue mentioned which was L. Formosa Himalayan honeysuckle. I will circulate it to members for their opinions.

Next month is wreath making month. Members will need to bring various decorative foliage and if you have got a moss or other form of ring, bring that too.

I am in the process of bringing my members' list up-to-date and the best way to do it, is for you to email me so that my computer can recognise your addresses.

History - Susan Cox

At the October meeting, members talked about an item of personal or general historic interest which they had brought. There was a wide variety of items which made for a very interesting afternoon. We had an original Winston Churchill engagement diary, a photograph of Tony Ward's early engineering career and even a piece of inherited jewellery containing a French franc.

At the next meeting on the 13th of November, Lynda Wright of Poulton Historical Society will be giving an illustrated talk on the Crystal Palace and Great Exhibition of 1851.

All U3A members are welcome to attend.

History of Art - Martin Johnson

'Judge the work, not the artist'; we agreed this especially applied to Caravaggio's paintings, executed with astonishing skill by day, whilst conducting a chaotic, brawling nightlife in Rome and Naples. His murderous past eventually caught up with him, but in a short life of 38 years he changed painting forever.



Card Sharps. Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth.

He brought an immediacy and theatrical drama to religious and mythological subjects, using ordinary people from the street. He quickly caught their poses and expressions without using any under-drawings. Added to

all these innovations was his masterly use of shadow and darkness.



(The Head of) Medusa. The Uffizi, Florence.

In November, we will look at his last works, which reflect his attempt to obtain the Pope's pardon. Then we will consider his influence on such artists as Rubens, Gentileschi, Georges de la Tour, Velasquez and Manet.

Italian Group - Clive Jones

The group attendance has been very good during October. Meetings were held on the 3rd and 17th October with further meetings scheduled for 31st October and 14th and 28th November leading to the final meeting of the calendar year on 12th December when we'll break for Christmas and New Year. The first meeting of the new year will be on Tuesday, 16th January 2024.

From the Prepositions and Pronouns grammatical work and concepts, we are now progressing through Means, Qualities and Causes, which is the last section in the book before the revision section. We are now considering a possible change of textbook for the New Year. We have continued with articles from a book of short stories in Italian which gives us good practise in reading, listening, translation and discussion. These have included two short stories: firstly, one about a couple buying a new, comprehensive set of luggage with which to go on holiday; and one entitled 'Un fine settimana di libert a' about a black cat called Nerone that lived in an apartment and that surprisingly, rarely

ventured outdoors. We also had some very good general conversation on what members had been doing recently including a visit to Hebden Bridge and Shibden Hall, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, an article on 'Inglese Farlocco' or 'fake words' if you like, which is about the use of English words in the Italian language and some topics on favourite Italian foods and meals. In addition, news and media websites are always a good way to learn or improve on your chosen language. New members are always most welcome to join.

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

I am really impressed by the progress being made by members. Some of the dances can be complicated but, they give it a go. I do have to say, "Trust yourself". Why? Because some dancers think everyone else knows better than they do, so they watch them. What happens? One makes a, not quite perfect move, and all of a sudden everyone goes wrong! Not that it matters as our rule is, "If you can't laugh at yourself, don't come dancing!" Being at the front doesn't mean that I am right all the time so it's a good job I can laugh as well.

I often wonder how many more dances can we learn without forgetting those we already know??? Anyway, let us see how we progress! Thank you, Team, for what you do.

Live Music - Pauline Powell



The Live Music Group are now well into rehearsals in preparation for their CHRISTMAS CONCERT at the U3A monthly meeting to be held at Thornton Little Theatre on 14th December at 2.00 p.m.

Come along and enjoy our talented musicians and singers and start your Christmas celebrations early.

We meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday each month at 2.00 p.m. at the Tee Time Golf Centre, FY5 1RN.

Philosophy - Linda Parkins

This month we continued to examine concepts and approaches in philosophy and attempted to apply them to real life situations from the news.

This led to debate and examples of key concepts of the subject.

Next month we will look again at empathy and its origins as an idea.

We will extend the discussion to prevailing ideas particularly feminism and anti racism.

Play Reading - Graham Bannister

At our October meeting the Group completed the reading of "Twelfth Night".

At our next meeting, on the 21st of November, we will start to read "Two by Two Together" by Derek Benfield. The play was first produced at the Contra-Kreis Theatre in Bonn, Germany in November 1997, and is a fast-paced comedy.

Poetry for Pleasure - Ann Fewson

There was no meeting in October.

Next meeting: Thursday 2nd November.

Subject: Welsh Poetry.

Quiz and Games - Cindy Potter and Jean and Alan Steele

Our October meeting was a quiz. Six teams faced questions on Arts and Entertainment, Sports, Trivia, etc. Some of these caused plenty of discussion!

With refreshments at half time and a picture round there was only just time for some socialising.

Next month's meeting will be Games. As no new games will be introduced, it will be an opportunity to consolidate your skills or try something new with the help of your friends. Although this is the last meeting of the year, new members will still be very welcome.

Many thanks to all who have supported us in our first year. We (Cindy, Jean and Alan) have enjoyed it and we hope you have too.

Science and Technology – Geoffrey Cowell

At the meeting held on Monday 16th October, Dr Malcolm Lewis gave a talk entitled " The

Deadline for the next issue is 29th November 2023

Social Construction of Workplace Conflict: Bullying in the NHS.

Malcolm spent time at the beginning of his talk explaining that it was based on his own research. To begin, what is bullying? Most of us can recognise it and may even have suffered from it. It can occur at all stages of our lives and a common factor is that the bully is frequently in a more senior position, with the opportunities to cause a range of stressful situations, for the person being bullied. This can occur from early in our lives from school days, right through to being elderly.

He then talked about how his research looked at those who had perhaps been bullies in their early lives but did not carry on as bullies as adults. Then at those who became bullies in the workplace, usually when in a position of some seniority.

He talked about the very wide range of NHS employees that he had interviewed as part of his research. The majority nurses from junior to senior grades. He clearly had no difficulty in finding employees willing to talk about their experience of being bullied. To interview individuals who would admit to being bullied was more difficult, few like to admit to being bullies. One who did excuse it by saying that it was the only way to get a particular individual to work. Clearly someone directing the work of another may have to be assertive and where is the dividing line between this and bullying.

Many he interviewed accepted that a degree of bullying went with the job and people are affected in different ways.

Attempts to predict an individual who might become a bully were not easy. Altogether a fascinating talk in an area of research most of us had no experience of.

We later had examples of literature now being displayed in NHS workplaces on this subject (not produced by Malcolm).

At our next meeting, to be held on Monday 20th November, James Morgan will give a presentation on "The Technology behind Elmlea Cream Alternative".

Travel - Mick Carey (Report by Clive Jones)

This month's presentation was about a truly spectacular fly-drive adventure in the United States of America given by Claire and Bryan Fretwell, who are regular members of and

presenters to the Travel Group. They have visited the USA countless times, visiting many areas of this vast landscape. They have both friends and relatives there to call on. Therefore, they were able to speak with considerable authority and knowledge of the country and its history, culture and people. They also met up with a lot of very interesting people as the journey unfolded and anecdotes thereof. Our journey takes us from Manchester airport to the USA via Paris Charles de Gaulle. Our road trip starts in the city of Boston, Massachusetts then moves north from there to the wonderful Atlantic coastline, beaches and coves of that area and other regions of New England before heading southwest on a long track through the Mid-West taking in Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois before venturing on to Iowa, the vast plains of Nebraska, and finally Texas. The visit to Pennsylvania included the Amish community in Lancaster County and the battlefields of the American Civil War including Gettysburg. Springfield in Illinois is of course the birthplace of the late president Abraham Lincoln, and a major feature was given on Iowa, which is the birthplace of many famous Americans including Marie Doud Eisenhower, Glenn Miller, John Wayne, the Everly Brothers and Andy Williams, among many others! The visit to Texas centred on the town of Fredericksburg and was the final stage of the holiday before flying back to the UK. Our utmost thanks to Claire and Bryan for another splendid presentation.

The final meeting of the calendar year will be on Wednesday 15th November and after that our meetings will re-convene in the New Year on 17th January. The November meeting will be another 'show and tell' session where members are invited to bring in interesting items that they have acquired on their travels to give short presentations of 5-10 minutes on what the item is all about. New members are always welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you next time.

Walking - Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby

Having faced down Storm Agnes last month, the aftermath of Storm Babet was not enough to deter twenty-one members of the walking

group meeting at the Crook of Lune for a seven-mile ramble. In fact, the weather was almost perfect as we set off along the northern bank of the River Lune, through wooded areas, over waterworks bridge and emerged close to Aughton Woods nature reserve. Skipping(!) over a ditch, we paralleled the river as far as Aughton Barns before turning up into Aughton itself for our luncheon stop.



Replete, the group continued a gradual climb across fields before tracking towards Far, Middle and Lower Highfield farms. The final stretch saw us drop back down along Park Lane to our starting point of the car park at the Crook of Lune. The weather had clouded over during our walk but spirits remained high and the cheerful camaraderie of the group continues month by month. Refreshments were taken in the Station Hotel in nearby Caton where there was an intense and friendly discussion on the actual mileage covered. This is a regular occurrence and the results can vary considerably dependent upon the device and whether it is using GPS or counting steps. The final word is of course with the group leaders; so 6.5 miles was the official recorded distance. No one had kept a tally on the number of stiles and gates! Details of the November walk, to be led by Gary and Linda will be circulated in due course.

Watercolours - Christine Cutts

This is my last report from the Watercolour Painting Group as I'm now standing down as Group Leader after five years at the helm. The good news is that Ann Davies, one of our members, is taking over from me and I know she'll do an excellent job. I will continue to come to the sessions along with my other u3a activities.

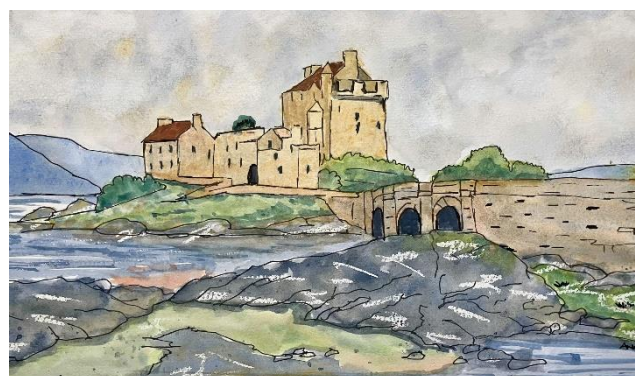
Although I handed over to Ann in mid-October, we together produced this report for the November Newsletter.

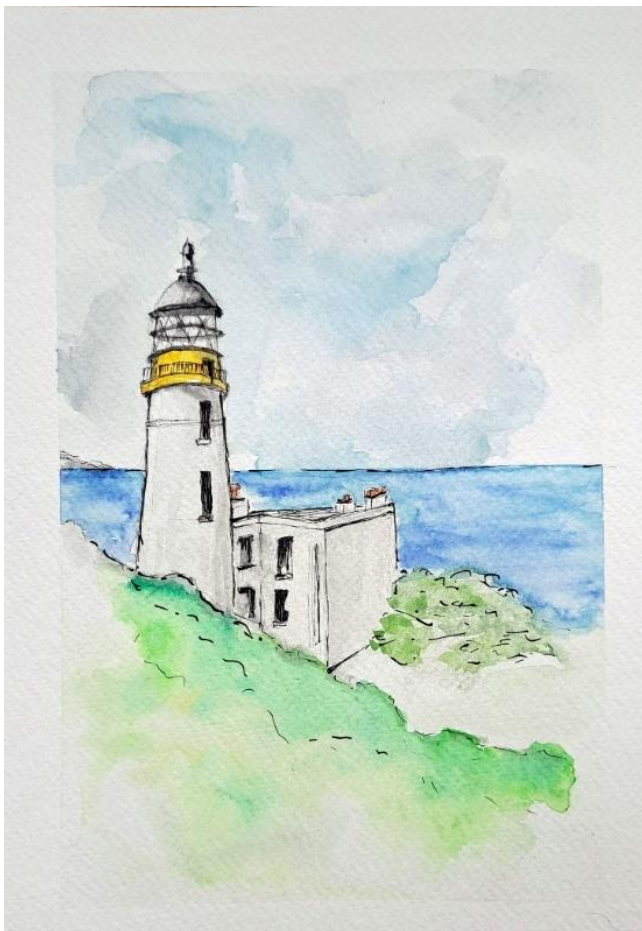
From now on, Ann will be your contact person on behalf of the group. Her contact details are now in the Group Meetings Schedule in pages 11 and 12 which follow.

Any member who is interested in having a go at watercolour painting will continue to be made most welcome.

Watercolour Gallery for October

Our theme for last month was Line and Wash which give us plenty of scope as you can see.





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 on

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.

Registered Charity Number: 1184776

Wyre u3a

learn laugh live

Committee Contact Details

Chairperson:	Linda Porter:
Secretary:	James Morgan:
Treasurer:	Ted Armitage:
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Morris:
Membership Secretary:	Susan Cox:
Groups' Co-ordinator:	Diane M. Whitworth:
Speakers' Secretary:	Diane M. Whitworth
Minutes Secretary:	James Morgan:
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.	Shaun O'Hara	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	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

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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	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 & Alan Steele	Carleton Memorial Hall
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Geoffrey Cowell	
Sewcial Bee	3 rd Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Alison Hamer Linda Johnston	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.	Arthur Jones	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	Fortnightly on Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Enid Vindel	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Travel	3 rd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Mick Carey	Carleton Memorial Hall
Walking	Last Wednesday of each month.	Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 st Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.	Ann Davies	Carleton Memorial Hall

