



Littleborough u3a Newsletter July 2024

Dear Friends,

Welcome to your July newsletter. It's the season for barbecues, picnics and gentle strolls on the seafront but when none of these appeals or is available just dip into your u3a newsletter to find something to interest or entertain. For most u3a activities it just doesn't matter what the weather is like!

In this newsletter you will find:

1. News and Information
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New Member meetings
2. Events: 10th Anniversary lunch
3. Monthly Meeting Monday July 8th
4. Outings
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5. Groups
 - a) New groups
 - b) Existing groups welcoming new members

1. News and Information

New Committee

Firstly here is a message from our newly elected chairperson, Sue Temperley

Hello everyone,

On Monday 24th June we held our first meeting with our new Committee and we are looking forward to carrying on the work of Bob Coley and the previous hard-working group. Our returning members - Jo Wiggans, Sandra Kockocki, Mike Rowley, Brenda Brown, Barrie Whitehead, Cindy Drinkwater, Marilyn Aldred and myself along with

our six new members - Sean Burgess, Ellen Cruise, Christine Longhurst, Julian Richardson, Denise Rowley, and Lynn Wild, are raring to go!

However, the Committee cannot work in isolation. The u3a is a voluntary organisation and we're all in it together – for the members, by the members. As we continue to grow, we are keen to tap into the talent and enthusiasm of our membership to keep Littleborough u3a vibrant and exciting. If getting involved in some way is something you might be interested in, please get in touch.

We also need to hear your thoughts and suggestions, so don't be shy, let us know what you think. My email is suetemperleyu3a@outlook.com, or speak to a member of the Committee or just pop a note into the suggestion box at the monthly meeting.

Let's enjoy living, learning and definitely laughing together!

Best wishes to you all,

Sue

Please put your hands together for the volunteers who are now the members of the u3a committee. Here is the full set of people and the roles they will play:

Chairperson	Sue Temperley
Vice Chairperson	Marilyn Aldred
Business Secretary	Denise Rowley
Treasurer	Julian Richardson
Groups Coordinator	Cindy Drinkwater
Volunteer Coordinator	Brenda Brown
IT and Web Manager	Barrie Whitehead
Committee Member	Ellen Cruise
Membership Secretary	Mike Rowley
Outings Coordinator	Sandra Kokocki
Committee Member	Christine Longhurst
Committee Member	Sean Burgess
Newsletter Editor	Jo Wiggans
Beacon Coordinator	Lynn Wild

The 2024 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was very entertaining – and there are not many organisations that can say that! Just take a look at the pictures below and, if you were not there, ask somebody to tell you the story of the Four Candles...



Thank you all for attending. We never have to worry about whether or not we will be quorate for the AGM. Thank you, in particular, to our multi-talented entertainers.

New Member Meeting: date change

We are very sorry but we have had to cancel the new member meeting that was due to be held on July 11th. This will now take place on **September 10th at 2.30pm** in Hare Hill House. All new members are welcome to come along so please put the date in your diaries.

2. Events

u3a 10th Anniversary

The last remaining tickets are available for members but please do hurry as there are fewer than 25 tickets left and the Town Hall has a strict limit of 250.

We are now arranging the printing of tickets which will be distributed at the monthly meetings in August and September or sent to members. If you have signed up for the event and paid your deposit you will receive a message from us asking you to confirm dietary requirements and seating preferences, together with a reminder to pay the balance if you have not already done so.

Please note that if you have booked a ticket for a non-member, you remain responsible for ensuring that they receive our messages about the event – we will not be contacting non-members directly.

If you have any questions about the event, please get in touch with one of us on the organising committee. This includes me so you might as well start with me!



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday October 12th in the afternoon:
Beetle Drive. This is a fundraiser for the Town Hall event. For now, just put the date in your diary.

3. Monthly Meetings

Our next monthly meeting is on **Monday July 8th** when our speaker will be **Martin Lunn**. His topic is **The Northern Lights**.



Martin is a graduate in Astrophysics, a degree he took whilst working as a guard for British Railways. He went on to be the Curator of Astronomy at the Yorkshire Museum in York and he now gives talks on Astronomy all around the world, often on cruise ships. We are lucky to have caught him on dry land for this talk.

Well done for remembering to bring your own cups!!



4. Outings

The following events are already booked and full:

July 2nd: Guided Tour of Rochdale Town Hall

July 11th: Lytham Hall and Gardens

But, don't worry because these are available to book at the July or August monthly meetings:

August 22nd Thursday - Lune viaduct Cruise, with Fish and chip lunch.

Time in Lancaster

Total cost £43 Deposit £20 Balance to be paid by the end of July

Tuesday September 17th: Guided Tour of Rochdale Town Hall.

Cost £8

Tuesday October 8th: Salmesbury Hall and Barton Grange Garden Centre.

Cost £35. Deposit £15. Balance to be paid by September 20th.

Please sign up for all the above at the meeting, with payment (or by bank transfer) or contact Sandra Kokocki (sandrakokocki12@gmail.com)

5. Groups

a) New Groups

If you can't get to monthly meetings and you want to let Cindy Drinkwater, our Groups Coordinator, know you have an idea for a new group or you are interested in any of the new groups listed here please contact her directly at: cindysdw@gmail.com

New groups currently looking for members

- **Music Appreciation – this group has a convenor and just needs another couple of members to get started**
- **Philosophy Group 2**
- **Walking Cricket**
- **Nifty After Fifty –successful ageing, health and wellbeing. An 8 week course for members**
- **Psychology**
- **Spanish Beginners**

b) Existing groups welcoming new members

Many groups have space for new members to join. To find out more about existing groups you simply need to contact the group convenor by clicking on the bird on the group page on our website: <https://www.u3asites.org.uk/littleborough>

The groups below are keen to encourage new members to join them:

Genealogy Group One

Alison Gavagan, Group Convenor says:

Genealogy Group One now has some vacancies for new members. The group meets once a month at Littleborough Library on the first Monday of the month. We use the 'Ancestry' and 'Find my Past' websites, which are freely available at the library, to research our ancestors. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Alison Gavagan by clicking on the bird on the group page on the website.



Looking for your family roots can be a little like a detective story and can lead you in new and unexpected directions. Just the other day I visited Martholme Hall new Great Harwood. It seems, much to my surprise, that my 5th, 6th and 7th great grandfathers lived here from the 1600's to the late 1700's.

At our meetings, we work at our family history research and discuss our latest finds and any intractable problems. We can usually help new members begin to research their own family ancestors and see where their discoveries take them. It can be a fascinating journey.

The group occasionally makes visits, for example in August we will be visiting Rochdale's Local Studies Library.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask if there is a u3a member with legal experience who would be willing to come to a Genealogy Group meeting to chat to the group about legal language? This could help with our understanding of wills from the past and the language that is used in them.

Genealogy Group Two

Genealogy Group Two also has some spaces. This group meets at Littleborough Library at 2pm on the fourth Monday of each month. The group has paused for July and August but is looking to start afresh in September.

The regular meeting times for groups are on our website. Where dates or venues vary, group convenors email group members directly so you need to be included as a group member to receive information directly.

Creative Writing Group Two

This group meets in Littleborough Library on the fourth Monday of the month at 2pm. We entertain each other with a piece of writing that we have done since the last meeting, usually following a theme that we have agreed (but there are divergences and a wide range of interpretations of the theme!). We also try a quick writing exercise together – with often very amusing results. Ellen Cruise is the group convenor – contact her via the website as above. The group has one space at the moment.

Quiz Group: July 18th at 2pm. Red Lion pub, Halifax Road, Littleborough

Craft Group: Monday July 22nd 1-3pm: Hare Hill House. Teabag folding.

And, finally, just look at this beautiful Cinnabar moth, spotted in Hare Hill Park. Mind you, it produces lots and lots of little caterpillars that wreak havoc with my roses...



And finally here is a little distraction from the penalty shoot-outs:

What did 0 say to 8?

“Nice belt!”

Why is 6 afraid of 7?

Because 7 ate 9 (7 8 9)

Why do mushrooms get invited to so many parties?

Because they are such fungis

Why did the bicycle fall over?

Because it was too tired

Why do cows wear bells?

Because their horns don't work.

I also find it helps to go outside and dead-head the roses... Here's wishing you sunshine and looking forward to seeing you at a u3a meeting soon.

Very best wishes to you all,

Jo Wiggans