



## Littleborough u3a Newsletter May 2024

Dear Friends,



Happy May Day! Here is your May newsletter full of rainy day activities and sunny opportunities. Take your pick. And make sure to look at the things we are asking you to do. Cups, committee, coach trips, chocolates ...

There may be a few jokes at the end if there is space. If you have an entertaining something for me to include in the newsletter, please send it. I would also like to hear from any group that wants to send me a short report on their activities.

In this issue, you will find:

1. News and Information
  - a. The u3a committee
  - b. Membership update
  - c. Membership renewal
  - d. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch
  - e. Raffle prizes needed
  - f. Obsolete coins?
2. Monthly Meetings
3. Outings and Events
4. Groups
5. National u3a Events and Opportunities
6. Poetry Corner
7. And, finally ...

### 1. News and Information

#### a) The U3a committee

There are 12 members on the committee, according to our constitution, but we only have 11 at the moment. We can also co-opt 2 further people. Each member, elected or co-opted, takes on the role for one year because we all have to be re-elected each year and nobody can hold the same position for more than 3 years. So all we are asking is for members to come forward to take on a role on the committee for one year. Of course we hope you will stay for another year, when you find out how much fun and interest it

brings. We are none of us paid a brass ha'penny so we don't do it for the money. Lugging chairs across the floor doesn't feel like we do it for the glory either! We work together, we make decisions about how best to manage things and we help each other. Not everything is perfect (I'm sure you noticed) but mostly u3a members are really appreciative and helpful and rather jolly. It really is a pleasure. Some of you are persuaded already – thank you for your nominations. However, it is an unfortunate truth that we have to fill some vital roles in order to continue to function so ...

I realise that committee work is not for everyone but if you are just a bit more organised than the average person and willing to do small, detailed tasks which are few and far between but nonetheless really important, **we really do need a new Business Secretary**. This person is the key link with u3a national (for administrative things) and with the Charity Commission (frankly, we are small beer to them so it's not onerous). The role also involves attending committee meetings, supporting the chair to provide an agenda and taking and distributing the minutes. Once a year, there is a set of already prepared paperwork to adapt and send out for the AGM. Anything more than this is optional – we tend to do some general stuff like helping to set up monthly meetings or we might chose, just maybe occasionally, to participate in planning a big bash in the town hall. Also bear in mind that we all have holidays and times when something else takes priority so we each cover for the other sometimes.

You have until **May 17<sup>th</sup>** to complete a nomination form and all you need to do is enter your name and sign the section of the form that details the Business Secretary and get two of your friends or acquaintances in the u3a to agree to add their names as nominator and seconder. Let Gillian or any committee member have your form. There will be printed forms available at the monthly meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. **We don't have a Plan B for this so please will somebody help us out here.**

#### **b) Membership Update**

Currently we have 380 members, including 11 who have joined since the last newsletter. So there has to be one good Business Secretary in there!

#### **c) Membership renewals – Mike says:**

Many thanks to those members who have contacted me to either renew or to resign or suspend their membership. We currently have 27 members who have not yet been in touch. This is the final opportunity to renew your membership as we do not retain details of lapsed members indefinitely.

Please contact Mike, Membership Secretary at [membership.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com](mailto:membership.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com) to confirm either renewal or resignation as soon as possible. Thank You.

#### **d) Littleborough u3a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration event**

There are still 40 tickets remaining so bookings are still open.

Before the **end of August**, we will notify you that the balance is due and we will issue tickets in September. At the same time we will ask for dietary requirements, and allergies. We will also ask you to say if you want to sit near other particular individuals or groups. There will be circular tables,

each seating 10 people and we will do our best to seat people near where they wish to be. The meal is a buffet so you can move around to talk to others but the point of having a seating plan is to allow those who come on their own to easily find a place with people they know.

Lastly, just to let you know that we continue to raise funds to subsidise this event and we have, thanks to your help and participation, already raised £1,300 against a target of £1,500. We will continue to run a raffle at the monthly meeting and please remember that there is now a craft stall at the monthly meeting with some lovely cards and gifts handmade by our own members.

### e) Raffle Prizes

We could do with a few more raffle prizes – chocolates, biscuits, interesting ornaments etc. If you have something to offer, please let Marilyn or any committee member have it at the monthly meeting or other occasion.

f) **Obsolete coins?** – Please keep your small change. The Post Office will no



longer accept any coin smaller than a 50 pence piece. I hope it's not the beginning of the end of those little coins. I would miss the tiny 5p piece that I can never find when I need it!

## 2. Monthly Meetings

I missed the talk about the assassination of JFK but I understand that it was remarkable in its detail, some of which might have merited a health warning. Hats off to the research and the depth of knowledge. We all knew there were conspiracy theories so now we know how important it is to study the angle and trajectory of bullets.

Our next monthly meeting will lighten the tone on **Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House when we will hear from **Allan Callow** about his **Years of being a Toastmaster.**

**Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House will be the monthly meeting and the **AGM of Littleborough u3a**, followed by performances from our own member groups.

The Gardening Group are also arranging a **Plant Sale** at this June meeting – please bring along any potted plants, seedlings or cuttings to contribute to the sale. Members can take the plants they want for a small donation. This is a Tenth Anniversary fundraiser.

### Chairs at monthly meetings

Monthly meetings continue to be very busy and we are doing our best to ensure that chairs are in place for everyone before you arrive. We also have to set up the payment tables, the outings and groups information. It helps if we have time to be prepared so, whilst we understand the urge to get there early to ensure a good seat, please try not to arrive before 1.30 so that we have time to set up for you. Thank you!

### Cups, cups. Cups for coffee or tea



You are doing well! Please can more members remember to bring their own cup to monthly meetings. It saves waste and we will soon be required to stop using disposable cups. Herbal teas and decaffeinated coffee and tea are available.

## 3. Outings

### Outings open for Booking

Please see or contact Sandra Kokocki for all the outings below. If you cannot get to the monthly meeting, you can email Sandra by clicking on the bird on the Outings page under Groups on our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/Littleborough>

**Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>: ABBA** entertainment at Yeadon Theatre with 3 course lunch and coach to Yeadon. Get ready to sing along! Cost £60. Deposit £20 to be paid at the monthly meeting or by bank transfer.

**Rochdale Town Hall Guided Tours:** May 21<sup>st</sup> – a few places remain.

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – plenty of places.

The cost is £8 which is payable in full on booking.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>: Lytham Hall and Gardens** – there are various options for this trip. £20 deposit secures your place but please indicate which you want to sign up for:

Coach, guided tour of the hall, and afternoon tea:	£52 per person
Coach and guided tour of the hall:	£33 per person
Coach and afternoon tea:	£40 per person

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>: Lune Viaduct Cruise and fish and chip lunch: £43**

**October 8<sup>th</sup>: Samlesbury Hall guided tour and Barton Grange Garden Centre £35**

### Outings and event reports



Those of us who went to see **One Man, Two Guv'nors** on Monday April 30<sup>th</sup> at Shaw Theatre, had a riotously funny evening (unless slapstick farce is not your thing!). It was very well done, pacy and full of surprises and laugh-out-loud funny. It was also slightly nervy for those of us who were sitting near the front as audience members were drawn in to participate in uncomfortable and sometimes messy situations. A great fun production and an excellent fundraiser because the raffle on the night made £85 and the ticket sales made a princely £500. Our thanks to Shaw Playhouse for their generous charity night.



## LISTEN UP!

*Sue Temperley says:*

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 our two Creative Writing groups and the Poetry Appreciation group held an event at Hare Hill House to help raise funds for our forthcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Town Hall. The capacity audience was entertained with

original pieces of creative writing as well as favourite poems and then those present were invited to indulge in plenty of delicious cakes provided by the performers! A good time was had by all and we raised £156. Thank you to all who supported us.

*Editor's note:* I went along and it was very entertaining, with a varied programme and delicious cakes. Thank you to Sue and all the creative performers! Here are some pictures:



Readers, if you have been or are going on a Town Hall Tour, or the trip to Thirsk next week, please send me a couple of pictures and a short report for the newsletter. Thank you.

## 4. Groups

**Craft Group** meetings: May 20<sup>th</sup>: Decoupage

May 30<sup>th</sup>: Plant pot decorations

**Quiz Group**, Red Lion pub, Littleborough at 2.30pm May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A number of new groups are just getting going. Remember that, if you want to join a group, all you need to do is head to the website and email the group convenor by clicking on the bird on the group page.

I would like to receive reports from groups about your activities, including a photograph if appropriate. My deadline is usually a couple of days before the end of the month.

**Many congratulations to Littleborough u3a Bridge Group**

Convenor, Christine Mcmillan-Bodell says:

For three successive years, the Littleborough u3a Bridge Group have entered the National Bridge Spring Charity Competition. I am thrilled to say Littleborough u3a Bridge group is in the top 15 of 45 pairs who played in the Competition on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It's a pleasure to note that we achieved three places in the top 15:

Emer and Dave	1 <sup>st</sup>
Sue and Moya	6 <sup>th</sup>
Mary and Christine	14 <sup>th</sup>

## 5. National u3a Events and opportunities

### U3a Festival tickets available now!

The u3a first-ever festival takes place in York from 18 – 20 July. The programme looks amazing and includes a huge variety of activities – workshops, entertainments, talks and sporting events. U3a members are invited to attend for all or just part of the festival and since a day trip to York is certainly possible from Littleborough I thought you might be interested.

A ticket for the whole festival, including buffet supper on the first evening, costs £35. A day ticket is £10. Accommodation is not included of course. There is plenty of parking at the York university campus where events will take place.

[Booking link for u3a Festival 24](#)

### U3a Connected on Facebook

There are a number of national u3a Facebook pages that you might find interesting. These include:

U3a Keeping in touch  
 U3a Fit for the future  
 U3a Gardening Group

and a new u3a FB group is now open for discussion about the practical aspects of running a climate group in u3a - goals, objectives, activities, talks, what works and what doesn't.

u3a Climate Group Leaders

## 6. Poetry Corner

I apologise to Alan who sent me this months ago when he submitted it to the national poetry competition. I had to wait until after the competition entry date and then I forgot to include it. Better late than never! Thank you Alan.

## Chris and his mate, in a pub, 1492

There's nothing there they said  
It's just a jumble in your head

Just let it go, there's nowt to see  
We wouldn't go t'were left to me

Why is it just so compelling  
A story growing with the telling?

I know you're skint, and need the dosh  
I think it's just a load of tosh!

How're you going to get a ship,  
A crew, food, gear - just get a grip!

America, Spice Islands too?  
Someone's making fun of you

You're chasing rainbows, stop and think  
C'mon Chris, have another drink

Who knows....  
Maybe next year?

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Alan, I'm glad that both Chris and I made it – eventually!

## 7. And, finally

Just a little space for these:

- I can't believe it! I forgot to go to the gym today. I pay the subscription every year. That's 7 years in a row now that I've forgotten to go.
- The first time I met my wife, I knew she was a keeper. She was wearing massive gloves.
- I wrote a song about a tortilla. Well, it's more of a rap.
- If I could take just one thing to a desert island, I probably wouldn't go.
- I used to be ambidextrous but I'm alright now.
- It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

Send me your contributions for our summer issue newsletters please. Meanwhile, keep dancing round the Maypole and I look forward to seeing you soon at a u3a event somewhere.

Very best wishes,

Jo Wiggans

