



Littleborough u3a Newsletter

September 2024

Dear Friends,

It's September and a season of changes. So I'm hedging my bets with a Jolly July poem that shines with summer sun and a few corny (pun intended) jokes.

I hope you find time to sit in the last of the sunshine but also remember to read on here because only in that way do you discover all the interesting things you could be planning to do this autumn. In this issue you will find:

1. News and Information

- A short history of Littleborough u3a
- Littleborough u3a new website
- A crisis of cups!

2. Events:

- 10th Anniversary lunch - How to get your tickets
- The Beetle Drive
- New Members' Meeting

3. Monthly Meeting Monday September 9th

4. Outings

- Samlesbury Hall
- York Christmas Markets

5. Groups

- Colourful contributions
- Group dates
- New groups seeking members

6. U3a week and national u3a events

What makes you think that Humpty Dumpty loves autumn?

He had a great fall!

1. News and Information

A Short History of Littleborough u3a

Littleborough u3a was founded in the summer of 2014 at a meeting held in the Coach House. It was formally inaugurated into the u3a Trust in December 2014 which is why we are holding the Tenth Anniversary Event in December 2024.

What! That's not nearly good enough! I haven't even mentioned the Rushbearing. I need your help. We intend to put together a photographic record of things we have done in the u3a since it started. A year or so ago the national u3a website system crashed and we lost all our old photographs from the website. This is therefore an appeal for members to look back to see whether they might still have some photos especially from the early years of Littleborough u3a. If you find anything please send it to me – find me as **Newsletter Editor** in the **Contact** listing on the website and send me a message. Or look at the bottom of the email that comes with the newsletter to see the reply address for me.

I am also keen to collect some memories from the early days of the u3a so please do let me know if you would like to help to build the history.

To use the photos we need to have your permission if you are in the pictures. Most photos are group pictures so if you want to make sure that we do NOT use your photo please will you let me know.

What happens when winter comes in?

Autumn leaves.

New Littleborough u3a website

As I said above, the national u3a website, which also hosts nearly 1000 local u3a websites, crashed spectacularly a year or so ago. As a result, the national u3a tech team have decided to move to an entirely different web host and we are all getting brand new websites. You will find all the usual things on the website: information about events, outings, groups, upcoming monthly meetings, membership forms and links to past newsletters and other documents. Please take a look at our new website at:

<https://littleborough.u3asite.uk>

If you have any comments please contact our web manager by going to the Contact page on the website and clicking on Comms and Website Admin. We hope you like it!

It is September and the robot couples are celebrating their anniversaries.

They were all autumn-mated.

A Crisis of Cups!



At the last monthly meeting we finally ran out of our old disposable, single-use cups and we will not be buying any more. SO now it really is time (and I am telling myself this quite forcefully) to remember to bring your own cup to the monthly meetings. There are two reasons for this request:

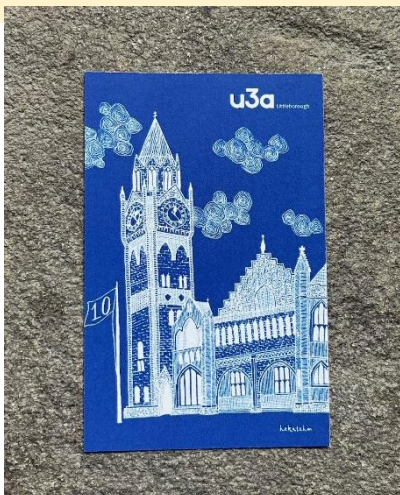
- a) From October of this year there will be a ban on the use of single use cups at public events. We simply have to change our habits in order to stay within the law.
- b) Volunteer members serve and clear up our refreshments at every monthly meeting. As these get busier, this task becomes more arduous and the kitchen is small and not able to accommodate more people. We don't want to add much more washing up to their workload – it is unlikely that they would be finished before the room booking expires!

So, please bring your own cup and take it home with you. Thank you!

Why did the pie go to the dentist?

Because it needed a filling.

2. Events



Littleborough u3a says thank you to the artist Hekate Heathcote-Marley for allowing us to use her drawing of the town hall.

u3a 10th Anniversary

If you have paid up in full: your tickets will be ready, in named envelopes, for you to collect at the September monthly meeting. If you have yet to complete a form for dietary requirements and seating requests, you can do this when you collect the tickets. We will have the table to collect tickets set up from 1.30pm.

If you want to pay the remainder of the price (£10 for members and £16 for non-members) please head to the Treasurer's table at the monthly meeting, outside the main room in the bar area. Payments can be made in cash, by cheque or by card. Tickets will be issued when the payment is taken.

Please call into the Coach House from 1.30pm on Monday September 9th – if you can – even if you are not able to stay for the meeting. Don't worry if you are not able to make it to monthly meetings – we will arrange to deliver your tickets to you well before the event.

How does the moon cut its hair? He eclipse it.

Beetle Drive. Saturday October 12th in the afternoon: This is a fundraiser for the Town Hall event. £5 per person includes all rounds of the beetle drive, refreshments and prizes (if you are lucky!). If you have not played before I promise it is great fun. Final payments at the September meeting. Numbers are limited to 52.



A special meeting for new members

On the 10th September at 2.15 we will host a NEW MEMBERS Meeting at Hare Hill House.

Thank you to all of you who have responded to our invitation. If you now find that you would like to attend, please contact me at maldredu3a@gmail.com .

If anyone missed the opportunity to attend in February this year, you are welcome to join us. Let us know at the above address. Free brews and biscuits will be provided.

2. Monthly Meetings

Our speaker on Monday 9/09/24 at 2pm will be [Allen Shalks](#) who many of you saw ably assisting his wife Marilyn at our last meeting. His talk is entitled: *An Interesting Life in Radio, Television and the Theatre.*

Allen will talk about his difficult childhood and his life changing journey towards appearing on stage, on TV and the silver screen.

Doors open at 1.30. Please bring your own cup. Front row reserved for hard of hearing and visual problems.

We look forward to seeing you. A big thank you for your raffle prize donations. Please remember to buy a ticket for the monthly raffle.

My 6 year old bilingual granddaughter who lives in Geneva told me this joke:

Two cats were friends, one French called Un deux trois and one English called One two three. They had a race in sailing boats but guess which one won?

Well it follows that ... Un, deux, trois cat sank.

4. Outings

The Lune Viaduct trip planned for August had to be cancelled because of a breach in the canal. It is hoped to run it in the spring instead.

Tuesday September 17th: Guided Tour of Rochdale Town Hall is now fully booked.

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

Places remain on this outing. Cost £35. Deposit £15. Balance to be paid by September 20th.

Wednesday November 20th: York Christmas Markets. Coach cost £23.
Bookings are now being taken at the monthly meetings.

For information or to reserve a place please go to the Outings Page on the website or contact Sandra Kokocki (sandrakokocki12@gmail.com)

I keep telling dad jokes but I don't have any children. I'm a faux pa!

5. Groups

a) Group News

A colourful collection of contributions from the groups this month. Thank you!

Dancing

On Sunday 26th of August the u3a Dance group was invited to the 'Classic Car' fundraising event for the hospice. We had the opportunity to dance to 40's music supplied and sung by Roy Chappell. Although we were dancing on a car park we had an enjoyable day and then proceeded to the Moorcock and joined in their their 40's weekend. Take a look at our pictures from the day.



Creative Writing 2

Relive your summer in this delightful poem from Ellen Cruise who leads Creative Writing Group 2. The group meets monthly on the fourth Monday afternoon in Littleborough library and **there are spaces for two or three new members**. It's a fun, informal group. We do a piece of writing to share at the meeting and we do some quick fun writing exercises when we meet. If you would like to join the group please contact Ellen Cruise via the website – go to [Groups](#) and [Creative Writing Group 2](#) to find the link to email the convenor. Meanwhile here is a taste of summer for us all – thank you Ellen:

JOLLY JULY

School is over, holiday time is here.
We are free to play and try,
All things we planned to do.
In this our Jolly July.

Down to the beach, buckets and spades
Paper kites all ready to fly.
Warm sand and sunshine all the day
In this our Jolly July.

Should we wander through country lanes?
Enjoying the cloudless bright sky
Watch sheep and cows at their rest.
In this our Jolly July.

A picnic in the local park
With buns and squash, the brass band playing nearby.
Then cricket on the green, green grass
We're enjoying our Jolly July.

Or shall we go into town today?
To see what we could buy.
Books and toys, clothes and more,
As a treat in our Jolly July.

The corn in the fields is turning gold.
The days of month gone by,
So, ends our time in this part of summer,
Almost good-by, to Jolly July.

The month has now come to its end.
Oh, how the days did fly by,
Still, we can have fun on the very last day,
Of our happy Jolly July.

But, fear not we'll make Awesome August last
And through this month
We'll have a blast.

Craft Group

This very popular group meets twice a month on a Monday or a Thursday afternoon and tries out a wide variety of crafts making maximum use of the amazing skills of the members in the group. You can buy some of their made items at our monthly meetings. They shared some pictures of some of the things they have made:



Genealogy 2

Unfortunately this group has had to close down because there were too few members coming forward to join the group. We are always sorry to see a group close but it can be restarted in the future if there is interest from members.

Bridge 2

You win some, you lose some and Bridge goes from strength to strength and has now started a second group for intermediate and advanced bridge players who are keen to play more in a harmonious and tranquil manner. They meet on a Friday evening 7pm to 9pm in Littleborough Bowling Club at a cost of £2 per member which includes refreshments. The group is **open to new members**. Contact the group convenor Christine McMillan Bodell via the website. Go to [Groups](#) and [Bridge Intermediate/Advanced](#) to contact Christine.

Scrabble

We have the boards, the letters, the friends and the brains (and a dictionary to check the obscure words). **Come and join us** to play Scrabble and keep those braincells healthy. New members are welcome to join. The group meets on Tuesday afternoons 2-4pm in the United Reform Church in Littleborough. Just contact Anthea Wood, the group convenor. Go to [Groups](#) and [Scrabble](#) on the website to find the link.

Yoga

Keep the braincells working with Scrabble and Bridge but don't neglect the body. We have, unusually, **two spare places** in the u3a yoga group which meets weekly on Wednesday at 1pm for one hour. Please contact Lynn via the website if you would like to join the group: Go to [Groups](#) and [Yoga](#) to find the link.

The FestiDale

Over the last three months stories, memories and poems about Rochdale were collected from many different communities, including Littleborough u3a Creative writers by staff of the Royal Exchange theatre. These were then curated to create 4 unique theatre performances featuring audio recordings of real voices from the community, professional

actors and members of the community. They were performed – amongst many other events – in 'The Den' a pop-up Royal Exchange theatre at Kingsway Park High School.



Several members of Littleborough u3a's Creative Writing groups performed in the Saturday night performance of '**Tales of the Dale: Do the Cruckle**'. Denise Greenall, Julie Woodrup, Ellen Cruise,

Marilyn Aldred and Sue Temperley were amongst 18 writers out of 48 who had submitted pieces of writing in a 50+ category and been selected to perform. It was great fun and a great advert for Littleborough u3a!!!! Here is a photo sneakily taken before the start of the performance – unfortunately without Denise.



New groups that just need a few more members

- Psychology
- Art for Beginners
- Mapreading
- Walking cricket
- Philosophy 2
- Spanish Beginners 2

To enquire and put your name down for these groups please go to the website and **Contact** and find **Groups Coordinator** to link to Cindy.

The regular meeting times for groups are on our website – <https://littleborough.u3asite.uk>

Upcoming Group meetings

Quiz Group: September 26th at 2pm. Red Lion pub, Halifax Road, Littleborough

Craft Group: Thursday September 19th: 1-3pm: Hare Hill House. Kusudama Flowers – paper folding

Monday September 30th: Glass painting using acrylics

What does a drummer call his twin daughters?

Anna One, Anna Two....

6. U3a National and u3a week

This summer the national u3a organised a 3 day event in York with a full programme of activities. It was possible to go for the day and join in a host of different workshops and activities or to go for a few days and include some of the evening dinners. I know that some Littleborough u3a members did go along **and I would love to hear from you about it.** It might encourage others to join in the future.

September sees yet another u3a national week with events happening in u3a's all over the country. If you want to see some of what is happening, here is a link to the national u3a website where you can also sign up for the u3a Friends newsletter. There are also online courses you can join.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Very best wishes to you all,

Jo Wiggans

Email: jowiggans@sky.com