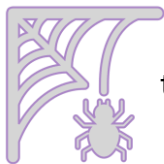




## Littleborough u3a Newsletter November 2024

<https://littleborough.u3asite.uk>

Dear friends,



Our days are getting darker and the trees are losing their leaves but this newsletter is full of tricks and treats. Especially treats. The trick is to read it all to find the treat at the end.

**Important to note this month: There are details of the two events in December – the Tenth anniversary lunch on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December and the u3a annual Christmas event in Littleborough Cricket Club on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December.** Remember the Anniversary lunch is for those who have bought tickets. The Christmas meeting is free and for **ALL** members. Dates and details below.

**Secondly, the December newsletter will be sent in the middle of the month and there will be no newsletter at the beginning of January.** You will all receive an email about the January monthly meeting and normal newsletters will begin again in February. Meanwhile, in this issue you will find:

### 1. News:

- a. Advice for those attending the Tenth Anniversary Event
- b. Call for contributions

### 2. Monthly Meetings:

- a. November
- b. December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas meeting
- c. January monthly meeting
- d. Information from our October speaker

### 3. Outings – York Christmas Markets

### 4. Groups

- a. New groups
- b. Group meeting dates
- c. Strictly u3a Dancing make it to Blackpool

### 5. National u3a news

- a. Third Age Trust governance changes
- b. Treats for u3a members (as promised!)

A couple of years ago the invisible man went to visit the doctor. He is still waiting to be seen

## 1. News

### **a. Littleborough u3a Tenth Anniversary Event on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

We have now ended the sale of tickets. Those of you who are coming (more than half our members which is wonderful) will have received an email with all the information about arrivals, start times etc. Copies will also be available at the November monthly meeting. Here, as a reminder, are the details:

- ❖ The event starts at 1pm and ends at 4pm. Doors will be open at 12.30pm. Please plan to arrive in good time to find your seats, buy a drink (including tea and coffee) from the bar and settle in time for the start. The organ will be playing.
- ❖ When you arrive through the main doors of the town hall, the Toastmaster and u3a members will greet you and direct you. Coat racks are on the ground floor. Lifts on the left. Toilets on the left and also upstairs next to the Great Hall.
- ❖ Seating plans will be displayed in the entrance hall and in the Great Hall.
- ❖ If you have told us you have dietary requirements, these have been passed to the catering team. There will be staff to help on the day so please ask them if you have any questions.
- ❖ Please bring your ticket.

### **Advice on Getting to Rochdale Town Hall**

- ❖ If possible, please use public transport (train and tram or bus) or share cars

- ❖ You can register with and check eligibility for Ring and Ride: <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/ring-and-ride-minibuses>
- ❖ Taxis will drop you off at the main drop-off point which is beside the Gracie Fields statue. It is a short walk from here to the entrance. Cars can also drop off at the other side of the paved area past Touchstones.
- ❖ There is no dedicated car park for the town hall. Do not park at Asda because this is restricted to 2 hours.
- ❖ It's going to be a great event so please arrive in plenty of time.

Christine Mcmillan-Bodell asked me to put this in the newsletter:



*Many thanks to the committee for their continued hard work in bringing the Town Hall event to fruition. We really do appreciate it.*

Christine also sent me this very classy joke:

What do you get when you multiply the circumference of a pumpkin with its diameter?

Pumpkin Pie! (pi)



Thank you, Christine.

- b. The December newsletter will be sent to you around the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and will include reports on the Tenth Anniversary event (see above) and the u3a Christmas meeting (see below). I also want to include a few **fun things** – quizzes, jokes, festive photos – that you might want to share with friends or family. Please do send me contributions if you have any to share.

## 2. Monthly Meetings

- a. Upcoming Meetings.

I hope that you already have a new diary – here are essential dates for you:

**Monday November 11<sup>th</sup>:** Our next monthly meeting. The speaker is **Brian Groom**. Brian is a writer and historian who will be making his second visit to our U3. Previously Brian talked about his book *The Northerners*, which traced the history of this region from the stone age. Now two years later Brian will talk about his latest book **'Made in Manchester; A people's history of the city that shaped the modern world'** published in May this year.

I am sure that Brian will open our eyes about the part that the people of Manchester and its districts have played in putting the Great in Britain.



**Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>:** This is our annual Christmas monthly meeting, this year being held at **Littleborough Cricket Club**. Admission is Free and the event is members only. It will include entertainment from our performing arts groups and a mince pie and glass of fizz if you wish. It starts at 2pm as usual but **please note that it will finish at 4pm** to allow time for the performances and also to avoid leaving the Cricket Club around 3.30pm when the school day ends and there are many cars picking up children. There is plenty of parking at the Cricket Club but, if you need to leave early you might be wiser to park near the library to avoid delays.



**Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>:** Back at the Coach House as usual at 2pm, the speaker will be **Michael Astrop** and the title of his talk is '**Murdering Women**'. Very fitting for Halloween...

- b. Our October monthly meeting saw a very well received presentation about living sustainably from **James Ellson**. As part of his advice to grow our own food, he proposed a number of perennial vegetables, for which he has sent the following information so that we can source these for ourselves:

**Perennial Seeds/Cuttings**

- Agroforestry Research Trust <https://www.agroforestry.co.uk/product-category/seeds/>
- Magic Garden Seeds <https://www.magicgardenseeds.co.uk/>
- kykeonplants <https://kykeonplants.mysimplestore.com/>
- The Backyard Larder <https://backyardlarder.co.uk/>
- Incredible Vegetables <https://www.incrediblevegetables.co.uk/>

If you think swimming with dolphins is expensive you should try swimming with sharks. It cost me an arm and a leg.

### 3. Outings

Look out in the new year for further dates.

Currently we have 48 people booked on the trip to **York for the Christmas Markets** on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost is £23 but only a very few seats remain so please contact Sandra quickly if you want to try to join the group – go to the website (Link at the top of the newsletter), then Contact, then Trips co-ordinator. Have a good day!

## 4. Groups

### a. New Groups

The following groups are new to our list – some are just about to start while others have scheduled an initial meeting. Check the website if you are interested:

- 🎨 Art for Beginners
- 🗺️ Map Reading
- 🇪🇸 Spanish Beginners 2
- 🧠 Psychology

### b. Group Meeting Dates

**Quiz Group:** Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> in the Red Lion pub at 2.30pm

**Craft Group:** Due to very high demand both the Craft Group sessions are full in November. Dates for 2025 will be published in the next newsletter.

I took out a loan to pay for an exorcism. If I don't pay it back, I'm going to be repossessed.

### c. Group News

#### Strictly u3a Dancing goes to Blackpool

Maureen Butterworth, Dance Group Convenor says: On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of October the u3a Dance Group visited Blackpool Tower for dancing and afternoon tea. We had a most enjoyable day with music provided by the Tower organists. Afterwards we walked into Blackpool for fish and chips before returning home by minibus.





## 5. News from the national u3a

- a. **TAT – Third Age Trust** – has agreed, by a large majority, to change the governance structure of the organisation to create a smaller board and a Council with representation from local u3as across the country. What is more, at the last Zoom meeting of u3a Chairs, the assembled group gave Littleborough u3a a big round of applause to congratulate us on the success of the last ten years.

b. **Now for the Treats!**

As a u3a member there are specially negotiated benefits including discounts on major brands and on holidays. You need to register for these and then remember to use them when you book or buy. For example, one of our members got a 5% discount on a Fred Olsen cruise recently just because she is a u3a member. Here is the link you need, firstly to the information on the u3a website, secondly to the Friends Extra site directly.

[u3a - Friends Extra – FAQs](#)

<https://u3afriends-extra.org.uk>

That's all for this month. I am really looking forward to our two events in December and to seeing many of you there to share in the fun.

Very best wishes,

Jo Wiggans

Email me: [jowiggansu3a@icloud.com](mailto:jowiggansu3a@icloud.com)

A guy goes to the psychiatrist: "Doc, I keep having these awful recurring dreams alternating between believing I am a teepee then thinking I am a wigwam. It's driving me crazy. What's wrong with me?". The doctor says: "You need to relax, You are just two tents."