



Littleborough u3a Newsletter February 2025

Dear Friends,

New Year – New You! Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025. It's blowing a gale outside and I do feel like I have been 'wintering' as our u3a Yoga teacher puts it, for quite a while. For much of January I have been staying in, keeping warm, watching the weather from the window. It's time to wake up, stretch and get out there so read on for a host of opportunities in the hope of the sunshine to come. Thank you to Howard and Photography group member Rob Challen for the pictures of Hollingworth Lake and the features of the Town Hall.

We begin with a bonus for your bank balance and a special invitation. Read on ...

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1. News and Information

i. U3a Tenth Anniversary – refunds for members.

After considering your suggestions as to how to handle the refund, the Committee has decided the simplest option for us is to make a full refund before the end of the financial year to **ALL** those who paid money for the Town Hall event.

This will entail returning the money back to your bank account or offering you a voucher to use against a trip.

Several members suggested donating the money to charity – unfortunately this is not an option as we ourselves are a charity.

So, to get started on refunding your money, our treasurer will be in the Victoria Room at the Coach House to make (non-cash) refunds from 9am -3pm on THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY and TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY Just turn up with your bank details.

For security reasons, please do not email your bank details to us.

Should any money not be claimed by the end of March it will be ‘ring-fenced’ to put towards a u3a event later in the year.

ii. Membership Renewals 2025

Time to plan for the year ahead. U3a memberships are due for renewal by March 31st 2025. Membership remains at the level set ten years ago when we started £15 per year. Renewal notices will be sent out at the end of January so please check your spam folder if you don't receive it. If you need a copy please contact Mike, our membership secretary: membership.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com When you have renewed your membership, you will receive a confirmation with a pdf copy of your membership card.

PLEASE let Mike know if you do not want to renew your membership. This will stop you receiving reminder emails or phone calls.

III. Your Invitation

Littleborough u3a requests the pleasure of your company ...

Please come and join us. Any member of the u3a is eligible to put themselves forward to join the committee. Elections are held at the AGM in June each year and the term of office is usually 3 years but you can join for just one year if you like. It's always good to get different voices and experiences. All committee members join in the discussions and planning for monthly meetings, groups, and events and activities. There are also specific roles like Secretary, Treasurer, Chair and some of us take on particular jobs but these can be shared and swapped around. For example, I write the monthly newsletter, Cindy is the coordinator for the groups, Marilyn books and organises the speakers for the monthly meetings, Barrie looks after the website and our dropbox for committee papers

(don't let this worry you – it's easy), Lynn coordinates the Beacon membership database, Brenda organises the volunteers to make sure you get a cup of tea. Christine and Sandra organise Outings. We all muck in when needed and meetings are lively and not too long. Being on the committee, even for a short while, means you get to know the u3a well and meet new people. Just talk to any member of the committee if you are interested. You can find a quick link to email committee members via the website:

<https://littleborough.u3asite.uk/contact/>

IV. HELP!

We need help with operating the sound system at the Coach House at our monthly meetings. Barrie is looking to hand over this role, which involves setting up the Bose sound system (plugging it in!) and overseeing use of the microphones. If you think you could be that person, contact Barrie for further details: barriewatu3a@gmail.com or speak to him at the February meeting.



II. Monthly Meetings

I am sorry to have missed the January talk which I understand involved channelling Miss Marple to decide on the guilt or otherwise of women who kill. That's certainly a good way to pass a dull January afternoon.

Our next monthly meeting is on Monday February 10th in the Coach House at 2pm as usual. Our speaker will be: **Jan Hicks** who will talk about **life at Bletchley Park**, the World War II centre for code breakers. Jan has a relative who was there and so has been able to look into the daily lives of those who worked there.



III. Outings

All the following have been provisionally planned for the year ahead, subject to the numbers required to run the trip. Further information and opportunities to book will be available at the monthly meeting or please contact the trips coordinator via the website.

<https://littleboroughu3asite.uk/contact/>

- i. **April 2nd: Anderton Boat Lift and Lion Salt Works.** Includes: coach from Littleborough or Rochdale; time in the visitor centre, then the boat trip including the lift (one of the seven wonders of the Waterways!) which takes the boat from the River Weaver to the Trent and Mersey Canal. The coach then goes to the Lion Salt Works where there will be drinks and biscuits on arrival lunch in the café (own expense) and a guided tour at 2.30pm before returning home by coach. Total cost: £45 per person. We will need a £20 deposit from you in February and the remaining £25 in March.
- ii. **June 4th: Knaresborough and RHS Harlow Carr.** Coach only £22 per person. Garden entry is free for RHS Members. Cost for non-members to be advised.
- iii. **July 5th: Albert Dock and Liverpool Bay Cruise.** £45 per person.



IV. Groups

i. Group News

Psychology

The Psychology group had to cancel their first meeting the day before because of the snow and ice. We apologise to those members who didn't get the notification and turned up for the meeting. The group convenor will be in touch to let you know the revised date for the meeting.

There are now 15 members for this group so we are opening a waiting list. If you want to put your name down to join when a space is available, please contact the group convenor on https://littleborough.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/psychology/

ii. Come and join a group

Bridge

Our Bridge groups are rocking and rolling and there is interest in starting a third group, possibly meeting on a Wednesday or a Friday morning at Littleborough Bowling Club. This would be for Beginners to early Intermediate Bridge players – i.e. for those who want to learn or to relearn their bridge skills. The session will be for 2 hours, with tea and coffee and biscuits included in the table money. It's early days for this new group so now is a great time to get in at the start, make some friends and get stuck into a thoughtful and entertaining game. To express an interest or find out more, contact Christine, Bridge Group Convenor:

https://littleborough.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bridge/

Choir

The choir has started 2025 with several welcome new members, all female. They would love to have more tenors and basses, of course more men would be wonderful but also deeper voices whether male or female, to enhance the great sound that the choir are making now. Remember that everyone can sing – it's just a question of finding where your voice fits. Please do come along and join us. The choir meets for rehearsals in the Coach House on the first three Tuesdays of the month from 1.30 to 2.30pm. To talk to Christine, choir leader, just head to the website:

https://littleborough.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/choir/

Music Appreciation

This lively little group would like more members to bring their ideas for the kinds of music they want to listen to and talk about. The group meets on the First and third Tuesday of the month in Littleborough United Reform Church from 3-4pm. Come along (maybe after singing your heart out in the choir ...!). To contact the convenor go to: https://littleborough.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/music-appreciation/

iii. Group Dates

Craft Group: Thursday February 13th: 1-3pm Stained glass decorations
Monday February 24th: Twig vases

Quiz Group: Thursday February 20th at 2pm. Red Lion, Halifax Road, Littleborough



From the photography group: Threads on a Jacquard Loom; Photography group members in Ryburn Woods; totem pole in Falinge Park.

And, finally, because it's been a while since you were reading the cracker jokes:

I answered the door this morning and a 6-foot beetle punched me in the chest. Apparently, there's a very nasty bug going round...

*Why are there no jokes about receiving Oasis tickets for Christmas?
Because most people just don't get them*

What do you call a Belgian who resells their Oasis tickets for a massively inflated price? A Brussels Tout.

*How did King Charles III sign his Christmas cards to the family? The Artist
Formally known as Prince.*

Sorry, that last one is at least a year old! Okay, that's enough of my nonsense. I hope to see you at a u3a event soon.

Very best wishes to you all,

Jo Wiggans

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