



## Littleborough u3a Newsletter March 2025

<https://littleborough.u3asite.uk>

Dear Friends,

March? Already! Mind you, I'm glad to see some sunshine, to find it daylight in the morning when I wake and to find the afternoon lasts longer. When the sun shines there are crocuses and hellebores in the garden and the birds are busy too.

There will be things to do in your u3a as well. This issue contains some important items of news that I ask you to read to keep up to date. In the next issue, I want to promote our groups to encourage you, our members, to look at the groups you might like to join. I will be in touch with group convenors to ask for contributions.

Meanwhile, take a look at the wonderful 'stained glass' windows that our craft group created for Hare Hill House.



In this issue you will find:

### 1. News and Information

- iii. Internet scams – a reminder
- iv. Refunds for the Tenth Anniversary event
- v. Membership Renewals 2025
- vi. An invitation for you
- vii. Help!

### 2. Monthly Meetings

Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2025

3. Outings

Anderton Boat Lift and Lion Salt Mines

4. Groups

Group Meeting dates

5. u3a North West and the Third Age Trust

- i. a host of opportunities in the North West
- ii. Third Age Trust Board Election results

## 1. News and Information

### i. Internet scams – a reminder

You will have seen the email from our treasurer about the changes we have had to make to our planned system for refunding those who paid for tickets to the Town Hall Event (more of this below). One of our members had her email hacked which resulted in scam messages being sent to others in her contact list. Don't worry – if you did not receive the email you are not at risk. The u3a email system is also not at risk because we use a protected system. But here is a timely reminder of how to avoid scams – and remember that any one of us can be a victim of scamming. The scammers are as clever as they are mean. For example, you might get an email from a friend asking you for money. You feel really sorry for your friend but you ring her/him to find out what is happening before you send any money.... Remember **never open a link or forward a message that you are not sure about:**

#### **Stop**

**Challenge** \_ check where the email has come from by clicking on the sender, ignore or delete all requests that you are not sure about,

**Protect** – Contact your bank immediately if you think you have sent money to a scammer and report it to ActionFraud – <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

There is more advice on our own website on the page for the u3a Tech Buddies who run monthly open access sessions in Hare Hill House on the first Monday of the month. See our website address at the top of the newsletter and go to Tech Buddies.

## ii. U3a Tenth Anniversary – refunds for members.

For now we have suspended the refunds until we have agreed a secure way to return the money to you all, working with our bank. Please keep an eye open for a message to tell you what to do next. In the meantime you can go ahead to book a trip using your refund as the deposit or part payment – just let Sandra know that you are doing that and she will pass on the information to the treasurer. You can also tell us if you do not intend to reclaim your ticket money. Please note that the treasurer's email address will be changing from this weekend. The new email address is: [U3A\\_LTreasurer@outlook.com](mailto:U3A_LTreasurer@outlook.com)

## ii. Membership Renewals 2025

More than 100 of you have already renewed your membership – Thank you! U3a memberships are now due for renewal **by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025**. Membership remains at £15 per year. Renewal notices were sent out at the end of January and reminders will be sent in early March. Any queries, please contact Mike, our membership secretary: [membership.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com](mailto:membership.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com) When you have renewed your membership, you will receive a confirmation with a pdf copy of your membership card. If you do not have email, I will send your membership card with the next newsletter.

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

## III. AGM and the u3a Committee

This year the AGM will be held on **Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm in the Coach House – it replaces the June monthly meeting. However, the business is usually transacted in 30 minutes or so and the formal meeting is followed by entertainment from our members. Already our performing groups are polishing their tutus... Nomination forms for committee members and all other AGM information will be sent out to you all in April.



**We need new committee members.** If you might like to be more involved, please talk to us about joining the committee. There are some particular jobs and also more general help, ideas and suggestions and we need people with different interests and skills. You only commit for one year – committee members are elected annually at the AGM. We hope you will want to stay on for longer but the constitution requires committee members to stand down after 3 years – so you see it is vital that we have new people every year. Just have a chat to one of our current committee members – 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](mailto:barriewatu3a@gmail.com) or speak to him at the March meeting.

## 2. Monthly Meetings

I really enjoyed Jan Hicks' talk about Bletchley Park in February. It was full of interesting information, a scattering of stories and very nicely, clearly presented.

On **Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House**, we welcome back our very own **Mark Pearson** who will be talking to us about '**Old Pubs of Littleborough**'. Expect a lot of interesting information and some funny stories. I suspect – but I am waiting to find out – that there were once many more pubs in Littleborough than there are now.

We are aware that the very full room sometimes makes it hard to hear and that we need to be very careful to ensure easy access to the exits. We are looking for solutions and different ways to arrange the room.



## 3. Outings

For information and to book, please contact the trips coordinator via the website.

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

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Anderton Boat Lift and Lion Salt Works.** Several places remain for this trip. 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. Remember that you can use your Town Hall ticket refund for the deposit – just let Sandra know via the link above.

## 4. Groups

### Group Dates

**Craft Group:** March 20<sup>th</sup>: Illuminated Glass Bottles  
March 31<sup>st</sup>: Card Making

**Quiz Group:** Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Red Lion, Halifax Road, Littleborough

In the next issue I want to focus on the groups that you can join, those that welcome new members. If your group would like to be featured, please send me a short, lively report of the kinds of things that members would get from joining your group, when and where you meet and how to join. Please let me know that you are sending something and get it to me by Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup>. A photo or two is also welcome. I'm afraid I will have to edit your piece if I get a lot of longer contributions – but please do send them to me so that I can decide how best to present the articles. Thank you in advance.



## 5. U3a Northwest Region and the Third Age Trust

### i. News and Opportunities in the Northwest Region of the u3a

Occasionally we receive a newsletter from the Northwest Region. This is in addition to the regular national u3a Friends newsletter. We recently forwarded the latest issue to you but I wanted to just point out some of the most interesting opportunities that were in the newsletter in case you had not had time to read it and also for the benefit of those of you who do not have email addresses.

**Northwest u3a Summer School August 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> in Manchester.** This is open to all u3a members in the region and this year includes the following topics:

- Archeology around Cottonopolis
- An Introduction to Ancient Egypt
- Literature – 'I have something to say'
- Art – a Pot-Pourri
- Art – Challenges
- Folk Music with singing
- Uzbekistan – Heart of the Silk Road
- Intermediate Ukulele

Full Board at Manchester Metropolitan University is £439. Non-residential £215.

The Egyptology sessions will be led by the national u3a adviser on the subject. He is also leading a holiday to Egypt for u3a members in November this year.



Walking Cricket – there are a number of Walking Cricket groups in the region and Oldham u3a would like to arrange some friendly games with other u3as in the region.



The national u3a website includes a set of galleries in which local u3a members are invited to send their photographs, art work and writing. Currently there is an essay competition, photographs on the theme of nature and on the theme of 'Cutting Edge', and artwork on the theme of 'Circus'. Go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities>

### iii. The Third Age Trust:

The recent elections for new trustees to serve on the board of the national u3a trust (the Third Age Trust), our parent body, resulted in the following people being elected:

John Bent, Pauline Green, Alan Russell, and Laurence Whale. Three of these were the choice we made. There is much more information on the national website if you are interested. <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

I look forward to seeing you at a u3a event soon and I hope you find time to enjoy the spring sunshine.



Very best wishes to you all, Jo Wiggans  
[Jowiggansu3a@icloud.com](mailto:Jowiggansu3a@icloud.com)

*"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn". Hal Borland*

*"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade."*

*Charles Dickens*

*"The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size". Gertrude S. Wister*

*"Spring is the time of plans and projects". Leo Tolstoy*