Littleborough u3a Newsletter August

https://littleborough.u3asite.uk/

Hello,
Well, Jo decided it was time for a change to get some of her life back especially around the end of each month. At the end of 2025 I moved to a much-needed bungalow in High Crompton and wanting to mix with people with lively, active minds, I rejoined your U3A. I felt a need to contribute more to an organisation and when Jo asked for someone to take over the newsletter, I put myself forward. I have over five years of experience, from editing a church newsletter where I trod a thin line between humour and blasphemy. It occasionally read like a student rag mag. I enjoy, Wood-working, trivia, quizzing and using long words unnecessarily. This month, there is a friendly reminder from Barrie the Web Meister on the importance of updating the items on the website. The last item is an appeal for reading volunteers from a national organisation which arrived very late. Look at their website if you are interested.

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At-a-glance: Littleborough u3a <August>Calendar

I include only those events that are open to all members. Just in the current month. Further details are below.

Date	Event	Time and place
10th August	Monthly Meeting£1 for members on the door	Coach house 14:00
24th August	Committee Meeting Anyone can attend	10 am Hare Hill House
Remember that these are only the social events open to all members. All our groups also continue to meet throughout the month – please check the website for their latest activities or contact group convenors via the website above.		

1. News and Information

The Littleborough u3a website

This has a page for every group. It is important to keep these up to date by checking occasionally that details are correct. There have been changes to convenors recently that have not been notified to the webmaster, consequently meaning that queries have been going to the wrong person.

Note to Group Convenors: All Groups have their own web page. You can submit details of your Group activities to the Webmaster for inclusion on our "Home" page where it will appear on the "latest Notices" list.

This can include the date and time and activity of your next meeting, or a report of the last one - which will appear on your Group Web page.

When did you last look at your Group web page? There are some pages with out-of-date, or very little information about what you do, and at least 1 with no contact details supplied. It is important to keep details up to date. Remember the saying “a picture paints a thousand words”. All webpages should include at least one graphic or visual. If

you already notify your members of your meeting dates, you could include the webmaster in your notification list. A contact form can be found on the “Contacts” page.

Group convenors can find information on the website “Convenors” folder, including a Convenors handbook and 2 newsletters designed specifically to help and advise you.

If a convenor does not wish to do reports or check their webpage, perhaps there is a member of the group who can help. After all running a group should be a team effort. You don’t have to do everything yourself! Other members of your group can pitch in, share the load, and take on specific responsibilities to keep things running smoothly.

Barrie

2. Monthly Meetings



Fran Sandham

At the July U3A meeting, we were entertained by the critically acclaimed author and public speaker Fran Sandham who took on the challenge of a lifetime, by walking coast-to-coast across Africa, from the Atlantic on Namibia’s Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar. This was the first time on record anyone has crossed Africa solo entirely on foot by this route, or at least solo apart from a disastrous donkey. He undertook this 3,500-mile journey with no backup, no support team, no sponsors, no film crew, and no strings attached. A warm witty and an all-round entertaining speaker he captivated

the audience with tales of his trek across Africa who found him inspirational as well as informative and amusing!

Our speaker on the 10th August will be
Mark Llewellen explaining the **'History of Oldham Coliseum'**
He has worked with everyone from Ken Dodd to Kim Woodburn, Postman Pat to Barbara Knox, Angelina Ballerina to a team of very randy, real reindeers …

3. Outings

Wednesday 23rd September: The National Memorial Arboretum

There are just four places left on this outing to the Arboretum which is made up of 150 acres of woodland and gardens. You will find over 400 memorials, each dedicated to the service of those in the Armed Forces, Emergency Services or civilian organisations.

We will travel by minibus with a pickup in Rochdale and then Littleborough. The cost is £48.

Thursday 1st October: Manchester Ship Canal Cruise

This is a 1 hour cruise from Media City to Castlefield and return taking in the sights from a different perspective. Afterwards there will be time to visit the Imperial War Museum, The Lowry Centre or simply to browse the shops and enjoy a coffee.

We will travel independently by train and tram, meeting on the Media City side of the bridge which leads to the Imperial War Museum at 12:30 for a 12:45 cruise. The cost is £11.

Please contact Janet Gillighan via the website "contacts" page if you are interested and haven't already booked

Saturday 7th Nov: Historic Courtroom Tour, Rochdale Town Hall

This is a chance to look inside the magnificent Courtroom at the Town Hall and to hear the stories of some of the people put on trial there and the Magistrates who heard their cases.

We will be meeting at 13:45 for a tour starting at 14:00 and lasting about 1hour 15 minutes. The cost is £9.45.

Thursday 3rd December: Glow at RHS Bridgewater

This is a spectacular winter light show that transforms RHS Bridgewater into an illuminated wonderland. Travel is by 16 seater minibus at cost of £31.50.

This is fully booked but there is a waiting list if you would like to express an interest.

The visits can be booked and paid for at the Monday meeting or by contacting Janet Gillighan via the website "contacts" page to check availability before paying into the Social Account.

Janet Gillighan

4. Social Events

We now have an active social events group who are arranging events for you from September through to next summer. We'll soon start to collect names and confirming bookings at the monthly meetings and via this newsletter, but for the time being here's a draft list. Do identify those you'd like to attend and get them into your calendar now!

What	Where	When	Cost
Talk - Be healthy and safe in extreme weathers, by Groundworks Community	Hare Hill House	**Thursday 24 September 2pm**	£1 cash on the door

Climate Resilience Lead			
Talk – What vision and hearing support is available, Rochdale Adult Care	Hare Hill House	**Thursday 19 November, morning TBA**	£1 cash on the door
Quiz, pie and pea supper	Coach House	**Saturday 21 November, 7pm onwards**	Cost to be confirmed, will be bookable and payable in advance

If you know of someone who could offer a short talk at Hare Hill House, please let Jacqui Mellor know. via the website "contacts" page

5. Groups

Bridge Group



Intermediate Bridge Tuesday morning, 10-12 noon every week at Littleborough bowling club in Hare Hill Park. Table money includes refreshments.
Advanced Bridge Friday evening, 18:45 – 21:00 pm every week at Littleborough Bowling Club in Hare Hill Park. Table money includes refreshments.

Christine McMillan-Bodell

Guitar Group

Our Guitar Group 2 was formed as a result of high member numbers in the original Guitar Group. We meet every Tuesday afternoon from 3pm to 5.30pm. We are all keen guitar players, playing at different levels and welcome anyone with similar interests with no restrictions on ability. The songs we play are generally popular hits from the 50's onwards, including all genres such as Soul, Rhythm & Blues, Pop, Country, Rock & Roll and Folk.

As Guitar Group 2 were only formed in late March we are looking to expand our numbers with anyone interested in guitars and popular music.

Anyone interested can attend our sessions for 2 weeks, but would then need to be a fully paid up U3a member to become part of our group. They can contact me via the website “contacts” page

Roy Bywater

Choir

The u3a Choir meets every Tuesday (except the last in the month) at 1.30pm ‘til 2.30pm in the Coach House. We are gradually building up our back row of fellers which is making a huge difference to the amazing sound of our Sopranos and Altos.
We insist that all members have a sense of fun – a good voice is a bonus!!
Why not come and see for yourself?



They sing because they can

If you’d like to know more, contact Sue via the Choir Group page on the Website

Play Reading Group



We meet on the third Thursday afternoon of the month at Littleborough Library at 2pm. Following our recent performance at Listen Up, we will be looking at a new script 'Honestly Now!' a short comedy thriller at our next meeting on Thursday 20th August. If you are interested in joining us, or would like to know more, please contact Sue via Play Reading Group page on the website.

Birdwatching group This year we joined with Rochdale Field Naturalists and hopped on their coach trip to Bempton Cliffs. This is an RSPB site between Bridlington and Filey on the Yorkshire coast and the largest nesting site for seabirds in England.



We had a great day. The gannets were on show,. With fluffy white chicks that looked like seafoam until they moved. The razorbill chicks were also very clear, as were the guillemots though there were fewer of their black chicks. There were lots of cute little kittiwake chicks and birds wheeling around our heads the whole time, diving for fish and following the shoals below us in the sea. We saw lots of puffins, cute as ever, in and out of their burrows but no puffling came out to say hello though they were certainly there. There was a sea fret for a while which made it quite cool but generally we were lucky that it was neither too hot – there is no shelter on the cliffs – nor raining. A perfect day out!









The most common owl in the UK is this ...



... the Checkered Teat Owl

Upcoming Group Meetings

Craft group

Monday 3rd August card making Thursday 20th Button Art

Quiz Group

The August Quiz will be held at the Red Lion on 27th August starting at 14:30. As usual the pub will open at 14:00

Sandra Kokocki

New Group - German Conversation

Julie Leitheiser and Gertrud Midani will be holding an inaugural meeting of the newly formed German Conversation Group.
The meeting will be held at 199 Todmorden Road Littleborough OL15 9EG on August 20th at 2 o'clock. It will last about an hour and a half to two hours. Drinks and biscuits will be available. Sessions will be of a similar length with opportunity to discuss the German way of life such as customs, food, places of interest, art, music, sport and other pastimes.
The group is open to all; those who are new to German and those who are more confident. We hope the sessions will be fun, interesting and enable fellow learners to become more proficient German speakers.
If you would like further information please contact Julie via the website "contacts" page.

Reading volunteers needed

Coram Beanstalk, a national children's charity with over 50 years' experience of supporting children to become confident, independent readers, is looking for volunteers in Newhey.
If you would be interested in becoming a reading helper in a local school, please visit our website for more information www.corambeanstalk.org.uk or call us on 020 7729 4087.

The deadline for submissions for the September edition will be **Fri 28th August.**
Martin Luke (New Ed)