Littleborough u3a Newsletter July 2026

https://littleborough.u3asite.uk/

Dear u3a Friends,
Have you melted in the heat? Have your arms grown longer from carrying all those watering cans to your wilting geraniums? Have you topped up your suntan and pitied the poor tanning salons for their lost custom? Alan Wade, our resident photographer, has sent some cooling water pictures for this month's issue.

In case we soon forget the heat, our next speaker will tell us about his walk across Africa. That must have been hot! Plus here comes Listen UP! Which is guaranteed to bring warm thoughts and cake too. As ever, it's all happening in your u3a. Check out the upcoming outings to varied and colourful destinations (now booking directly through the u3a), and the new list of social events for next year. It's all in this issue.

I was re-elected to the committee at the AGM and am taking over as Vice Chair. I am handing over the newsletter to one of our new members so this will be my last issue. Thank you for reading me over the years. It has been a pleasure to chat to you and, hopefully, keep you informed. I am passing the baton to Martin Luke who will be your new editor. Martin is a returning member who has moved closer and rejoined the u3a. He loves a good quiz, hates a bad one, similarly with jokes, cartoons and memes. Martin has added some jokes to this issue.

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At-a-glance: Littleborough u3a July Calendar

Monday July 13th	Littleborough u3a Monthly Meeting – see details. below	2pm Littleborough Coach House
Thursday July 30th	Listen UP! Performances from our u3a Creative Writing, Poetry Appreciation and Playreading groups. See details below. With Cake!	2pm Littleborough Coach House
Remember that these are only the social events open to all members. All our groups also continue to meet throughout June – please check the website for their latest activities or contact group convenors via the website above.		



Salford Quays and a very blue sky.

What did one DNA say to the other?

Do these genes make me look fat?

1. News and Information

I think we should be very proud of the fact that our AGM, unlike that of so many other organisations, is always very well attended. Thank you all for your participation. The draft minutes of the AGM are now available for you on the website. For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting, I am attaching, as a separate file, the Chair's Annual Report so that you all have a chance to read her review of the year.

There is still space for you to take an interest in the affairs of your u3a. Next year several experienced committee members will be standing down including the **chair, vice chair, business secretary and membership secretary, website administrator**. So, this year as a special offer, we are inviting you to step up to shadow one of these roles with a view to standing for the committee next year. Please just let me know if you are interested in spending a bit of time with one of us to see how it feels to be involved in this way. I can tell you that, for the most part, it's rewarding and brings friendship and fun.

Here is the list of people who you elected to be on the committee for the year ahead:

Chair:	Sue Temperley
Vice Chair:	Jo Wiggans
Treasurer:	Julian Richardson
Business Secretary:	Denise Rowley
Membership Secretary:	Mike Rowley
Website Administrator:	Barrie Whitehead
Outings Co-ordinator:	Janet Gillighan
Speaker Co-ordinator:	Christine Longhurst
Social Events Co-ordinator:	Jacqui Mellor
Beacon Administrator:	Lynn Wild
Groups Co-ordinator:	Tricia Ryan
Groups Co-ordinator:	Anita Elwell
Assistant Treasurer:	Dianne David
Committee Members:	Pauline Rowe
Newsletter Editor:	Martin Luke (to be co-opted)

Please be as supportive as you can whilst we get used to taking on new roles. If you would be willing to shadow or just talk to us about any of the committee roles, please just get in touch.

What do you get when you cross a polar bear with a seal?
A polar bear of course!



Pulteney Bridge

2. Monthly Meetings

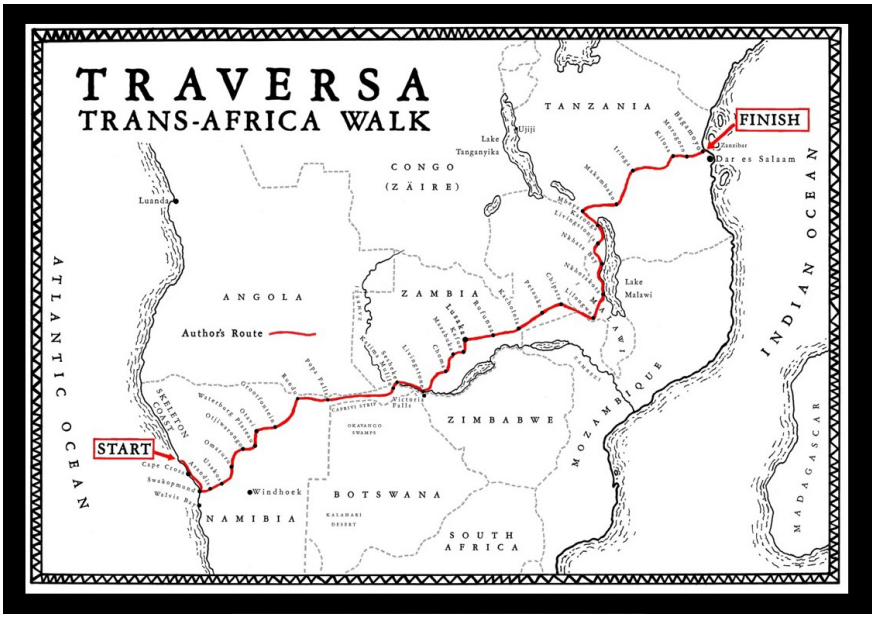
Okay, I know it is not the AGM that pulls the crowds but the promise of the musical entertainment that follows. All our music groups brought their A game. The guitar groups – now two of them – were on great form. The choir sang their hearts out even as they came in and out of the hall and the ukulele band was as happily entertaining as ever. There was real quality in these performances, all with a homely touch of fun.

Our next monthly meeting will certainly be different. Come and join us on **Monday July 13th, 2026 at 2pm in Littleborough Coach House to hear Fran Sandham** talking about his walk from West to East across the centre of Africa. Here is what Fran says about his talk:

A SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA

Critically acclaimed author and public speaker Fran Sandham took on the challenge of a lifetime, by walking across Africa from Namibia's Skeleton Coast on the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar – completely alone: no backup, no support team, no one to carry his gear, no sponsors, no film crew, no journalists, no fuss, no cheering crowds, and no strings attached. Above all, it had to be on a one-way ticket: no safety nets, no get-out clauses and nothing to fall back on…

And here is his route map.



What would you call the wife of a hippy?

Mississippi.

My IQ tests came back. They were negative.



Powerboats



3. Outings

Unfortunately, the visit to Whitby on 9th July was cancelled due to a lack of interest. Henceforth we will no longer be using a system of booking directly with Ellen Smith. All the outings below are booked and paid for through the u3a as has been the case in the past.

Please book early if you can so that we can secure the places and please note that we are looking to use smaller transport so places are limited.

Thursday 23rd September: a visit to the **National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire** by 16 seater minibus.
The Arboretum 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. Cost £48.

October: a **one-hour cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal** from Media City with time to visit The Imperial War Museum North or the Lowry Centre. See Manchester from a different angle whilst sailing towards Castlefield and back. Travel by public transport. Date and cost to be announced soon.

November: We will visit **Rochdale Town Hall to take part in the Historic Courtroom Tour.** The Town Hall will release the November dates in September, so keep an eye out for further details.

Thursday 3rd December: **Glow at RHS Bridgewater**. This is a spectacular winter light show that transforms RHS Garden Bridgewater into an illuminated wonderland. Travel by 16 seater minibus. Cost £31:50

The visits can be booked and paid for at the Monday meeting or by contacting the Outings co-ordinator using the website contacts page.

Why can't you ever trust an atom?
Because they make up literally everything!

4. Social Events

Thursday July 30th: LISTEN UP! With CAKE!

2pm in Littleborough Coach House

Whilst you are sitting in the garden, the Poetry Group, the Play Readers and the Creative Writing Group have been busy rehearsing.... We are looking forward to performing **Listen Up** on Thursday 30th July 2pm at the Coach House - with cake. You will be treated to a selection of poems, stories and two short plays. Entertainment guaranteed in an afternoon of culture and laughter.

With cakes and tea and coffee.

All for £1 payable on the door. Members may bring a non-member guest. Sign up at the monthly meeting or contact u3a Chair using the website contacts page



New!! Social Events for the year ahead

We have been reviewing the events of the last year. Over 600 attendees have joined in the events and every event has been well supported.

Our events have also offered variety – from solving murders to riding bikes and from Saturday nights out to leisurely afternoons We now have a new group of volunteer Social Event Organisers. A very big welcome to them. With support from Jacqui Mellor, Social Events Coordinator on the committee, and other committee members, this group is putting together proposals for the year ahead.

Here are the ideas but planning is at early stages so keep your eyes on this newsletter and on the advertising at the monthly meetings for more details.

Month	**Proposed Activity**	Times	Venue
September	Postponed Treasure Hunt	Tbc	Hare Hill Park
October	Lunch – a thank you lunch for group convenors and u3a volunteers		tbc
November	Littleborough u3a Quiz afternoon	Saturday afternoon	tbc
December	A pre-Christmas Event:	tbc	tbc
January	Board Games Afternoon	Tbc	tbc
February	Beetle Drive Afternoon	Tbc	Hare Hill Hosue
March	A Musical Afternoon	Tbc	tbc
April	A Race night		Coach House

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Informal Speakers at Hare Hill House

They say that everyone has a story to tell and we would love to hear yours. These have proved very popular with members in the smaller venue at Hare Hill House and we would be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to be included in our programme above. Contact the Social Events co-ordinator using the website Contacts page

June Event Reports



A WalkingTreasure Hunt

Hard to believe that June 4th was a very, very wet day! Nevertheless, several members arrived at HHH ready to brave the elements and follow the Treasure Hunt clues. But after some discussion, it was decided to postpone the event and Ellen and Mai will be trying again. **Those who were signed up for the June event will be contacted to see if they are able to take part on the new date. Any spare places will be advertised.**

Littleborough u3a BIKE RIDE!

This was a first for Littleborough u3a, but hopefully not the last. On Saturday 13th June 5 intrepid riders set off with Howard Gott on a scenic bike ride along the canal, up Calderbrook Road, and ending in the park at Gladwin's cafe for well-deserved refreshment.





My Experiences as a Magistrate:



Our member, Rosalind Harrison gave a fascinating talk on June 18th at Hare Hill House about her time as a magistrate in Rochdale. Although her work was at times challenging, Rosalind's memories were full of compassion nd humour and certainly kept us entertained. The afternoon finished, as ever, with lively chat and refreshments.



If you would like to give a talk to our members, please get in touch with Jacqui Mellor Social Events Co-ordinator using the website Contacts page





5. Littleborough u3a groups

Welcome to our new Group Coordinators

Our new group coordinators, Tricia and Anita, need some time to find the best way of working for them and to sit down with the retired groups coordinator for a handover meeting.

If any group convenor needs support with the use of Beacon or managing their membership list, please contact Lynn Wild, Beacon Site Administrator, via the website Contacts page.

CHOIR – we meet every Tuesday *(except the last one in the month)* at 1.30pm til 2.30pm in the Coach House. Our door is always open and recently we have welcomed several new members – men and women.
And there is plenty of room for more- whether you have singing experience or not!

So why not give it a go? Come and join our friendly group.
Our next practice is **Tuesday 7th July.**
For more info contact u3a Chair using the website contacts page

Upcoming Group Meetings

Thursday 23rd July : **Quiz Group** 2pm. Red Lion Pub

Thursday 16th Juiy: **Craft Group**: Garden pot decoration
Monday 27th July: **Craft Group**: Canvas Bag decoration

Stay cool, enjoy all your activities and I look forward to seeing you at a u3a event one day soon. Keep reading these newsletter and thank you for being there for me.

Very best wishes to you all.

Jo Wiggans

Littleborough u3a Newsletter editor.

It's Wimbledon Week!

You should never fall head over heels for a tennis player, love means nothing to them
The name of the girl standing exactly in the middle of a court is Annette
The Tennis club's internet was down, they were having problems with the server
The most depressing thing about tennis practice is that you'll never be better than the wall