Littleborough u3a Newsletter
September 2026
https://littleborough.u3asite.uk

Contents

Page 2 Monthly Meetings
Page 3 At-a-glance Calendars
Page 4 Group items
Page 5 North West U3Ae Summer School Report
Page 7 Regional Events, Coming up- Geology
Page 7 Forthcoming Events
Page 8 Talks & Quiz
Page 10 Outings
Page 11 Stop Press

Dear u3a friends,
A nervous, faltering start to my new responsibility for this newsletter last month. My laptop needed a new screen, then it refused to ”SAVE” and “SEND” as a PDF, bah! I got my lovely wife on it, she is very persistent.

Not much submitted from around the groups this month. Steve Lister has recounted the time at the u3a Summer School and the Region have advertised upcoming events at Manchester University and Southport.

Special thanks to Alan Wade from the Photography Group for the re-enactment photographs from a recent event at Foxdenton Hall, Chadderton. The German Conversation group met for the first time recently and will be going ahead on Thursdays from 14:00 to 15:30 at the Convenor’s home.

A brief resumé of any interesting activities, accompanied by a photo would be most welcome. It would d be merely a corroborative detail to add artistic *verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative.

I’ve just returned from a break in Edinburgh where we watched the Military Tattoo, soaking in the atmosphere of the Festival & Fringe throughout the day. I thought it appropriate to include some of the jokes that won awards but at the time of writing they had not been announced, so I’ve included some from previous years. However, I do like this one I saw online yesterday . . .

Q) My child won’t eat fish, what can I do? ***A) Get a cat, they love fish***

August Monthly Meeting



Our Speaker on Monday 10th August was Mark Lewellyn, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester. Although Mark attended in his official capacity, there was no pomp and circumstance.

His talk about the Oldham Coliseum's history and entertainment was greatly amusing from start to finish. Mark had us in stitches with some of the tales of household names who had performed at the Theatre. He was also informative about the current situation with the venue. Some people were of the opinion, that he was our best speaker to date.

It certainly was a tonic to spend an hour in the company of such an interesting and amusing High Sherrif.
Marilyn Aldred

September meeting

There is a change of speaker for the next meeting on the 14th of September. It will be Mark Pearson with a talk entitled "Lost Littleborough," brought forward from November
Meeting starts promptly at 14:00, doors open from 13:30.
Members £1 Non-members £3
Refreshments afterwards, tea, coffee & biscuits please bring your own mug.

2026 - Olaf Falafel 'I remember thinking, as I taped a piranha to my boomerang, this could come back to bite me'

At-a-glance: Littleborough u3a <September>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
14th September	Monthly Meeting£1 for members on the door	Coach house 14:00
28th September	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.		

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

2024 – Mark Simmons

'I was going to sail around the globe in the world's smallest ship, but I bottled it.

Photography Group - Alan Wade's photos









2023 – Lorna Rose Treen 'I started dating a zookeeper, but it turned out he was a cheetah.'

Quiz Group

Meet once a month, on a Thursday afternoon, usually the third one. It's held at the Red Lion, Halifax Rd, which opens at 14:00. The room is cosy when there is a good turnout. Questions are set by a brave, volunteer quiz leader and often range from suspiciously dead easy, simple, straightforward, convoluted, devious, cryptic to impenetrable.



Answers can be right, wrong, ambiguous or even factually incorrect. Teams are selected by drawing lots making teams of 3 or 4, giving a mix of knowledge in a team and helping to introduce people. The quiz itself starts at 14:30 and lasts for about an hour Teams mark their own answers there are no prizes, it's just for fun! (it's not, Ed!!)

I persuaded the Quiz group to have a group photo. They are smiling bravely considering most of them had just lost.

North West U3A Summer School – A Few Days Out of Time



This year, Ellen Cruise and I represented Littleborough at the North West U3A Summer School at Manchester Metropolitan University, an event that proved to be something rather special. Members from 52 U3A groups from all across the country , as widespread as London, Cockermouth, Edinburgh and the Isle of Man, gathered for three days of concentrated learning, good food, lively conversation and — thanks to the heatwave — a shared sense of endurance that brought us all together.

Courses ranged widely: Archaeology, Art, Politics, Opera, Geology and, for Ellen and I, Intermediate Ukulele. Each course had its own rhythm and challenges, but we were united by the sheer warmth of the week. The Archaeologists and Geologists had the toughest conditions of all, undertaking field trips and walking tours around central Manchester. Several returned looking as though they'd trekked across the Sahara rather than the city centre, but their enthusiasm never faltered.

Six Hours a Day… in 36°C Heat

Our ukulele timetable was demanding: six hours of focused playing and practice each day (with regular hydration breaks.) The heat was extraordinary — on the hottest night I resorted to sleeping under a wet bath towel — but the energy in the classroom stayed high. We worked through a range of techniques and styles, some very challenging. It was a real workout for fingers and brain alike, but Debra, our tutor kept us going with her infectious enthusiasm and skill

By the end of the week, many of us felt our playing had taken a real step forward. We gave a short performance to show off our new strumming, finger-picking and tablature reading skills.

Evenings of Entertainment and Discovery
After dinner each night, we enjoyed visiting speakers who added richness and variety to the experience:

- A wonderfully talented couple performed *The DNA of British Musicals*, guiding us through the history and structure of the genre with humour, insight and superb singing.
- A scientist specialising in the analysis of UFO photographs gave a fascinating talk on how unusual images are investigated and debunked. His clear explanations and surprising examples made for an unexpectedly absorbing session.

These evening events provided welcome rest for our hands and broadened the whole Summer School beyond the boundaries of our individual courses.

New Friends, New Skills, No News

Perhaps the most refreshing aspect was the sense of stepping outside ordinary life. No television, no news, no distractions — just shared meals, shared challenges and the pleasure of learning alongside new friends. It reminded us how valuable it can be to pause the world for a few days and immerse ourselves in something creative and communal.

A Memorable Experience

Despite the heat (or perhaps partly because of it), the Summer School was a joyful, demanding and rewarding few days. We returned home tired, sun-dazed and carrying new techniques, new confidence and a handful of stories that will stay with us for a long time.

Comment from Ellen

I would add that if a U3A Summer School was not on your bucket list put it on, or if you are looking for a new adventure book yourself a place when your subject is listed. Meals were very good, the staff helpful especially when I locked myself out of my room, which was comfortable and clean. Don't let anyone tell you that it always rains in Manchester!!

Stephen Lister-convenor of Littleborough U3A Ukulele Group

Manchester Geological Association Event

On Saturday September 19th the Manchester Geological Association will be holding an lntroduction to Geology event.

As with the previous event, and a successful course at this year's NW u3a summer School, it is aimed at the amateur geologist, both the established amateur and those totally new to the subject.

It will be held at the University of Manchester, Williamson Building, L76 Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9QQ. There is no charge for the event and there will be complimentary refreshments.

Booking isn't essential but ideally let us know on niallclarkeO1@gmail,com This will help us provide enough biscuits.

Programme

11:3O - The human impact on geology - how we are changing the planet

12:30 - break with tea and coffee provided

l3:15 - Practical session in the Labs, an opportunity to look at the University collection

14:30 Close

Our Winter talks programme is primarily aimed at the amateur and guests are welcome, just turnup on the day. Details of the upcoming 2026-2027 programme are on our website https://manchestergeology.org.uk/indoor

North west Region invite you to join us for.....
Join u3a North west for a cracking good opportunity to catch up with u3a friends from across the region and find out what's going on.
When - Wednesday 30th September 11.OO - 4.3O pm
Venue - The Grand - The Grand, Lord Street, Southport pRg OeC
Prineess Grace Suite first floor - there,s a lift.
Getting there- Free parking at the back of the Grand.
Local and Regional buses stop outside on Lord street
Southport u3a members will collect visitors from Southport Train Station or l0-minute walk
(Please advise if you need collecting from the station and provide mobile number)

Agenda Activities

11.00 -11.30. Welcome & Refreshments
11.30 -12.30. Outside the Box Group Activity & Feedback
13.00 – 14:00 Lunch (choice of Beef Bourguignon or Vegetable Lasagne)
14.00 – 14:30 Trust Exploration Questions & Answers
14:30 onwards Working Together & Ice Cream

Cost - £21.OO a head to include lunch, tea and coffee and afternoon ice cream.

Talks

Talk: Staying safe and well in all weathers

Thursday, 24 September 2026, 2pm at the Coach House, Littleborough.
The local charity, Groundwork, have offered this talk.
Hear advice from the Groundwork team and share your experiences of living through different weather extremes

- Tips for staying warm and staying cool at home and out and about
- Ways to manage your energy use and bring down your energy bills
- Tips for making a household plan and what to keep in an emergency bag
- Where to go to for support and emergency registers

There will be time for questions at the end and a natter with refreshments available.
The cost is just £1 on the door including refreshments. Please book your place by email (as places are limited) to jacquimelloru3a@gmail.com or sign up at the next monthly meeting.
Groundwork have a presence around the Rochdale area, see here for details of their projects.
https://www.groundwork.org.uk/greatermanchester/gm-about/our-impact-gm/groundwork-in-rochdale/

Talk: Vision and hearing support, Adult Care, Rochdale Council
10.30 on Thursday 19 November at Hare Hill House.
A chance to hear, and ask your questions about, the services available in our area.
Cost is just £1 on the door including refreshments. Please book your place by email to jacquimelloru3a@gmail.com as places are limited or sign up at the next monthly meeting.

Quiz, 7.30pm on Saturday 21 November at the Coach House
This evening event will include a quiz with prizes and a pie and pea supper. There will be a charge for entry and we'll confirm these as soon as we can. In the meantime you can book your place
by email to jacquimelloru3a@gmail.com or sign up at the next monthly meeting. you should let us know if you want meat and potato or cheese and onion pie and if you have any dietary requirements we need to take into account.
This way we can confirm the price to you when we know so that you can then pay by bank transfer or at a monthly meeting. We will need payment in advance for this event.

2022 – Masai Graham
'I tried to steal spaghetti, but the female guard saw me and I couldn't get pasta.'

Outings

Outing

23rd September 2026 - National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire

23rd September: a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire by 16 seater minibus. Pickups at Newgate, Rochdale 09:15: Littleborough centre 09:30 The Arboretum is made up of 150 [...]

Cost: £48

Booking Required

1st October 2026

Outing

Thursday 1st October 2026 - cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal

A one-hour cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal from Media City to Castlefield and return. Travel to Media City by public transport and meet at the bridge by Media City.

Booking Required

7th November 2026

Outing

Saturday November 7th 2026 - Rochdale Historic Courtroom Tour

Saturday November 7th Rochdale Historic Courtroom Tour at the Town Hall. Meet at Rochdale Town Hall at 13:45 for tour starting at 14:00 Cost £9.45 Book Here Visit this Victorian building

Cost: £9.45

Booking Required

3rd December 2026

Outing

Thursday 3rd December 2026 - Glow at RHS Bridgewater

Thursday 3rd December Glow at RHS Bridgewater Cost £31.50 with a small reduction for members and their guests This is a spectacular winter light show that transforms RHS Bridgewater.

Cost: £31.70

Booking Required **Janet Gillighan**

2018 – Adam Rowe

'Working at the job centre has to be a tense job: knowing that if you get fired, you still have to come in the next day.'

*Verisimilitude (noun) the quality of seeming true or the appearance of being real.



Mr & Mrs Luke Esq.,
out for a Bank Holiday run
in their convertible.

2014 – Tim Vine
'I've decided to sell my Hoover... well, it was just collecting dust.'

STOP PRESS

The **BBC** are showing the **Edinburgh Military Tattoo**
BBC1 at **20:00 tonight** or catch it on **iplayer.**