

# Oldham & district

u3a

PROSPECTUS  
2026



learn  
laugh  
live

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the new prospectus for 2026. This will give you an excellent insight to all of the numerous groups available. I am sure you can find something of interest out of the 40 plus groups available, all run by volunteer members who have similar interests and hobbies. You will find a brief summary of what is going on with each group, but if you are not sure if it's what you want, why not come along and try it out. You will be welcomed with open arms and given a good idea of what goes on. You might arrive alone, but you will leave with many new friends.

A visit to the Oldham & District u3a website will bring up the links to get in touch with the group leader who will give you further details of attending. You are allowed up to three visits to a group without being a current member of Oldham U3A, so there is nothing stopping you from trying it out.

The monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month is open to members and non-members and regularly entertains with interesting talks, musical acts, etc; and there are free refreshments.

Tell your friends and family.

Kind regards Barrie Thompson (joint-chair)

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## Welcomers at Monthly Meetings

We all know the feel good factor we experience when someone greets us with a smile or a cheery "Hello", so those of us who subscribe to that, form the team of Welcomers. It's a delight to recognise more and more regulars as they come through the door and such a pleasure to meet people coming for the first time to find out about our wonderful organisation. We introduce ourselves, find out a little about how they heard about us, give some information about the main meetings and groups and show them around, including where to collect refreshments.

Periodically a coffee morning for new members takes place at The Link Centre and Barrie Thompson, who chairs it, contacts everyone with a warm invitation. It's an opportunity to meet others who are dipping their toe into u3a for the first time as well as a chance to ask questions. If you are considering coming along to see what u3a is about, don't hesitate, because you're really missing out! We would love to welcome you.

And we would love to have more people on our team, so if you would enjoy meeting and greeting, contact me, Margaret Halley...you'll find me on the Memberspage of the Oldham and District u3a website.

Contact us via our website <https://oldhamanddistrict.u3asite.uk>

Cover photograph: The Photography Group at Rochdale Town Hall, David Skinner

## What is the u3a?

The u3a is a UK wide, cooperative movement of people no longer in full time work who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests in a friendly and informal environment. Founded in 1981, the u3a movement encompasses more than 400,000 members from across the whole of the UK, and over 1000 local groups.



The u3a approach to learning is learning for pleasure with an emphasis on informality. There are no exams, assessments or qualifications to be gained.

The u3a activities offer a good opportunity to get out of the house and meet people.

## Oldham & District u3a

Oldham & District u3a was launched in the autumn of 2009. Now it has about 650 members and is still growing.

We have a Group Leaders' Co-ordinator who helps volunteers set up groups and become group leaders, so if you have an interest or hobby you would like to share and develop do let us know.

We now have over 40 interest groups. It only takes two people to form a group and group meetings can be held anywhere, at any time you choose, on any subject or interest you wish. Groups sizes vary depending on subject matter and venue capacity. Groups can meet weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or at times to suit the members of the group. Some groups also arrange Holidays, Day Trips and Special Interest Visits.

Oldham & District u3a is co-ordinated by a Committee (the Trustees): the officers are Chair, Vice Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer, and other Committee members are allocated roles to support the organisation. The Committee meets regularly and there is also an Annual General Meeting. Minutes of these meetings are available on the Members page of the website.

### Monthly meetings

We meet together on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, where members are able to talk to the Committee and Group Leaders.

The monthly meeting includes refreshments, a guest speaker and information on the various activities you may enjoy.

The cost is currently £3.00 per person for all attending.

When you arrive, look out for our team of Welcomers with sashes who are there to help you, answer questions and show you around. You do not need to join u3a immediately, if you wish you can attend up to three group sessions to make sure it is right for you, before joining.

Oldham & District u3a is a participating member of the Greater Manchester u3a network, which is a network of mutually supportive u3a groups from the Greater Manchester Region.

We also receive information from the u3a NW regional group regarding events such as summer schools and festivals. For further information and event details please see our website: <https://oldhamanddistrict.u3asite.uk>.

## Being a member

You will be part of an organisation that promotes Positive Ageing and Sustainable Wellbeing.

### Benefits of membership

- Opportunities to join groups benefiting mental and physical wellbeing
- Opportunities for social connections
- Access to online newsletters and updates
- Access to the u3a Facebook page
- Access to monthly meetings and speakers
- Access to regional and national events
- Access to online groups
- Regional Summer schools
- Festivals
- Competitions

### How to join

When you are satisfied that this u3a is for you, you can download a Membership Form by clicking on the u3a Membership Form on the website Oldham & District u3a: (<https://oldhamanddistrict.u3asite.uk>), Joining page. Print it out and fill in your details. We are not able to accept credit or debit cards but payment can be made in the following ways:-

- **by post** - Post the completed form, with a cheque payment, to the Membership Secretary at the address shown on the form.
- **at a monthly meeting** - The Membership Secretary will be on hand at monthly meetings to take the completed form and a cash or cheque payment.
- **by BACS** - Post the completed form or give it to the Membership Secretary at a monthly meeting and make payment by BACS using the bank details shown on the membership form.

You are very welcome to come to a meeting to find out what goes on and have a look round at what is available before joining.

### Annual subscription 2025-2026

- £15 April to March (12 months)
- £10 September to March (7 months)
- £5 January to March (3 months)
- 90yrs and over : no membership charge

### Volunteering

Oldham & District u3a is a completely voluntary organisation and we depend on members "putting a bit back in". If you would like to join us, or if you are already a member, it may be that you have an interest, hobby or pastime you would like to share. Maybe you have knowledge or experience you could share with other members by way of a short course?

Please consider how you can help the smooth running of Oldham u3a by volunteering a little bit of your time and effort to keep us running. We are financially sound and have a healthy membership to groups ratio.

You could help at monthly meetings, as Greeters at the door, as New Member Welcomers showing people round, or friendly refreshment servers. All are vital contributions to the meetings.

If you think the u3a might be for you, come to one of our meetings and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

# OLDHAM & DISTRICT u3a



Barrie Thompson

## Barrie Thompson Co-Chairman

I have been a member of the committee for well over 2 years, and am at the moment temporary Vice Co-Chairman. As well as running the Acoustic Guitar group, I help run the Mindfulness group and am also a regular member of the Table Tennis group. If you are a new member you will meet me hosting the New Members Meeting which take place every few months.

I thought that when I retired 6 years ago, I would have nothing to occupy my spare time. How wrong can you be? I thoroughly enjoy my role at the moment and have made so many new friends. It really is a great organisation.

## Val Thomas Co-Chairman and Group Leaders' Co-ordinator

I have been a member of Oldham u3a since 2015 when I joined the Dancing Group of which I have been the Group Leader for over 7 years.

I was co-opted onto the Committee in January 2020 and in November after the AGM became our Treasurer, a post which I held for 5 years. I have now taken up the post of Group Leaders Co-ordinator and can help with the setting up of new Groups.

I'm happy to help our u3a to develop over the next few years by using the management and training skills I have developed over many years from both my professional career within Education and Social Services and doing voluntary work with St. John Ambulance.



Val Thomas

## Kevin Birch Treasurer

I'm a Mancunianised North Easterner and joined U3A in 2023, living on the Oldham/Tameside border.

I have a background in IT project management and in later years working with charities in fundraising, marketing and policy. I have a keen interest in travel as we keep our caravan in Normandy, France and we enjoy cruising too. I also do watercolours and I'm quite creative making small leather goods. I also enjoy building models in both plastic and other materials.

Lots of new groups hidden in there I think! I'm Looking forward to working with the team and helping to make a great u3a even better.



Kevin Birch



Karen Bartlett

## Karen Bartlett Secretary

I have been a member of the Oldham and District u3a since 2019. I was a Welcomer originally then led the group for a while. I was co-opted onto the committee in 2022 and took over as Secretary in April 2025. Although I am not completely computer literate I have had some much appreciated help from various aids and committee members.

I am a member of the MOTO's group. We go on fantastic trips and the trips are usually followed by meals which are much appreciated. I am also a member of the Art Appreciation group who are a most welcoming group. Criminology also run trips out which have been fascinating and usually audience participated. All this is provided at a reasonable cost and the company is priceless!



Jane Lawton

## Jane Lawton Membership Secretary

I joined the Oldham & District u3A in 2018 specifically to become a member of the Bird Watching group and have now taken over as co-leader of this group which I find very rewarding. Following my retirement in October 2022 I have also joined the Keep Fit, Transport & Industrial Heritage, Walking and Striders groups.

I believe the u3a to be an excellent organisation providing many opportunities for semi- or fully-retired people.

# Meet the Committee



Margaret Halley

## Margaret Halley Welcomers' Leader

As the only Scot on the committee, I have lived in various places from Lossiemouth on The Moray Firth to Letchworth Garden City in Herts. I trained as a teacher, raised a family, fostered, worked in a care home, then finally found my niche working in mental health.

I have always been a people person, so my role as a welcomer is right up my street. If you too enjoy baking and sharing it with others over a cuppa and a chat, join me for "Bakes & Blathers"!

## Rose Hanley

I have been a member of the u3a for a couple of years now since I retired from teaching. I was invited to become a welcomer and really enjoyed greeting people at our monthly meetings. More recently I was asked if I would like to be on the committee.

I look forward to the challenges this might bring. Currently I attend monthly Create and Chat sessions but am hoping to sample other groups in the near future.



Rose Hanley



Robert Cragg

## Robert Cragg

I'm a 'comer-inner' having moved to Oldham a mere 19 years ago. Originally I'm a Leicester lad, although work has taken me around the country. My career background is HR in local government, including learning and development, and health and safety, and I have some experience of PR and customer services. I still do a little HR consultancy work.

I joined the u3a in 2023, and am a member of the Birdwatching, Photography and French conversation groups.

I also chair my local Community Group and the PTA of a small school for children with autism

## Susan Tickle

I have been a member of u3a for 7 years when I joined the Bowling and Dancing Groups.

I am a card maker so in January 2020 I started the Create and Chat group, also in 2020 I took on the job of getting the supplies for refreshments at the monthly u3a meetings.

The u3a has been a valued part of my life especially in the last 2 years. I have gone on trips and holidays with various groups where I have made lots of new friends.



Susan Tickle



Marion Shannon

## Marion Shannon

I have enjoyed a 16 year career with BT, mainly working in Sales and Marketing. More recently, I was a self-employed electronic note-taker for deaf and disabled people. When I retired in 2023, I needed a challenge! I started to plan a tour of Southern Italy including a visit to the birthplace of my mother. I joined the u3a to improve my Italian. Soon I was attending the monthly meetings to hear presentations from a variety of speakers. I also occasionally attend the Criminology Group meetings. I enjoy attending live music events and modern jive dancing. My favourite music is Motown, Northern Soul, and music by bands from the 1960s.

I was co-opted onto the Oldham U3A Committee in October 2025. I have taken responsibility for arranging speakers for the Monthly Meetings. I am looking forward to helping to keep Oldham U3A an exciting and enjoyable organisation to be involved in. I have a voluntary role as Membership Secretary of the Ramblers Association (Oldham Group).

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To send a message to any of the committee members just visit the Members page of the Oldham & District u3a website and click on the committee member's name.

# OLDHAM & DISTRICT u3a GROUPS

If you are interested in joining any of the groups, add your name to the membership list at the monthly meeting or contact the Group Leader via the Groups page of the website:

<https://oldhamanddistrict.u3asite.uk/groups>

Please don't just turn up to a Group meeting, unless invited to do so in the Group listing below. Please contact the Group Leader first. The group may have become full, or the time or venue may have changed since this prospectus was issued.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PERSONAL ACCIDENTS OR LOSSES ARE NOT COVERED BY u3a INSURANCE FOR ANY ACTIVITIES OR PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

## ACOUSTIC GUITAR

### Group Leaders:

Barrie Thompson (barriethompson02@gmail.com)  
Martin Powell

The Group meets most Mondays, (except bank holidays), from 1.15 to 3.15 pm

at Sholver Community Hub, Sholver Lane, Moorside, Oldham, OL4 4NT

Cost: £2 per session to cover cost of room hire

This group is for people interested in improving or just enjoying their guitar playing. You don't need to be a budding Eric Clapton but it may be preferable if you can play one or two basic chords. We have members of all different abilities and you won't be judged on your playing skills.

We provide the songs with lyrics and chords, from all genres, be it folk, rock, pop or whatever. We play together as a group but you are welcome to put in a solo if you should so wish. Also plenty of tips and advice about your guitar playing. All you will need is a guitar, music stand and a tablet or laptop to store the songs on.

Occasionally we get asked to perform at functions and have played at the Tuesday meetings at the QE Hall a number of times. All optional and no pressure to join in with these events.

Most of all it is a fun-loving, friendly group and new members are always welcome to come and try us out. Contact the group leader via the website first, please.

Refreshments usually provided.



Acoustic Guitarists rehearsing

## ANYTHING GOES – SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP

### Group Leader:

Vera Rigby (01457 873560, 07949 714267,  
verarigby44@gmail.com)

The Group meets by arrangement

Details of events are posted on the Oldham & District u3a website and on information notices displayed at the monthly general meetings. Book at the monthly meeting or by email or phone call to the group leader. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Costs vary according to the event.



Anything Goes in Calpe



Christmas party at St Anne's

During the last few months our events have included a holiday in Calpe, Spain and our Christmas party at St Anne's Rugby Club. We have two holidays planned for 2026 in Benalmaden, Spain and Peurto Calero, Lanzarote.

## ART APPRECIATION

### Group Leader:

Sally Berry (01457 875049)

### The Group usually meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

The group is led by a committee of six, who share the leadership role. We welcome suggestions for future trips and are happy if any member wishes to organise a trip.

The purpose of the group is to organise guided visits to galleries, museums, artist's studios and places of artistic, cultural and architectural interest. Transport and refreshments will be arranged where possible. These events will usually (but not always) take place on the third Thursday of the month. All are welcome to join us. No prior knowledge of art is necessary, just an interest in learning about and enjoying art.

Our activities in 2025 started in January with a post Christmas lunch held at Restaurant San Rocco in Oldham. We visited Manchester Art Gallery in February and the World of Glass, St Helens in March. We had a group meeting in April to discuss future trips. In June we visited Harewood House in Yorkshire.

A member of the group writes:

"In September we had a brilliant trip to the Lady Lever Gallery at Port Sunlight, which lived up to its name until the heavens opened and there were a lot of drowned rats, me included. The Rose Garden albeit dying back was beautiful and the scent was glorious.



Hard hats are required at World of Glass



World of Glass



Art Appreciation Members at the post-Christmas lunch

"There is a painting in the gallery called the Last Muster by Hubert von Herkomer that always makes me smile and feel peaceful. It depicts the Chelsea Hospital where pensioners are sitting in church and one gent has obviously passed away peacefully next to his friend who is taking his pulse through his very thick overcoat!"

Outings in 2026 will be publicised when details are confirmed.

We welcome suggestions for future trips and are happy if any member wishes to organise a trip.



Harewood House

## ART STUDY

### Group Leaders:

Rita Taylor

Cam Montgomery (campbell.montgomery1@gmail.com)

The Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

at The Pennine Mencap Building, Rhodes Bank Chambers, 184 - 188 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1EN

Cost: £2.00 per session to cover room hire, members are asked to bring their own refreshments to keep the cost down.

The Art Study group started way back in 2017 and our membership continues to rise.

The inspiration came from members wishing to look at more detailed information regarding artists, their work, their inspirations and lives, though this was only one aspect of the group. We are just as interested in all aspects of the art world and listed below are some of the subjects we've covered so far as well as suggested topics for the future.

We have a list of topics that the group suggest. Following the exhaustion of one topic we then put it to the vote as to what we'd like to do next. However, it is not all set in stone and to keep interest levels up we welcome all art connected subjects for discussion at any of our meetings.

The group is very informal and friendly. We come to learn from each other and enjoy sharing the information we bring.

Celtic art, Folk art, Pre-Raphaelite women artists, Mythology, Art Fakers and Forgers, War Artists are just a small selection of the topics we have so far discussed.

Our topic for the new year is Artists of the Americas.

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## BAKES AND BLATHERS

### Group Leader:

Margaret Halley (01457 873434, [margaret.halley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret.halley@yahoo.co.uk))

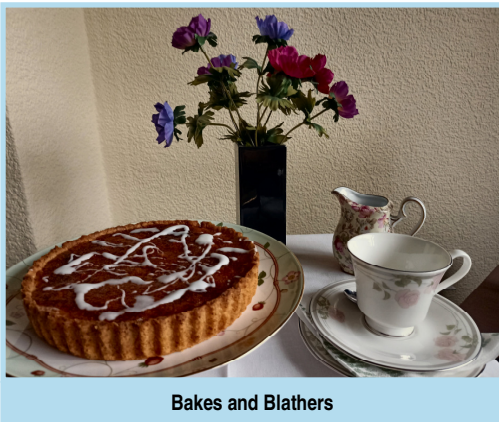
**The Group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2.00 to 4.00 pm in different homes**

Our u3a is a wonderful organisation that provides opportunities to learn, exercise or be creative. Aware of the importance of also making social connections, I came up with the idea of combining my love of baking, inviting people to come for a cuppa and cake, while enjoying a right good "blether", as we'd say in Scotland!

Others who feel the same have joined me. Our first get together was in April and we are really getting to know one another.

If you have difficulty hearing, this might be a situation you can manage, as we will keep the group to about 6 and if numbers grow, have groups in different homes.

Hosting a group is not compulsory. The purpose of the group is friendship. We'd love to meet you. We are a very friendly group and new members are always welcome.



Bakes and Blathers

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## BIRDWATCHING

### Group Leaders:

Liz Cragg ([lizcragg@hotmail.com](mailto:lizcragg@hotmail.com))

Jane Lawton (0161 213 9536, 07706 099304, [jane.lawton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jane.lawton@hotmail.co.uk))

**The Group meets on the 1st Monday of each month, except if there is a Bank Holiday, when it is the 2nd Monday**

Costs vary according to the details of the visit.

Our visits to reserves enable us to learn about bird song, habitat and identification helped by the more experienced members of the group. There is a full monthly programme arranged for the year whilst visiting a good variety of reserves.

We have an Annual Indoor Meeting to focus on the year ahead, this year it's in December.

During 2025 the group visited RSPB Reserves at Burton Wetlands on the Wirral, Leighton Moss, St Aidan's, Blacktoft Sands and to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at North Cave near Goole and Potteric Carr near Doncaster.

In March and June we had enjoyable visits to Pennington Flash near Wigan and Etherow Country Park near Stockport. Storm Doris in August meant we had to postpone our visit to a new area for the group, Moore near Warrington.

A small group led by a local guide had a visit to Audenshaw Reservoirs earlier in the year.



Birdwatchers at St Aidan's

May was a busy month with our Dawn Chorus at Daisy Nook very well attended despite the 6.00 a.m. start, with 27 bird species heard or seen. RSPB Dovestones very kindly took a small group to Saddleworth Moors and as a 'special' some members of the group had a few days on Anglesey.

The group continues to grow with trips well attended and enjoyed by members. When going on trips we car share to help with parking at the venues.



Whitethroat at Dawn Chorus at Daisy Nook



Curlew Chick on Saddleworth Moor

In 2026 we look forward to another year of interesting field trips to a good mix of reserves and hopefully some new members.

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## BOARD GAMES

### Group Leader:

Mary Hewson ([mary.hewson69@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.hewson69@btinternet.com))

**The Group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2.00 to 4.00 pm, and**

**on the 4th Thursday of each month from 3.00 to 5.00 pm at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

There is no charge to attend meetings.

Board Games is one of our oldest groups: shortly after Oldham & District u3a started, a visitor mentioned Scrabble as a group that was running in the north west. I spoke of this to other members and it was suggested I should start a Scrabble group, so I did. I soon changed its name to Board Games and it's run ever since. I took a year off once, and another member ran it while I had a new hip, but for the rest of the time I have been the facilitator.

The group virtually runs itself. The core members contribute refreshments and we all bring board games. At first we met on the fourth Thursday of the month at 3pm in Lees Library; then some members wanted to meet more often. So now there is a group meeting in Lees Library, at 2pm on the second Tuesday as well.

The group is very small, and I think we shall be affected by the Canasta and Mah Jong groups which have recently started; but I am reluctant to suggest that Board Games should close because we are a very friendly group and always have an enjoyable time.

New members are welcome to just come along to a meeting.

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## BOWLING - INDOOR

### Group Leader:

David Wright (brakenclose@hotmail.com)

### The Group meets every Friday morning from October to March

There is a limit to the number of people who can be accommodated at these sessions, and this group is currently at capacity and unable to accept any new members.

If you are interested please still make contact so you can be added to the waiting list.

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## BOWLING - OUTDOOR

### Group Leader:

David Wright (brakenclose@hotmail.com)

### The Group meets every Monday throughout the year and every Friday from April to September from 10.00 to 11.30 am at Alexandra Park, Kings Road, Oldham OL8 1LT

There is no charge to attend meetings.

This group is open to any new members who wish to join us at 10.00 am at the two bowling greens just past the lake. If the weather is inclement, we adjourn to the café by the lake. Members need to bring their own bowls.

The bowling group is social and the bowling is not demanding nor too serious. It is fun and not like playing for a team.

We do have a bi-annual tournament at the Rose 'N' Bowl in Bacup, which is enjoyed by our more competitive members.



Ladies and gentlemen of the 2025 Oldham and District u3a group at the Ros 'N Bowl



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## BRITISH HISTORY

### Group Leader

Peter Davies (contact via our u3a website)

### The Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm with a tea/coffee break halfway through

### at Oldham Baptist Church, Chaucer Street, Oldham, OL1 1BA

Cost: There is a £2/£3 charge to pay for the room hire plus a small contribution for refreshments.

New members are welcome to just come along to a meeting.

This is a popular group, which has been going for over ten years now; there is an average attendance each month of between forty and fifty members.

Over the years we have studied many different subjects within British History; these are decided by a general vote by members of the group on various topics suggested by the members. If there are sufficient contributions, between five and eight monthly meetings can be devoted to a particular subject.

Talks are generally given by the members, who kindly volunteer, and this is always very welcome, but there is no compunction to do this. People are just as welcome to just come and listen, or perhaps to ask questions.

At each meeting three or four people, who have volunteered, talk about specific subjects within the general topic. These can be simply talks of any length. Often they include PowerPoint presentations, readings, poetry, film and music, and occasionally a fun quiz. Group discussion is welcomed.



A British History group presentation

Recent topics in the last couple of years have been

- The Lion and the Bear - six centuries of relations between Britain and Russia
- The Georgian period - life under the four Georges, the Hanoverian kings of England between 1714 and 1830

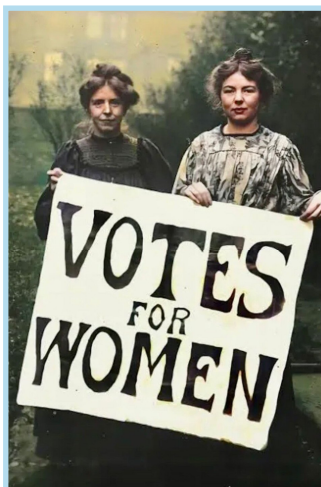
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**learn, laugh, live**

## BRITISH HISTORY continued

- A thousand years of annoying the French - relations between Britain and France
- The years between the First and Second World Wars of the 20th Century



- The immediate post WWII years: 1945-1970

The current topic is The Changing Place of Women in Society from the 17th century onwards.

## CANASTA

### Group Leader:

Eddie Cliff (eddiecliff@hotmail.com)

The Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

in the Castle Suite 2 at the Honeywell Centre, Ashton Road, Hathershaw, Oldham OL8 3BP

Cost: £3 per session.

Canasta is a card game played with 2 packs of cards. It can be played with 2, 3 or 4 players per table. The aim is to get sets of 3 or more cards with one (or more) canastas, which is a set of 7 cards eg. Jacks.

The first person/partnership to reach 5,000 points has won the game. A sociable, fun game where beginners will pick up the gist quickly.

New members are welcome.



learn, laugh, live

## CREATE & CHAT

### Group Leader:

Susan Tickle (07983 421203)

The Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

There are two sessions:

from 10.00 am to 12 noon and from 12.30 to 2.30 pm

at North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club, Burnley Lane, Broadway, Chadderton, OL9 0EL

Cost: £3 per session.

As each session is limited to ten people, if you are interested in joining please contact the leader to find out if the group is able to accommodate new members.

The group mainly makes cards, using various techniques such as decoupage and iris folding, using resources brought by the leader on the day. No experience of craftwork is necessary, the more experienced members of the group are happy to help.

## CREATIVE WRITING

### Group Leader:

Fiona Bannister (fionau3a@hotmail.com)

The Group meets on two Mondays each month

from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

(dates vary so please contact the group leader for details)

at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA

There is no cost and the members bring their own refreshments.

The group provides an opportunity for members to develop writing skills in a relaxed and friendly environment. We create short stories in a wide range of genres, poetry, monologues and memoirs.

We usually begin by reading and discussing any writing that has been brought in and then, after a short break, move on to exploring themes through a series of short exercises. There is usually a homework task set, but it is optional!

Current members range from experienced writers to beginners, and all contribute to the group by offering positive advice. Established members are invited to facilitate the group and set exercises on a rota, but this is optional.

## CRIMINOLOGY

### Group Leader

Ruth Postle (07592 743249, ruth.postle@gmail.com)

The Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month

from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

at The Honeywell Centre, Ashton Road, Hathershaw, Oldham OL8 3BP

Cost: £3 per session, including tea/coffee.

New members are welcome: just come along to a meeting.

We are interested in crime, criminals and criminal behaviour.

We do not follow a rigid curriculum - our subjects are determined by the interests of the group members. Our meetings usually begin with a presentation by a group member and continue with discussion including all the members. There is no pressure on members to make presentations.

Last year as well as presentations by members we had two very interesting talks from visitors. Christine Widdal gave a detailed and humorous talk about punishment for crimes in and around the West Riding roughly between the 17th and 19th century. Then Dr Thornton spoke to us about the setting up and development of the sexual abuse clinic at St Mary's hospital Manchester in which she had been involved. This was fascinating and disturbing but we were all spellbound. We finished the year with a summer outing to Lancaster castle: the gaol, which had been in use as a prison until 2012 and the courts, still in use. Our guides were excellent. We then enjoyed a fish and chip lunch on a canal boat sailing along the Lune viaduct.

If you are interested just come along to our meeting. We hope you will enjoy it but if it is not for you there is no obligation to come again.

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## DANCE

### Group Leader:

Val Thomas (07419 777643, auntyval@talktalk.net)

**The Group meets every Thursday  
from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon**

**at The Honeywell Centre, Ashton Road, Hathershaw,  
Oldham OL8 3BP**

Cost: £1.50, but this may have to be increased in the future.

The Group functions more like a social group that dances rather than a dancing school, and consists of both experienced dancers and beginners. We dance a variety of dance styles which can include Sequence dancing, Old Time, Latin and the occasional line dance.

It's good exercise for both the mind and body. Do come join us, meet new friends, and have fun, you will be made welcome. All you need is a comfortable pair of shoes and a smile.

During the past year we have continued to learn numerous new dances. At Christmas the group joined forces with the Monday afternoon dancing group at the George Lawton Hall, Mossley for a Social Dance and Afternoon Tea Christmas Party. This was a great success is becoming a regular feature in our calendar.



**learn, laugh, live**

As we continue going forward this year we hope to develop people's individual skills and confidence further and continue to enlarge the group.

Many of our group members have already moved on to other activities and groups, including private dance schools to develop their expertise further.




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## DISCUSSION

### Group Leader:

Pat Davies (contact via our u3a website)

**The Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month**

We are a friendly, respectful, non-critical group, and definitely not a debating society. There is no programme for meetings, the group discusses whatever topics are current and of interest to the members attending.

The group is currently full and unable to accept new members.

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## DRAWING & PAINTING

### Group Leader:

Charu Boswell (charu.boswell@yahoo.co.uk)

**The Group meets fortnightly on Fridays  
from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon**

**at Daisy Nook Garden Centre, Stannybrook Rd, Failsworth  
M35 9WJ**

There is no charge to attend the class.

The group is for people with a common interest in developing their artistic skills, and caters for a wide range of expertise, from absolute beginners to those with several years' experience. Members are free to draw or paint whatever they like if that is their wish; however, for those at an early stage of learning the usual pattern is for a demonstration painting to be made for members to copy, with guidance if required. The initial demo paintings are extremely simple and easy to paint. As skills are developed, the complexity and difficulty of the demonstration painting is increased.

Our Instructor/teacher is very talented. She is always giving us demonstrations and ideas.

From time to time we have outings to different art galleries which are very enjoyable and informative. We also go out socially for lunches. All in all the atmosphere is very friendly and relaxed.

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## FAMILY HISTORY ADVANCED

### Group Leader:

Linda (lindalydgate@btinternet.com)

**The Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm**

**at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

There is no cost to attend meetings

Members of our Family History group have been researching our ancestors for some time and we are continuing to delve. We want to know not just the dates they were born and died, but how they lived, in short: their stories. We use a wide range of resources to do this, not just ancestry websites.

Our meetings are varied, looking at a different topic each month and we all give presentations about our family members.

Due to the small venue and interactive nature of the subject, we are full at present and have a waiting list.

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## FLAT WALKING

### Group Leader:

Josie Morris (07857 181386, j.morris258@btinternet.com)

**The group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 10.20 am for 10.30 am start**

**Group members will be emailed each month with the venue details.**

It is free to walk!

Walks are 45-90 minutes, with no hills and no stiles. Our aim is to offer gentle walks for members who find the other u3a walking groups too challenging.



Flat Walkers taking a break in Alkrington Woods and on the dam at Baitings reservoir



The walks are sociable events and usually we end the walk in a café or other establishment providing refreshments.

Our walks over the last year have included Heaton Park, Hollingworth Lake, Baitings Reservoir, and Chadderton Park.

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## FLOWER ARRANGING

### Group Leader:

Genia Polowyj (07891 632399, geniapolowyj@virginmedia.com)

**The Group meets on the last Wednesday of each month, except December from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon**

**in the Community room at Daisy Nook Garden Centre, Stannybrook Rd, Failsworth M35 9WJ**

Cost: There is no cost to attend the meetings; however, members need to source their own materials, i.e. flowers, foliage, containers, tools etc.

There is a theme for each session, which may be seasonal or an aspect of floral design, such as Spring arrangement, triangle/parallel design. The group leader is not a demonstrator, but she brings a completed arrangement as an example. After an introduction, including basic concepts and tips related to the theme, members undertake their own arrangements. Themes for future meetings are announced prior to each meeting.

The group is open to new members. Anyone who may be interested can come along to a session and observe by arrangement with the group leader.

Members can buy refreshments from the café at the garden centre and can also purchase items such as floral foam.

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## FRENCH CONVERSATION

### Group Leader:

Celia Costello (contact via our u3a website)

**The Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon**

**at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

The French conversation group has been running for nearly 2 years now.

We are a lively group with various levels of proficiency/fluency in French, always ready to help each other out. We've made our way steadily through a grammar book, and covered a large number of diverse subjects for discussion, as well as playing word games and keeping each other entertained with tales of our everyday lives. It's a stable group of 16 members which means we're at capacity, and the waiting list has recently grown to 11, so clearly there would be a case for setting up a separate group should anyone be interested in taking this on!

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## GARDENING

### Group Leaders:

Pam Alase (01457 872204, pamelamargaretalase@gmail.com)

Liz Fowden

**The Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10.00 to 11.00 am**

**at Daisy Nook Garden Centre, Stannybrook Rd, Failsworth M35 9WJ .**

Events organised by the gardening group primarily happen in the summer when we arrange visits to various gardens.

There is no charge for the meetings at Daisy Nook and costs vary according to the details of the visits in the summer.

This year we have visited several gardens, amongst them Harewood House, Mount Grace Priory, Harlow Carr and Helmsley Walled Garden, we also had a very successful 5 day trip to Suffolk staying at Bury St Edmund's and visiting gardens in the area.

The number of people on the trips is governed by the size of the coach and it's all done on a first come first served basis. As ever members are invited to sign up for events at the monthly u3a meeting .

In November there is a planning meeting with members to decide on next year's visits. Our holiday in July 2026 to Devon has already been organised.

Although Daisy Nook Garden centre has now been sold to Parkers they are continuing to organise the monthly Wednesday Garden Club which some Gardening group members attend.



Gardeners at Harlow Carr and Helmsley walled garden



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## GERMAN

### Group Leader:

Derek Francis (07732 623895)

**The Group meets every Tuesday from 2.45 to 4.30 pm remotely via Zoom**

This group is for people who have some knowledge of German and would like to improve. We practise our conversation skills, read newspaper articles and watch videos in German to build up our vocabulary and learn some straightforward grammar, all in a fun, non-threatening way.

We use Hugo *German in 3 Months* as a basic reference but also use resources provided by the Goethe Institute for level A1 German. We practice our listening skills by watching videos of street interviews etc provided by Easy German.

The group is diverse, with a range of abilities from those who are rusty to others who have had practice in German-speaking countries. We operate remotely by means of Zoom: participants simply need a PC/Laptop and an internet connection. The Group Leader provides any necessary technical support.

If you have some knowledge of German and feel you would like to sample the group, please contact the Group Leader, for current availability.

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## ITALIAN

### Group Leader:

John Rigby (jnrigby@hotmail.co.uk)

**The Group meets every Tuesday afternoon at the Group Leader's home**

There is no cost to attend meetings.

We are a friendly and cheerful group - usually seven or eight people attend. We have been running for about five years, using various text-books, and our general level is somewhere between GCSE and A-level standard. It is not really suitable for beginners, but anyone who already has some Italian, or has reached a good level of French, is welcome to come along.

We start our meeting with conversation, usually about what we have been doing recently, then watch Italian videos from YouTube. We also do some reading and translation, often from Italian newspapers, and study points of grammar. Individual members of the group give talks in Italian, with questions to follow.

We sometimes listen to Italian music, including opera.

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## KEEP FIT

### Group Leader:

Jane Lawton (07706 099304, jane.lawton@hotmail.co.uk)

**This brilliant group meets every Monday (not Bank Holidays) from 10.30 to 11.30 am**

**at Strive Culture Gym, Unit 2, Crompton St, Chadderton, OL9 9ET.**

Fee £5 per session.

James runs the group specifically for u3a members in a new gym with all new equipment. The aim is to help people to get moving, become more flexible, improve heart rate and get fitter.

continued....

## KEEP FIT continued

The sessions are tailored to suit the abilities of all the people attending. We start with a stretching session, followed by either cardio equipment or a boxing session, circuits on the apparatus, team events or just hitting your own target set by James. The session ends with more stretching.

Please come and try it. If it isn't for you there's no pressure to continue attending.



Keeping fit with the u3a

## LEARNING PIANO 1 and 2

### Group Leader:

Mike Ford (mikeford10@icloud.com)

**Learning Piano 1 meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 2.00 to 4.00pm**

**Learning Piano 2 meets on the 1st Thursday of each month from 1.00 to 3.00pm**

**The groups meet in host members' homes**

There is no cost to attend meetings.

The groups are for piano beginners or members returning to piano after learning in childhood. We hope to encourage learners by transferring knowledge to improve learning, but we are not piano teachers.

Members need regular access to a piano.

The groups are limited to 5 members and Learning Piano 2 is currently at capacity, but Learning Piano 1, the more experienced group, has room for at least one more piano player.

## LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHIVES

### Group Leader:

Michelle Reid (contact via our u3a website)

**The Group meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon**

**at Oldham Local Studies & Archives Centre, 84 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DN**

This group is currently full because the venue is small. If you are interested please contact the group leader to discuss the work of the group and put your name on the waiting list.

## MAHJONG

### Group Leader:

Jill Morris (contact via our u3a website)

**The Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, at 10.30 am to 12.30pm.**

**(there are 3 hours of free parking in Sainsbury's car park)**

**at The Molino Lounge, 4 The Old Town Hall, Parliament Square, Yorkshire Street Oldham OL1 1RA (underneath the Odeon Cinema)**

A drink in the café is the only admission fee, plus you can even extend your stay with a relaxing meal after the game.

Mahjong is a Chinese tile game, which is a cross between cards and dominoes, the aim of the game is to get 4 sets of 3 and a pair of tiles, but once proficient, there are many ways to get Mahjong.

There are also many variations of the game, but we use the English version and u3a rules.

Beginners are welcome; no prior experience is required, and it's very easy to master. A set of rules, score cards and a mini video are sent out to new members.

Why not come along and try something new?



Mahjong players enjoying a Thursday morning session

## MINDFULNESS - A PRACTICAL PATH TO WELLBEING

### Group Leader:

Mike Cannaway (contact via our u3a website)

**The Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 11.00 am to 12.30 pm**

**in Office 6 on the first floor, Oldham Central Library, Greaves St, Oldham OL1 1AL**

Cost: £3 towards the cost of room hire

Mindfulness is now a well-established approach to mental and emotional health, recommended by both the NHS and NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence). Backed by scientific research, it's used in healthcare, education, and workplaces to help people manage stress, anxiety, and low mood - and to live with greater clarity and calm.

At the heart of mindfulness is meditation: a simple, accessible form of focused relaxation. By gently training our attention to rest in the present moment - often through the breath or body - we learn to step out of autopilot and respond to life with more awareness and ease.

Our mindfulness group offers a supportive space to explore this practice together. Each session includes guided meditations, practical tools for daily life, and time for reflection and discussion. Whether you're completely new or looking to deepen your practice, you're warmly welcome.

Mindfulness isn't about emptying your mind - it's about learning to meet your experience with openness and care. The benefits extend far beyond the meditation time, helping you navigate daily life with greater resilience, balance, and wellbeing.

If this might be of interest please contact the group leader to discuss your needs and experience before attending.

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## **MOTOS - MEMBERS ON THEIR OWN**

### **Group Leader:**

Dorothy Gates (07496 025658, gatesdorothy1@gmail.com)

**The group meets by arrangement for trips and holidays and on the last Friday of each month from 10.30 am for coffee mornings**

**at the Honeywell Centre, Ashton Road, Hathershaw, Oldham OL8 3BP**

Costs: £3.00 for coffee mornings; costs vary according to the details of the visit.

This group was set up to arrange trips and holidays for people on their own - single, separated, divorced, widowed and those whose spouse or partner doesn't wish to or is unable to join them on a trip.

Once full details of MOTOS trips are available they are posted on the Oldham & District u3a website, so visit the site regularly if you don't want to miss out.

Coffee mornings are to enable members to socialise, to make prospective new members feel welcome, and to give members time to discuss forthcoming activities with the leaders and to sign up and pay for them. There will also be time to discuss what activities members want and if appropriate what does not appeal.

For our winter holiday in Blackpool the weather was good and we were able to travel with a free tram pass to Fleetwood, Cleveleys and Lytham as well as having a day out in Kendal. On top of that there were free drinks in the evening while we enjoyed the entertainment in the hotel.



Some of the MOTOS enjoying a winter holiday in Blackpool.

Why not join us on the next MOTOS holiday? If you are interested joining the group and in attending a coffee morning please contact the group leader

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## **MUSIC APPRECIATION**

### **Group Leader**

Mike Ford (mikeford10@icloud.com)

**The Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

**at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

There is no cost to attend meetings

Our aim is to make all forms of music accessible to people who wish to know more about it, including the unusual and unfamiliar as well as better-known works. We welcome new members.

We choose a theme for each meeting but that is a guide not a stipulation. We are interested to hear what excites members. During a session we listen to a number of pieces of music chosen by members, some being excerpts due to time constraints. All discussion is welcomed and we like members to tell us why they want us to hear their chosen pieces. If members have something personal to share about the music, all the better.

Music Appreciation has increased in popularity over the last 12 months with several new and knowledgeable members joining our popular group. We now stream more and more of our music which gives us greater access to lesser known works. As we are member driven we play more jazz and modern music, often only known to the introducing member but appreciated by all.

From time to time members give more extended talks with music, on a topic which interests them.

Occasionally some members go to concerts together.

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## **NEW MEMBERS**

### **Group Leader:**

Barrie Thompson (barriethompson02@gmail.com)

**The Group meets on a varying weekday**

**at 140 Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1DZ**

A group exclusively for recently joined and prospective members, which usually meets every 2 or 3 months, depending on the number joined during that period. If you are a new member you will be automatically sent an invitation, by email, to attend when the meeting has been arranged.

We can discuss anything to do with the U3A in a relaxed atmosphere. It is completely free to attend, with free tea and coffee.

# u3a

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Group Leader:**  
David McDonald  
(07861 775576,  
mcdonald1953@yahoo.com)



**The group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon at the Honeywell Centre, Ashton Road, Hathershaw, Oldham OL8 3BP**

**The group also meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month to visit and take photographs of places of interest. The meeting times and venues for these “walkouts” vary.**

Cost: £3.00 for the hire of the meeting room.

We meet twice a month, the first meeting is a walk out and the second meeting is at the Honeywell Centre. At the Honeywell centre we show off our photos from the walkout or photos from a monthly theme. We also have various learning topics to help us improve our skills in the pictures that we take.

If you want to join us, we are a sociable group, and don't care if you come with your camera phone or high end DSLR you will be made welcome.

Recent walkouts have been to

- Manchester Art Gallery
- Rochdale Fire Station
- Manchester Fire Station
- Etherow Country Park, Stockport
- Worsley Village
- Albert Dock, Liverpool
- Piece Hall, Halifax
- The Hindu Temple on Copster Hill
- Salford Quay



Wildlife photography, close up ..... and with a long lens



After a hard morning taking photographs, coffee and cake is more than welcome!

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## POETRY APPRECIATION

**Group Leader:**  
Kathleen Hanndrick (contact via our u3a website)

**The Group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm**

**at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

Cost: there is a small charge for refreshments.

We bring and discuss poetry based on a chosen theme. The sessions are always enlightening and enjoyable.

During the past year, our topics have included, 'Birth', 'Music', 'Communications' and always a favourite, the analysis of a long poem led by a member.

We are a friendly and supportive group and enjoy sharing anecdotes over a coffee and a biscuit.

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## QUIZ

**Group Leader:**  
Ruth Postle (07592 743249, ruth.postle@gmail.com)

**The Group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, from 1.30 to 3.30 pm**

**at The Honeywell Centre, Ashton Road, Hathershaw, Oldham OL8 3BP**

Cost: £3 per session, including tea/coffee.

The quizzes are prepared by members of the group so there is some variety of style and format, but generally we have rounds of questions, including themes, pictures, dingbats, anagrams, music and general knowledge.

New members are welcome to come along to our meetings. Teams are formed by lot on arrival, so don't worry about coming alone.

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## READING

**Group Leader:**  
Valerie Kavanagh (kavanagh@dobcrossvillage.co.uk)

**The Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm**

**in meeting room 2, Oldham Central Library, Greaves St, Oldham OL1 1AL**

Cost: free.

We read books chosen and provided by the Library reading group service, which means we read a wide range of authors and genres, sometimes books we wouldn't have chosen ourselves; some we love and some we're not so keen on.

We aim to include all members in the discussion, starting the meeting with everyone having the opportunity to give their opinion of the book and then going on to discuss it more fully. The discussion often becomes more wide-ranging than the plot, the characters, and the writing, covering issues raised by the book, the broader background, and our own relevant experiences.

It isn't expected, but sometimes members of the group, who are not able to attend a meeting write a review of the book. Reading the review is a good way to begin the meeting and get the discussion flowing.

Recently we read *Gentleman Jack* by Anne Choma, which gave us a rather different view of Anne Lister from the TV series that most of us had enjoyed. *My Family and other Animals* by Gerald Durrell had us all wishing we could have visited Corfu before it became a tourist resort, and *The Hundred Year Old Man who climbed out of the window and disappeared* by Jonal Jonasson had some of us laughing out loud..

We look forward to a variety of genres, and subjects to read in the coming year.

Sadly we are unable to accept new member as the group is currently at capacity. We are limited by the space in the meeting room at the library and the need to have a suitably sized group to enable everyone to take part in the discussion. However, we are hoping to set up a second group to which everyone on the waiting list will be invited. Please contact the group leader if you would like to be included on the waiting list.

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Group Leader

Nancy Hobson (nancy.hobson@btinternet.com)

**The Group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm**

**at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

There is no charge to attend meetings.

The science group was formed to look at modern aspects of science such as genetics, astronomy etc, and their implications on ordinary people. The group would welcome any new people who are interested in and intrigued by scientific discoveries and their implications.

We do not have a programme of subjects for our meetings: members bring ideas for topics that interest them and at each meeting we decide what to discuss at the next meeting. This works for us and it isn't intimidating. We usually look at items in the news and discuss them.

Topics we have discussed recently include Alzheimer's research, artificial intelligence, ketamine, pain killers, and animal testing, to name a few.

The idea is that whatever your science knowledge is, we cater for you.

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## SINGING FOR FUN

### Group Leader:

Alan F

**The Group meets by arrangement**

There is no charge to attend meetings.

This is a small group of singers, who enjoy singing at various residential homes in the Oldham area once a month to sing old-time songs for about 1 hour. We have also visited the Bridgewater Hall for free 'Little Bite Music', occasionally gone to Manchester Cathedral for the lunch-time concerts by Chetham's School, and we visit and listen to the Big Band Jazz evenings in Shaw on Monday evenings.

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## SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

### Group Leader:

Bernadette Glover (07768 781393, b.glover77@ntlworld.com)

**The Group meets every Friday, from 9.45 to 11.00 am at Failsworth Library, Oldham Road, Oldham, M35 0JF**

Cost: free.

This is a course for people who either know no Spanish whatsoever, or people with a limited knowledge. The course book is Talk Spanish 1, a BBC publication and there are 2 CDs. There will also be handouts and help with pronunciation. Conversation is the aim of the course, for which there will be limitless help. The group is covering the topic for introducing themselves, saying their name, where they live, their nationality and their family members. This is always the first topic of any language learning programme.

If you require further information please send a message to the group leader.

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## SPANISH CONVERSATION 1

### Group Leader

Lydia Price (07752 871838, lydiaprice@btinternet.com)

**The Group meets every Monday, from 2.30 to 4.30 pm at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

Cost: free.

This is a group for people who are conversant in a little Spanish and wish to improve their skill in the language. .

The group is currently closed to new members as it is full.

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## SPANISH CONVERSATION 2

### Group Leader:

Bernadette Glover (07768 781393, b.glover77@ntlworld.com)

**The Group meets every Friday, from 11.15 am to 12.30 pm at Failsworth Library, Oldham Road, Oldham, M35 0JF**

There is no cost for the sessions at Failsworth Library.

This is a Spanish Intermediate level group, for people who are conversant in a little Spanish and wish to improve their skill in the language.

The group has completed the Talk Spanish 2 Book and is currently working on the basis of going through the topics and, from each topic, having in-depth and extended conversations in Spanish. Unfortunately, we did not visit Spain last year, but we are still intending to do so in the near future.

The leader is a qualified teacher of modern languages and is still learning, more than 60 years after starting to learn Spanish at school! We all learn from and help each other.

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## SPANISH IMPROVERS

### Group Leaders:

George Shaw (070944 361637, s10ecd1@gmail.com)

**The Group meets every Wednesday, from 4.30 to 6.00 pm except public holidays.**

**at Lees Library, 9 Thomas St, Lees, Oldham OL4 5DA**

All levels are welcome but some knowledge of the language is necessary for this group. We listen to Spanish audio and answer questions, occasionally do some grammar and have several words each week and a cartoon which we to read and translate. Everyone takes their turn at reading but there is very little conversation.

We have a refreshment break to which there is a contribution of about £1 per month and members bring the biscuits. The library provides the cups and hot water. There is limited accommodation available at the library and at the moment we have reached our capacity of 16 members.



Spanish Improvers end the year with a party

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## STRIDERS

### Group Leader:

Miriam Robinson (07891 301034, oldhamfamilyrobinson@btopenworld.com)

**The Group meets at 10.15 am for a 10.30 am start  
Walks are monthly on weekdays, which vary according to the preferences of the walk leaders.**

**Details of the meeting place and walk are emailed to group members before the walk**

There is no charge for striding.

This is an intermediate walking group. We aim for walks to be moderate, typically between 4 and 6 miles long on paths and tracks including some gentle hills and stiles. Sometimes the group leader also leads the walks but generally we look to members to volunteer to do this too, in the spirit of u3a. Suggestions for walks are welcome and there is always advice and support on offer for people who are willing to have a go at leading a walk. New and returning members are welcome.

Walking boots and waterproof outerwear are essential and you need to bring a packed lunch and a drink. We issue a six-monthly programme to group members and send out a reminder notice for each walk about a week before the walk is due to take place. As we have no control over the weather, walks may vary from the information issued but the advised meeting place and time will not vary.

Our excursions tend to be nearer home in the Winter months and further afield in Summer. Car sharing is encouraged. Information on public transport is given when this is a viable option.

Recent visits included Buxworth and New Mills, Mersey Valley, Wardle, Marple and Chadwick, Daisy Nook and Woodhouses, Chadderton Park and Tandle Hill, Uppermill, Hollingworth Lake and Summit Tunnels. This last walk was shared with the Transport and Industrial Heritage group. My thanks to Sheila Bradley for her lovely photos of this walk.

Walks coming up include Styal and Droylsden areas and we plan to join the other walking groups for a Christmas lunch.



The Summit Tunnels walk



Striders taking a break at Daisy Nook

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## STROLLERS

### Group Leader:

Liz Kelly (01706 845157, lizkelly70@gmail.com)

**The Group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month**

**There are no walks in December and January**

**Full details are emailed to group members prior to each walk**

There is no charge for strolling.

Our group aim is for you to enjoy a shared interest of walks in the local countryside, which are not too exerting. Walks start and finish at the same point and will vary in length from three to five miles. Paths and country lanes are a usual feature. Steep inclines and rough terrain are not normally in the programme but stiles may be encountered. We have a monthly program of different walks and leaders. Meeting times and places are emailed to members of the group. We look forward to your company and trust you will enjoy our shared interest.

Last year the Strollers group managed to undertake a variety of walks around the Oldham area. We started off with Grotton Park/Lydgate in February and then covered walks around Dobcross, Tandle Hills, Chadderton Park, Delph, Mossley, Lees and Dove Stones.

The walks are possible due to the various volunteers leading them which is always appreciated. We did have a couple of walks where the weather wasn't the best but that's not surprising for Oldham.



Strollers at Dovestone reservoir and at Lydgate



# learn, laugh, live

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## SUNDAY LUNCHERS

Group Leader:

Jim & Pauline Royales (0161 652 3161, jroyales@hotmail.co.uk)

**The Group meets on the last Sunday of each month at an agreed pub/restaurant**

The group has lunch in different areas of Oldham which are easily accessible - on a bus route where possible. We have enjoyable Sunday afternoons, with couples and singles joining us. This is a good opportunity for new u3a members to meet other members and make new friends. A number of new members come to our Sunday lunches before going on to take part in other u3a activities and groups.

Last year we went to The Roebuck, Heroes of Waterloo, Rose of Lancaster, the Clarence, The Old Bell in Delph and Royton Golf Club, and it's safe to say we haven't been let down with the quality of service and food. In the pipeline we have The George, Royton Golf Club and The Roebuck plus places recommended by group members.

At present we have on average 25 members and have had as many as 30 meeting and eating together. To join us for any of our Sunday lunches just put your name down at the Oldham & District u3a monthly meetings.

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## TABLE TENNIS 1, 2 and 3

### Group 1

#### Group Leader:

David Wright (07939 149320, brakenclouse@hotmail.com)

**The Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, from 1.30 to 3.30 pm**

**at Denshaw Community Centre, Ripponden Rd, Denshaw, Oldham OL3 5SY**

Cost: £2 each per session, with equipment provided.

### Group 2

#### Group Leader:

Sharon Hodges

**The Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 1.30 to 3.30 pm**

**at Denshaw Community Centre, Ripponden Rd, Denshaw, Oldham OL3 5SY**

Cost: £2 each per session, with equipment provided.

There is a good mix of ability from novice to slightly better than novice so don't worry if you haven't played for years, that's the same for most in these groups. If you have your own equipment that is fine but you don't need it as all equipment is provided.

Oldham & District u3a members can choose to join Table Tennis 1 or Table Tennis 2, but not both, due to high demand. Currently new members are welcome in both groups, but anyone wishing to join either group should contact the group leader just to make sure there are still vacancies.

Table Tennis 3 only meets when there is a fifth Tuesday in the month. Its members are from both groups 1 & 2.

There are no plans to change the current arrangements. We hold a belated joint Christmas meal in January after a table tennis session, and members of both groups are invited to attend.

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## THEATRE

### Group Leader:

Vera Rigby (01457 873560, 07949 714267, verarigby44@gmail.com)

### The group meets by arrangement

Costs vary according to the details of the visit.

The Theatre Group meets as and when there is an appealing show or play on. During 2025 we went to the Royal Exchange to see the Musical *Spend Spend Spend*, and The Palace Theatre to see the spectacular *Miss Saigon*: and The Royal Exchange was booked again for January 2026 to see *Singing in the Rain*.

Information about forthcoming theatre visits will be displayed at the monthly Oldham & District u3a meetings and on the Theatre Group page of the web site. Tickets are allocated on a first come first served basis. They can also be booked by contacting the group leader.

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## TRANSPORT & INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

### Group Leader:

Kevin Ainsworth (ivorbuspass@outlook.com)

### The Group meets by arrangement

#### Details are emailed to group members

Cost: Entrance charge to places visited if applicable.

Started six years ago, the Transport & Industrial Heritage group now has over 80 members. The North of England is rich in industrial heritage and we explore this technical, economic, social and cultural legacy.

Our activities include museum and site visits together with walking/talking outdoor tours to textile, engineering and mining locations. Noted trips include:

- The National Canal Museum at Ellesmere Port
- The Commercial Vehicle Museum at Leyland
- The National Coal Museum at Wakefield
- Helmshore and Queen's Mill textile manufacturing museums in Lancashire
- Kellham Island Steel Museum in Sheffield
- The Avro Museum at Woodford
- Macclesfield Silk Mill
- A walking tour of Dobcross exploring how textile making transitioned from a cottage industry to mass production under the factory system.
- A walk and talk, shared with the Striders, to learn about the Rochdale canal.

In 2026 we will follow similar themes of textiles, engineering, transport and technology with visits to National Museums in Bradford and Manchester and walking tours of the industrial areas of Ancoats and Werneth.

Everyone is welcome, including members of other u3a groups. If you have a special interest, or a family connection in any area of industrial heritage, please come along to share this with us and consider if you may want to lead an activity.



Railway Bridge over the Rochdale canal

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## UKULELE

### Group Leader:

Chris Drabble (chrisdrb@gmail.com)

**The Group meets every Monday, except Bank Holidays, from 4.00 to 5.00 pm**

**at Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club, Turf Pit Lane, Moorside OL4 2ND**

Cost: £2.00 per session.

This friendly group rehearses together each week and gives concerts at events and to community groups and care homes around Oldham.

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## USE COMPUTER, PHONE OR TABLET

### Group Leader:

George Shaw (0161 625 5181, 070944 361637, s10ecd@gmail.com)

**The Group meets every Monday, from 10.00 to 11.45 am**

**at Oldham Central Library, Greaves St, Oldham OL1 1AL (upstairs in the Reference area)**

Parking on the adjacent car park is limited to 3 hours.

There is no charge to attend meetings but library membership is required to log in to the Library's computers.

We welcome complete beginners as well as those who wish to improve their skills or help others. Most members bring their own devices and are able to use the library wifi. Please note that power connections are not available at the library so it is important that your device is fully charged. We do not have a learning schedule but provide individual help.

There are three of us with different areas of expertise providing this service so whatever the problem in using your device we may be able to help. However, we do not do repairs!

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## WALKING

### Group Leader:

Josie Morris (07857 181386, j.morris258@btinternet.com)

**The Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 10.15am for a 10.30am start**

**Details of walks are sent out to group members about a week before each walk**

There is no charge for walking with the group.

The walks are generally between 6 and 8 miles but may be longer on occasions. Walks are usually on paths and tracks with a variety of terrains including hills and rough ground. Walking boots in good condition and waterproof outerwear are essential and you need to bring a packed lunch and a drink. We will highlight when a walk is longer and/or more difficult than normal. Group members need to arrange their own transport and we encourage car sharing.

Group members are encouraged to suggest and lead walks - no prior experience is necessary as help can be given to plot a route and to carry out a preliminary walk. We issue a six-monthly programme to group members, January to June and July to December. About a week before a walk is due to take place we send out a reminder notice; this provides more details about the starting point for the walk and the route. As we have no control over the weather walks may vary from the information issued, but the advised meeting place and time will not vary.

Participants on walks are responsible for their own health and safety and the safe-keeping of their equipment, clothing and belongings. Walkers should follow the advice of the walk leader in order to minimise risk and should also ensure they do not endanger others in the group. You need to exercise your own judgement as to whether a walk is suitable for your health and fitness levels.

We currently have 47 members in the walking group. New members are always welcome. Last year we completed walks in a variety of locations including Tame Valley, Chapel en le Frith, Manchester City Centre, Hayfield, Saddleworth, Ramsbottom/Rawtenstall, Bolton, Calderdale, Colne Valley, Rochdale, Shaw and Mottram. We occasionally use public transport at the start or end of walks where a circular walk would be too challenging.

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## WALKING CRICKET

### Group Leader:

Mike Whitbread (01457 837831, 07712 828537, m.whitbread@sky.com)

**The Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon**

**From April to September the Group meets at Saddleworth Cricket Club, Calf Lane (Well-I-Hole Road), Greenfield, OL3 7HY**

**From October to March the group meets indoors at the Oldham Leisure Centre. Middleton Road Oldham OL9 6AF**

Cost: £3.00 per session.

The group is very friendly and welcomes male and female players. The emphasis is on having fun rather than cricketing ability, so while talent is useful, members with more enthusiasm than talent are also very welcome.

The past year has been spent "developing and honing our skills and techniques", which in the main don't progress much above enthusiastic!

We had a match against Todmorden u3a at the end of August. If we could increase our regular attendance we may be able to join a league and have regular matches as the sport seems to be becoming more popular.

**learn, laugh, live**

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## WELCOMERS

### Group Leader:

Margaret Halley (01457 873434, margaret.halley@yahoo.co.uk)

**The Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 9.45 am to 12.00 noon**

**at Chadderton Town Hall, Garforth St, OL9 6PY**

This is the team of people who meet everyone arriving at the monthly meetings, and welcome newcomers and show them around. If you enjoy meeting and greeting, contact Margaret who will be delighted to welcome you to the team.

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# SPEAKERS' CORNER

2025 has been a very interesting and varied year for Speakers at our monthly meetings. The Speaker Organisers create a timetable with categories of Local Services, General Interest, Entertainers and Charities.

Local Services: In February our members were keen to find out about plans for Oldham and the surrounding districts, attending a ticket only meeting in February with Arooj Shah, Leader of OMBC held in the Council Chambers at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Ian Thomas from Greater Manchester Police came in August to highlight the issue of cyber security/crime and to make members aware of the help available. Judging by the number of members with questions for Ian this was a very important subject!

Under the General Interest category we had contributions from Dave Hardcastle in January with his Travelling Policeman Museum, March saw Paul Atherton on The British Army in Palestine, with his talk covering the history of the region. In May Phillip Caine talked about his very varied Career and after retiring his venture into writing thrillers. In June Barbara Hennessey came with her thought provoking talk on the Lancashire born Mary O'Shaughnessey the WWII Heroine. In October we welcomed Sheila Antrobus saying 'Don't Chuck It, Check It' with members being asked to bring items for valuation by Sheila.

At our AGM in July and under our Entertainers category, Roger Browne with his piano played his Great American Songbook repertoire and recalled back-stories of various American composers, lyricists and publishers of the first half of the Twentieth Century. September was a very special month with our very own Guitar and Ukulele groups giving an excellent musical session, playing and singing a variety of well-known songs with members who knew the words, joining in!

Our Charity speaker in April was Dave Speller from RSPB Dovestones, who gave an interesting talk on how they monitor and deal with fires breaking out on the moors above Dovestones, which at this time was very apt due to fires sadly breaking out up there. In November Fran Lawson from Mary's Meals came to tell us about the International Charity Meals for Children.

It is important that the Speaker organisers are able to arrange speakers who appeal to as many members of the Oldham & District u3a membership as possible and we hope that this has been achieved during 2025. Information for speakers arranged for 2026 is available on our website.

Jane Lawton and Pete Mellor

# THE CHANGING PLACE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY FROM THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ONWARDS

The British History group's topic from September 2025 has been: "The Changing Place of Women in Society from the 17th Century onwards". This is an extract from a recent presentation.

Frances 'Fanny' Burney 1752-1840 - also known as Fanny Burney or Franny Burney (and later following her marriage at the age of 41: Madame d'Arbly), was an English novelist, diarist and playwright.

As a child Fanny was not perceived to be as intelligent as her two older sisters and was not sent away to be educated like them. Although she was slow to learn at first, she educated herself reading from the family collection of books including histories, poetry, plays and novels. Fanny drew on this material when she started writing at the age of ten.

Fanny lived in the midst of a brilliant social circle with visitors calling, such as David Garrick and Dr Samuel Johnson. She became a prominent member of the Blue Stocking Society, a notable literary group that promoted intellectual and artistic pursuits for women.

In all, she wrote four novels, eight plays, one biography and twenty-five volumes of journals and letters. She had a long writing career that in her own lifetime gained her a reputation as one of England's foremost literary authors.

She foreshadowed novelists of manners with a satirical bent such as Jane Austen and William Makepeace Thackeray.

The first of her four novels, *Evelina* (1778), was the most successful and remains her most highly regarded, followed by *Cecilia* (1782), *Camilla* (1796) and *The Wanderer* in 1814.

Her first novel, *Evelina*, was published anonymously in 1778. This was common practice for female writers at this time.



Portrait of Fanny Burney by her cousin Edward Francis Burney

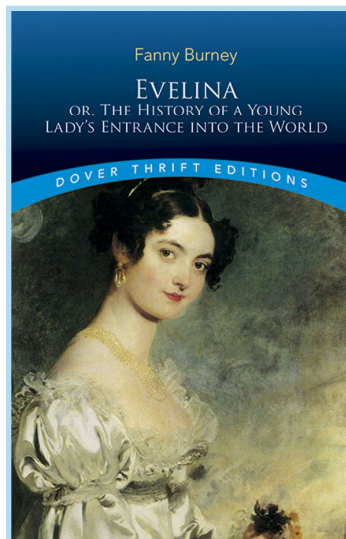


Frances Burney  
Evelina

OXFORD WORLD'S CLASSICS

All Burney's novels satirise the social pretensions of the rich with an eye to larger questions such as the politics of female identity.

She also wrote diaries and journals under her married name of D'Arbly. These are historically important for capturing the social life of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and the many difficulties that women faced.



EVELINA: "The History of a Young Lady's Entrance into the World"

In 1811, following a diagnosis of breast cancer, Fanny Burney underwent a radical mastectomy in Paris - without any anaesthetic.

She wrote about this graphically in a letter to her sister in 1812 in which she said, among other more detailed and harrowing descriptions: "I began a scream that lasted unintermittingly during the whole time of the incision - and I almost marvel that it rings not in my ears still! So excruciating was the agony."



Surgery without anaesthesia

Fanny was the first woman to write intimately about the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. It extended her life by twenty seven years. She showed there is no shame attached to the diagnosis and that although surgery, even with a full anaesthetic, isn't pleasant, breast cancer can be survived.

Jane McCann and Peter Davies

# BEAUTIFUL OLDHAM!

Oldham may not have a reputation for being lovely but our photographers have found some beautiful places in and around our home town.



War memorial in Oldham town centre



Alexandra Park



Local heroine and suffragette



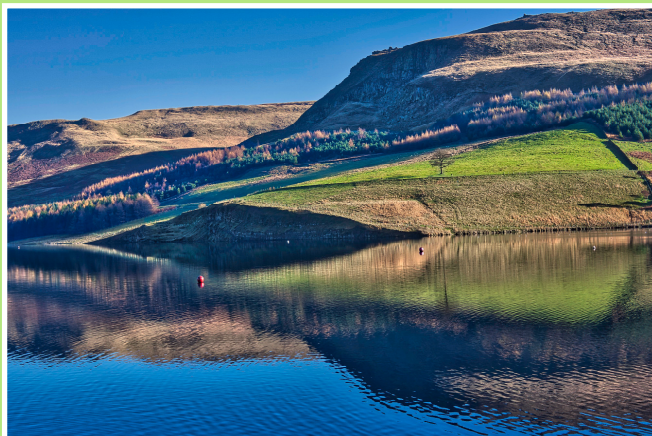
Dobcross



Daisy Nook



War memorial at Tandle Hill



Dovestone

Thank you to the members of the Photography group for capturing the beauty of our surroundings.



Wharmton

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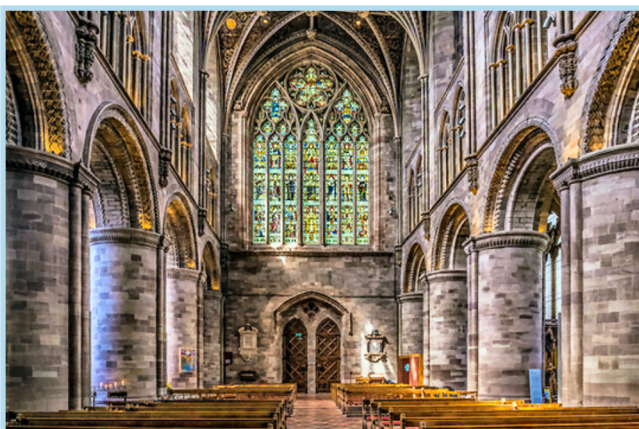
## VISITING GREAT MALVERN WITH MOTOS

Ellen Smith organised our tour that was run by Dorothy Gates our Group Leader for MOTO's.

On arrival at Abbey Hotel my room was enormous possibly a disabled access room. Beautiful walk in shower and massive doors to accommodate a wheelchair. My bed was huge with six pillows and could have accommodated three adults side by side still not touching each other. I could have lived there quite comfortably.

We were entertained each night by Mark Thompson, a member of the u3a, who had us solving puzzles and putting the world to rights.

Our trips out were to some lovely places. Hereford Cathedral was my favourite. It had a great café and I sat amongst the soldiering fraternity with medals galore on their uniforms.



Hereford Cathedral

We had a pit stop at Ross on Wye but the rain deluged and I was back on the bus in double quick time.

On our way back home we called into the National Arboretum – we could have done with a whole day to see it all. Some of our members went on the land train to see the whole site which was large.

I was again to be found in the café and enjoyed watching the soldiers wrapping their flags up possibly after a marching session. Even the local biker club turned up.



The National Arboretum

In a quiet film studio room there were letters being read out by families from Dads who had served sending love back to their sweethearts! Very touching!

Ellen Smith had also invited people from Bury and Littleborough to make the numbers up as we only had 17 on the coach and it wasn't enough, so it was nice to network with other people and find out what their clubs offer and sadly what they don't.

All in all it was a lovely few days away.

We were even privy to the next trip being considered, "The Poppy Factory and Wimbledon" Friday 12th June 2026 I am debating this one. What with all the single supplements that travel companies are foisting upon us, some horrendous prices as everything goes up and up.

It is important that we recognise our Group Leaders as they do a sterling job and all for no pay!

Karen Bartlett

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## BOOK REVIEWS FROM OUR READING GROUP

### Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid

I really struggled to make headway in the early pages of this novel: it didn't help that the dialogue reflected the American idiom, an issue which re-occurred whenever there were exchanges between Emira, our protagonist, and her friends Zara, Shaunie and Josefa. It also hindered the drama of the scenes in the supermarket (otherwise very impactful) that I couldn't believe that the only way to cushion a 3-year old from a horrible incident at home was to take her to a late-night supermarket. I blame myself for jumping to the conclusion that Peter Chamberlain, the child's father, was responsible for breaking a window (in a fit of temper?), hence my confusion when he turned up to save the day and smooth over a potentially disastrous encounter between Emira and the security guard! I did find the latent racism of the incident completely abhorrent however.



This initial scenario, gave me the first of many aspects of Emira's character, that of a feisty defender of her much-loved charge, Briar, but we soon explored other, quite different, sides to her personality: a rather aimless former graduate, seemingly disappointing family and friends by her lack of ambition; a party girl manqué, lacking the funds to keep up with her more affluent friends; a model employee, quietly accepting the rather patronising way her employers treated her. Certainly a complex character, although her relationship with Briar, and the love they shared, was a real highlight of the book. I felt quite emotional when I realised that they would not be able to continue it into the future.

For me, the book really gained momentum when we came to the Thanksgiving party. My toes, and everything else, were curling at the prospect of the impending meeting between Alix (Emira's employer) and Kelley, Alix's former boyfriend. I thought the author laid a beautiful trail leading us to that doorstep encounter, timed so impeccably after Alix's confession to her mum posse about the worst moment of her life. My reading pace went into overdrive, as I couldn't wait to find out what happened. I did find it very entertaining, but a little anti-climatic, as the situation resolved itself. Emira's revenge, when it came, was so apt, that I found myself enjoying it all over again. However, there was a little part of me that could not help feeling a little sorry for Alix: she, somehow, managed to so completely pull the wool over her own eyes about the part she played in her own downfall. A complete mistress of self-deception, as well as a quite dislikeable joint protagonist.

After the revenge TV interview, I felt the novel faded quite quickly, although I was greatly aggrieved, and deeply sad, about the fate in store for Briar, probably my favourite character in the whole book. There was also disappointment with Emira for not aiming higher, and with Kelley, for moving on so quickly with his love life. However, I have to admit to being completely taken aback by the revelation about Alix's final letter to Kelley, and even more so by her ability to lie so thoroughly, not only to her friends, but also to herself. At least she had Catherine, her little favourite, to console her - at least until she started talking???

To sum up, thought-provoking - yes, casting a light on issues of race, and wealth; enjoyable - in parts - Thanksgiving, the TV interview. A worthy Booker Prize long list nominee - probably not, too many characters who were difficult to like.

Alison

## Nightingale Point by Luan Goldie

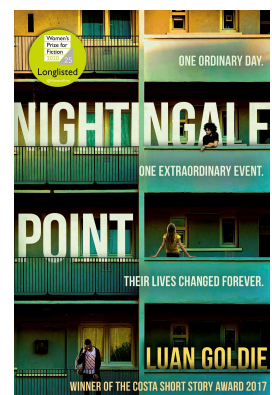
I did wonder if it was in poor taste to fictionalise and merge two such terrible true events (the Grenfell fire and the plane crash in Amsterdam). How might the people involved in these tragedies feel about this portrayal of them? But as I read, I realised that this is what novelists do: Luan Goldie is helping us empathise with people who have suffered and making us think about the consequences of disaster well beyond the event itself - something that news broadcasts don't usually deal with.

The character of Elvis was particularly sympathetically drawn: his simple needs, his generosity of spirit, and the descriptions of his thought processes, demonstrating his limited understanding of the way other people think and feel. He knew that some behaviours are considered unacceptable, such as touching a girl, but he didn't know why. It was good to learn that he had been re-housed after losing his flat full of "perfect things", and that he seemed happy in Margate.

Tristan started out as a bit of a stereotypical bad boy, but became more caring and sympathetic after discovering that Elvis had saved his life. As the book ends and he is about to become a father, I hope that he does not return to his old life. Malachi, who is probably the strongest character in the book has devoted himself to his little brother and studying to make a better life for them. It is hardly surprising that the loss of his home and everything in it, the "life-changing" injuries suffered by Tristan and the death of Pamela left him unable to cope for a while. Generally I don't like secrets, but in the case of Pamela's letter, I think Tristan was right not to give it to Malachi after her death as he was struggling with his mental health and to learn about the baby would certainly not have helped. Once that decision had been made there would never be a "right" time to tell him.

Mary totally confused me. She seemed to be a strong woman, with a career as a nurse, bringing up twins without a resident husband, as well as becoming involved in bringing up Malachi and Tristan and continuing to look after them when their grandmother moved away. She knew he husband was unfaithful, with a woman at the side of every stage, but was consumed by guilt when she was tempted to be unfaithful to him, and after his death, an event which should have left her free to continue her relationship with Harris openly, she became depressed, allowing her unsympathetic daughter to organise her life. Harris was amazingly supportive, waiting patiently for her and giving Tristan and Malachi a home in his own house. Jay, the complete opposite, selfish and so sure of himself and his opinions, believing he had the right to leave his daughter locked up in his flat.

Valerie



## TIMETABLE OF GROUP MEETINGS THROUGH THE MONTH

Week	Day	Morning	Afternoon
1 <sup>st</sup>	Mon	Bowling - Outdoor (10.00 to 11.30) Creative Writing (10.00 to 12.00) Keep Fit (10.30 to 11.30) Use Computer, Phone or Tablet (10.00 to 11.45)	Birdwatching <sup>1</sup> Acoustic Guitar (1.15 to 3.15) Spanish Conversation 1 (2.30 to 4.30) Ukulele (4.00 to 5.00)
	Tue	Music Appreciation (11.00 to 1.00)	German (2.45 to 4.30) Italian Table Tennis 1 (1.30 to 3.30)
	Wed	Walking (10.15am for a 10.30am start) Gardening (10.00 to 11.00)	Spanish Improvers (4.30 to 6.00)
	Thu	Dance (10.00 to 12.00) Local History & Archives (10.00 to 12.00)	Photography Canasta (1.00 to 3.00) Learning Piano 2 (1.00 to 3.00)
	Fri	Art Study (10.30 to 12.30) Bowling - Indoor <sup>2</sup> Bowling - Outdoor <sup>3</sup> (10.00 to 11.30) Drawing & Painting <sup>5</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Spanish for Beginners (9.45 to 11.00) Spanish Conversation 2 (11.15 to 12.30)	Reading (2.00 to 3.30)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Bowling - Outdoor (10.00 to 11.30) Creative Writing <sup>4</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Keep Fit (10.30 to 11.30) Use Computer, Phone or Tablet (10.00 to 11.45)	Acoustic Guitar (1.15 to 3.15) Spanish Conversation 1 (2.30 to 4.30) Ukulele (4.00 to 5.00)
	Tue	<b>Monthly meeting (10.30-12.00)</b> Welcomers	Board Games (2.00 to 4.00) German (2.45 to 4.30) Italian Table Tennis 2 (1.30 to 3.30)
	Wed	French Conversation (10.30 to 12.00) Walking Cricket (10.30 to 12.00)	Spanish Improvers (4.30 to 6.00)
	Thu	Create & Chat (10.00 to 12.00) Dance (10.00 to 12.00) Mahjong (10.30 to 12.30) Mindfulness - a practical path to wellbeing (11.00 to 12.30)	Create & Chat (12.30 to 2.30)
	Fri	Bowling - Indoor <sup>2</sup> Bowling - Outdoor <sup>3</sup> (10.00 to 11.30) Drawing & Painting <sup>5</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Spanish for Beginners (9.45 to 11.00) Spanish Conversation 2 (11.15 to 12.30)	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon	Walking (10.15am for a 10.30am start) Bowling - Outdoor (10.00 to 11.30) Creative Writing <sup>5</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Keep Fit (10.30 to 11.30) Use Computer, Phone or Tablet (10.00 to 11.45)	Acoustic Guitar (1.15 to 3.15) Spanish Conversation 1 (2.30 to 4.30) Ukulele (4.00 to 5.00)
	Tue	British History (10.30 to 12.30) Flat Walking (10.15 for 10.30 start)	German (2.45 to 4.30) Italian Table Tennis 1 (1.30 to 3.30)
	Wed	Family History Advanced (10.30 to 12.30)	Spanish Improvers (4.30 to 6.00)
	Thu	Dance (10.00 to 12.00) Photography (10.00 to 12.00)	Art Appreciation Bakes and Blathers (2.00 to 4.00) Canasta (1.00 to 3.00) Learning Piano 1 (2.00 to 4.00)

## TIMETABLE OF GROUP MEETINGS THROUGH THE MONTH continued

Week	Day	Morning	Afternoon
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fri	Bowling - Indoor <sup>2</sup> Bowling - Outdoor <sup>3</sup> (10.00 to 11.30) Criminology (10.30 to 12.30) Drawing & Painting <sup>5</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Spanish for Beginners (9.45 to 11.00) Spanish Conversation 2 (11.15 to 12.30)	Quiz (1.30 to 3.30)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Bowling - Outdoor (10.00 to 11.30) Creative Writing <sup>4</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Keep Fit (10.30 to 11.30) Science & Technology (10.30 to 12.30) Use Computer, Phone or Tablet (10.00 to 11.45)	Acoustic Guitar (1.15 to 3.15) Spanish Conversation 1 (2.30 to 4.30) Ukulele (4.00 to 5.00)
	Tue	Poetry Appreciation (10.30 to 12.30) Strollers <sup>7</sup>	German (2.45 to 4.30) Italian Table Tennis 2 (1.30 to 3.30)
	Wed	Flower Arranging <sup>6</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) French Conversation (10.30 to 12.00) Walking Cricket (10.30 to 12.00)	Spanish Improvers (4.30 to 6.00)
	Thu	Dance (10.00 to 12.00) Mahjong (10.30 to 12.30) Mindfulness (11.00 to 12.30)	Board Games (3.00 to 5.00)
	Fri	Bowling - Indoor <sup>2</sup> Bowling - Outdoor <sup>3</sup> (10.00 to 11.30) Drawing & Painting <sup>5</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Spanish for Beginners (9.45 to 11.00) Spanish Conversation 2 (11.15 to 12.30)	
	Sun	Sunday Luncheon Club <sup>8</sup>	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Bowling - Outdoor (10.00 to 11.30) Creative Writing <sup>4</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Keep Fit (10.30 to 11.30) Use Computer, Phone or Tablet (10.00 to 11.45)	Acoustic Guitar (1.15 to 3.15) Spanish Conversation 1 (2.30 to 4.30) Ukulele (4.00 to 5.00)
	Tue		German (2.45 to 4.30) Italian Table Tennis (1.30 to 3.30)
	Wed	Flower Arranging <sup>6</sup> (10.00 to 12.00)	Spanish Improvers (4.30 to 6.00)
	Thu	Dance (10.00 to 12.00)	
	Fri	Bowling - Indoor <sup>2</sup> Bowling - Outdoor <sup>3</sup> (10.00 to 11.30) Drawing & Painting <sup>5</sup> (10.00 to 12.00) Spanish for Beginners (9.45 to 11.00) Spanish Conversation 2 (11.15 to 12.30)	
	Sun	Sunday Luncheon Club <sup>8</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> Birdwatching : 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday if 1<sup>st</sup> Monday is a Bank Holiday

<sup>2</sup> Bowling - Indoor : October - March

<sup>3</sup> Bowling - Outdoor : Friday meetings from April to September

<sup>4</sup> Creative Writing : two Mondays each month, dates vary

<sup>5</sup> Drawing & Painting : every two weeks

<sup>6</sup> Flower Arranging : last Wednesday of the month, not December

<sup>7</sup> Strollers : not December and January

<sup>8</sup> Sunday Luncheon Club : the last Sunday of the month

**Thank you to the group leaders, committee members and other members of the Oldham & District u3a who provided information, articles and photographs for this prospectus.**



Strolling through the fallen leaves

# u3a learn, laugh, live



Striding along the lanes of Littleborough



Admiring the skill of the photographer

Contact us via our website

<https://oldhamanddistrict.u3asite.uk>