

# SOUTH MANCHESTER

Newsletter for March 24

**u3a**  
learn, laugh, live



u3a South Manchester website [u3asites.org.uk/south-manchester](http://u3asites.org.uk/south-manchester)

u3a South Manchester Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165/?ref=bookmarks>

Registered Charity Number 1168597



Design for an ordinary chair with red upholstery  
- What? Why? Where? - see page 9

April 24 Newsletter items to [editor.smu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.smu3anews@gmail.com)

**NO LATER than Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE of the SMu3a

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Wena Stevenson [REDACTED]  
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### Committee member

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**'Meeters & Greeters' Co-ordinator** – Barbara Aston – [REDACTED]

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Trish Ramsden [REDACTED]

[Helen Chambers](#) (proof reader)

**Web Editor** – Ian Burn [REDACTED]

**Facebook** – Rosemary Mallace – [REDACTED]

**Quiz Master** – Tom Grimshaw [REDACTED]

**Producing the Monthly Diary Sheet** - Liz Thornhill

**Catering** – Shirley Shaw

If you have any information about members' special birthdays, anniversaries, illness, bereavements, etc. please notify Kath Thompson [REDACTED]

**Tradesperson book** – Is available at general meetings.  
It will only be of value if members use it, so please do.

### Annual General Meeting – at Didsbury Baptist Church

Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

#### AGM

followed by "The Girl from Kyiv" by Sue Stern

*see page 6*

**Parking at Didsbury Baptist Church** - Please note that there is **no parking** at the church.  
(Blue Badge holders could use double yellow lines)



Dear u3a members,

I am a great fan of science fiction since 1963 when Doctor Who first aired. Silly stories but good fun. Then there is Star Trek and all the spin offs addressing various social issues. One of the best science fiction writers is John Wyndham as he looks at a disaster from a human survival point of view not the monsters.

Guardians of the Galaxy defend planets and protect the weak and I feel to some extent this is what u3a does. We protect each other from stagnation and keep our brains and bodies active. A few years ago my husband remarked he had never met such young old people as he saw light in eyes and a spring in steps of 80 plusses. This is what I and the committee want to see continue.

So keep up the meetings and groups.

It is our AGM now and a new committee will be elected. As I look back over this year I am so grateful to you all. Numbers have grown and new groups have started which is so refreshing. We have a voice in our community and are recognised as important.

Our speakers have been inspirational. Sue Treagus, I will have a bent neck as I look at the pavements. I look forward to our speakers this year and thank you Jeff for booking them.

Science fiction like Star Trek led to the mobile phones which have changed the world. We as members of u3a can be instrumental in changing lives for the better too as we tell others about this organisation and maybe unlock another older person from loneliness.

So let's all do our bit to change lives.

See you all soon  
Beryl

### **South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers**

*All meetings take place at Didsbury Baptist Church*

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2pm** – “The Girl from Kyiv” by Sue Stern

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 2pm** – “How Manchester Led the Fight Against Breast Cancer” by Emeritus Professor Anthony Howell

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2pm** – “The Life and Times of Casanova” by Jim Williams

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2pm** – “From Divorce Lawyer to the Duchess of Domestic Noir” by Caroline England

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 at 2pm** – “Wythenshawe Good Neighbours Scheme” by Helen Davies

## **NORTH WEST AND NATIONAL NEWS**

**National** - Third Age Trust national website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) for latest news of u3a around the country and courses/events on offer. The link for the **national email newsletter for February** is below:

<https://mailchi.mp/u3a/your-u3a-national-newsletter-february-2023?e=c26bc18bd4>

**North West Region u3a** website - [www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west) - for the latest information and Newsletter.

### **SMu3a News**

#### ***SMu3a welcomes the following 12 new members:***

Colin Jackson	Martin Godden	Paul King	Jean Hill
Paula Gerrard	Wendy Lynas	David Whitaker	Keith Smith
Richard Cleverly	Punam Parihar	Richard Bailey	Paul Grace

#### **Bookstall news**

Our current charity is Manchester Mind, an independent charity providing mental health support for over 6,500 people per year across the whole city region.

Please continue to buy a book for a worthy cause.

Janet Robertson

#### **Carmel Singleton – Obituary**

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Carmel Singleton passed away at the beginning of February after a long illness. I have known Carmel since before the u3a, having worked with her at the same company before we both retired. She was the “Mother Hen” who looked after us all. (She was a few years younger than me). Our friendship was rekindled when she joined South Manchester u3a in 2022 and began walking with me in the Walking for Health group. Her close friend Ruth has written this about Carmel: -

‘I met Carmel when I joined a Monday walking group at Fletcher Moss Park in Didsbury. We soon became close friends and she joined the Stockport walk a day group which I was a member of. We also joined the u3a together. Carmel enjoyed her days out with ‘The Girls’ and we would visit places in the north west on our cheap £1 train tickets. Tram trips were also on the agenda mainly to Bury market having lunch at the Greek café. Carmel was a very friendly, caring and generous lady, she had time for everyone. We will all miss her.’ Ruth Holland.

Farewell, Carmel – you will be missed.

Ian Burn

## Staying fit and strong after 60

Helen Nicholson has reminded us that the Centre for Ageing Better's 'Age Without Limits' campaign features our **Rosemary Mallace**.

<https://www.agewithoutlimits.org/stories/rosemarys-story>

u3a is not specifically mentioned, but Rosemary is described as "a passionate advocate for older people exercising", regularly sharing her advice in the media and on her '**Strong After Sixty**' YouTube channel.

Rosemary is also featured in the latest u3a magazine 'Third Age Matters' in an article 'Get Your Strength Back' encouraging us all to find a way to exercise regularly to maintain muscle and bone strength and thus help to avoid falling and injury.

Rosemary ran the u3a fitness classes 'til the pandemic and now produces fitness sessions on her You Tube channel. She also organises our Facebook page and the chess group.

*(I use the You Tube sessions (fairly) regularly and they are very useful especially in encouraging me to use weights which I know is essential to maintain muscle strength – try them! Ed)*

Margaret Kendall - Still Life. 'Taken at our u3a Creative Photography group led by Ann Howarth on Monday 12th February, the first of our sessions on Still Life. Great fun and so interesting to learn new techniques.'

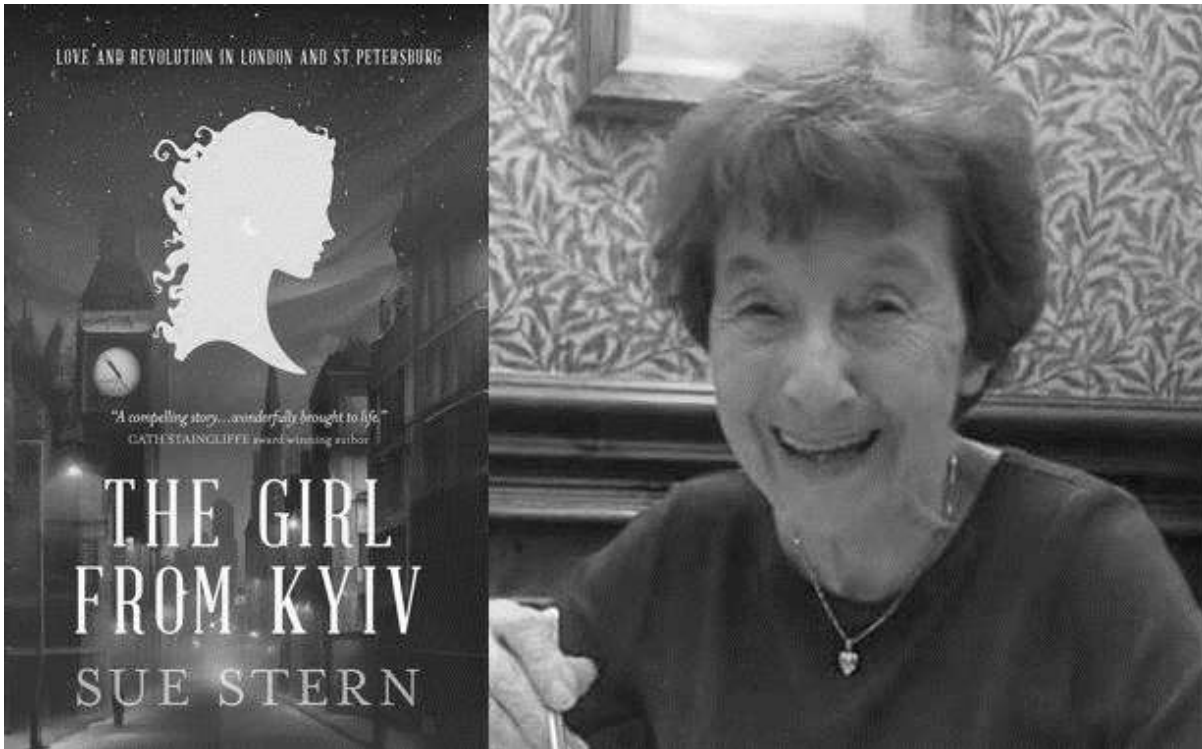


### Weekend Photo for March:

1/03 Wales and St David	8/03 Historical	15/03 Fungus
22/03 Clouds	29/03 The seaside	

South Manchester u3a General Meeting at Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2pm

## “The Girl from Kyiv” by Sue Stern



Sue Stern is a writer and poet. Last year she published her book “The Girl from Kyiv”. She will talk to us about her book involving passion and politics in London and St Petersburg in 1905. Since childhood in Kyiv, Sophia Krichevskia has wanted to be a doctor but when Moscow Medical School rejects her application for being a woman and Jewish, she determines to study in New York City. This novel is inspired by the short, tragic life of the author's grandmother, a passionate anarchist, who was exiled by the Tsar to Archangelsk, and came to England in 1905.

Sue was born in London, but has lived in Manchester since the age of five. She went to Stand Grammar School, Whitefield, then to Leeds University, where she studied modern languages. She taught French and drama to people with special needs. She then worked in a voluntary organisation in North Manchester, supporting people with learning disabilities and mental health issues.

Returning to Manchester University to study comparative religion in 1991, she taught courses in the Extra-Mural Department on the life and lifestyle of Jewish women. Having always written plays and stories, she discovered Commonword, a writing development organisation based in Manchester providing opportunities for new and aspiring writers to develop their talent and potential and in 1997, began to write seriously. In 2006 she was awarded an MA in Writing Children's Fiction at MMU. She has published poems and short fiction both in magazines and on-line, here, and in America, and runs writing workshops for adults and children. A poem was shortlisted for the 2008 Bridport Prize.

## Manchester Rocks – Notes and Queries

Thank you to SMu3a for being such an appreciative and interested audience at my talk on 6 February: *Manchester Rocks - A look at the variety of rock in Manchester's landmark buildings*. Some of the questions asked, publicly and in private, raised questions about the bedrock and the rocks used for some of our oldest buildings in Manchester. The Collyhurst Sandstone appears in many accounts of Manchester's old buildings, and is described as Lower Permian red sandstone; part of the New Red Sandstone that also includes the Triassic red sandstone seen at Castlefield and the bedrock to much of south Manchester.

However, this is not entirely correct, as I have just found out when researching a little more – in the spirit of the “learn” part of the u3a motto! It appears that there are *two different Collyhurst sandstones*, according to a short paper published in 1999 by Fred Broadhurst and Morvern Simpson, the original authors of the book on Manchester Building Stones referenced in my talk, both formerly at Manchester University and my former teachers.

Broadhurst and Simpson, both deceased, were specialists in local geology. Their paper, “The Collyhurst Sandstone – a case of double identity” has proved a revelation to me. They explain that the ‘type locality’ for the Permian Collyhurst Sandstone, an official unit in geological stratigraphy, is close to the old quarry at Collyhurst, about 3km from Manchester city centre, where rock has been quarried for centuries (the first reference to “noble and famous quarries” is in 1586). However, this quarried Collyhurst rock, also sandstone, is not the Permian sandstone but is older; from the Upper Coal Measures (Upper Carboniferous in age).

Unlike the buff-coloured Carboniferous sandstones seen in so many of Manchester's Victorian buildings (e.g. the Cathedral exterior, the Cornmarket), this Carboniferous Collyhurst sandstone is a distinct purplish colour, attributed to oxidation of iron minerals associated with overlying red Permian rocks (now mostly removed by erosion). This Carboniferous Collyhurst rock, a purplish-pink sandstone, was quarried at Collyhurst for more than four centuries. The disused quarry is described as now landscaped as Sandhills Park – somewhere I hope to check out soon.

In view of the two different Collyhurst sandstones, to save confusion, Broadhurst and Simpson (1999) have given the name “Binney Sandstone” to the Carboniferous rocks that were quarried for centuries, the purply-pink sandstone used in the old parts of Manchester Cathedral (still seen in the interior), St Ann's Church, and Chetham's School. In contrast, the Permian (red) Collyhurst Sandstone was only quarried for about 20 years, and mostly produced sand; there are no records of its use as a viable building stone.

Several buildings in Manchester *are* built of Permian red sandstone, but using rocks quarried elsewhere: e.g. ‘Manchester Central’ uses Locharbriggs Sandstone, from Scotland, and John Ryland's Library, on Deansgate, is built from Penrith sandstone. Both are a warm brick red, slightly darker than the Triassic red sandstone of the Bridgewater Hall.

I hope these notes answer questions about which rocks were used to build early Manchester buildings. Old accounts, or derivative accounts (including Google), record the use of Collyhurst sandstone in Manchester's old buildings, but are incorrect (as I was initially) in assuming it is the Permian sandstone of this name. This historically important sandstone from Collyhurst is upper Carboniferous, and (to save ambiguity) has been renamed Binney Sandstone after one of the early geologists who mapped the Manchester area.

The question still remains of whether this Binney Sandstone was used in the Roman Fort, as some accounts might suggest. I think, unless evidence comes to light that there was Roman mining at Collyhurst, we should assume the Roman Fort was built from the bedrock very close by: the Triassic red (Bunter) sandstone that can be seen by the Bridgewater canal at Castlefield.

*I should be pleased to hear from anyone privately, who knows any more about the old Collyhurst quarries, or with any other thoughts about buildings and geology.*

Susan/Sue Treagus; [REDACTED]

## Local news

**The Didsbury Probus Club** invites you to our following meetings: these are held at Didsbury Baptist Church School Lane. We meet at 10.30 am for tea/coffee and biscuits - talks at 11 am. Visitors are very welcome. Any donations to help with the teas and running costs would be very helpful.

7 <sup>th</sup> March	Advances in medical science - Bernard Loveday
21 <sup>st</sup> March	How the World was reshaped in 1919 and with what consequences? - David Walmsley
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Sent to Siberia - Terry Callaghan.
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Antarctica - Neil Wilson
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Guided walk around Castlefield. Looking at the three major events – The Romans AD 79, the first Industrial Canal 1791, the first Intercity Railway for general freight and passengers 1830
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Amazing Women Pilots - Aimee Johnson through to the women who delivered planes in WW II - Victor Crawford.
6 <sup>th</sup> June	3D Printing - is this of any use? - Dr Ernie Hill



### West Didsbury Astronomical Society

The next society talk will be '**Rosetta The Comet Chaser**' on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm presented by Keith Townsend. As usual, it will take place at **Nazarene Theological College**.

### MOG The next meetings

- March 9<sup>th</sup>** *Growing award winning vegetables* Sandra McNicholls FNVS of Blossom. Secretary Manchester branch National Vegetable Society. (see p10)
- April 13<sup>th</sup>** *Planting containers with hardy plants, a practical demonstration.* Anthony Norman of Conquest Plants. There will be plants for sale!
- May 11<sup>th</sup>** Visit - to BUD garden centre in its new location with adjacent cafe

There are also two possible visits -

**Groobarbs** High Legh farm / kitchen garden, possibility of tour and talk and possibility of food at restaurant <https://groobox.co.uk/field-kitchen> - parking but no public transport.

**MUD** Platt Fields Manchester - Community market garden with café, parking and plenty of buses along Wilmslow Road from south Manchester or city centre.  
<https://www.wearemud.org/plattfieldsmarketgarden>

### People Place Planet Didsbury.

We are running a Community Assembly along with some other groups in the area on the topic of clean air on March 4th.

Come and discuss '**How can we improve the quality of air in Didsbury**'.

The details and registration are here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/peopleplaceplanetdidsbury/1128423>

## **TURNING THE TABLES ON TIME – restoring the Town Hall’s furniture**

Manchester Town Hall, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, is almost 150 years old. When it opened in 1877 it was highly praised by critics and Waterhouse was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 1878. Being considered of exceptional architectural interest and national importance, it is a Grade 1 listed building.

The Heritage Lecture series about the restoration and conservation of this iconic building, inside and out, has been fascinating and enlightening – so far I have managed to get to all but one! Council Leader Bev Craig says this ongoing series aims to tell the “invisible story” of the painstaking work being carried out by the various trades and craftspeople involved.

Meg McHugh, Curatorial Manager, introduced the latest talk which concerned the Town Hall furniture. I had not realised that Alfred Waterhouse designed all of the furniture, fixtures and fittings, seeing them as intrinsic to his overall design. These included not just chairs, tables, desks, bookshelves, sofas, cabinets, sideboards and doors, but all sorts of items such as hooks, door handles, mirrors, stools and fireguards. His designs were specific to each room and space and they are available to see at the V & A. A great proportion of the original items survive, though some are in a very poor state. Meg explained the aim is to restore them in keeping with the building and put them back to public use, for example, in the meeting and committee rooms etc. Very little is beyond repair. Where perhaps only one or two items exist, for example there are two Clerks’ stools, these will be conserved for the future. Waterhouse used local firms he could liaise with and keep an eye on for his project, namely Dovestones who supplied the Mayorial rooms and Goodalls who provided the rest.

Meg introduced Cesar Carejo of Caesars Conservation, a small family business. He talked about and illustrated a small group of miscellaneous items they have worked on, involving wood, metal and glass. Cesar explained that, as with all restoration, one needed to assess the damage and causes (these come under various headings, such as physical, pollution, humidity, pest, negligence). He illustrated this using examples of hat and coat stands and wood barrier poles, before and after.

Meg also introduced Henry Neville of Hatfields Restoration (est. 1834), who are working on some bigger pieces, such as serving tables and seating for the State Rooms. Henry noted his firm has long experience and has worked on items in the V & A, the Louvre, Palace of Westminster and Royal buildings, to name a few. They also take on modern commissions and can make furniture items to request. Henry noted Waterhouse used mainly domestic oak for Manchester’s furniture, commenting that the furniture and fittings made by Dovestones and Goodalls are of high quality.

Henry spoke about the properties of oak timber, an acid wood, giving illustrated examples of the types of damage and mishandling it’s prone to, using examples from Manchester. He showed one of the tables taken back to its original, finished condition, which involved removing 7 layers of varnish applied in succeeding years over its original shellac finish. The grain and lovely pattern of the table top was once more visible. He talked about the methods and materials they are using and of the different philosophies of “restoration”. He prefers the British model they are following which takes a piece back to the original condition, but retains its history. Importantly, both firms will provide guidance for the future care and protection of the items, to keep them in good condition and prevent future damage.

I enjoyed the lecture very much. Inevitably, this short piece can only be an overview of the lecture, which was full of fascinating detail. Once the Town Hall opens, Mancunians and the wider public will be able to appreciate the beauty of these items and see them put to good use again. They will be able to attend an exhibition which will tell the story of the restoration of the Town Hall and celebrate all the craftspeople who have been involved.

Trish Ramsden



Answers on page 15

## Manchester Organic Gardeners



Welcoming gardeners in the Greater Manchester area

**Saturday 9th March 2024**

Growing award winning vegetables

a talk by  
**Sandra McNicholls FNVS**

2pm at St Elizabeth's Church Hall, Lomond Rd,  
Peel Hall, near Heald Green, M22 5JF

£2.50 members / £4.00 guests light refreshments included

Enquiries: [MOrganicG22@gmail.com](mailto:MOrganicG22@gmail.com)

*All welcome*

**GROUP NEWS** – see group A-Z page for contact details



**Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**East Didsbury to Didsbury via River Mersey**



Our first walk of 2024 was well attended by 26 people keen to work off the turkey and Christmas pudding from last month. The weather was brilliant considering it was January. The rain stayed away and the sun put his hat on. Hip, hip, hooray!

We met at the Parrs Wood cinema complex and walked via the Waterside Hotel and Spa down to the river Mersey. We followed the path by the river along to Millgate Fields. There was some mud around and we all had fun jumping over the puddles. At Millgate Fields, we left the river path and skirted through Stenner Woods and into Fletcher Moss, finally ending up at our lunch spot at Ye Olde Cock Inn.

A lovely walk was then spoiled by poor service in the pub. Despite pre-ordering our lunches, it was still 45 minutes before they brought them to us. We definitely will not be dining in that establishment again. We didn't let it spoil our day however and it was great to catch up with people whom we hadn't seen for two months.

## Walking for Health Group 2 Walk Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Fallowfield to Heaton Chapel

A 2.7-mile walk following the Fallowfield Loop and Highfield Country Park. Mostly good paved paths except for one part which may be muddy. No steps, no stiles and level going. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at the Wilmslow Road entrance to Sainsbury's superstore in Fallowfield (café and toilets available) at 10:45am. Lunch available at the George and Dragon in Heaton Chapel. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on 7582 526440 or 0161 312 3002

## Walking for Health Group 1 Walk Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### Heaton Park

A 3.5-mile walk through Heaton Park. Good paved paths, some ups and downs, no stiles or steps. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Victoria train station by the information board at 10.30. Lunch available at the Heaton Park Beefeater pub in Bowker Vale. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on [REDACTED]

**COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP** - On Leap Day we'll be taking the joy of singing to Morris Feinmann (BELONG) M20 2UW at 2pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm we will be at Buccleuch Lodge and on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April we'll return to BELONG. Please call me if you simply enjoy singing well-known songs in unison - without rehearsal – to amuse, entertain and bring joy to others. Mike Evans 445 4012



**GERMAN GROUP** - The first meeting of the new German conversation group was on Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10.30 am at the Nazarene Theological College on Dene Road, Didsbury, when future plans for the group were discussed. If you can already speak some German and would like to join the group, please contact Diane Ward in the first instance: [smu3agroupscord@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscord@gmail.com) or 0161 445 0358. Unfortunately the group will not be suitable for beginners.

## **SMu3a Groups A – Z - for your information**

**Check Group News and This Month's Diary and *contact the group leader before attending.***

**ANGLO SAXON AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY** – Led by Beryl Cowen ([REDACTED]) this group covers all aspects of Anglo Saxon and Viking life in depth through language and social history readings and discussions. Meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month at 10.30 via Zoom.

**ART APPRECIATION** – Monthly meetings held at Didsbury Parsonage on the afternoon of the third Wednesday of the month cover a wide variety of artistic topics. Talks are either by the leader Diane Ward or guest speakers, followed by tea and discussion. Contact Diane on [smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com) or [REDACTED]

**BIRD WATCHING** – Ideal for the experienced as well as newcomers to birdwatching, this group meets on the first Wednesday of every month from 11-12 noon at [REDACTED]  
Contact: Rita Berriman [REDACTED]

**BOARD GAMES GROUP** – Lots of different games are played by this group which meets at the Parrs Wood pub from 2-4 pm on the second Friday of the month. Contact the leader Christine Salamone on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**BOOK GROUP 1** – This group meets at 10.30 am at [REDACTED] on the first Wednesday of the month. A small friendly group who enjoy reading and discussing a wide variety of books. Contact: Meg Davis [REDACTED]

**BOOK GROUP 2** – Held at Didsbury Library 1.30 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month, meetings are led by members in turn to discuss titles suggested and agreed by the group members. Contact Tom Grimshaw on [REDACTED]

**BOOK GROUP 3** – This group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm. There's no fixed venue but we meet in our homes on a rota. For details contact Johanna Keane on [REDACTED]

**BRIDGE FOR EXPERIENCED PLAYERS** - Held at the Nazarene College on Dene Road, Didsbury, this group meets fortnightly from 10 – 12 noon. See the diary page for dates. Contact Liz Thornhill on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS AND IMPROVERS** - More experienced players are also welcome to join and you don't need a partner. This group meets fortnightly on Mondays from 1.30-3.30, at Emmanuel Parish Centre on Barlow Moor Rd. Contact Hilary Poole on [REDACTED]

**CHESS** - The Chess group meets at 10.30 am on the last Thursday of the month at Didsbury Parsonage. Contact Rosemary Mallace at [REDACTED]

**CINEMA** - Meeting on the last Friday of the month at 12.15 in the downstairs bar of HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place, this group watches a variety films then meets afterwards to discuss them. Leader Russell Ramsden emails what's on the Tuesday before the meeting. Contact Russell on [REDACTED]

**CIRCUS SKILLS** - This new group meets at St Nicholas Church on Kingsway (near junction with Fog Lane) on the first and third Thursday from 2.00— 3.30 pm. We are having a lot of fun learning how to juggle, spin plates and hoola hoop. Some weeks we practice by ourselves and some weeks we have a juggling teacher from Circus House. Equipment provided and no skill needed apart from being able to pick a ball up from the floor. All welcome. For more details contact Joanie at [smu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:smu3amembership@gmail.com) or [REDACTED]

**COMMUNITY SINGING** - This group sings well known songs in unison (no rehearsal time needed) in residential homes. For details contact Mike Evans on [REDACTED]

**CRAFT** - Lots of different skills are practiced by this group on the first Thursday of every month from 1.30 pm at the Old Rectory, Emmanuel Church. Contact either of the two leaders: Karen Malies on [REDACTED] or Margaret Lackey on [REDACTED]

**CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY** - The emphasis is on creativity rather than technical skill. The group meets at Didsbury Parsonage at 10.30 on the second Monday of every month. Contact the leader Ann Howarth on [REDACTED]

**CREATIVE WRITING** - New members are always welcome at this group which is held at Withington Library on the last Friday of the month at 10.30 am. Members read and discuss their writings. Contact Diana Bradley at [REDACTED]

**CURRENT AFFAIRS** - This group meets to share and discuss items in the news on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm in The Old Cock pub, Didsbury. Contact Adrienne Simpson on [REDACTED]

**DRAMATIC READERS** - Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, both face to face and by Zoom at [REDACTED]. Contact Beryl Cowen on [REDACTED]

**EGYPTOLOGY** - This group meets at 10.30-12.30 on the third Thursday of the month at Didsbury Parsonage, to discuss all aspects of early Egyptian art and culture. Contact Kathryn Fyfe on [REDACTED]

**FRENCH CONVERSATION** - Now meeting on the third Tuesday of the month 2 - 3pm at Pizza Express in West Didsbury, speakers of all levels of conversational French are welcome. Contact Jean Thompson at [REDACTED]

**GERMAN CONVERSATION** - This group is in the process of being formed. If you would like to practice your spoken German, please contact Diane Ward in the first instance, on [smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com) or [REDACTED]

**GETTING BY IN WELSH** - At 10.30 on the first Friday of every month, this group meets at East Didsbury Methodist Church on Parris Wood Road, to discuss the language, history and culture of Wales. Contact Beryl Cowen on [REDACTED] or Wena Stevenson on [REDACTED]

**HOLIDAY CLUB** - Keep an eye on the monthly newsletter for information about forthcoming holidays.

**ITALIAN CONVERSATION** - A small group with a range of abilities, these Italian speakers meet at [REDACTED] on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday mornings of every month at 10.30 am. We learn by helping each other. This group is currently full but there is a waiting list. Contact Meg Davis on [REDACTED]

**ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS** - This group is for those with no or minimal Italian but want to learn, meeting at St Christopher's Church, Moorgate Avenue, from 10.30 – 12.00 on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Contact Andrew Bradbury on [smu3asecretary@gmail.com](mailto:smu3asecretary@gmail.com) or [REDACTED]

**KEEP FIT** - This fitness group caters for a variety of fitness levels – there is no competition! It meets every Friday morning at 11.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall, Kingsway, Burnage. Contact Anne Clarke [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

**LOCAL INTEREST VISITS** - These will be advertised in the newsletter from time to time. Contact: Jill Evans on [REDACTED]

**LUNCH CLUB** - The club meets monthly at a variety of local restaurants and pubs, chosen with a view to ease of parking or public transport as well as price. For details contact John Olbrich on [REDACTED]

**OPERATIC AND VOCAL APPRECIATION SOCIETY (OVAS)** - Lovers of opera and music meets from 3.30 – 5.45 on the last Wednesday of every month. Contact Len Evans at [REDACTED] or Russell Ramsden on [REDACTED]

**PHILOSOPHY** - Run by Sandra Grant this group meets at 1.30 pm at Withington Library on the third Tuesday of the month. Contact Sandra on [REDACTED]

**PLAYREADING** - Numbers are limited for this group, but please contact the group leader, Helen Nichol on [REDACTED] to register your interest. Meetings are at Withington Library at 1.30 on the third Tuesday afternoon of the month.

**POETRY APPRECIATION** - Poems on a chosen theme are discussed on the 1st Monday of the month from 11.00-12.30 at Victoria Grange, Barlow Moor Road, and alternate months at meetings via Zoom. The group is currently full, but if interested contact Lynne Taylor at [REDACTED] to be on the waiting list.

**PSYCHOLOGY** - This group meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 2 pm via Zoom and the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month face to face at East Didsbury Methodist Church, Parrs Wood Road at 1 pm. Contact Beryl on [REDACTED]

**SINGING FOR FUN** - This group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 2 pm. Contact Beryl Cowen on [REDACTED]

**TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON** - Every Tuesday from 10.00-12.00, this group meets at the Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield. Equipment can be provided and the cost per session is £3.50. Contact June Slatter on [REDACTED]

**TAI CHI** - Gentle exercise which benefits balance and calmness at the Lower Hall, Emmanuel Offices, behind the church from 1-2 pm every Tuesday. Contact Peggy at [REDACTED] 0371 or preferably [REDACTED]

**UKELELE** - Contact Gerard Allcock on [REDACTED] if you'd like to strum and sing along with the ukelele group. Beginners are welcome. They meet from 10 – 11.15 at the Upper Hall of Emmanuel Parish Centre, behind the church, every Thursday.

**WALKING FOR HEALTH GROUP 1** - Walks of up to 3 miles are enjoyed by this group on the last Tuesday of every month. Details are given in the newsletter. U3a members only. Contact Ian Burn or Shirley Shaw on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

**WALKING FOR HEALTH GROUP 2** - This group meets on the second Wednesday of every month to follow the same route as Group 1. U3a members only. Contact Anne Clarke on [REDACTED]

## Quiz Answers

To keep you on your toes the answers are here - Somewhere!

Kaa Mowgli Tinkerbell

Oogle Boogle

Jack Skellington Doc

Cruella de Vil Grumpy

Kristoff, Anna, Elsa, Sven and Olaf Pinocchio

# 65 yr + Men of Greater Manchester & East Cheshire

Can you spare 10 minutes?  
It could save your life

## Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

### Who?

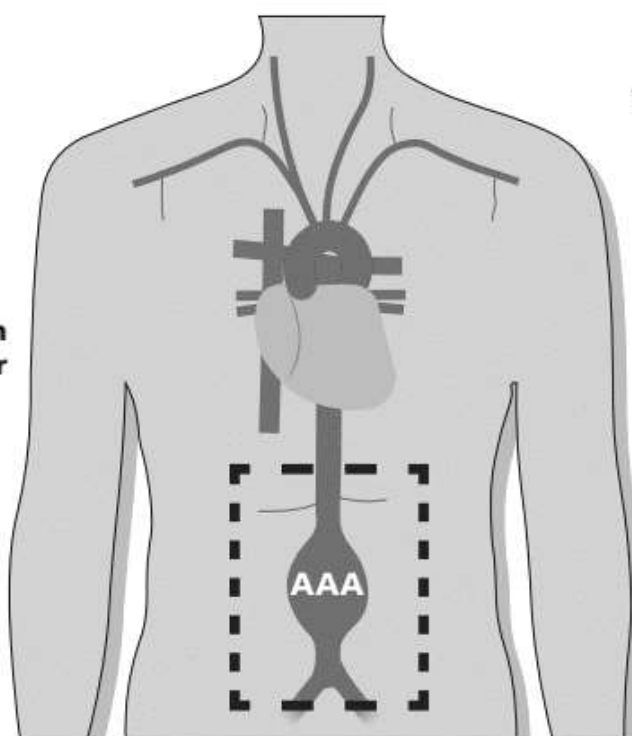
All men  
aged 65+

### When?

In your 65th  
year or over

### Why?

1 in 70  
men will  
have an  
AAA



### What?

Weakening of  
the artery  
wall

### Where?

NHS sites  
near you

### How?

Ultrasound  
scan. It's  
safe, quick  
and pain  
free

In England, we offer Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms screening (AAA) to all men in the year they turn 65. Men aged 65 or over are more at risk of developing an AAA.

Screening can help spot a swelling in the aorta early when it can usually be treated.

Aneurysms do not cause any pain or symptoms, so you would not know if you had one.

As they get larger, they are at risk of bursting (rupturing) which is classed as a medical emergency and can be deadly.

We carry out a simple, pain-free, ultrasound scan of your tummy which takes approximately 5 minutes.

Using a handheld ultrasound, the Screener can measure the aorta inside your tummy. The scan is painless, quick and you are given the results there and then before you leave.

AAA screening saves lives, please call 0161 291 5716 to find your nearest clinic and book in for yours.

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SOUTH MANCHESTER U3A**  
**5th MARCH 2024, 2.00 PM**  
**VENUE: DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
**BEAVER ROAD, DIDSBURY**  
**A G E N D A**

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the AGM held on 7th March 2023 (see below).
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM held on 7th March 2023.
3. Report from the Chair.
4. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.
5. To authorise the appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2024.
6. Vote on resolutions to amend the Constitution (see notes below)  
Resolution a) To increase the maximum length of service of committee members from six to nine years.  
Resolution b) To increase the length of time an Officer can serve in one or more Officer roles to six years.
7. The election of members of the Committee.
8. Any other business notified to the Chair/Secretary by Friday 23rd February 2024.
9. Close of AGM.

**Notes on proposed changes to Constitution.**

The Committee has reviewed the relevant part of the Constitution regarding length of service of committee members and Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary). Firstly, as it is often difficult to find committee members it was felt that increasing the maximum term of office to nine years would assist in continuity in the running of the u3a. Of course, nobody would be forced to stay on the committee any longer than they wished!

Secondly, under the present Constitution, the Treasurer can remain in post for six years while other Officers can only serve for three years but can then move to another Officer post. It was felt that this distinction is unnecessary and leads to unnecessary role changes, particularly if an Officer is willing to continue.

The relevant paragraph currently reads:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

- vi. Terms of office and limits on periods of service*
- (a) Non-Officer members of the Executive Committee have a one year term of office and may serve not more than three terms.
  - (b) Officers other than the Treasurer have a one year term of office and may serve not more than three terms in a particular Officer role.
  - (c) The Treasurer has a one year term of office and may serve not more than six terms as Treasurer. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Treasurer serves less than this period and ceases to serve as Treasurer, he could be appointed to another Officer role or could serve as a non-Officer.
  - (d) Subject to the provisions regarding the Treasurer above, no individual may serve more than a maximum of six years in any combination of Officer roles or any combination of non-Officer member and Officer roles.

The proposed amended paragraph reads:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

- vi. Terms of office and limits on periods of service*
- (a) Non-Officer members of the Executive Committee have a one-year term of office and may serve not more than nine terms.
  - (b) Officers have a one-year term of office and may not serve more than six years in a particular Officer role.
  - (c) No individual may serve more than six years in a combination of Officer roles.

**Minutes of AGM 2023 on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

1. Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and to our new meetings venue.
2. Present – 83 members and 0 proxy votes.
3. Apologies for absence - Andrew Cretney, Ian and Alex Grant, Frances Kelly, Trish Ramsden, Jeff Wilner, Joanie Yoffe.
4. Minutes of the AGM of 1st November 2022 – accepted as correct by the meeting.
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM of 1st November 2022 – none.
6. Report from the Chair. This had been published in the last two newsletters. The Chair reported that 2022 had largely been spent rebuilding after Covid and considering how to build further in the future. He thanked people for their hard work, including the welcoming committee, the group leaders, the newsletter team and the committee with special mention of Anne Cooper, who is stepping down, and Ian Burn.
7. Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st December 2022. This had also been published in the last two newsletters. There was a deficit of £782 in 2022 but as some members had already paid for 2023 the true deficit was £1215. Membership numbers are now increasing again but venue costs have increased, in view of which members attending group meetings in hired venues must now pay £2. Group attendance at free venues remains at £1.
8. Authorisation of appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2023 will be carried out by the committee at their next meeting.
9. Election of the committee. Six members had been nominated and were elected unopposed. These were Andrew Bradbury, Ian Burn, Beryl Cowen, Patricia Ford, Diane Ward and Joanie Yoffe.
10. Any other business – none.
11. The meeting closed at 14.13.

**Treasurer's Report 2023**

2023 was a good year financially for South Manchester u3a. Overall, we generated surplus funds of £1,395.

Costs have risen, particularly increased venue hire, printing costs for the newsletter and increased payments to Third Age Trust for insurance and administration. However, our income has increased significantly. This increase is due to: -

- A significant increase in our membership numbers.
- An increase in the number of people attending group meetings.
- The increase of the cost of attendance at group meetings from £1 to £2 for groups who use a paid venue.

We are now back to pre-covid numbers for our membership and moreover, the number of groups running and the numbers of people attending groups is higher than pre-covid. This is brilliant news and means that the future of South Manchester u3a is looking bright.

Ian Burn  
Treasurer  
South Manchester u3a



## Income and Expenditure Statement 31st December 2023

### CURRENT ACCOUNT

2023

#### Income

Subscriptions	£ 6,383.23
Monthly Meetings	£ 1,291.85
Groups	£ 7,769.15
Sale of u3a Goods	£ 7.00
Miscellaneous	£ -
Donations	£ 15.00
Christmas Meal	£ 796.60
	<u>£ 16,262.83</u>

#### Expenditure

Monthly Meeting	£ 720.94
Venues	£ 6,375.56
Groups	£ 483.66
Speakers	£ 630.00
Printing/Stationery	£ 1,432.06
Catering	£ 93.54
Equipment	£ 601.12
Welfare Expenses	£ 30.04
National Member Subscriptions	£ 1,564.00
TAM Magazine Costs	£ 1,456.94
Miscellaneous	£ 96.99
Publicity/Marketing	£ 239.40
HQ Licences	£ 64.20
Purchase of u3a Goods	£ -
National Conference	£ -
Bank Charges	£ 73.20
Christmas Meal	£ 1,006.00
	<u>£ 14,867.65</u>

#### Surplus/Deficit for 12 months

Balance at 1st January 2023	£ 8,851.63
Received to Date	£ 16,262.83
Paid to Date	£ 14,867.65
Reserve for Contingencies	£ 5,000.00
Balance at 31st December 2023	<u>£ 10,246.81</u>
	£ 5,246.81

#### Bank Statement at 31st December 2023

Bank Statement at 31st December 2023	£ 10,246.81
Unpresented Cheques	£ -
Reserve for Contingencies	£ 5,000.00
	<u>£ 5,246.81</u>

# March 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<b>1</b> Italian <b>10:30</b> (Meg) Getting by in Welsh <b>10:30</b> Didsbury Methodist Church Keep Fit <b>11:30</b>
<b>4</b> Anglo Saxon and Medieval History via zoom <b>10:30</b> Poetry Appreciation <b>11:00</b> Zoom Improvers and Beginners Bridge <b>13:30 - 15:30</b> Psychology <b>14:00</b> via zoom	<b>5</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> <b>Annual General Meeting 14:00- 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</b>	<b>6</b> Book Group 1. Meg's house <b>10:30</b> . Bird Watching. Note: <b>New Time 11:00 – 12:00</b> If interested, contact Rita: [REDACTED]	<b>7</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 -11:15</b> Craft <b>13:30-15:30</b> Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:30</b> . St. Nicholas Church Hall	<b>8</b> Bridge <b>10:00 - 12:00</b> Italian for Beginners (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> Board Games <b>14:00-16:00</b> Parrswood Pub
<b>11</b> Creative Photography <b>10:30</b> The Parsonage Stenner Lane.	<b>12</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> Singing for fun <b>14:00 – 16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church.	<b>13</b> Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter	<b>14</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 -11:15</b> Book Group 3. <b>13:30</b> (Closed group)	<b>15</b> Italian <b>10:30</b> (Meg) Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> <b>Dramatic Readers: Suspended until further notice.</b>
<b>18</b> Anglo Saxon and Medieval History via zoom <b>10:30</b> Improvers and Beginners Bridge <b>13:30 - 15:30</b>	<b>19</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> Playreading <b>13:30</b> Philosophy <b>13:30</b> French Group <b>14:00</b> Pizza Express.	<b>20</b> The Lunch Club is not meeting this month. To be added to the notification list contact: [REDACTED] Manchester Museum visit 10.30am Art Appreciation <b>14:00</b> Didsbury Parsonage	<b>21</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 -11:15</b> Egyptology <b>10:30-12:30</b> The Parsonage Stenner Lane. Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:30</b> . St. Nicholas Church Hall	<b>22</b> Bridge <b>10:00 - 12:00</b> Creative Writing <b>10:30</b> Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> Italian for Beginners (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Cinema <b>12:15</b>
<b>25</b> Psychology <b>13:00</b> Face-to-face E. Didsbury Methodist Church	<b>26</b> Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> Singing for Fun <b>14:00 – 16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church.	<b>27</b> Community Sing-Along Group <b>14:00</b> Buccleuch Lodge M20 2XA. For more info call Mike Evans 445 4012 OVAS <b>15:30 – 17:45</b> [REDACTED]	<b>28</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 -11:15</b> Chess <b>10:30</b> The Parsonage Current Affairs <b>13:30</b> The Old Cock Pub Book Group 2. <b>13:30</b> Didsbury Library	<b>29</b> Good Friday Bank Holiday