

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE**

THE BIG SING

Your last chance to sign up for this NW region event Page 4

SUMMER SCHOOL

Places for courses are filling fast. Sign up now! Page 6

ROCHDALE TOWN HALL

Trish Ramsden tells us about her visit to Rochdale Town Hall Page 10

WORLD WAR 2 EXPERIENCE

Read about Pam Hall's experience of living through World War 2 Page 11

A NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS

Find out about the Circus Skills group visit to the Circus House performance Page 12



Check out our website

Registered Charity
Number 1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



When the Community Sing-Along Group reaches the climax of "Hey Jude"!

July 2024 Newsletter items to: editor.smu3anews@gmail.com

NO LATER than Friday 21st June 2024

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

GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 2.00pm

“From Divorce Lawyer to the Duchess of Domestic Noir” by Caroline England

See page 9 for details

Parking at Didsbury Baptist Church – Members please note that there is no parking at the church with the exception of temporary drop-off for the catering team and book stallholders. (Blue badge holders could use double yellow lines)



Message from the Chair

Hello again.

As I write this, I am in the middle of invigilating exams in a local school. This involves a lot of walking, patience and paper work. I had to undergo training and a mini exam to do it, so it was not always straightforward, but I love helping the young ones to get through their exams. We need to know about safeguarding, legal requirements and how to set up an exam room. For a 2-hour exam we need double that time to set up and do all of the paper work and photo IDs before and after each subject. But it is fun, if a little tedious.

All of this 'before and after' work we do in school reminded me of what Group Leaders need to do before and after each session. So, we are having another Group Leaders' get together to help and encourage all leaders as they do such a Trojan job. June 20th is the date, so look out for an email to tell you where to come.

A few weeks ago, I met a lovely young lady from "My Generation". This group want to help raise the profile and worth of older people by doing podcasts and interviewing u3a members with interesting stories. So, watch this space for more information.

I am planning a trip to Stoke Museum after the exams to see the Staffordshire Hoard. This is all Anglo-Saxon stuff. If anyone else would like to come, please see me at the general meeting. Talking of groups, the new groups are doing well - so great to know. Well done everyone! Enjoy the sunshine and think of me in a huge hall with 200 students over the next few weeks.

Beryl



Message from the Editor

Thank you for all of the lovely comments which you have sent me saying that you are enjoying the new-look newsletter. At least I know that I'm going in the right direction. Of course, a newsletter is only as good as the articles and stories which it contains. I rely on you, the members, to help me with this. If you have any interesting stories about what you have done in your groups or outside of the u3a which you think might interest our readers, please send them to me. If you have any photographs associated with your story, that would be brilliant.

Please send them to: editor.smu3anews@gmail.com

Ian

National: www.u3a.org.uk for latest news of u3a around the country and courses/events on offer.

National Newsletter: The May newsletter can be found here: [May National Newsletter](#)

North West Region: www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west for the latest information and newsletter



THE BIG SING

**Saturday 15th June 2024, 10.15 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. at
The Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool.
Led by Fredrik Holm, music specialist and Members of
the North West Regional Team.**

PROGRAMME

- 10.15 Refreshments and registration
- 10.55 Welcome & Introduction
- 11:00 First practice session
- 12.15 Lunch - bring your own or use the local cafes
- 13.15 Second practice session
- 14.15 Comfort break
- 14.45 – 15.30 The Big Sing – putting together everything you have learned

The venue is accessible and there is a lift to all floors. Parking is limited but there is a public carpark nearby and the venue is within walking distance of Lime Street and Central Stations.

If you book parking in advance through Q-Park you can obtain a discount using QUAKERSLV.

Please indicate if you have any special requirements with regard to seating or large print.

Cost for the event: £15.00 including refreshments. **STRICTLY u3a MEMBERS ONLY**

Please note, lunch is not provided. Bring your own or use nearby cafes.

Please register by 7th June 2024 by online form: <https://forms.gle/EY9hUmvagdTJQzqQ7>

or send name, u3a and contact details with a cheque for £15 payable to North West Region of u3as

To G. Russell, [REDACTED]

If you prefer to pay by BACs pay to North West Region of u3as

Account No: 00197002 Sort Code: 30-19-16 Ref: Big Sing

For more information contact Gill Russell: [REDACTED] u3anwchair@gmail.com

North West Region Conference and AGM

Tuesday 2nd July 2024

Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool

Programme

10.00	Registration and refreshments
10.55	Welcome
11.00	1st Discussion group
11.45	2nd Discussion group
12.30	Lunch – bring your own, eat at local cafes or order a sandwich buffet at the venue for £5, payable in advance to the NW account (see below)
13.40	Performance by Fool's Gold
14.30	Refreshment break
2.45	AGM
3.45	Finish

Discussion groups: Each group will be approx. 40 minutes. Please select two

- a) **Flash Fiction** - Can you write a short, interesting (dynamic) item in less than 50 words?
- b) **Write a Haiku** - A short verse in the style of a Japanese Haiku
- c) **Loud and Proud** - Shout out about your u3a!
- d) **EDI** - an informal discussion about Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

Register using this link <https://forms.gle/D3xwEbCP5tgquHC96> or by contacting Gill (see below)

Please note, refreshments will be available on arrival, at lunch time and at the afternoon break. There is no charge for these. If booking the lunch buffet please send £5 in advance before June 27th by BACS to the North West Account no: 00197002 Sort code: 30-90-16 and use NW AGM as reference or by cheque payable to NW Region of u3as. Send by post to Gill Russell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The venue is a short walk from both Liverpool Lime Street mainline station and Central Station on the Wirral Line. It is accessible and there are lifts to all floors. Parking is very limited but there is a public carpark nearby in Hamilton Street. There is a discount at the carpark if you book in advance using the following code: QUAKERSLV. Please let me know if you need directions.

NW region of u3as Charity Commission registration no: 1159091

North West Region of U3As



Registered Charity No: 1159091

invite applications for the 2024 Summer School

**Residential Summer School Tues 13th August – Friday 16th August
At University of Cumbria, Fusehill St Campus, Carlisle, CA1 2HH**

An opportunity to learn in the inspiring setting of historical Carlisle



The Fusehill St campus is located in the centre of Carlisle and less than 15 minutes' walk from Carlisle Railway Station. The campus has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. A large room is available for meeting and socialising. There will be a quiz on the first evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening.

Full Board Residential Delegate: £420. (+ £10 car parking charge if applicable + £25 field trips (2 off) surcharge for archaeology and £15 field trip surcharge for British artists courses) We include full board for 3 nights, including dinner on 13th August, breakfast, lunch and dinner on 14th August, breakfast, lunch and gala dinner on 15th August and breakfast on 16th August. Also, tea and coffee refreshments on each day.

Non-Residential Day Delegate: £210 (+ parking and field trip surcharge if applicable) includes lunches, teas and coffees, excludes breakfast daily and dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday but does include the gala dinner on 15th August. Accommodation is available nearby in the Carlisle city centre.

An application form (available online at north west site) must be completed by post or email, Payment can be either by bank transfer (North West Region of U3A's, Lloyds Bank sort code 30-90-16, account 00197002 quoting name and post code) or by cheque (payable to North West Region of U3A's).

DO NOT SEND PAYMENT UNTIL YOUR APPLICATION IS CONFIRMED

queries should be directed to Alan Hough on [REDACTED] or

Post to [REDACTED].

Of the 7 courses which were on offer only 3 still have places on them. They are: -

Art Challenges: "Working in the style of..."

Ukulele for Improvers

Japanese Encounter



Join us for the u3a Festival 24

The u3a movement is holding its first ever Festival in 2024, **18 - 20 July**, where members will be running a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops which will make this u3a national festival something to remember.

How can I take part?

Venue

u3a Festival 24 will take place in the beautiful city of York over 3 days and will be held at the **University of York based around their exhibition centre.**



Tickets are now available to be part of the festival. There are 5 options so you can book for the whole 3 days, or for Thursday only, Friday from 9 – 6pm, Friday from 9am – 11pm or for Saturday. Please read all the options and just book for what you need to allow space for as many members as possible:

How much are tickets?

- Day 1, Thursday 18 July - £25 including buffet supper
- Day 2, Friday 19 July - £10 for the full day
- Day 3, Saturday 20 July - £5 for a half day
- Full festival to include all 3 days and a buffet supper on Day 1 - £35

Book your accommodation

The accommodation on campus is now fully booked. York is a major tourist city and there is a lot of alternative accommodation in the southeast of the city where the university is situated. Online booking agents have Airbnb options available together with a range of guest houses and hotels across the price range.

Parking

There is plenty of parking available at the university, including a number of disabled parking spaces. The nearest car park for the festival is located off Newton Way.

If you have any questions please email: festival@u3a.org.uk

Sponsored by

SAGA

SMu3a welcomes the following new members

Nigel Sutton

Angela Whitaker

Jonathan Whitaker

Judith Meredith

Sylvia Herring

Alana Gallagher

Tradesperson Book

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

BOOKSTALL

Sadly, the bookstall is no longer running. Over the years, David and Janet have raised an enormous amount of money for charity including £70 for the month of May, which was donated to Maggie's Manchester to help with cancer support. It is a shame that from now on we are no longer raising this money.

All of the remaining books have been donated to Oxfam.

If you are interested in starting up the bookstall again, please contact any committee member for more details.

2024 GROUPS FAIR

Tuesday 1st October at 2.00pm at Didsbury Baptist Church

This year's groups fair will take place at our October general meeting before our main speaker for the day, Alan Towse, gives his talk on beekeeping at 2.30pm.

Many of our group leaders will be available to chat with you about their groups and what they get up to. It will be a great opportunity for you to find a group that interests you and perhaps dip your toe into the water and get involved with a group. It could be a whole new experience for you. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available during the fair. So come along and find out what it's all about.



I attended a relaxed lunchtime concert at Chethams, advertised in the newsletter, and had a really enjoyable time watching gifted teenage musicians in an informal atmosphere. No expert knowledge required.

Tea and coffee on sale. Free admission. You need to book a ticket online.
The next concert is Wednesday June 12 at 13.30.

Tom Grimshaw

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“From Divorce Lawyer to the Duchess of Domestic Noir” by Caroline England



Born in Sheffield, Caroline studied Law at the University of Manchester and stayed over the border. Caroline was a divorce and professional indemnity lawyer. She turned to writing when she deserted the law to bring up her three lovely daughters. Caroline has had short stories and poems published in a variety of literary publications and anthologies.

Caroline writes domestic psychological thrillers. Her debut novel, “BENEATH THE SKIN”, known also as “THE WIFE’S SECRET”, was published in October 2017. Her second novel, “MY HUSBAND’S LIES”, followed in May 2018 and became a Kindle top ten bestseller. “BETRAY HER” was published in July 2020. “TRUTH GAMES” followed in June 2021 and “THE SINNER” in June 2022. “THE STRANGER BESIDE ME” was published on 3rd August 2023.

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

All meetings take place at Didsbury Baptist Church

Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 2pm	“From Divorce Lawyer to the Duchess of Domestic Noir” by Caroline England
Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 2pm	“Wythenshawe Good Neighbours Scheme” by Helen Davies
Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 2pm	“I Have Survived Having the Best Job in the World – Twice” by Ann Treneman
Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 2pm	“The Extraordinary Lives of Ordinary People” by Merryn Myatt
Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 2pm	“Beekeeping in South Manchester” by Alan Towse
Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 2pm	“The Heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan” by Bernard Lockett
Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 2pm	“A Crooning Christmas” by Kevin and Joy Siddall



IN OUR AREA – A VISIT TO ROCHDALE TOWN HALL

By Trish Ramsden

Rochdale is well known for being the home of the Co-operative Movement and the birth place of Gracie Fields. On a recent trip to Rochdale, I took the opportunity to visit its newly restored Town Hall. It reopened this year and it is stunning!

Rochdale became an important regional town in the nineteenth century owing, mainly, to its wool and cotton industries, and when it became a municipal borough in 1856, calls for a Town Hall to be built started to be made. In 1864 an up-and-coming architect William H. Crossland from Leeds won the competition to design it. (In 1883 when the clocktower was destroyed by fire - Alfred Waterhouse, architect of Manchester Town Hall, designed the new tower which was completed in 1884.)

The building and its décor are in what is known as the “Victorian Gothic” style. Pointed arches and intricate carved stonework abound, with walls and ceilings decorated in the Arts and Crafts style, in beautiful multi-coloured designs, which the guide book says “celebrates the natural world, weaving together Greek myths with traditional folk tales and fables, as well as Rochdale’s trades and industries.” There are also many beautiful stained-glass windows throughout. Those on the Grand Staircase celebrate Rochdale’s trading links both in Britain and around the world, Manchester being one (see photos). The huge Great Hall boasts sixteen larger than life carved angels forming part of the hammerbeam roof. These together with the decoration put me in mind of Castell Coch in Wales, also a “Gothic Revival” and worth a visit. Outside the front of the building is the Town Hall Square and Esplanade, also designed by William Crossland, a lovely, peaceful setting for such a beautiful building.



Today Rochdale Town Hall is a Grade I listed building and it is well worth making a special visit to see it. A host of local volunteers were trained to work on the restoration. There is so much to say about the history and people of Rochdale and here you will get a glimpse into this past and present.

Open 7 days a week, 10 – 4.30 weekdays, 10 – 4 at weekends. Except Bank Holidays. Daily tours 11-12 noon. A restaurant on the ground floor should open in a few months, but the current “pop-up” café upstairs is really excellent and in lovely surroundings. Nearby is Rochdale Riverside – a new shopping and leisure centre which I can also recommend. The tram goes right into the centre of town so no excuses!



My Experience of World War 2 by Pam Hall

One of our members, Pam Hall, received an unusual request from her grandchildren. They wanted her to tell them about her experience of World War 2. She thought long and hard and started to put her experiences down on paper. We thought that it would be a great idea to share her experiences with South Manchester u3a. Perhaps it will jog your own memories and encourage you to share your own experience. Here are Pam's recollections of World War 2.

The experience of living in a society at war with overseas enemies must, I think, have been traumatising to a developing child. I think that all my generation have traumatic memories to a greater or lesser extent, depending on where and how they spent the years of the war.

WW2 lasted more or less exactly the first five years of my life. It didn't change my family structure, since my dad wasn't called up. He had served in WW1 as a boy soldier in the trenches, so would have had his own traumatic memories which were never discussed. It would have been real bad luck to get caught for both conflicts. As an old man, Dad recalled marching into Amiens (or possibly Orleans) with the girls throwing flowers and calling "Vive les Tommies!" Quite a nice memory!

This war placed Dad into being a victim, rather than an agent, and his fear was very evident to me. He constructed an Anderson shelter for us in the back garden, where we sat out the frequent air raids of the 1940's.

My main memories of the times in the air raid shelter are of cold and noise. Food was rationed, quite strictly. I don't recall feeling hungry, but photographs show that I was underweight. My hair fell out in patches. My teeth decayed rapidly and I had frequent eye infections.

After the war we had regular medical check-ups at school. I thought that was normal and later I was surprised that they were not offered to my own children. I realise now it was to check and report on how much damage the malnutrition of early years had done. Quite a lot, I guess.



Gardens open for charity



Why not spend a sunny weekend looking around other people's gardens. Prices range from £5 to £6 and all proceeds go to charity.

Saturday/Sunday 6th/7th July 2024

The Shakespearean Garden, Platt Field Park, Manchester, M14 6LA

11.30am to 5.00pm £5 Light refreshments available

Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th August 2024

Fallowfield and Ladybarn Gardens

A trail running from 27 Clifton Avenue, M14 6UD to 7 Rose Cottages, Ladybarn Lane, M14 6YR taking in 7 gardens with each garden having something different to offer.

11.00am to 5.00pm £6 for combined admission Light refreshments available

www.ngs.org.uk



A Night at the Circus

By Joanie Yoffe

The Circus Group have been having fun, under the skilful guidance of professionals, Owen and Lina from Circus House. They are a community-based group in Levenshume, who teach circus skills to young and old and who are very clever at adapting to those of us who are less than super fit.

We are learning how to juggle with scarves and balls and to play with diabolos, clubs, flower sticks and hula hoops. We play a lot of interactive games designed to develop awareness and use both sides of your body and brain, which are as much a mental work out as a physical activity. It is very sociable and satisfying, as seemingly impossible tasks become easier as muscle memory slowly develops, although we are a long way from actually being able to juggle!

Last Saturday a group of us decided to have a night out and go into Manchester to watch Circus House performing at the Stoller Hall. It was an entertaining evening with “our” Owen giving a slick performance as compere, linking the acts with a great line of patter and surprising us by being the strong man half of an acrobatic pair. There were many funny and inventive routines on the trapeze and “our” Lina also dazzled with a virtuosa act, juggling with luminous clubs. Their skill and enthusiasm were uplifting.



We will continue to have practice sessions at St Nicholas Church, on the first and third Thursdays of the month, and newcomers are welcome to come and join in! We will also book some more sessions with Circus House later in the summer, including going to their premises, where we have been promised we can have a go on the trapeze which will hopefully be set at a suitably low height. I know we will never dazzle but it really is a lot of fun, keeps the brain active and I’m learning tricks to entertain my friends and grandchildren!





LUNCHTIME CONCERTS FROM CHETHAMS

Please see below for information about these concerts with links for further information.

The remaining Relaxed Lunchtime concerts for this school year are as follows:

Wednesday 12th June - 1:30pm

<https://chethamsschoolofmusic.com/whats-on/chethams-lunchtime-concerts-14/>

There are regular weekly free Lunchtime Concerts every Tuesday to Thursday also commencing at 1:30pm during term time.

For more information see here:

<https://chethamsschoolofmusic.com/festivals/chethams-lunchtime-concerts/>



Didsbury Probus Programme 2024

Thursday June 6th

"3D Printing - Is it any use?" by Dr Ernie Hill

3D printing is the making of items, components and models using a computer which controls a printing machine to create shapes by laying down thin layers of material continuously, one on top of another, to create all kinds of intricate products, from engineering components to architectural models. Ernie will demonstrate how this is done.

Thursday June 20th

"The Public Analyst" by Andy Smith

The Public Analysts are scientists who test food, drinking water, milk, animal feeds and fertilisers etc. to check on the safety and compliance of the products.

Thursday July 4th

"Spies, Cyphers and Scandals" by Eric Roth

The intrigue and mystery behind Diplomacy and Wars.

Thursday July 18th

"The Towers Estate" by Dr Diana Leitch

Diana will talk about the history of The Towers and the role of the estate's new buildings in the making of Manchester and the scientific work and developments made there.

Thursday August 1st

"The History of Lyme Hall and Park" by Gareth Evans

All meetings are held in the Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane, opposite the Scout Hut and Didsbury Metrolink station.

Tea / coffee and biscuits are served from 10.30am before the talk at 11am.

Visitors are very welcome. Any donations to help with running costs would be very helpful

For more details contact Mary Hill: didsbury.probus@gmail.com

Manchester Organic Gardeners

Welcoming gardeners in the Greater Manchester area



Saturday 8th June 2024

“Peat in gardening” by Izabella Donohue
Lancashire Wildlife Trust

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

All welcome



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

Monday 10th June 2024 at 7pm

We are holding our (brief) AGM followed by a Members Evening when members can bring along their astrophotography images, telescopes etc. Visitors welcome.

Monday 8th July 2024 at 7pm

We are holding a talk by Mark Whalley from the University of Chester on "The Life and Work of William and Caroline Herschel"

As usual meetings will take place at Nazarene Theological College. Visitors welcome.

For more details visit www.wdas2.com.



Dementia affects so many of us in many different ways.

Do you have some spare time, however little, to volunteer and help support our hard-working charity?

We're a small local charity, working across Manchester to support people living with Dementia and their loved ones to live positively, socially and well. We do this in lots of different ways, from our weekly friendship & activity groups, our Dementia Cafes and carer support, to our home visit befriending service, "Together at Home". Like most charities, we rely on volunteers to help us run our high-quality services and have a really wonderful, diverse and dedicated volunteering community. However, we are currently really in need of 'mature' volunteers - most of our current volunteers are students and their timetables and study commitments mean we are often short of volunteers during holidays, exam seasons, etc. We find that older volunteers are able to commit more consistently, due to a more settled weekly schedule. Not just that, but mature volunteers bring with them a wealth of experience, gifts and wisdom.

For further information please contact Mary Sharples on: mary@togetherdementiasupport.org

View the Together Dementia Support website: <https://www.togetherdementiasupport.org/>

QUIZ

- Cheetahs are the fastest big cats but which are the second fastest?**
a) Tigers b) Leopards c) Lions d) Jaguars
- What is a group of rats called?**
a) a gang b) a pack c) a conspiracy d) a mischief
- Approx how many hamburgers might a Tyrannosaurus Rex have been able to swallow in a single gulp?**
a) 50 b) 150 c) 1,500 d) 15,000
- What shape is the pupil of a goat's eye?**
a) round b) oval c) rectangular d) square
- What is the official top speed of Bertie, the world's fastest tortoise?**
a) 2.8 mm per second b) 2.8 cm per second c) 28 cm per second d) 2.8 m per second
- How many lungs does an ant have?**
a) None b) one c) four d) eight
- Which mammal cannot pass wind?**
a) Dolphin b) duck billed platypus c) sloth d) koala
- Which of these natural objects are there the largest number of?**
a) neurons in your brain b) trees on earth c) chickens on earth d) stars in the Milky Way



- What percentage of their DNA do human beings share with a banana?**
a) 0% b) 1% c) 30% d) 60%
- Which is the only major river to cross the Equator twice?**
a) the Amazon b) the Congo c) the Nile d) the Mississippi
- Which of these sporting objects travels at the fastest speed?**
a) golf ball b) tennis ball c) formula one car d) shuttlecock

12. Which world religion has the most followers?
 a) Islam b) Christianity c) Hinduism d) Buddhism
13. In which year was the first email sent?
 a) 1971 b) 1981 c) 1987 d) 1991
14. The word Lego is an abbreviation of two Danish words, 'leg got', meaning what?
 a) little bricks b) coloured bricks c) play together d) play well
15. How did the Ancient Romans show their appreciation after a good meal?
 a) burp b) vomit c) clap

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20

GROUP NEWS See A-Z page for contact details



Walking for Health Group 2 Walk Wednesday 12th June 2024

Radcliffe to Ringley

A 3¹/₂-mile walk. Slightly more challenging than normal so not for those with major mobility issues. A steep hill up about halfway and a steep hill down at the end. Two sets of steep stairs up. No stiles and mainly good paths but a section of field walking which could be wet. Wear stout shoes, and bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Victoria Station by the information board at 10.15 to catch Bury tram. A pub lunch is available at the Horseshoe in Ringley. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on 7582 526440 or 0161 312 3002.

Walking for Health Group 1 Walk Tuesday 25th June 2024

Vernon Park, Goyt Valley and Otterspool Bridge

A 2³/₄-mile walk past Pear Mill onto the Fred Perry Way then onto Alan Newton Way along the Goyt Valley towards Otterspool Bridge. Undulating. No stiles. Solid paths. ½ mile walk from lunch stop back to bus stop. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet in Stockport interchange by the ticket office at 10.20. Lunch available at Dobbies Garden Centre. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn [REDACTED]



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

We'll not be gathering in June but have a gig fixed on Monday 15th July at BELONG (M20 2UW) at 2pm

For more details contact Mike Evans 0161 445 4012

Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 30th April 2024

Hyde to Romiley



On today's walk we were blessed with not only dry weather, but also some glorious sunshine. It almost felt like Summer! There were 21 of us today with 2 late drop-outs. We met up at Piccadilly station in Manchester to catch the train to Hyde Central. From Hyde station we walked a short distance on to the Peak Forest canal. Our walk then took us along the canal towpath all the way into Romiley

The views across the hills and down into the Tame valley were spectacular because of the clear weather. We encountered a few ducks, including some beautifully-coloured mandarin ducks. There were quite a few geese also along the way and they weren't very friendly, most of them hissing as we went past. Perhaps they were getting ready to start a new family and didn't welcome a human intrusion. We all have days like that!

We had an exciting walk through Woodley tunnel. Thankfully I had warned people to bring a torch to light the way. Even so, it was a little spooky with the more juvenile members of the group (including me) making ghostly echoing noises. Our walk ended in Romiley with a lovely lunch at the Duke of York pub.

LOCAL INTEREST VISITS

I'm sorry but I am unable to commit to arranging any visits for the next couple of months and hope someone will step forward and offer to arrange some.

It would be great if there were several people prepared to arrange visits - both to make sure visits were regular and perhaps on different days and more varied.

Hope to hear from you!

Jill Evans

SMu3a Groups A-Z List

Check Group News and this month's diary. Contact Group Leader before attending.

ANGLO SAXON AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY	Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 10.30 via Zoom. This group covers all aspects of Anglo Saxon and Viking life in depth through language and social history readings and discussions. Beryl Cowen [REDACTED]
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. Diane Ward [REDACTED]
BIRDWATCHING	Meeting on the first Wednesday of every month from 11-12 noon at [REDACTED]. Ideal for the experienced as well as newcomers to birdwatching. Rita Berriman [REDACTED]
BOARD GAMES	Lots of different games are played by this group which meets at the Parris Wood pub from 2-4 pm on the second Friday of the month. Christine Salamone [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
BOOK GROUP 1	Meeting at 10.30 am at [REDACTED], on the first Wednesday of the month. A small friendly group who enjoys reading and discussing a wide variety of books. 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 Tom Grimshaw [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. Johanna Keane [REDACTED]
BRIDGE	Held at the Nazarene College, Didsbury. This group meets fortnightly on Fridays from 10 to 12 noon. This group is for experienced players only. Liz Thornhill [REDACTED]
BRIDGE for BEGINNERS	This group meets fortnightly on Mondays from 1.30-3.30, at Emmanuel Parish Centre on Barlow Moor Rd. This group is for beginners and improvers although more experienced players are also welcome to join. You don't need a partner. Hilary Poole [REDACTED]
CHESS	The Chess group meets at 10.30 am on the last Thursday of the month at Didsbury Parsonage. Rosemary Mallace [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 film then meets afterwards to discuss them. Group Leader emails what's on the Tuesday before the meeting. Russell Ramsden [REDACTED]
CIRCUS SKILLS	This 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. Joanie Yoffe [REDACTED]
COMMUNITY SING-ALONG	This group sings well known songs in unison (no rehearsal time needed) in residential homes. Dates and times vary. Mike Evans [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. Karen Malies [REDACTED] or Margaret Lackey [REDACTED]
CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY	The group meets at Didsbury Parsonage at 10.30 on the second Monday of every month. The emphasis is on creativity rather than technical skill. Ann Howarth [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. . . . Diana Bradley [REDACTED]
CURRENT AFFAIRS	This group meets to share and discuss items in the news on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1.30pm in Ye Olde Cock pub, Didsbury. Adrienne Simpson [REDACTED]
DRAMATIC READERS	Held on the 3rd Friday of the month, both face to face and by Zoom at [REDACTED]. . . . Beryl Cowen [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. Kathryn Fyfe [REDACTED]
FRENCH CONVERSATION	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. Jean Thompson [REDACTED]
GERMAN CONVERSATION	This group is for those who would like to practice their spoken German. . . . Marie O'Sullivan [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. . . . Beryl Cowen [REDACTED] or Wena Stevenson [REDACTED]
HOLIDAY GROUP	Keep an eye on the monthly newsletter for information about forthcoming holidays.
ITALIAN CONVERSATION	We are a small group looking to improve our Italian through listening and conversation. Please note that there is a separate group for learners – see Parliamo Italiano below. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings of the month from 10.30 – 12.00. Annie Dodd [REDACTED]
KEEP FIT	This group caters for a variety of fitness levels – there is no competition! It meets on Friday mornings at 11.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall in Burnage. Anne Clarke [REDACTED]
LOCAL INTEREST VISITS	These will be advertised in the newsletter from time to time. Jill Evans [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. John Olbrich [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. . . . Len Evans [REDACTED]
PARLIAMO ITALIANO Let's speak Italian!	A friendly and fun group for people who have little or no Italian but would like to learn. We aim to be able to understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases which would be of value on an Italian holiday. We aim to be able to interact in a simple way and to improve with time so that in due course, members could move on to the Italian Conversation group or attend both. We meet at St Christopher's Church, Moorgate Avenue, from 10.30 – 12.00 on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Andrew Bradbury [REDACTED]
PHILOSOPHY	This group meets at 1.30 pm at Withington Library on the third Tuesday of the month. . . . Sandra Grant [REDACTED]
PLAYREADING	Meetings are at Withington Library at 1.30 on the third Tuesday afternoon of the month. Numbers are limited for this group, but please contact the group leader to register your interest. . . . Helen Nicolson [REDACTED] (text or leave a voice message as I do not answer unknown numbers)

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. Contact group leader to go on waiting list. Lynne Taylor [REDACTED]
POETRY WRITING	This group meets on the 1 st Friday of the month from 2pm – 4pm at Withington Library Paul Grace [REDACTED]
PSYCHOLOGY	This group meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 2 pm via Zoom and the 4th Monday of the month face to face at East Didsbury Methodist Church, Parrs Wood Road at 1pm. Beryl Cowen [REDACTED]
SINGING FOR FUN	This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 2 pm. Beryl Cowen [REDACTED]
SPANISH CONVERSATION	This group meets on the 1 st and 3 rd Thursdays of the month at 2.30pm at the Nazarene College in Didsbury. Debbie Delange [REDACTED]
TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON	Every Tuesday from 10-12, this group meets at the Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield. Equipment can be provided and the cost per session is £3.50. June Slatter [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. Peggy Foster [REDACTED]
UKULELE	Would you like to strum and sing along with the ukelele group? Beginners are welcome. We meet from 10 – 11.15 at the Upper Hall of Emmanuel Parish Centre, behind the church, every Thursday. . Gerard Allcock [REDACTED]
WALKING FOR HEALTH 1	Walks of around 3 miles are enjoyed by this group on the last Tuesday of every month. Details are given in the newsletter. Ian Burn [REDACTED]
WALKING FOR HEALTH 2	This group meets on the second Wednesday of every month to follow the same route as Walking for Health Group 1. Anne Clarke [REDACTED]

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1) lions 2) a mischief 3) 15,000 4) rectangular (*good peripheral vision*)
- 5) 28cm per second 6) zero (*ants take in oxygen through openings in their abdomens spiracles*)
- 7) sloth 8) trees on earth (*there are 3.04 trillion*) 9) 60% DNA 10) the Congo
- 11) shuttlecock (*493 kph*) 12) Christianity 13) 1971 14) play well 15) burp



June 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>3 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Poetry Appreciation 11:00 Victoria Grange</p> <p>Psychology 14:00 Zoom</p> <p>Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30. <i>New players see 17th June info below.</i></p>	<p>4 NO Table Tennis / Badminton</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>General Meeting 14:00- 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p>5 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30.</p> <p>Bird Watching. 11:00 – 12:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita: 0161 434 7544</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Craft 13:30-15:30</p> <p>Circus Skills 14:00-15:30. St. Nicholas Church Hall</p> <p>New: Spanish Conversation 14:30 (Nazarene)</p>	<p>7 Bridge 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Italian Conversation 10:30</p> <p>Getting by in Welsh 10:30 Didsbury Methodist Church</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:30</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>Poetry Appreciation 11:00 Victoria Grange</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>NO TaiChi</p> <p>Singing for fun 14:00 – 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p> <p>Please note: NO Community Sing-Along Group this month.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Book Group 3. 13:30 (Closed group)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:30</p> <p>Board Games 14:00-16:00 Parrswood Pub</p> <p>New: Poetry Writing 14:00-16:00 (Withington Library)</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Improvers and Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>Please Note: New players <u>must</u> email Hilary <u>before</u> the session date.</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Table Tennis/ Badminton 10:00</p> <p>Lunch Club. 13:00 TBA; please contact John Olbrich, [REDACTED]</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Playreading 13:30</p> <p>Philosophy 13:30</p> <p>French Group 14:00 Pizza Express.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Art Appreciation 14:00 Didsbury Parsonage.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Egyptology 10:30-12:30 The Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>Circus Skills 14:00-15:30. St. Nicholas Church Hall New: Spanish Conversation 14:30</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Bridge 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Italian Conversation 10:30</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:30</p> <p>Dramatic Readers: Suspended until further notice.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Psychology 13:00 E. Didsbury Methodist Church</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Singing for Fun 14:00 – 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p> <p>Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter</p>	<p>26</p> <p>OVAS 15:30 – 17:45 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Chess 10:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library (Closed group)</p> <p>Current Affairs 13:30 The Old Cock Pub</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bridge 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Creative Writing 10:30</p> <p>German Conversation 10:30 (Nazarene)</p> <p>NO Parliamo Italiano</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:30</p> <p>Cinema 12:15</p>