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Check out our website

Registered Charity
Number 1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



From the SMu3a Facebook group "Weekend Photo" competition called "Shades of Green"

Contributor, Helen Chambers, was thinking outside of the box when she photographed this vehicle at Piccadilly station.

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

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GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 2.00pm

“Wythenshawe Good Neighbours Scheme” by Helen Davies

See page 5 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 and I hope you are all well.

Summer is here, (I think), and I am off to the Netherlands in a few days' time for a short break. Summer - what does that mean to you? I think of long evenings, hot days and ice cream. I love ice cream and the best place in the UK for the creamiest is, in my opinion, Phwelli in North Wales. However, the best I have ever tasted was in Krakow, Poland. With so many varieties we were spoilt for choice, so choosing was hard. There was melon and ginger, rhubarb and my favourite, apple. All so refreshing and different. In Germany one of my favourite times of the day was Kaffee and Kuchen at 3pm. It meant a Becher of ice cream (a sundae) made up of three flavours of ice cream and topped with kiwi fruit. Hmm yummy, but once again the choice was difficult to make but the end result was always delicious.

We have choices to make as a nation in a few days' time with the General Election. Who will represent us in Parliament? I usually look at the individual. Do they live in their constituency? Do they have plans for their constituency and do they know the needs of the people they represent? We have choices. We can do nothing and not vote, or we can vote and let our personal opinion count. Your vote and your opinion matters and can make a difference. So, vote with knowledge about the person you vote for.

Choices are part of our u3a as we choose what groups to attend or to lead. There will be a group leaders' meeting soon so come along or send a representative as there are important things to discuss to continue to make our u3a the very best. Watch out for more information.

There is a lot of information in this issue so please read it, enjoy the quiz and remember the diary at the back. If you are not in a group yet, use the diary to help you find a group.

In the meantime, enjoy an ice cream and happy choices.

Beryl



Message from the Editor

If you have an article or interesting story that you can submit for the newsletter which our readers might find enjoyable, I would be very grateful. The story could be about something which you have done with the u3a or it could be totally non-u3a related. Perhaps something you did on holiday, some interesting place which you have visited or something to do with your hobby.

Please email me: editor.smu3anews@gmail.com

NATIONAL AND NORTH WEST NEWS

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

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

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



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 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

Jenny Chapman

Ross D'Souza

Diane Summers

Catherine Elliott

Anne Guy

Tradesperson Book

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

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“Wythenshawe Good Neighbours Scheme” by Helen Davies



The work of Wythenshawe Good Neighbours (WGN) is embedded in the Age Friendly Manchester Strategy. They have a range of ways in which they help older people connect to their community, be it through the social eating programme in their local venues, trips out or befriending visits in the homes of the older people they support.

Eating in company is very much a theme for WGN and they mix and match elements to suit the partners working with them, venue size and the target group. So, a coffee morning may easily transform into an ideas swap or a show and tell or to reminisce. A lunch may become a health screening opportunity or a physical activity before they sit down to eat. A breakfast may be a way of collecting ideas, supporting research and sharing opinions about how to learn a new skill, to share or appreciate that skill to benefit each other and the wider community.

In short, WGN are there when you need them, they listen when you want to voice your opinion, they act on what you tell them and they use their AFM platforms so that others hear your ideas and they are always positive about ageing.

Helen Davies from WGM will talk about the work they do and in particular about their local driving scheme.

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

All meetings take place at Didsbury Baptist Church

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



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

Monday 8th July 2024 at 7pm

"The Life and Work of William and Caroline Herschel" by Mark Whalley of the University of Chester

There is no meeting in August

Monday 9th September 2024 at 7pm

“Jupiter the Bully and Saturn the Saviour” by David Temperley

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

For more details visit www.wdas2.com.



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



Didsbury Probus Programme 2024

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



Following on from two fun years at Southport Flower Show, [Southport u3a](#) will be back this Summer to celebrate the Show's 100th anniversary with a rather special show garden - a design that charts the history of gardening over the last 100 years. This will be a large 17 metre curved garden which emulates the path of a garden since 1924 to present day, depicting five period gardens linked by a path. The Southport Flower Show is taking place between 15-18 August 2024. Do come by and see us. Our Photography Group will be there every day so can have your photo taken by the garden and say hello.

u3a Discount Code

There is a discount for all u3a Members. Southport Flower Show are offering all u3a Members **£10 off** gate tickets if they buy before 31 July. Just use the promo code 'u3a' when purchasing an any day ticket online and the cost will be £19 instead of £29. For tickets and more information, click on the website: www.southportflowershow.co.uk.



Make a Difference to Children's Life Chances

Schoolreaders is looking for volunteers in your community to listen to children read in primary schools.

1 in 4 children are leaving primary school unable to read well and our service is more in demand than ever due to the effects of the pandemic.

No qualifications are required to join Schoolreaders as a volunteer, just a love of reading, some spare time each week in term time and a willingness to go where children need you the most.

Find out more and apply at
www.schoolreaders.org

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



GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

We are holding a Group Leaders' meeting on Wednesday 24 July 2024 at 11.30am in St. Christopher's Church.

We will be discussing some new policies and procedures as well as having a chance to discuss the way forward for groups in South Manchester u3a.

If you are thinking of becoming a group leader yourself, why not come along to this meeting for a coffee and a chat.



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

Join us to celebrate the 76th Birthday of the NHS

On Friday 5th July at 2pm we'll again be welcomed at Buccleuch Lodge to help patients and staff enjoy the Birthday of the NHS.

This date replaces the date advertised last month for a gig on 15th July at BELONG. That is now CANCELLED

We'll return to Buccleuch Lodge (M20 2XA) on Thursday 22nd August at 2pm. We will be back at BELONG (M20 2UW) on Thursday 19th September.

If you enjoy singing well-known songs, do give us a try. Lyrics supplied. No rehearsals!
Find out more from Mike Evans on [0161 445 4012](tel:01614454012)

The Garden of Contemplation - Didsbury War Memorial

The Garden of Contemplation project started at the end of January 2024. The ground was cleared with the help of Manchester City Council and @EQUANS_UK who are providing volunteers, equipment and materials.

You can view the garden plans in on their website:

<https://www.didsburycivicsociety.org/6103-2/>



Phase 1 commenced on 29th January 2024. This involved clearing the site, laying the base and paving the area. At present over 500 bulbs have been planted.

Phase 2 will be installing the seating including suitable seating for our disabled residents and further plants.

The cenotaph has been cleaned and we are awaiting the new flag pole.

The Cenotaph should be opened soon. It has just been cleaned and the last beds are planted. We are waiting for the soil on the back wall to be cleared. Some seating is ordered. Thanks again to Garden 360 for the final plants. Trees will be installed next April.





The Day I Became a Man

Last month was the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. My late Father, Peter Burn, served in a tank with his brother, Laurie, and were among the first to land on Sword beach on 6th June 1944.

This is a record of my late uncle Laurie's experiences of D-Day.

My first impression of the beginnings of D-Day was that there was simply no joy in crossing the Channel in a flat-bottomed boat! We had hung a bucket on the back of our tank, and it was one continuous stagger to the bucket to be sick and then back. Quite frankly, it wouldn't have bothered me at that stage if the thing had sunk.

Sherman tank crew

My brother Pete and I were members of the same Sherman tank crew. Pete was the co-driver and I was the gunner. I had nicknamed our tank 'Icanhopit', and by the end of the war we were in 'Icanhopit 4'.

The Sherman was one of the swimming tanks, known as DD tanks, because they were duplex drive vehicles. They floated by means of a collapsible canvas screen fitted to the hull of the 32-tonne tank and raised or lowered by means of compressed air in bottles. Once the screen was raised the tank was driven by two propellers from the main engine and steered by rudder and a very long tiller. Actually, they were very seaworthy, and survived in all but the highest seas.

Preparations

We had undergone weeks of practice at the submarine station in Gosport, sitting in an improvised tank turret in a 20ft-deep concrete bath and having 2,000 gallons of water poured in, which was a strain on the nervous system to say the least!

Arrival

As we travelled across the Channel, there began a most terrific bombardment of the French coast. Standing on our tank cupola, we could see a vast Armada of ships: battleships blazing off their big guns; rocket projectile ships launching hundreds of rockets; and the RAF bombing the landing area. We had all seen photos of the area at Ouistreham, where we were to land, and about 5,000 yards from the beach we heard the order 'floater' - we knew we were off.

The landing craft stopped, and we moved down the ramp and floated into the sea. The officer steered us to shore. We were all so low in the sea we looked more like rowing boats, but that was part of the surprise plan. It was 6.30 hours. H-hour was 7.25 - we were to land at H 7.5 minutes. The bombardment went on and it was about this time that I stopped being a boy and became a man, because the landing craft carrying the infantry troops and commandos began to overtake us and some of them simply went over the tops of the tanks.

Late arrival

I looked for the escape apparatus to surface; some did, but not many. We were about seven and a half minutes late arriving on the beach, but as soon as we dropped the floater screen, we were swamped by the incoming high tide, which flooded the engine compartment. There was nothing left to do but evacuate - but first we fired our guns as long as we could, and Pete gathered together all his various tins of cigarettes!

Our troop sergeant, who had safely landed his tank, reversed to us and took us on board, and then, amid all the shooting and mayhem, he calmly dropped us off by the sea wall. Thirty-three out of 40 launched tanks made it onto the beach but some were swamped like us. Enough were left to make a real contribution to the battle.

Stonked

We all moved inland, but later that night as we waited in an orchard in Hermanville we were duly 'stonked' - that is, we came under mortar attack. We had dug trenches under our tanks so we felt quite safe, but from that day on we always slept in our tanks.

Our first day of war was over, a day for which we had trained as a crew for two years, and we were ably led. It never crossed my mind that we could lose the war, we were too young to think otherwise.

Ian Burn

MANCHESTER TOWN HALL RESTORATION

Albert Memorial

By Trish Ramsden



The latest in a series of Heritage talks held in Central Library, on the restoration and conservation of Manchester Town Hall, focussed on the Albert Memorial which sits in Albert Square in front of the Entrance. The statue is well known in the city and has featured in many celebrations, demonstrations and films. The talk was presented by James Coath, Lead Architect with Purcell and Steve Eccleshare of Bullen Conservation.

Prince Albert, consort to Queen Victoria, died in 1861. A committee of influential Mancunians, chaired by Mayor Thomas Goadsby established a fund for a memorial in his honour. Albert had supported the Art Treasures of Great Britain exhibition held in Manchester in 1857 and lent many items for display. His memorial in Albert Square was the first to be built in the country and is now Grade I listed.

Albert Square did not exist at that time; the site was a series of close-knit streets and businesses. Plans were made to transform the area, demolishing the streets during the 1860s to make way for the Square, the memorial and for the new Town Hall.

Albert's marble statue is the work of Matthew Noble, a leading British portrait sculptor. The canopy or "temple" to protect the statue was designed by Thomas Worthington, born in Salford, in the high gothic style becoming favoured at that time. The design was influenced by the church Santa Maria Della Spina in Pisa. Within the canopy are symbolic figures representing art, commerce, science and agriculture, reflecting Prince Albert's interests. The memorial was officially unveiled in 1867, a good 10 years before Manchester Town Hall had been built and opened.

Over the years the statue and canopy have deteriorated and have changed in appearance owing to factors such as erosion, aggressive cleaning, vandalism, lack of funding for repairs and works to make it safe in 1970s and 1980s which were unsympathetic.

A drone was used to make a 3D image of the structure to help their deliberations. They have been working to restore the architectural integrity of the building and will put back the pinnacles, the angels and the unique lighting. In addition, the metal railing which surrounded the base will be rebuilt.

Albert's statue is made of Italian marble, from Sicily. He is standing on stone steps dressed in his Garter Robes. He is missing an arm, sword hilt, had a damaged nose, and needed thorough cleaning. They researched the arm, its positioning and the sword hilt and have come up with what they hope is the best "fit". A new arm was modelled in clay first before using Sicilian marble. With the restoration of the canopy, it will be possible to have clearer view of Albert in future as was the original intention.



I was amazed to find the memorial so interesting and look forward to seeing it when it is unveiled once more.

QUIZ



FOOD & DRINK

- Which type of beans are used to make baked beans?**
a) Borlotti beans b) Haricot beans c) Cannellini beans d) Flageolet beans
- Which of these chocolate bars does not contain nuts in its ingredient list?**
a) Snickers b) Double Decker c) Picnic d) Toblerone
- Shirley, Ailsa Craig and Mr Stripey are all types of what?**
a) Courgette b) Apple c) Tomato d) Aubergine
- A Magnum holds two standard bottles of champagne, a Rehoboam holds six, but how many bottles of champagne in a Nebuchadnezzar?**
a) 6 b) 12 c) 20 d) 16
- What is a hop?**
a) A climbing plant, the roots of which are used in beer
b) A climbing plant, the flowers of which are used in beer
c) A climbing plant, the leaves of which are used in beer
d) A grain crop used in beer
- Which flower does the spice saffron come from?**
a) Orchid b) Crocus c) Nasturtium d) Poppy
- Gruyere is a cheese from which country?**
a) France b) Switzerland c) Austria d) Germany
- What is a spoot?**
a) A type of potato b) A type of root vegetable
c) A type of clam d) A type of kitchen implement

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16



Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 28th May 2024

Hyde to Romiley



This walk was a wet one. The forecast was for heavy rain but on the day, it was only light drizzle. The fantastic scenery made up for it. We met at Victoria station to catch the tram to Radcliffe. From here we walked down the unusually named Banana path on to the Manchester, Bury and Bolton canal. After following this canal for a mile or so, we branched off and made our way through a fair bit of mud to reach the Outwood trail – a former railway line from Manchester to Bolton.

Having followed this trail for a while, we climbed 47 steep steps up on to a path which took us through a muddy field and into Ringley where we had a well-deserved lunch at the Horseshoe pub.

Walking for Health Group 2 Walk Wednesday 10th July 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 Dobbie's Garden Centre. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on **7582 526440** or **0161 312 3002**

Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 30th July 2024
Haughton Dale Nature Reserve

A 3¹/₄-mile walk through Haughton Dale Nature Reserve. No stiles. Some steep steps up and down. Can be muddy when wet. 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 10.30. Lunch at the Joshua Bradley pub. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn

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
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
BIRDWATCHING AND NATURE	Meeting on the first Wednesday of every month from 11-12 noon. Exploring birds in their natural habitats interacting with plants and trees. Rita Berriman
BOARD GAMES	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. Christine Salamone
BOOK GROUP 1	Meeting at 10.30 am at Meg's home in Didsbury, on the first Wednesday of the month. A small friendly group who enjoys reading and discussing a wide variety of books. Meg Davis
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
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
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
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
CHESS	The Chess group meets at 10.30 am on the last Thursday of the month at Didsbury Parsonage. Rosemary Mallace
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
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
COMMUNITY SING-ALONG	This group sings well known songs in unison (no rehearsal time needed) in residential homes. Dates and times vary. Mike Evans
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 or Margaret Lackey
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

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 23 Bristol Ave. . . . 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 2 nd 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, Parris 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 pm at the Slug and Lettuce 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. Haricot beans
2. Double Decker
3. Tomato
4. 20 bottles
5. A climbing plant, the flowers of which are used in beer
6. Crocus
7. Switzerland
8. A type of clam



A priest is driving along a country road when the police pull him over. The policeman smells alcohol on his breath.

“Have you been drinking, Father?”

“Just water” replies the priest.

The policeman asks “Then why do I smell wine?”

The priest says “Good Lord, He’s done it again!”

July 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1 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 note Below on 15th July</i></p>	<p>2 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>General Meeting 14:00- 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p>3 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30.</p> <p>Bird Watching and Nature. 11:00 – 12:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>4 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>Spanish Conversation 14:00. *Now meeting at the Slug and Lettuce in Didsbury Village.</p>	<p>5 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>Community Sing-Along Group 14:00 Buccleuch Lodge, M20 2XA</p>
<p>8 Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p>	<p>9 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Lunch Club. 13:00 TBA; please contact John Olbrich, [REDACTED]</p> <p>Singing for fun 14:00 – 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church.</p>	<p>10 Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p>	<p>11 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Book Group 3. 13:30 (Closed group)</p>	<p>12 Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 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</p>
<p>15 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Improvers and Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>Please Note: New players must email Hilary before the session date.</i> [REDACTED]</p>	<p>16 Table Tennis/ Badminton 10:00</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>17 Art Appreciation 14:00 Didsbury Parsonage.</p>	<p>18 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Egyptology 10:30-12:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Circus Skills 14:00- 15:30. St. Nicholas Church Hall</p> <p>Book Group 2. 13:30</p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00* (see 4th above)</p>	<p>19 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>22 Psychology 13:00 E. Didsbury Methodist Church</p>	<p>23 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>24</p>	<p>25 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Chess 10:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Current Affairs 13:30 The Old Cock Pub</p>	<p>26 Bridge 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Creative Writing 10:30</p> <p>German Conversation 10:30 (Nazarene)</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:30</p> <p>Cinema 12:15</p>
<p>29 Improvers and Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see note Below on 15th July</i></p>	<p>30 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter</p>	<p>31 OVAS 15:30 – 17:45 [REDACTED]</p>		