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MAPS**

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GROUP CHRISTMAS
QUIZ**

Don't tell Mummy!

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**TWO QUIZZES FOR
THE PRICE OF ONE**

We have 2 quizzes to
tease you this month

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MEMBERSHIP DUE

Membership payments
were due on 1st Jan.

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Check out our website

Registered Charity Number

1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



Alexandra Park Lake in Whalley Range

This photograph was taken on 9th January 2025 during the "big freeze" by Copland Smith.

It was submitted to the SMu3a Facebook group as part of the "weekend photo" event where the subject was "snow"

March 2025 Newsletter items to: editor.smu3anews@gmail.com

NO LATER than Friday 21st February 2025

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OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Chair and External Ambassador	Beryl Cowen		
Secretary	Andrew Bradbury	smu3a.secretary@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Ian Burn	smu3a.treasurer@gmail.com	
Membership Secretary	Joanie Yoffe		
Assistant Membership Secretary	Patricia Ford		
Groups Co-ordinator / Vice Chair	Diane Ward	smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com	
Publicity	Wena Stevenson		
Safeguarding Officer	Pam Smith Liz Williams	smu3a.safeguarding@gmail.com	
Committee Member	Helen Chambers		

SUPPORT (non-committee)

Speaker Secretary	Jeff Wilner		
“Meet & Greeters” Co-ordinator	Barbara Aston		
Newsletter Team	Ian Burn Megan Bennett	editor.smu3anews@gmail.com	
Website Editor	Ian Burn		
Facebook Editor	Rosemary Mallace		
Monthly Diary Sheet Production	Liz Thornhill		
Catering	Shirley Shaw		
Quiz Master	Tom Grimshaw		

GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 2.00pm

“Made in Manchester” by Brian Groom

See page 5 for details

Parking at Didsbury Baptist Church - Would members please note that there is no parking at the church with the exception of temporary drop-off for the catering team. (Blue Badge holders could use double yellow lines)

If you have any information about members’ special birthdays, anniversaries, illness, bereavements, etc. please notify Kath Thompson on



Message from the Chair

Hello again to you all,

We are well into 2025 now. I wonder how many new year resolutions you have made? I resolved to make no resolutions, so I'm content that I can't break any.

Please remember to pay your annual membership subscription as soon as possible. This is the last month to do so. Details for how to do this are in this newsletter.

So, we have a new start with a new year. Welcome especially to new members. It is lovely to see so many new people. I do hope that you will find fulfilment in one or two groups, and take every opportunity to join in. Groups are fun, as well as sometimes challenging, but we are all up for that I am sure. Please use our monthly meetings to get to know one another. These general meetings are an important opportunity to find out what is going on. So, I encourage you all to make these monthly meetings a must this year.

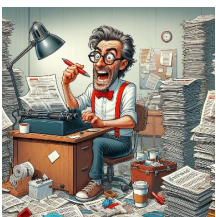
I want to encourage our wonderful group leaders as they plan and lead sessions. By what you do, you are showing love. Love for your subject and for your group. Thank you. I am, however, very aware that it can be hard work sometimes and exhausting. So, I want to encourage you to take a deep breath and carry on. What you do is worth it. Do not lose the vision for your groups but carry on building knowledge, relationships and friendships around your subject or while out walking. Keep going and keep being courageous.

To those of you who want to start a new group please see Diane, our Groups Coordinator, as she will help get you set up. You can also talk to any committee member about this.

If you are not in a group yet, why not make it a new year resolution to join at least one. Friendships in each group are as important as the knowledge that is imparted.

I want to see more groups start and flourish this year. That is my resolution. Oh bother, I have broken my resolution not to make one. Ah well, enjoy this month and I will see you soon

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

North West Region: <https://northwestregion.u3asite.uk/> for the latest information and newsletter

SOUTH MANCHESTER u3a NEWS

SMu3a welcomes the following new members

Stuart Ratcliffe	Deborah Kennedy	Margaret Moran	Patricia Ruddock
Mary Purkiss	Barbara Farooghian	Janet Best	Rosane Pagano
Clare Jameson	Carol Bradbury	Gwynedd Miller	Martin Hey
Brian Garner	Sarah Brookfield	Dianne Sweeney	Louise Wilmot

Tradesperson Book

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

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

Tuesday 4 th February 2025 at 2pm	“Made in Manchester” by Brian Groom
Tuesday 4 th March 2025 at 2pm	Piano Recital by the Internationally Famous Pianist, Andrew Wilde
Tuesday 1 st April 2025 at 2pm	“Chester” by Stephen Shakeshaft
Tuesday 6 th May 2025 at 2pm	“Painting with Light” by David Winpenny
Tuesday 3 rd June 2025 at 2pm	“A Life Less Ordinary” by Philip Caine



APOLOGY FROM THE EDITOR

Following feedback from our December newsletter, it was felt that it was too “Christmassy”. By that, I mean that there was too much focus on the Christian celebration of Christmas. Let’s not forget, however, that our membership is made up of people of many different faiths.

Hanukkah was celebrated by the Jewish community during this time period. I should also mention that the Chinese New Year is celebrated on 29th January 2025.

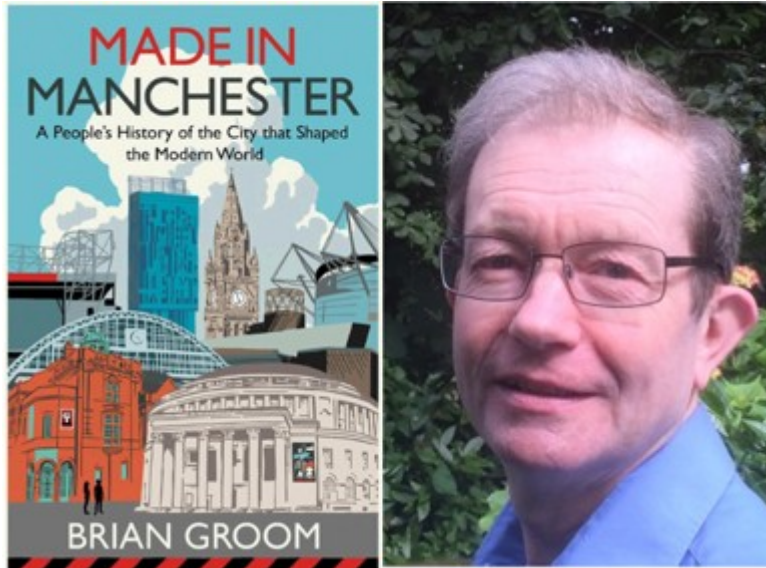
I hope that no-one was offended. It was certainly not my intention to do so.

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“Made in Manchester” by Brian Groom



Brian Groom will talk about his new book, a rich and vivid history of Britain's second city through the people who have made it.

Long before Manchester gave the world titans of industry, comedy, music and sport, it was the cosmopolitan Roman fort of Mamucium. But it was as the ‘shock city’ of the Industrial Revolution that Manchester really made its mark on the world stage. A place built on hard work and innovation, it is no coincidence that the digital age began here too, with the world’s first stored-program computer, Baby.

A city as radical as it is revolutionary, Manchester has always been a political hotbed. The Peterloo Massacre is immortalised in British folklore and the city was a centre for pioneering movements such as Chartism. Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst hailed from here and the city still treasures its wilful independence.

Manchester’s spirited individuality has carried through into its artistic output too, bringing the world Anthony Burgess, L.S. Lowry, Jeanette Winterson, Joy Division and Oasis. Mention United or City almost anywhere and you’ll find fans, and opinions.

Brian is a journalist and a leading expert on British regional and national affairs. His career was spent mainly at the Financial Times, where he was assistant editor. He lives in Saddleworth, Greater Manchester. His first book, *Northerners*, was a Waterstones History Book of the Year.



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

On **Thursday 13th February 2025 at 2pm** we are performing at **BELONG** on Palatine Road, Didsbury, M20 2UW.

New voices are always welcome. We sing well-known songs in unison and without rehearsal.

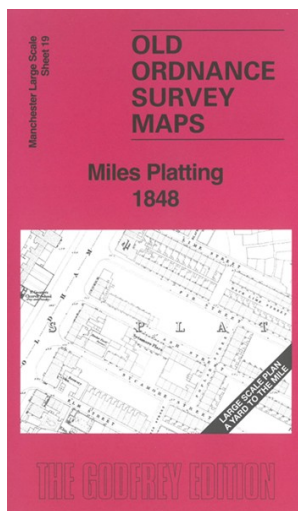
Contact Mike Evans for more details on

THE JOY OF OLD MAPS

By Frances Kelly

Have you ever walked down a familiar street and suddenly thought to wonder why the style of houses so abruptly changes? Or been walking through town and noticed a sharp slope without visible explanation?

Often the answer can be found in old Ordnance Survey maps: great fun for walkers, geographers, students of architecture and the just plain curious.



Some old maps can be found in places such as the University archives. But you can't really walk round the places described with the University copies in hand. In the 1980s, Alan Godfrey began publishing copies of old Ordnance Survey maps, together with notes, usually from local historians, on the back. Now in his eighties, Alan is still publishing, and there are over 3,500 maps to choose from.

Manchester and its surrounds are well documented in this collection, and despite the blitz and the slum clearance, it is fascinating to see how many old meandering country lanes and early urban streets are still there on the ground. Most of the maps are of a familiar scale but in the area of central Manchester and Salford, the 1849 maps, published at 5 foot to the mile (reproduced by AG at 1 yard to the mile), show incredible detail – even the inside of the workhouses and the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Even by then several rivers were heavily culverted and out of sight – the River Tib of Tib Street fame for instance. (Arising in Miles Platting, after Tib Street it runs down West Moseley St, under the edges of the Town Hall extension and Central Library, then across under a corner of the Midland, and down the slope at Bale street, to merge with the Medlock under First Street complex (home of HOME Cinema among others). But Newton Brook, by contrast, ran through the open fields of Miles Platting.



And in the rural areas there is detail nearly lost today: the tale from the walking group in the last newsletter sent me looking at the Poynton 1896 map. Prince's incline was a well-used route then, and the Collieries are clearly marked. (I had never thought of Poynton as a pit village!). And the important and ancient settlement of Bramhall is clearly revealed on another map, and on yet others, the ancient routes across the Mersey, south of Didsbury.

On a more depressing note, the maps show clearly how fast we humans have gobbled up open land, farmland and so on: 'like a plague of locusts': maps with 30 years' time difference show us expanding by leaps and bounds. A problem we are trying to tackle today could have been forecast then – if we had paid attention.

It is a great pity that Waterstones and other bookshops don't stock them, (perhaps if more of us asked?). The descriptions on the website are clear but it can be helpful to glance at a real copy before deciding which to buy. In the meantime, we can only get them on line from Alan Godfrey's website, or order by post/phone, perhaps ordering with friends to minimise postage? (And the monthly "Bargain Basement" is always worth a look).

If you are looking for an excuse for a Spring walk, going forth with one of these maps in hand is great fun. Enjoy!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2024

We held our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 4th December at Hough End Social Club and it was a huge success! The event was attended by 56 people which was well up on the previous year's figure. Word had clearly gotten round that this event was not to be missed!

We were served 2 courses of traditional festive food followed by tea, coffee and mince pies. The food was lovely and served very well by the friendly staff of the caterers, "Beggars Bush". We were serenaded by the ukulele group band over coffee which offered a chance for us all to sing along to some festive tunes. A big thank you to the band for giving up their time. There was a free raffle with some excellent prizes and during our meal, each table exercised their little grey cells by completing 2 quizzes, including one quiz which offered a fabulous prize for the winner. The answers to the quizzes were read out after the meal and it went down to a nail-biting tie-break involving 4 tables.

We are all looking forward to the 2025 Christmas Lunch in December, which promises to be even better than 2024. Here are a few photos from the lunch, courtesy of Russell Ramsden and Jules Aloubi.



Monday 10th February 2025 at 7pm

"Subject to be confirmed" by Roelf Botha

Monday 10th March 2025 at 7pm

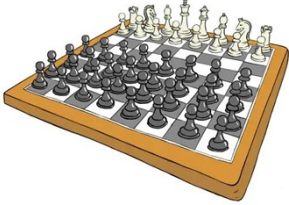
"The First Galaxies" by Rebecca Bowler (University of Manchester)

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

For more details visit www.wdas2.com.



**WEST DIDSBURY
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**



CHES

In our last newsletter, we announced that the Chess Group had closed down. Thankfully, we are pleased to let you know that the Board Games Group have now started to play chess, so our SMu3a chess players can still enjoy a game.

For more information contact: Christine Salamone (details in the Groups A-Z list)



EGYPTOLOGY GROUP CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2024



The Egyptology Christmas quiz and Egyptian food tasting took place on 19th December 2024. There was lots of discussion and some good answers eventually emerged. The food included dates, figs, grapes, maamoul biscuits, flat breads and baklava, together with less traditional Egyptian mince pies, which all went down a treat.

We were delighted that one member's recent trip to Egypt, led by the u3a national leader for Egyptology, went so well. It sounded amazing!



We meet every third Thursday at 10.30am in The Parsonage, Stenner Lane, Didsbury. All are welcome.

Contact Kathryn on for details.



Opera at Menorah

Opera Appreciation with Diana Rosenthal

All events are on Thursdays at 1.30pm

£10 per performance, paid at the door using card payment

Menorah Synagogue, 198 Altrincham Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M22 4RZ

Go to <https://menorah.org.uk/opera/> for more information

6th February 2025



THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (MOZART)

Mozart's chaotic whirlwind of mistaken identities, twists and turns, is a comedy that takes place in a single crazy day – the wedding day of Figaro and Susanna. From the first notes of the famous overture to the Count's lesson in marital fidelity, Mozart's musical invention conveys a story in which the women are portrayed as wiser, shrewder and more civilised than the men.

3rd April 2025



SIEGFRIED (WAGNER)

The third of the four epic music dramas that constitute Richard Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen. The eponymous hero is a fearless son of nature who fights to win back the ring forged from the Rheingold and to free Brunhilde from her enchanted sleep atop a mountain.



Didsbury Probuss Programme 2025

Didsbury and District Probuss Group meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Unlike many Probuss clubs, we are a mixed group of men and women. Annual membership is £40.

Thursday 6th February 2025

“Recycling—What Happens to your Rubbish?” by Allison Sare

Allison will give us an explanation of what happens to our rubbish when it reaches the various recycling plants across Greater Manchester.

Thursday 20th February 2025

“From Telstar to Starlink—The Evolution of the Communication Satellite” by Nigel Linge

From the early days of Telstar to now. How many more satellites are there and what do they do?

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 from visitors to help with running costs would be very helpful.

The Singing for Fun group performed a Christmas concert last December as the SMu3a Choir.

The concert was a huge success and raised over £500 for both Francis House and St Ann's Hospice. Well done to all involved!

Francis House have sent us this personal thank you



I'd like to send out a big thank you and everyone at South Manchester u3a, for the recent donation of £250 towards Francis House. We greatly appreciate your kind support.

Your generous contribution plays a vital role in helping us continue the care, support, and companionship we offer to the children and families at Francis House.

Every year, we need to raise £4.8 million to keep our services running. As we grow and support more families, our costs will rise. With your support, we can continue to provide care and comfort to those who need it most, now and in the future.

Once again, we extend a heartfelt thank you for your contribution towards our Hospice.

James Ferguson Fundraising Officer



NEW MEMBERS' COFFEE MORNING



Are you a new member who has joined South Manchester u3a in the past 12 months?

Would you like to meet with members of the committee and other long-standing members to chat and discuss what our wonderful u3a has to offer? Perhaps you have questions which you would like answering?

Why not come along to our New Members Coffee Morning for a chat and a cup of coffee (or tea) and a biscuit. If you have a friend who's thinking of joining the u3a, bring them along too.

**Didsbury Parsonage (Gallery 1)
Stenner Lane, Didsbury, M20 2RQ**

Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 11am

If you need further details contact: smu3a.secretary@gmail.com



The Cheese Hamlet
English & Continental Cheese
& Fine Food Specialists

Artisan Nutrition

South Manchester u3a thanks

"The Cheese Hamlet" and "Artisan Nutrition" for their support and for donating food vouchers as prizes for our Christmas lunch raffle.



QUIZ 1

Name these Successful Women in the U.K.



1. Iranian British citizen released in March 2022



2. Second Permanent Secretary in the Cabinet Office 2021—2023



3. England footballer



4. First female Supreme Court judge



5. Writer of “Happy Valley”



6. BBC presenter and Chancellor of Bradford University



7. M.P. for Yardley in Birmingham



8. Chief Executive of John Lewis

ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

QUIZ 2

What's in a Name?

Do you know what the initials stand for in these famous names? Careful! - some of them are not real people

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. W.C. Fields | 2. A.A.SJ. Hancock | 3. Dr. J. Watson | 4. Captain A. Hastings |
| 5. J. Moriarty | 6. Mrs. E. Mainwaring | 7. Mrs. H. Bucket | 8. A. Parker (Thunderbirds) |
| 9. W.H. Auden | 10. J.B. Priestley | 11. A.A. Milne | 12. J.R.R. Tolkien |

Many thanks to Jean Maudsley for submitting this quiz

ANSWERS ON PAGE 21

CALLING ALL OPERA AND BALLET LOVERS

Did you know that you can watch **live** opera, ballet and theatre performances at cinemas including Cineworld at Parris Wood?

Here are a list of live performances for early 2025:-

The Royal Opera House

Tuesday 1 st April 2025 at 19:15	Puccini's Turandot
Wednesday 14 th May 2025 at 17:15	Wagner's Die Walkure

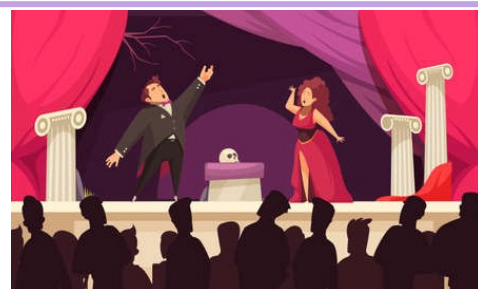
The Royal Ballet

Thursday 27 th February 2025 at 19:15	Swan Lake
Thursday 20 th March 2025 at 19:15	Romeo and Juliet
Thursday 22 nd May 2025 at 19:15	Ballet to Broadway : Wheeldon Works

The Metropolitan Opera (New York)

Saturday 15 th March 2025 at 17:00	Beethoven's Fidelio
Saturday 2 ^{6th} April 2025 at 18:00	Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro
Saturday 17 th May 2025 at 18:00	Strauss's Salome
Saturday 31 st May 2025 at 18:00	Rossini's Il Barbiere di Siviglia

If you need more help or more information, please contact Joan Timm:





Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 26th November 2024



We met up at Fletcher Moss Gardens on a beautiful crisp, cold, but dry and sunny day. A walk through the gardens took us to Stenner Lane which we followed all the way to the river Mersey. The river was fast-flowing and swelled after the heavy rains of Storm Bert. Crossing the river over Simons bridge, we followed Ford Lane to the outskirts of Northenden. Walking alongside the river was challenging at times with huge puddles on the path along the way, including one completely flooded section which required us to edge sideways along a high kerb, holding onto a barrier alongside the river. An interesting addition to a potentially simple walk! It was here that I discovered that my boots were leaking. I think a letter to Santa Claus might have been needed. We headed into the Northenden Riverside Park, the site of the former Northenden Mill by a weir, which was in full flow following the rain of the past few days. From here, we walked through Kenworthy Woods and skirted around Northenden, eventually heading to Palatine Road, just off which was our lunch stop at the Farmers Arms. This was the last walk of 2024 and I'm looking forward to some more interesting walks in 2025.

Walking for Health Group 2 Walk. Wednesday 12th February 2025

Littleborough, Hollingworth Lake and Smithy Bridge

A 3.4-mile walk. From Littleborough Station down to Hollingworth Lake then around the lake and up to Smithy Bridge. No stiles, moderately easy. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Victoria Station by departure indicator at 10.15. Lunch at the Beach pub (carvery). If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on

Walking for Health Group 1 Walk Tuesday 25th February 2025

Patricroft to Walkden

A 3-mile walk along the Bridgewater Canal and the Roe Green Loopline. The route has a few steps up and down, no stiles and is mainly flat on paved paths. May be muddy. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Piccadilly Station near platform 1 at 10.30. Lunch available at the Barton Arms in Worsley. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on



**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF SOUTH MANCHESTER U3A
4th MARCH 2025, 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 5th March 2024 (see below).
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM held on 5th March 2024.
5. Report from the Chair.
6. Treasurer's Report and presentation of accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.
7. To authorise the appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2025.
8. The election of members of the Committee.
9. Any other business notified to the Chair/Secretary by Friday 21st February 2025.
10. Close of AGM.



Many people with a hearing loss have benefitted from attending a lipreading class. Classes often include:

- **Lipreading practice in a friendly atmosphere**
- **Strategies and tactics for difficult situations**
- **A chance to share problems with others with similar difficulties**
- **Information about assistive devices (such as flashing door bells)**
- **Information on hearing aids and how to look after them**
- **Information about useful organisations (such as Hearing Link or RNID)**

There are classes for lip reading and managing hearing loss in Withington Library on Wednesdays.

The cost of these classes is just £4 per session.

For more information contact: lipreading@outlook.com

or write to: Manchester Centre for Deaf Studies, P.O. Box 319, Manchester, M21 3DG



2025 Membership Subscription Reminder

Please note that 2025 membership subscriptions were payable on **1st January 2025**. We have been asking members to set up a standing order with their bank to make a payment to SMu3a each year on 1st January. Many of you have already done this and your subscriptions have been received. Thank you for that.

For those of you who have not yet paid your membership subscription, I remind you that your payment should be received **before 28th February 2025**, otherwise your membership will be rescinded. There are a number of ways in which you can do this: -

- Set up a standing order with your bank. In this newsletter, there is a standing order mandate form which you can use. Your completed and signed standing order mandate form should be taken to your bank, either in person or by post. The mandate requests your bank to make a payment of £15 immediately and then a further payment on 1st January 2026 and each subsequent year. This standing order can be cancelled at any time in the future by contacting your bank and requesting them to do so.
- You can go to your bank in person or telephone them and ask them to make a payment of £15 to our account using the following details

Name: South Manchester U3A
Sort code: 40-31-20
Account No: 61483765

- If you bank online, you can make the payment and set up the standing order using the details above.
- You can make a payment by card, cash or cheque at the February general meeting. If you don't normally attend the general meeting but you know someone who does, perhaps you can give the money to them to pass on at the meeting.
- If none of the above is possible, you can post a cheque made out to **South Manchester u3a** to

The Treasurer SMu3a

Many thanks

Ian Burn
Treasurer
South Manchester u3a

South Manchester U3A Standing Order Mandate

To (your bank)

Branch Address

Your Account Name

Account Sort Code

Account Number

Pay: HSBC Sort Code: 40-31-20 Account Number: 61483765

For the credit of: South Manchester U3A Membership

Reference (Your name/Membership No)

The sum of £15.00 now and each subsequent year on the 1st January until further notice

Your Details

Title

First Name

Surname

Signature

Date

Please send this form directly to your bank (or set it up online)

Notice of AGM and Nomination Form for the Committee 2025

Notice is given that the AGM of South Manchester u3a will be held on **Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 2.00pm in Didsbury Baptist Church.**

The agenda and papers are attached below.

In the meantime, **NOMINATIONS** are invited *in writing* for a maximum of 12 members of the Committee. (The acceptance of the nominee is also required.)

Under our Constitution all Committee Members stand down at an AGM. The process for voting in a new Committee requires each person willing to stand, both current Committee Members and others, to be nominated from within the membership (*paid up members only*).

At the first Committee meeting after the AGM the officer posts are decided by the Committee.

If, for any vacancy, no nominations have been received, then nominations may be accepted at the AGM. Any vacancies not filled by nomination/election will be filled by the Committee in accordance with our rules.

Paid up members may **nominate by post** using the form below, or your own paper if it contains all the information we need, or **by email** stating the details – nominee, proposer, seconder – the proposer and seconder will need to send an email confirming their nominee.

SOUTH MANCHESTER u3a COMMITTEE 2025 NOMINATION FORM – for election at the AGM on 4th March 2025 (*paid up members only*)

NOMINEE.....

PROPOSED BY.....

SECONDED BY.....

SIGNATURE OF ACCEPTANCE BY NOMINEE.....

(or email /postal confirmation by nominee)

DATE.....

Address for postal nominations: Dr A J Bradbury,

Email nominations to smu3a.secretary@gmail.com

Both to arrive by Friday 21st February 2025.

Members may also send a *written motion* for the AGM to the addresses above, also by Friday 21st February 2025.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF SOUTH MANCHESTER U3A

5th March 2024 14:00 p.m.

Didsbury Baptist Church

Minutes

1. Welcome – The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked members for attending.
2. Present – 91 members and 0 proxy votes.
3. Apologies for absence - Joanie Yoffe.
4. Minutes of the AGM of 7th March 2023 – accepted as correct by the meeting.
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM of 7th March 2023 – none.
6. Report from the Chair. The Chair reported that 2023 had been a very good year with membership increasing and also with several new groups starting. She reported that she had enjoyed her first year as Chair and thanked all who help in any way with the running of our u3a.
7. Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st December 2023. This had been published in the newsletter. There was a surplus of £1,395 in 2023 despite increased costs for venue hire, printing and fees to the Third Age Trust. Income had increased for three reasons – increased membership numbers, increase in the number of people attending groups and the increased charge for attendance at groups using hired venues.
8. Authorisation of appointment of an independent examiner of the accounts for 2024. The meeting approved the appointment of Josie Anderson.
9. Resolutions to amend the Constitution. It was resolved that the maximum length of service on the Committee be increased from six to nine years and that Officers could remain in post for six years (previously three for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary). The resolutions were passed with no votes against.
10. Election of the committee. Eight members had been nominated and were elected unopposed. These were Andrew Bradbury, Ian Burn, Helen Chambers, Beryl Cowen, Patricia Ford, Wena Stevenson, Diane Ward and Joanie Yoffe.
11. Any other business – The Chair thanked Jill Evans and the editorial team for their service in producing the excellent monthly newsletter. However, Jill wishes to resign and a new editor is required. Jill will help during handover. Helen Chambers can no longer proofread the newsletter so a new proofreader is also required. Anyone who thinks they could help to contact Jill or a member of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 14.14.

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. Ideal 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 Parris Wood pub from 2-4 pm on the second Friday of the month. Christine Salamone
BOOK GROUP 1	Meeting at 10.30 am in Meg's home in Didsbury on the first Wednesday of the month. A small friendly group who enjoy 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 Chapel on Dene Rd, Didsbury. We meet fortnightly on Fridays from 10 to 12 noon. We are experienced players of all skill levels and play the ACOL system of bridge. No partner is needed. Liz Thornhill
BRIDGE for BEGINNERS	This group meets weekly 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
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. Group Leader emails what's on the Tuesday before the meeting. Russell Ramsden
CIRCUS SKILLS	We meet at St Christopher's Church in Withington on the 1st Thursday of the month from 2-3 pm and at Circus House in Longsight on the 3rd Thursday from 2-3 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. 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
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	We meet at Withington Library on the last Friday of the month at 10.30 am. Members read and discuss their writings. New members always welcome. Diana Bradley
CURRENT AFFAIRS	This group meets to share and discuss items in the news on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm in Ye Olde Cock pub, Didsbury. Adrienne Simpson
DRAMATIC READERS	Held on the 3rd Friday of the month, both face to face and by Zoom. Beryl Cowen

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
FRENCH CONVERSATION	We meet 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
GERMAN CONVERSATION	This group is for those who would like to practice their spoken German. Diane Ward
GETTING BY IN WELSH	At 10.30 on the first Friday of every month, this group meets at St Nicholas Church, Burnage, to discuss the language, history and culture of Wales. Beryl Cowen or Wena Stevenson
HOLIDAY CLUB	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
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 in Burnage. Anne Clarke
KNIT AND NATTER	We work on either our own projects or on items for charity. Don't worry if you can't knit—this is the place to learn. It's never too late! We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at Didsbury Parsonage. Diane Ward
LOCAL INTEREST VISITS	These will be advertised in the newsletter from time to time. Jill Evans
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
OPERATIC AND VOCAL APPRECIATION SOCIETY (OVAS)	Lovers of opera and music meet from 3.30 – 5.45 on the last Wednesday of every month. Len Evans
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
PHILOSOPHY	This group meets at 1.30 pm at Withington Library on the third Tuesday of the month. Sandra Grant
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
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. The group is currently full. Contact group leader to go on waiting list. Lynne Taylor
POETRY WRITING	This group meets on the 2 nd Friday of the month from 2pm – 4pm at Withington Library Paul Grace

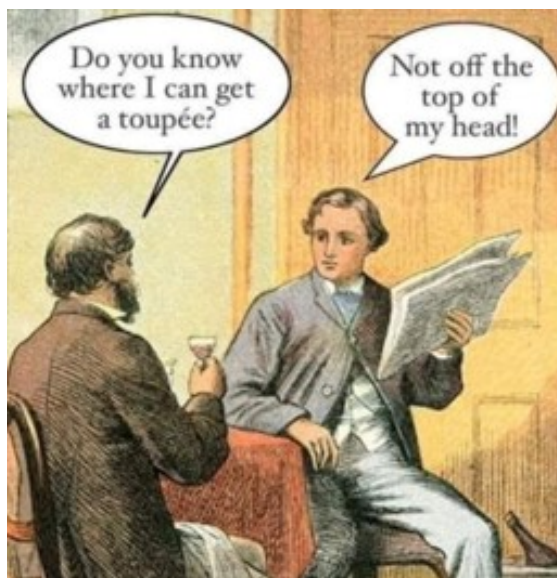
PSYCHOLOGY	This group meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 2 pm via Zoom and the 4th Monday of the month face to face at St Nicholas Church, Burnage at 1pm. Beryl Cowen
SINGING FOR FUN	This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 2pm at Didsbury Baptist Church Judith Newton
SPANISH 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
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. June Slatter
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
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
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
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

ANSWERS TO SUCCESSFUL WOMEN QUIZ

1. Nazarin Zaghari-Ratcliffe
2. Sue Gray
3. Ella Toone
4. Lady Hale
5. Sally Wainwright
6. Anita Rani
7. Jess Philips
8. Sharon White

ANSWERS TO WHAT'S IN A NAME QUIZ

1. William Claude
2. Anthony Aloysius St.John
3. John
4. Arthur
5. James
6. Elizabeth
7. Hyacinth
8. Aloysius
9. Wystan Hugh
10. John Boynton
11. Alan Alexander
12. John Ronald Reuel



February 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>3 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Poetry Appreciation 11:00-12:30 Victoria Grange</p> <p>Psychology 14:00 Zoom</p> <p>Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30. <i>New players see info below.</i></p>	<p>4 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>5 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30.</p> <p>Bird Watching & Nature. 11:00 – 12:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>6 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Circus Skills 14:00-15:00. St. Nicholas Church Hall</p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00 (Nazarene)</p>	<p>7 Bridge 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Italian Conversation 10:30 – 12noon</p> <p>Getting by in Welsh 10:30 St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:30</p>
<p>10 Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30. <i>Please Note: New players <u>must</u> email Hilary <u>before</u> the session date.</i> [REDACTED]</p>	<p>11 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>12 Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p>	<p>13 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Book Group 3. 13:30 (Closed group)</p> <p>Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW</p>	<p>14 Bridge 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano for Beginners. (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>Poetry Writing 14:00-16:00 (Withington Library)</p>
<p>17 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Improvers and Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see info above.</i></p>	<p>18 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 14:00-15:00 HOME Café.</p>	<p>19 The Lunch Group is not meeting this month. To be added to the notification list please contact John Olbrich email [REDACTED]</p> <p>Art Appreciation 14:00. Didsbury Parsonage Stenner Lane</p>	<p>20 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Egyptology 10:30-12:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Circus Skills 14:00-15:00. St. Nicholas Church Hall</p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>21 Bridge 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Italian Conversation 10:30 – 12noon</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:30</p>
<p>24 Psychology 13:30 St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p> <p>Beginners Bridge 13:30 - 15:30. <i>New players see 10th Feb info.</i></p>	<p>25 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 New Group: Knit & Natter 14:00-15:30 Didsbury Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>OVAS 15:30 – 17:45 [REDACTED]</p>	<p>27 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Chess Group is now with Board Games Group – see 14th Feb.</p> <p>Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library (Closed group)</p> <p>Current Affairs 13:30 The Old Cock Pub</p>	<p>28 Bridge 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Creative Writing 10:30 (Withington Library)</p> <p>German Conversation 10:30</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano for Beginners. (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>