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Check out our website

Registered Charity Number  
1168597

Web: [www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk](http://www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk)



[www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165](https://www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165)



The German Conversation group enjoying their New Year's social in January at the House of Books and Friends in Manchester city centre

April 2025 Newsletter items to: [editor.smu3anews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.smu3anews@gmail.com)

**NO LATER than Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

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## OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

<b>Chair and External Ambassador</b>	Beryl Cowen		
<b>Secretary</b>	Andrew Bradbury		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ian Burn		
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Joanie Yoffe		
<b>Assistant Membership Secretary</b>	Patricia Ford		
<b>Groups Co-ordinator / Vice Chair</b>	Diane Ward		
<b>Publicity</b>	Wena Stevenson		
<b>Safeguarding Officers</b>	Pam Smith Liz Williams		

## SUPPORT (non-committee)

<b>Speaker Secretary</b>	Jeff Wilner		
<b>“Meet &amp; Greeters” Co-ordinator</b>	Barbara Aston		
<b>Newsletter Team</b>	Ian Burn Megan Bennett		
<b>Website Editor</b>	Ian Burn		
<b>Facebook Editor</b>	Rosemary Mallace		
<b>Monthly Diary Sheet Production</b>	Liz Thornhill		
<b>Catering</b>	Shirley Shaw		
<b>Quiz Master</b>	Tom Grimshaw		

### GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 2.00pm

**Annual General Meeting**

Followed at 2.15pm with a

**Piano Recital by the Internationally Famous Pianist Andrew Wilde**

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)



## Message from the Chair

Dear Members,

I am starting to write this message on a tram. I am off to my 2 year old great grand daughter's birthday treat in Chorlton. I love trams: the ease, the freedom, and the convenience. I love trains too, and have been on many train-based holidays. Journeys are fun, (unless I am stuck in a traffic jam in my car).

Life is a journey too, and growing older is part of that . However, we do not need to worry about it when we go on an adventure with friends.

I went on a u3a holiday in January to Weston super Mare. It was lovely to share experiences with others from this group. There is an article in the newsletter about it.

Our u3a can help us cope with getting older and it helps with our knowledge and mental capacity too. Hopefully we become wiser as a result. Many times I have spoken to newly-retired people, who don't know what to do with their time. So, I tell them about the u3a and other things that they can do. Primary schools would love older people to link with their children to share reading and experiences. Charity shops also need us.

Welcome to our new members and thanks to those who came to the coffee morning and shared ideas. We had 25 new members attending and everyone got involved and there were some good conversations. There will also be regular coffee morning meetings soon. We hope, as a committee, that you feel welcomed and loved.

Our journey should not stop at retirement. We are just going on a different, slower line, but our destination should always be towards a life well lived to the fullest.

Enjoy your journey

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](mailto:editor.smu3anews@gmail.com)

## NATIONAL AND NORTH WEST NEWS

**National:** [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) for latest news of u3a around the country and courses/events on offer.

**National Newsletter:** February newsletter can be found here [February 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

Michael Regan	Judith Stirton	Susan Tellett	Judith Knowles
Patricia Gratton	Martin Hazelhurst	Pierre Grace	Damian Whittaker
Elaine Whittaker	Jacinta Johnson		

### 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 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 2.15pm	Piano Recital by the Internationally Famous Pianist, Andrew Wilde
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 2pm	“Chester” by Stephen Shakeshaft
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 2pm	“Painting with Light” by David Winpenny
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 at 2pm	“A Life Less Ordinary” by Philip Caine



### COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

We are giving the following performances: -

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 2pm at BELONG (M20 2UW)**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 2pm at Buccleuch Lodge (M20 2XA)**

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

Contact Mike Evans for more details on

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

South Manchester u3a March General Meeting

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 2.15pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

## Piano Recital by the Internationally Famous Pianist Andrew Wilde



Prepare to be delighted, as International Pianist, Andrew Wilde, plays from world famous piano classics, and chats about all things musical.

Andrew trained at Chetham's School of Music and then at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He has a wide concerto repertoire and has played with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Halle and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, amongst others, Andrew will take us through several pieces of piano music, with a short talk and description of each one.

### HOLIDAY GROUP

There are potentially 2 new holidays being offered for the coming year. Numbers are limited, so it will be on a first-come-first-service basis. Here is what is on offer:-

**27th - 31st October 2025 The Strathmore Hotel, Morecambe £439 per person**

Possible excursions to Yorkshire Dales, Lake District and Blackpool.

The Strathmore is a 3 star hotel situated on the sea front, near the East Promenade and overlooking Morecambe Bay.

**12th - 16th January 2026 The Royal Grosvenor Hotel, Weston-Super-Mare £299 per person**

Possible excursions to Glastonbury, Cirencester, Lynton & Lynmouth and Wells.

The Royal Grosvenor Hotel is situated on the sea front close to the Grand Pier.

Both holidays include 4 nights' bed, breakfast and evening meal, coach travel from Manchester to the hotel and back, and daily excursions by coach. There are single rooms available but these go very quickly.

If you would like to go on one or both of the holidays, contact Anne Clarke on:



## An Italian Nativity

By Andrew Bradbury

Christmas has come and gone but not in Rome. In January, my wife and I returned from a city break in the Eternal City, enjoying temperatures in the high teens while Didsbury was freezing. We didn't escape the bad weather completely, having to spend three hours on a plane at Manchester while it was de-iced. The time was killed by inviting us to visit the flight deck. It has been a few years since we were in Rome, so we did revisit some of the usual tourist places but also found some new ones. We did a lot of walking and as usual visited lots of churches because they are free and there are plenty of them full of works of art and interesting architecture.



The first church we visited was very near our hotel, not far from the Colosseum. We were a little surprised to find the Christmas tree still up outside and a crib inside. Apparently in Italy Christmas starts on 8th December and continues until Candlemas on 2nd February. We then walked across the city to St. Peter's Square where there was a splendid crib outside complete with magi arriving by a boat which actually moved.

We decided to go into the basilica as amazingly there was no queue. It really is a beautiful building, one of the highlights being Michelangelo's Pietà. What we did not expect to find was another crib, a rather splendid one from Mexico.

We continued our wanderings and eventually came across the church of Sant 'Andrea Della Valle where outside was a notice informing us that there was an international exhibition of Nativity scenes.



So in we went to be greeted by at least 30 to 40 Nativity scenes varying from whole villages several feet tall to miniatures on tables or in recesses in walls. The care that had been taken in making the scenes was obvious and many of them must have taken weeks to make. I particularly liked the one shown on the left, in which Jesus appears to have been delivered by a pigeon – maybe there were no storks available.

Seeing all of these cribs, made me look into the history a little. The first Nativity scene is said to have been made by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223, inspired by a visit to Bethlehem.

He is said to have recreated the scene and used living people and animals to populate it while he said Mass in a cave in the town of Greccio. In 1291 Pope Nicholas IV installed a permanent Nativity in the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome – we seem to have missed that one! Subsequently, Nativity scenes appeared regularly in Renaissance art. Sculptors made figures of wood or clay. Nativity scenes became particularly popular around Naples and even today that city has a street where you can buy figures all year round, many hand made. Sometimes you can apparently watch them being made.

Although initially scenes were popular among the aristocracy, they later became a common feature in ordinary homes. The core figures are always present – Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the manger – but they are often set in

backdrops of ancient Rome or as whole villages with homes and shops. The shepherds are often replaced or joined by the local tradespeople. The scenes may depict actual places and some figures might be recognisable. Indeed, some wealthy people had figures of themselves made to place in the scenes. This reminds me of one Christmas years ago when one of our sons insisted on having Eric Cantona on top of our tree!

We didn't spend the whole break visiting churches. We went to several museums and found some good places to eat. I would recommend January to visit Rome, as it is not too hot or crowded. Next stop Sicily in June.

## HOLIDAY GROUP - WESTON SUPER MARE



39 intrepid members set off on the Holiday group's Weston super Mare holiday on the last week of January. We enjoyed a 4 night stay at the Royal Grosvenor Hotel from Monday to Friday. We had luxury coach travel from Manchester to Weston super Mare, 4 nights at the hotel on half board and daily excursions by coach to attractions in the area. All of this for a staggeringly cheap sum of £279!

The weather was cold but mainly dry with just a little rain on the Tuesday morning. We visited Ludlow, Ross on Wye, Monmouth, Cheltenham, Symonds Yat Rock, Stow-on-the-Wold, Tintern Abbey and Bath. The sights were marvellous and when we returned to our hotel, we were entertained after dinner by various artists each evening where there was much merry-making and dancing by all and sundry.

Many of the holiday makers were already known to each other but many were also new to the group and it was great to make new friends. A huge thank you to Anne Clarke who organised the holiday through "Just4groups". It all went very smoothly thanks to her hard work, and Tracey, our coach driver, was also a star and dined and danced with us every evening.

I can't wait for the next holiday! Anne organises these holidays on an ad-hoc basis depending upon what "Just4groups" has to offer. If you would like to be included on her mailing list for any future holidays, please contact Anne at

Ian Burn

## GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP



I had not been a u3a member for very long when I fell foul of what I now know is quite a common theme in the South Manchester u3a branch. Having spotted that this particular geographical area boasted French, Italian, Spanish and Welsh groups, I innocently enquired whether there was also a German group. The response? “There isn’t, but would you like to start one?”

And so early in 2024, the German Conversation group had its first gathering at Nazarene Theological College in Didsbury. We’re a small group, of varying abilities, and always welcome new members. There’s no teaching or lessons, we just bring along a topic to chat about, and help each other out if we get stuck.

In the year we’ve been established, we’ve talked about all kinds; from books we’ve found interesting to our recent holidays, from German film and TV programmes which we’ve seen, from the rise of the political party, AfD, and from the importance of sheds and allotments in Germany to a singer who rivals Taylor Swift in popularity (but only in German-speaking countries). Eclectic!

We meet on the last Friday of each month – but obviously our December date wasn’t possible, so we decided to have a New Year social instead (see photo above). On 10<sup>th</sup> January, most of us were able to meet at House of Books and Friends in the city centre for coffee and chat (mostly in English, but often about our experiences in German-speaking countries). It’s a lovely café/book shop with tasty food, friendly staff and a nice selection of books. Some of us just couldn’t resist picking up something new to read!

We’re always happy to welcome new people to the group. You may not have spoken German for a while, but you’d be surprised how much you understand just by listening to others conversing. Once your confidence is up, you’ll be joining in before too long!

Speaking a foreign language is great for keeping the mind active, and what’s the saying? “If you don’t use it, you lose it.” I often hear people say “I’ve forgotten everything I ever learned in [insert foreign language here]” but it’s not forgotten. It’s just sitting in a little-used corner waiting to be revitalised.

It can’t do any harm to try us out!

Email: Marie O’Sullivan at

## POETRY WRITERS GROUP

Here are two poems: one is written by Pam Smith, a member of the group, and one is written by Donna Ashworth, a contemporary poet. These are examples of the poems which we read to the group. We discuss the way the poems are written and the message conveyed and this helps members of the group to gain an insight into their own poetry and develop their own style.



### BEHIND THE LENS

Photographs  
Each one a single moment  
Framed and recorded  
An image created  
A memory curated

Photographs  
Squeezed into shoeboxes  
Full of colour  
In random order  
Who is the hoarder?

Photographs  
The people in her life  
Loving faces smiling  
Children playing  
Others more troubling

Photographs  
As art and self-expression  
Macro and abstract  
Letting the light refract  
Embracing artifact

Photographs  
Are part of who she is  
And she is there, unseen  
She's always been  
A camera queen

**Pam Smith**  
July 2024

### ROLLERCOASTER

This life is the biggest ride you'll ever go  
on  
an  
up down  
in  
out  
over  
under  
Rollercoaster.

The moments of joy  
the *ups*  
are truly technicoloured  
let go of the bars  
feel them  
let them in.

The moments of loss  
the *downs*  
are devastatingly terrifying  
grab the bars tightly  
feel them  
ride it out.

Every day is a new twist and a new turn  
but nothing  
**nothing**  
lasts forever.

**Donna Ashworth**

If you would like to have a go at writing poetry yourself, you would be very welcome to go along to a meeting and see how it works. Paul Grace, who runs the group, explains that there will be lots of help available and no-one will be critical of their efforts.

For further information, contact Paul on:

## MUSIC AND MINDFULNESS ... OUR LIST OF ACTIVITIES JUST KEEPS ON GROWING ...

In 2024 our u3a added eight new groups to the list of activities, and already this year, a further two inspiring groups are being added – piano playing and meditation.

### MEDITATION



Paul Grace, who already runs the successful poetry writing group, says of his planned meditation group:

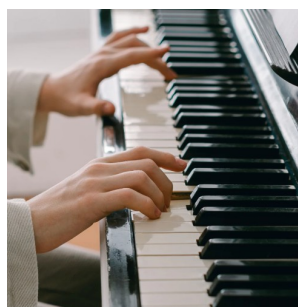
“I have been meditating for the last 30 years and have found it to be a great source of relaxation and clarity of thinking. It helps me to set aside persistent thoughts about less important things, which allows me to concentrate on the more important things. I have also learnt how to manage distracting thoughts when I am meditating.

The u3a meditation group would not be religious in any way, although people who are religious are of course welcome to attend. The format would be a short talk (of about 10 minutes) on the theme of the meditation and then the meditation itself (starting with 5 minutes and increasing to about 20 minutes with practice) followed by a Q&A session (of up to 30 minutes). This is the kind of meditation which will help relax your mind (mindfulness) and develop positive intentions towards others (loving kindness).”

Meetings will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of every month, starting on 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm-3pm at St Christopher’s Church, Moorgate Avenue, Withington.”

Please contact Paul on

### PIANO GROUP



Member Hilary Taylor says: “Are you a pianist who would like to meet other pianists and share your music? I am starting a piano group. Any kind of piano music (classical, jazz, popular) and all levels would be welcome. Perhaps you have recently taken up the piano, or started playing again? We would aim to create a supportive and relaxed setting in which to play to each other and talk and share ideas about anything piano-related.

We would meet monthly on a Thursday morning at my house in Chorlton. It would have to be a small group, as I wouldn't be able to fit more than 6 people into the room where my piano lives. It's a Kawai upright piano, five years old.

In our first meeting we would get to know each other and share our piano playing histories. If people are happy to come with some music to play, that would be great, but it would also be fine if you feel you want to get to know the group first.”

If you're interested, or if you have any questions, get in touch with Hilary on

### NORDIC WALKING



A member would like to start up a Nordic walking group. Are you interested in trying this? If we can get enough people interested, then this group can get started.

To express your interest, please contact: [smu3agroupscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoordinator@gmail.com)

Suggestions for new groups are always welcome. If you've a bright idea for a new activity, please do get in touch with groups coordinator, Diane Ward, on: [smu3agroupscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:smu3agroupscoordinator@gmail.com) or

# North West Regions of u3a's



Registered Charity No: 1159091

## invite applications for the 2025 Residential Summer School

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August at Manchester Metropolitan University**

The Metropolitan University is located in the centre of Manchester and less than 20 minutes' walk from Oxford Road Railway Station. The campus has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. There will be a quiz on the first evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening. Speakers will also attend on the second and third evening.

**Full Board Residential Member - £430 (Plus £10 car park charge) (£25 surcharge for field trips associated with archaeology course) (£15 surcharge for field trip associated with British Artists course)**

We include full board for 3 nights, including dinner on 12th August, breakfast, lunch and gala dinner on 14th August, and breakfast on 15th August. Also includes tea and coffee refreshments on each day.

**Non Residential Day Delegate - £215 (Plus car parking and field trip surcharge where appropriate)**

Includes lunches, teas and coffee, excludes daily breakfast and dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday, but does include gala dinner on 14th August. Accommodation is available nearby in Manchester city centre.

An application form (available online at [northwestregion.u3asite.uk](http://northwestregion.u3asite.uk)) must be completed by email or post.

Payment can be either by bank transfer (North West Region of U3A's; sort code 30-90-16; account no. 00197002, quoting name and post code), or by cheque, (payable to North West Region of U3A's)

**£100 deposit (£50 non residents) payable upon application. Balance by 12th May 2025**

**Queries should be directed to Alan Hough on**

The 8 courses on offer are:-

**"Magical Minerals and Twisted Yarns: Archaeology around Cottonopolis" by Maggie Simms**

**"An Introduction to Ancient Egypt" by Neil Stevenson**

**Literature: "I Have Something to Say" by Meg Shaw**

**Art Appreciation: "A Pot-Pourri" by Gill Baynes**

**Art Challenges: "The Significance of Colour" by Jacqueline Cartwright**

**Folk Music by Gill Russell**

**"Uzbekistan - Heart of the Silk Road" by Kelvin Rushworth**

**Intermediary Ukulele by Debra Smith**

For more information go to [www.northwestregion.u3asite.uk/summer-school-2025/](http://www.northwestregion.u3asite.uk/summer-school-2025/)

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF SOUTH MANCHESTER U3A  
4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**TREASURER'S REPORT  
2024 ACCOUNTS**



2024 was a reasonable year from a financial point of view. We made a small loss of £116 compared to a profit of £1,395 in the previous year. We are not in the business of making profit however. We are a charitable trust for the benefit of our members.

Our venue hire costs were significantly higher than the previous year but this was mainly due to the fact that many new groups had started up in 2024 which required venues for their meetings. Much of these costs were covered by members attending these groups, therefore our groups income was higher.

2024 was a bumper year for new member registrations. Our membership passed the 500 mark by a considerable amount and, judging by the increased number of groups running and the increased groups income, many of these new members are getting involved with group activities.

We did invest a significant amount of money into publicity and marketing in order to attract new members. Over £800 was spent on this, including some "one-off" payments for publicity banners which can be seen at our general meetings. Clearly, these costs have generated new membership and have therefore been justified.

**Ian Burn**

Treasurer

South Manchester u3a

## Income and Expenditure Statement 31st December 2024

CURRENT ACCOUNT	2024
<b>Income</b>	
Subscriptions	£ 7,840.67
Monthly Meetings	£ 882.00
Groups	£ 10,092.00
Sale of u3a Goods	£ -
Miscellaneous	£ 100.00
Donations	£ -
Christmas Meal	£ 1,116.60
	<u>£ 20,031.27</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Monthly Meeting	£ 525.00
Venues	£ 9,935.90
Groups	£ 1,300.10
Speakers	£ 655.00
Printing/Stationery	£ 1,612.95
Catering	£ 284.10
Equipment	£ 170.40
Welfare Expenses	£ -
National Member Subscriptions	£ 1,748.00
TAM Magazine Costs	£ 1,587.12
Miscellaneous	£ -
Publicity/Marketing	£ 810.99
HQ Licences	£ -
Purchase of u3a Goods	£ -
National Conference	£ -
Bank Charges	£ 67.60
Christmas Meal	£ 1,450.55
	<u>£ 20,147.71</u>
<b>Surplus/Deficit for 12 months</b>	
Balance at 1st January 2024	£ 10,246.81
Received to Date	£ 20,031.27
Paid to Date	<u>£ 20,147.71</u>
Balance at 31st December 2024	<u>£ 10,130.37</u>
<b>Bank Statement at 31st December 2024</b>	
Unpresented Cheques	£ 10,130.37
	<u>£ -</u>
	<u>£ 10,130.37</u>

### EXAMINERS REPORT

I certify that the above summary of receipts and payments relating to the calendar year stated is fully supported

Signature:

*J Anderson*  
23/1/2025

## **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **OF SOUTH MANCHESTER U3A**

**5th March 2024 14:00 p.m.**

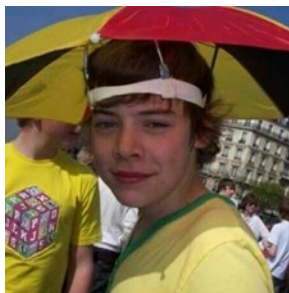
**Didsbury Baptist Church**

#### **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.
12. The meeting closed at 14.14.

QUIZ

BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS



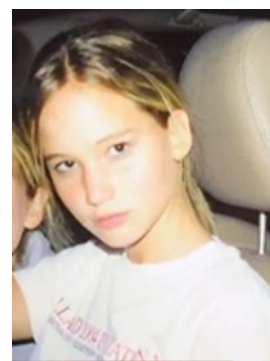
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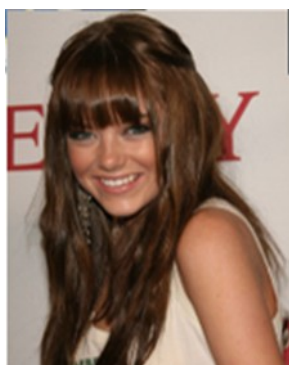


7

Yank Manc



8



9



10

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17



**Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 21st January 2025**

**Littleborough, Hollingworth Lake & Smithy Bridge**



Our walk today was not planned. We were due to have a walking break in January, but Anne, our group 2 leader, volunteered to lead a walk a week earlier than normal.

We set off from Victoria station to arrive at Littleborough, near Rochdale. The weather forecast had threatened rain but thankfully, it stayed dry, if not a little cold. We walked from Littleborough to Lake Hollingworth and then around the lake returning to Smithy Bridge and the Beach pub for a brilliant carvery lunch. The views were restricted due to the misty and rainy conditions but nonetheless, the lake looked fantastic.

**Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Patricroft to Walkden**

A 3-mile walk along the Bridgewater Canal and the Roe Green Loophole. 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 Anne Clarke on

**Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Castlefield to Salford Quays**

A 2.6-mile walk on the Bridgewater Canal. Good paths, some steps, no stiles, mostly level. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Deansgate-Castlefield tram station by the passenger lift at 11.00. Lunch available at The Harvester in the Lowry Centre. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on



## Didsbury Probus Programme 2025

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

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

#### “English—A Curious Language” by Neil Sheldon

A real mongrel language developed from many invading forces, from the Roman occupation onwards, come and find out how our language evolved and to some degree is still evolving.

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

#### “Trafford Park—From Stately Home to Shopping Centre” by Judy Popley

Trafford Park the home of the De-Trafford Family since 1017 to becoming the largest Industrial Estate in the world and vital support to two world wars, to a 300 acre Shopping Mall.

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

## MANCHESTER ORGANIC GARDENERS

Welcoming all gardeners in the Greater Manchester area



Saturday 8th March 2025

Practical Pruning

By

Mike Allen

Volunteer Gardener at Dunham Massey

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

£3 members / £5 guests includes light refreshments

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

All welcome

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Harry Styles
2. Donald Trump
3. Rihanna
4. Jennifer Lawrence
5. Kate Middleton (Princess of Wales)
6. Arriana Grande
7. Boris Johnson
8. Jennifer Aniston
9. Emma Stone
10. Sir Kier Starmer

## SMu3a Groups A-Z LIST

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

<b>ANGLO SAXON AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY</b>	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. <b>Beryl Cowen</b>
<b>ART APPRECIATION</b>	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. <b>Diane Ward</b>
<b>BIRDWATCHING AND NATURE</b>	Meeting on the first Wednesday of every month from 11-12. Ideal Exploring birds in their natural habitats interacting with plants and trees. <b>Rita Berriman</b>
<b>BOARD GAMES</b>	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. <b>Christine Salamone</b>
<b>BOOK GROUP 1</b>	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. <b>Meg Davis</b>
<b>BOOK GROUP 2</b>	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. <b>Tom Grimshaw</b>
<b>BOOK GROUP 3</b>	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. <b>Johanna Keane</b>
<b>BRIDGE</b>	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. <b>Liz Thornhill</b>
<b>BRIDGE for BEGINNERS</b>	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. <b>Hilary Poole</b>
<b>CINEMA</b>	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. <b>Russell Ramsden</b>
<b>CIRCUS SKILLS</b>	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. <b>Joanie Yoffe</b>
<b>COMMUNITY SING-ALONG</b>	This group sings well known songs in unison (no rehearsal time needed) in residential homes. Dates and times vary. <b>Mike Evans</b>
<b>CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	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. <b>Ann Howarth</b>
<b>CREATIVE WRITING</b>	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. <b>Diana Bradley</b>
<b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b>	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. <b>Adrienne Simpson</b>
<b>DRAMATIC READERS</b>	Held on the 3rd Friday of the month, both face to face and by Zoom. <b>Beryl Cowen</b>

<b>EGYPTOLOGY</b>	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. <b>Kathryn Fyfe</b>
<b>FRENCH CONVERSATION</b>	We meet on the third Tuesday of the month 2 - 3pm at HOME cafe. Speakers of all levels of conversational French are welcome. <b>Jean Thompson</b>
<b>GERMAN CONVERSATION</b>	This group is for those who would like to practice their spoken German. Last Friday of the month at the Nazarene. <b>Diane Ward</b>
<b>GETTING BY IN WELSH</b>	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. <b>Beryl Cowen or Wena Stevenson</b>
<b>HOLIDAY CLUB</b>	Keep an eye on the monthly newsletter for information about forthcoming holidays.
<b>ITALIAN CONVERSATION</b>	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. <b>Annie Dodd</b>
<b>KEEP FIT</b>	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. <b>Anne Clarke</b>
<b>KNIT AND NATTER</b>	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. <b>Diane Ward</b>
<b>LOCAL INTEREST VISITS</b>	These will be advertised in the newsletter from time to time. <b>Jill Evans</b>
<b>LUNCH CLUB</b>	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. <b>John Olbrich</b>
<b>MEDITATION</b>	This group is non-religious, although people who are religious are welcome to attend. We start with a short talk about meditation followed by the meditation itself then a Q&A session. This kind of meditation will help to relax your mind and develop positive intentions towards others. Meetings take place on the 3rd and 4th Fridays of the month at 2pm in St. Christopher's Church, Withington. <b>Paul Grace</b>
<b>OPERATIC AND VOCAL APPRECIATION SOCIETY (OVAS)</b>	Lovers of opera and music meet from 3.30 – 5.45 on the last Wednesday of every month. <b>Len Evans</b>
<b>PIANO GROUP</b>	We are a small group for piano players to play to each other in a supportive and relaxed setting, and share ideas about anything piano-related. All types of music and all levels welcome. We meet monthly on a Thursday morning in Chorlton. <b>Hilary Taylor</b>
<b>PARLIAMO ITALIANO Let's speak Italian!</b>	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. <b>Andrew Bradbury</b>
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>	This group meets at 1.30 pm at Withington Library on the third Tuesday of the month. <b>Sandra Grant</b>

<b>PLAYREADING</b>	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. <b>Helen Nicolson</b>
<b>POETRY APPRECIATION</b>	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. <b>Lynne Taylor</b>
<b>POETRY WRITING</b>	This group meets on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 2pm – 4pm at Withington Library <b>Paul Grace</b>
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>	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. <b>Beryl Cowen</b>
<b>SINGING FOR FUN</b>	This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 2pm at Didsbury Baptist Church <b>Judith Newton</b>
<b>SPANISH CONVERSATION</b>	This group meets on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 2 pm at the Slug and Lettuce in Didsbury <b>Debbie Delange</b>
<b>TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON</b>	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. <b>June Slatter</b>
<b>TAI CHI</b>	Gentle exercise which benefits balance and calmness at the Lower Hall, Emmanuel Offices, behind the church from 1-2 pm every Tuesday. <b>Peggy Foster</b>
<b>UKULELE</b>	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 <b>Gerard Allcock</b>
<b>WALKING FOR HEALTH 1</b>	Walks of around 3 miles are enjoyed by this group on the last Tuesday of every month. Details are given in the newsletter. <b>Ian Burn</b>
<b>WALKING FOR HEALTH 2</b>	This group meets on the second Wednesday of every month to follow the same route as Walking for Health Group 1. <b>Anne Clarke</b>



## WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME – FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm**

“The First Galaxies” by Rebecca Bowler of the University of Manchester

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

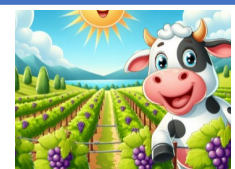
Astronomy field trip to Lligwy on Anglesey

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

For more details visit [www.wdas2.com](http://www.wdas2.com).

**Every morning, I take my cow for a walk through the local vineyard.**

**I herd it through the grape vine.**



## March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><b>3</b> Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom <b>10:30</b></p> <p>Poetry Appreciation <b>11:00-12:30 Victoria Grange</b></p> <p>Psychology <b>14:00</b> Zoom</p> <p>Beginners &amp; Improvers Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b>. Change of venue, this week only. See Hilary's email.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b></p> <p>Tai Chi <b>13:00-14:00</b></p> <p><b>SMu3a AGM</b> and General Meeting. <b>14:00- 16:00</b></p> <p><b>Didsbury Baptist Church</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> Book Group 1. Meg's house <b>10:30</b>.</p> <p>Bird Watching &amp; Nature. <b>11:00–12:00</b> Note: If interested, please contact Rita: [REDACTED]</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p> <p>Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:00</b>. St Christophers Church M20 1HE</p> <p>Spanish Conversation <b>14:00</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> Bridge <b>10:00-12:00</b></p> <p>Italian Conversation <b>10:30–12noon</b></p> <p>Getting by in Welsh <b>10:30</b> St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p> <p>Keep Fit <b>11:30</b></p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Creative Photography <b>10:30</b> The Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>Beginners &amp; Improvers Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b>. Please Note: New players <i>must</i> email Hilary <i>before</i> the session date.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b></p> <p>Tai Chi <b>13:00-14:00</b></p> <p>Singing for fun <b>14:00–16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p> <p>Book Group 3. <b>13:30</b> (Closed group)</p>	<p><b>14</b> Bridge <b>10:00-12:00</b></p> <p>Parliamo Italiano for Beginners. (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p> <p>Keep Fit <b>11:30</b></p> <p>Board Games <b>14:00-16:00</b> Parrswood Pub</p> <p>Poetry Writing <b>14:00-16:00</b> (Withington Library)</p>
<p><b>17</b> Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom <b>10:30</b></p> <p>Beginners &amp; Improvers Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b>. New players see 10<sup>th</sup> Mar</p>	<p><b>18</b> Table Tennis/ Badminton <b>10:00</b></p> <p>Tai Chi <b>13:00-14:00</b></p> <p>Playreading <b>13:30</b></p> <p>Philosophy <b>13:30</b> (Withington Library)</p> <p>French Group <b>14:00-15:00</b> HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Lunch Group see Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March for this month's details.</b> <i>To be added to the list contact John at:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>Art Appreciation <b>14:00</b> Didsbury Parsonage Stenner Lane</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p> <p>Egyptology <b>10:30-12:30</b> The Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:00</b>. St Christophers Church M20 1HE</p> <p>Spanish Conversation <b>14:00</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> Bridge <b>10:00-12:00</b></p> <p>Italian Conversation <b>10:30–12noon</b></p> <p>Keep Fit <b>11:30</b></p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Beginners &amp; Improvers Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b>. New players see 10<sup>th</sup> Mar.</p> <p>Community Sing-Along <b>14:00</b> BELONG M20 2UW</p>	<p><b>25</b> Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b></p> <p>Tai Chi <b>13:00-14:00</b></p> <p>Singing for Fun <b>14:00–16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p><b>26</b> Knit &amp; Natter <b>14:00-15:30</b> Didsbury Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>OVAS <b>15:30 – 17:45</b> [REDACTED]</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p> <p>Note: Chess Group is now with Board Games Group – see Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Mar.</p> <p>Book Group 2. <b>13:30</b> Didsbury Library (Closed group)</p> <p>Current Affairs <b>13:30</b> The Old Cock Pub</p>	<p><b>28</b> Bridge <b>10:00-12:00</b></p> <p>Creative Writing <b>10:30</b></p> <p>German Conversation <b>10:30</b></p> <p>Parliamo Italiano for Beginners. (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p> <p>Keep Fit <b>11:30</b></p> <p>Cinema <b>12:15</b></p> <p>Lunch Group <b>13:00</b> The Lime Tree Didsbury. (see 19<sup>th</sup> Mar for more info)</p>
<p><b>31</b> Psychology <b>13:30</b> St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p> <p>Beginners &amp; Improvers Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b>. New players see 10<sup>th</sup> Mar</p>	<p>Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter</p>			