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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 Walking for Health group standing by the Bridgwater canal in front of the Monton lighthouse during their walk from Patricroft to Worsley

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

**NO LATER than Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025**

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## OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

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<b>Publicity</b>	Wena Stevenson		
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<b>“Meet &amp; Greeters” Co-ordinator</b>	Barbara Aston		
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<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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 2.00pm

**“Chester” by Stephen Shakeshaft**

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

Dear Friends

Thank you all for your good wishes for my recovery from stage 2 sepsis. I feel really loved, so thank you. Facing such a serious illness with a possible fatal outcome, makes me very grateful for a fresh start, and another chance to live, work and enjoy new experiences.

As I recover, spring is coming. I see buds and blossom on trees. The magnolia in my garden is budding white and pink, and my camellias are coming out in reds and apricots. Together with daffodils and crocuses, what a display of new life! A life worth living.

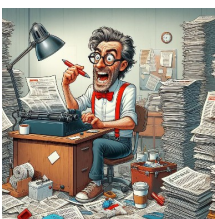
As we continue with all of our activities, I do hope that you are enjoying yourselves and getting involved. Groups can't run without members. In addition, our committee can't function without people willing to join us. We need 3 more people on the committee so that we can go ahead with more plans and events. Please consider joining us once a month in order to keep our u3a going and to expand it. It is not arduous, and we always like new ideas. One thing that I learnt from my hospital bed, is that it is no fun being an onlooker. We need to roll up our sleeves and get stuck in to a group or two, and think of the future.

I welcome all of our new members and hope that you will be happy and fulfilled with us as you seek out new adventures.

Over the 12 plus years that I have been a member, I have learnt so much, and made good friends, as well as being challenged to reach out to others. I urge you all to do the same.

Spring is here, a new start, so let's carry on making new experiences in our lives. The world is in turmoil and we live in worrying times of uncertainty, so let's make the most of our opportunities and take on new challenges in our u3a. Have a happy spring and I will see you all 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](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:** The March newsletter can be found here [March 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

Lynne Kirk	June Buchan	Eve Cunningham	Gary Pearson
Valerie Skinner	Michael Knowles	Phyllis Stoddart	John Hansen
Patricia Booth	Sarah Horsefall	Lisa Perry	Janet Walch
Christine Taylor			

### 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 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: -

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

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 2pm at BELONG (M20 2UW)

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

Contact Mike Evans for more details on

## South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

### “Chester” by Stephen Shakeshaft



Steve is a real “Cestrian”, having been born within the city walls of Chester. Having lived in Chester all of his life gives him a real passion and insight for this beautiful small City. His talk is entertaining, informative and inspiring, and will take you to places which you would never have found on your own, all delivered with warmth, passion and humour.

## THE JOY OF OLD MAPS

Following the article in our February newsletter by Frances Kelly called “The Joy of Old Maps”, I received an email from Brian Garner thanking Frances for her article.



“As a slightly geeky/nerdy person, I have always had an interest in maps, including those that are well out of date. Following the article, I ordered two old maps from Alan Godfrey. These were from the early part of the twentieth century and related to the area of north Manchester where I grew up... Whitefield and Unsworth. I was quite taken by the large swathes of undeveloped land... fields, where there are now houses. Given the more rural aspect of the landscape at that time, I was also surprised to see several bleach and dye works, and indeed my grandfather was a crofter, but had never been to a Scottish farm!

I took the maps to show my brothers when we met for our occasional laying of flowers on our parents’ grave, and they also found them of interest. It always seems surprising that the pubs and inns there at that time are still there today . The tramway however is now bus only, with trams now operating on the old railway line.

All in all, a trip down nostalgia street, which relates to the 3a in u3a. Keep up the good work!

P.S. I am also interested in old railway and bus timetables, and was pleased to find one for the line that came through Didsbury. I remember as a small child passing through Didsbury and the Derbyshire Dales on a trip from Manchester (Central) to London (St Pancras) in the days when the journey took about 4 hours...so, who needs to save 20 minutes with HS2?”

**Brian Garner**



## THE ORIGINS OF APRIL FOOLS' DAY

**April Fools' Day**, in most countries, is the first day of April. It received its name from the custom of playing practical jokes on this day. For example, telling friends that their shoelaces are untied or sending them on so-called fools' errands. Although the day has been observed for centuries, its true origins are unknown and effectively unknowable.

Some historians suggest that April Fools' originated because, in the Middle Ages, New Year's Day was celebrated on 25 March in most European towns, with a holiday that in some areas of France, specifically, ended on 1 April, and those who celebrated New Year's Day on 1 January made fun of those who celebrated on other dates by the invention of April Fools' Day. The use of 1 January as New Year's Day became common in France only in the mid-16th century, and that date was not adopted officially until 1564, by the Edict of Roussillon, as called for during the Council of Trent in 1563. However, there are issues with this theory because there is an unambiguous reference to April Fools' Day in a 1561 poem by Flemish poet Eduard de Dene of a nobleman who sent his servant on foolish errands on 1 April, predating the change. April Fools' Day was also an established tradition in Great Britain before 1 January was established as the start of the calendar year.

There are variations between countries in the celebration of April Fools' Day, but all have in common an excuse to make someone play the fool. In France, for example, the fooled person is called *poisson d'avril* ("April fish"), perhaps in reference to a young fish and hence to one that is easily caught; it is common for French children to pin a paper fish to the backs of unsuspecting friends. In Scotland, April Fools' Day was originally called "*Huntigowk Day*". The name is a corruption of "hunt the *gowk*", *gowk* being Scots for a cuckoo or a foolish person; alternative terms in Gaelic would be *Là na Gocaireachd*, "gowking day", or *Là Ruith na Cuthaige*, "the day of running the cuckoo". The traditional prank is to ask someone to deliver a sealed message that supposedly requests help of some sort. In fact, the message reads "*Dinna laugh, Dinna smile. Hunt the gowk another mile.*" The recipient, upon reading it, will explain they can only help if they first contact another person, and they send the victim to this next person with an identical message, with the same result. In many countries newspapers and the other media participate—for example, with false headlines or news stories. In one famous prank in 1957, the BBC broadcast a film in their *Panorama* current affairs series purporting to show Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti, in what they called the Swiss spaghetti harvest. The BBC was soon flooded with requests to purchase a spaghetti plant, forcing them to declare the film a hoax on the news the next day.

### Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 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.

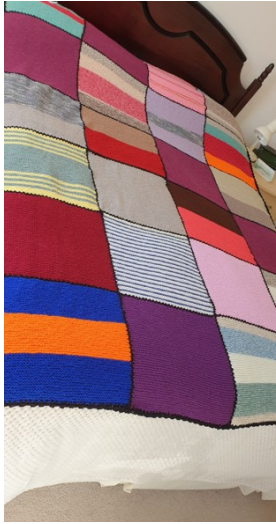
Meet at Deansgate-Castlefield tram station by the passenger lift at 11.00. Lunch available at The Harvester in the Lowry Centre. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on



### Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

#### Romiley, Chadkirk and Peak Forest Canal

A 2.2-mile walk. Some steps, undulating, may be muddy in places. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet Stockport Interchange bus station by ticket office at 10.20. Lunch available at the Duke of York in Romiley. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on



## Knit and Natter Group

Once again, the u3a knitters, Karen Malies, Marlene McCarthy and Diane Ward, have been producing cheerful coloured squares to be joined into blankets, which are then sent on to refugee camps in many of the war-torn areas of the world.

Their efforts, combined with those from other groups around the country, have produced many hundreds of blankets to bring warmth and comfort where they are needed.

The Knit and Natter group work on either their 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!

The meetings are held at Didsbury Parsonage on the last Wednesday of the month.

If you would like more information about the group, please contact Diane Ward on



**R.I.P**

## OBITUARY FOR SANDRA FOX

Our friend, and fellow long-time u3a member, Sandra Fox, has died, aged 80. She passed away, peacefully, in Wythenshawe Hospital on March 5th, after a long illness.

Sandra was once an enthusiastic member of the Holiday Group, and, together with Pauline Swift, helped me to run the group when I first took it on. In the days when we had regular holiday group meetings, Sandra would do the catering, providing tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits. She was much

appreciated for this, and was always conducive to a good old natter! When we had meetings near Christmas, she made sure that we had plenty of mince pies, Christmas cake and stollen, all served up on decorated paper plates with Christmas serviettes.

Sandra came on several holidays and always made a great contribution, setting quizzes, collecting for the hotel staff and the driver, and generally helping the holiday to run smoothly. She was really good fun and we always had lots of laughs when she was around. Sadly, Sandra didn't feel up to coming on the holidays when we were eventually able to travel again after Covid. This was such a pity because she had enjoyed the holidays so much and we missed her company.

I think about her often. She was such a kind and considerate person, and entertaining too! She often told fascinating stories about her nursing career. She was generally a really good and decent woman, deeply moral, with a sharp social conscience. She will be very much missed by all of her family, friends and neighbours.

Sandra's funeral will be held at the main crematorium in Southern Cemetery at 11am on Monday 14th April. After the funeral, Sandra's son, Nick and the family, will be celebrating her life at The Parrswood and would like to invite Sandra's u3a friends to join them.

If you would like to go, Nick would very much appreciate it if you would let him know, so that he can arrange catering. His number is

Anne Clarke

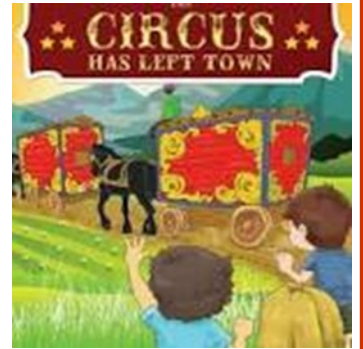
## The Circus Skills group is taking a break

We have had lots of fun and are making some progress with our juggling. We've also had some adventures at Circus House on the tight wire and trapeze. However, we feel we need a break !! Sadly, our numbers are dropping.

We may be back in September if we have a burst of fresh enthusiasm from some new members.

Our last meeting is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at St Christophers Church from 2.00-3.00pm.

If you are interested in learning new skills and would like to try out our group, do come along or contact me:



There are 3 vacancies on the South Manchester u3a committee and we have roles which we would like to fill but can't at the moment.

You may not think that you are cut out to be a committee member. The truth is that anyone can do this job and play an important part in keeping our u3a running smoothly. It's not hard work and it doesn't take up too much of your time and you will be making new friends and have the satisfaction of doing a job well done.

Our u3a can't continue to survive without the help of volunteers willing to get involved. If you're not sure what to expect, why not come to a committee meeting as a guest and find out.

For more information contact our Secretary: [smu3a.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:smu3a.secretary@gmail.com)



### Didsbury Probud Programme 2025

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

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**"The History of the BBC" by Frank Vigon**

The British Broadcasting Company dates back to 1922. Frank will explore more than 100 years of the BBC, and show how this public corporation developed, also bringing back memories of many of the past forgotten programmes.

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.

## QUIZ



1. Who played Rambling Sid Rumpo?
2. Who was the first Chairman of "I'm Sorry I haven't a Clue?"
3. Who did Father Ted kick up the bottom?



4. Which Oasis song was the theme tune to the Royle Family?
5. What song did the gorilla play in the Cadbury's advert?



6. Name the Seven Dwarfs.

7. What was the one-word slogan of Aleksandr Orlov?



8. Which lawyer failed to save Tom Robinson? 9. Tom Hanks is the voice of which character?

10. In which adventure were Ben Gunn and Billy Bones?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 15



Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 25th February 2025

Patricroft to Worsley



It was a lovely dry day, (if not a little chilly), when we met up at Piccadilly station for our train journey to Patricroft. From here, we joined the Bridgewater canal and walked into Monton. The walkers were challenged to look out for a lighthouse and when they found it, they were rewarded with a jelly sweetie. Yes, there is a lighthouse in Monton and the photograph proves it. It was built by “Barnacle” Phil Austin, initially as his home, but he soon built a small house next to it where he lived, and he used the lighthouse as his office and a chance to get a bit of privacy. It is 40ft tall and he even built a light on the top which actually lights up, although he now only lights it on special occasions. I guess a visit by the SMu3a walking group doesn’t count as special.

From Monton, we left the canal to join the Roe Green loop line, which is the route of a former railway line. This walk took us through a small wooded area until we branched off towards Old Warke Dam. We walked down to the lake created by the dam and built by the 1st Earl of Ellesmere to create his own fishing lake. After walking part -way around the lake we made our way down to Worsley via Worsley Delph, which is the start of the Bridgewater canal, built by the 1st Duke of Bridgewater in 1761 to transport coal from his mines in Worsley to Manchester. His was the first commercial canal in Britain and kicked off the canal mania of the 18th and 19th centuries.

From here it was a short walk along the canal to the Barton Arms pub for a very enjoyable lunch.

**Are you over 50?  
Committed to co-operative principles?  
Exploring new neighbourly ways to live ?**

Cohousing communities are created and run by their residents. Each household has its private home and shares community spaces.

## Manchester Urban Co Housing

*sustainable living for over 50s  
- building a community for our futures*

We will create and manage our low carbon community, sharing activities, resources, and regular meals.

Your skills and ideas welcomed to help make cohousing for over 50s a reality in South Manchester.

Get in touch to find out more

w: <https://manchesterurbancohousing.co.uk>  
e: [muchmanchester@gmail.com](mailto:muchmanchester@gmail.com)



Manchester Urban Cohousing (MUCH) are working to create such a community for people aged 50 and over, ideally in South Manchester.

MUCH is a small group of people working together to develop and realise our vision for older (50+) people's cohousing in Manchester.

Cohousing is when a group of people with shared values come together to design and manage their community, each household having its own private space, with some shared indoor and outside spaces.

Our vision and values include living sustainably, and being able to include homes for people from different backgrounds. We want to build accessible homes to Passivhaus standards.

We don't yet have a site but we have worked hard trying to take forward several possibilities. Although none has resulted in 'bricks and mortar' progress, we learned a lot about issues around the viability of our plans in the current political and economic climate.

Our plans are still evolving, and we welcome new enquiries from potential members with the drive, enthusiasm and skills to help make this dream a reality.

Whilst we continue to develop our ideas, look for a suitable site and make links with potential partner organisations, we also continue to get to know each other, with meetings often including a shared meal.

If you are thinking that growing older alone is not for you and you would like to explore the idea of living in your own home but with neighbours as friends, sharing some meals together and working towards a greener more sustainable future, then please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

You can contact us via our website <https://manchesterurbancohousing.co.uk> or via email [muchmanchester@gmail.com](mailto:muchmanchester@gmail.com)



**WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm via Zoom**

"The Ultimate Guide to Time Travel" by Colin Stewart

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm via Zoom**

"A Simple Guide to Astrophotography" by Paul Money

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

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



## OPEN TUESDAY

Activities, interesting discussions, films.

A selected film every other week with a discussion afterwards

7.30pm on Tuesdays

Always a warm welcome, tea, biscuits and a chat

**FREE**

Held in the Small Hall at the Union Chapel, top end of Wellington Road, Fallowfield, M14 6ER

For more information: <http://www.unionchapelbaptist.org.uk/open-tuesday/>

Or contact Megan Bennett:

## MANCHESTER ORGANIC GARDENERS

Welcoming all gardeners in the Greater Manchester area



Saturday 12th April 2025

Wonderful world of perennial vegetables, why and how to grow them

By

**Victoria Holden**

Director of Northern Lily Community Garden

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)

**I saw two huge black birds in my garden  
this morning and they were stuck together.  
Turns out they were  
Velcrows.**

## 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>

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Kenneth Williams
2. Humphrey Lyttleton
3. Bishop Brennan
4. Half a World Away
5. Something in the Air
6. Doc, Dopey, Bashful, Grumpy, Happy, Sneezy, Sleepy
7. Simples
8. Atticus Finch
9. Woody pride
10. Treasure Island



**Research shows that laughing for 2 mins is just as healthy as a 20 min jog. So, now I'm sitting in the park laughing at all the joggers**

# April 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b></p> <p>Tai Chi <b>13:00-14:00</b></p> <p><b>General Meeting 14:00- 16:00</b></p> <p><b>Didsbury Baptist Church</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Book Group 1. Meg's house <b>10:30.</b></p> <p>Bird Watching &amp; Nature <b>11:00-12:00</b></p> <p>Note: If interested, please contact Rita: [REDACTED]</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p> <p>Circus Skills <b>14:00-15:00.</b></p> <p>St Christophers Church. M20 1HE</p> <p><b>Then no meeting until further notice.</b></p> <p>Spanish Conversation <b>14:00</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Bridge <b>9:45-12:00</b> (Every Friday).</p> <p>Italian Conversation <b>10:30 - 12:00</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>7</b></p> <p>Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom <b>10:30</b></p> <p>Poetry Appreciation <b>11:00-12:30</b></p> <p>Victoria Grange.</p> <p>Beginners/Improvers <b>Bridge 13:30-15:30</b></p> <p><i>New players see 14<sup>th</sup></i></p> <p>Psychology. Next meeting is in May.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton <b>10:00</b></p> <p>Tai Chi <b>No meeting.</b></p> <p>Singing for fun <b>14:00-16:00</b></p> <p>Didsbury Baptist Church.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p> <p>Community Sing-Along <b>14:00</b></p> <p>Buccluch Lodge M20 2XA</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p> <p>Book Group 3. <b>13:30</b></p> <p>HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b></p> <p>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>14</b></p> <p>Creative Photography <b>10:30</b> The Parsonage</p> <p>Beginners/Improvers <b>Bridge 13:30 - 15:30</b></p> <p><i>Please Note: New players must email Hilary before the session date.</i></p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>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 Ch.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Lunch Group. <b>13:00</b></p> <p><b>Venue TBA. To be added to the list contact John at:</b></p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Art Appreciation <b>14:00</b> Didsbury Parsonage.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00 - 11:15</b></p> <p>Egyptology <b>10:30-12:30</b></p> <p>The Parsonage.</p> <p>Piano Group <b>11:00</b></p> <p><i>Note: Places are limited so contact group leader first.</i></p> <p>Spanish Conversation <b>14:00</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Bridge <b>9:45-12:00</b> (Every Friday). See Liz's email for directions to today's DGN location.</p> <p><b>Good Friday Bank Holiday</b></p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Easter Monday Bank Holiday</b></p> <p>Beginners/Improvers <b>Bridge 13:30-15:30</b></p> <p>See Hilary's email for directions to today's DGN location.</p> <p>.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>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></p> <p>Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p> <p>Book Group 2. <b>13:30</b></p> <p>Didsbury Library (Closed group)</p> <p>Current Affairs <b>13:30</b></p> <p>The Old Cock Pub</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Creative Writing <b>10:30</b></p> <p>German Conversation <b>10:30</b></p> <p>Keep Fit <b>11:30</b></p> <p>Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b></p> <p>St. Christopher's Ch. Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p> <p>Cinema <b>12:15</b></p> <p>Music &amp; Mindfulness <b>14:00-15:00.</b></p> <p>St Christophers Church</p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Beginners/Improvers <b>Bridge 13:30-15:30</b></p> <p><i>New players see 14<sup>th</sup></i></p> <p>Psychology <b>13:30</b></p> <p>St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>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></p> <p>Didsbury Baptist Church</p> <p>Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Knit &amp; Natter <b>14:00-15:30</b></p> <p>Didsbury Parsonage Stenner Lane.</p> <p>OVAS. <b>New time: 15:00-17:15</b></p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Ukulele <b>10:00-11:15</b></p>	