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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)



How are you celebrating VE DAY 80?

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

**NO LATER than Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025**

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<b>Catering</b>	Shirley Shaw		
<b>Quiz Master</b>	Tom Grimshaw		

### GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 2.00pm

**“Painting with Light” by David Winpenny**

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 and a warm welcome to our new members and new groups, as well as new leaders of groups.

I have just returned from a fabulous trip around four Balkan countries. It was an amazing time, and I am now fully recovered and ready to return to normal business.

While on holiday, I was with numerous elderly people, many of whom were disabled. They did not let that stand in their way, and they enjoyed themselves. This is the spirit that I want to see amongst our South Manchester u3a members, and I am delighted to see it. Keep up the good work, because you are ambassadors of your age group for how to enjoy your third age of life. I would like to quote a few words from 92 year old actress, Sheila Hancock. Sheila writes in Prospect magazine monthly and is very inspiring. I quote on how to stay positive: -

“I have discussions with my book club and dustbin men. I laugh with my friends. My grandchildren continue to educate me on technology. I was flummoxed to be told that, at 92, I was too young-looking for a part in a play”. She goes on. “...we discuss the joy of good food. I have neglected the pleasure of eating, which started as a wartime child when I would make a crunchy bar last as long as possible, biting off the chocolatey end and probing the honeycomb with my tongue”. (I’ve done that too!).

She continues “There is a misconception about age. Bodies do become weaker and slower with age, but this is especially the case if we do not use them. I am going to prepare for the future with relish. Lots of good wine and chats.”

She echoes my philosophy for us all in the u3a. Enjoy your future with relish, and get stuck in to all of the things which you love doing. She is my old age heroine.

Stay happy and keep on doing and going. I am ready for a chat at any time, but not the wine! I prefer coffee.

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:** April newsletter can be found here [April 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

Rebecca Critchley

Nick Mellor

Susan Lynne

Betty Smithson

Brenda Nally

Catherine How

Kathryn Greaney

Pamela Sachdeva

Antonieta Craven

### 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 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: -

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

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 2pm at BELONG

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

Contact Mike Evans for more details on



### Does your email address end in 'ntlworld.com'?

Emails sent to ntlworld.com addresses are bouncing back, and it appears that if you no longer have a linked broadband subscription, you will not now have an ntlworld email address. You may not realize what is happening. Please contact your broadband provider if this is the case.

## South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

### “Painting with Light” by David Winpenny



PAINTING WITH LIGHT – the development of stained glass in Britain from Bede to the 21st century.

The monastery at Jarrow, where Bede was a monk, had stained glass – the earliest known in Britain. Tracing the development of the art from the 7th to the 21st centuries, ‘Painting with Light’ offers an introduction to the techniques of making stained glass and goes on to look at styles and subjects.

Technical improvements, like the introduction of yellow stain and of flashed glass, led to new ways of designing windows in the Middle Ages, but also, by the 17th century, led to the decline of true stained glass when enamel colours could be painted on clear glass.

After earlier attempts at a revival in the 18th century, notably by William Peckitt of York, the 19th century saw a real renewal of the art, and the talk introduces some of the main manufacturers and designers of glass in that era, including Clayton and Bell, Charles Eamer Kempe and Morris & Co.

In the 20th century artists like Douglas Strachan, Harry Clarke, Evie Hone and John Piper produced high-quality, imaginative stained glass. This talk looks at their work and that of some of their latest successors.

David lives in Ripon and works as a freelance lecturer and writer. He is the author of newspaper and magazine articles, guidebooks and walking guides, and also lectures on many subjects, ranging from stained glass to landscape gardening.

Calling All  
**Members**



### ANYONE LIVING IN THE CHORLTON AREA

Do you have the time to drop off some of our newsletters at the newly reopened Chorlton Library each month? If you attend our monthly general meeting at Didsbury, you could pick up some newsletters and then drop them off at the library at your convenience.

Please contact one of our committee members at the next meeting if you can help.



## VE DAY

80th Anniversary

8th May 2025

On 8 May 2025 we mark the historic **80th anniversary of VE Day**, with the peoples, families and communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe that so many millions paid the ultimate sacrifice to achieve.

VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

8 May 1945 – VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) – was one that remained in the memory of all those who witnessed it. It meant an end to nearly six years of a war that had cost the lives of millions; had destroyed homes, families, and cities; and had brought huge suffering and privations to the populations of entire countries.

Millions of people rejoiced in the news that Germany had surrendered, relieved that the intense strain of total war was finally over. In towns and cities across the world, people marked the victory with street parties, dancing and singing.

But it was not the end of the conflict, nor was it an end to the impact the war had on people. The war against Japan did not end until August 1945, and the political, social and economic repercussions of the Second World War were felt long after Germany and Japan surrendered.

Some people celebrated early. Many people in Britain didn't wait for the official day of celebration and began the festivities as soon as they heard the news on 7th May. After years of wartime restrictions and dangers – from food and clothes rationing to blackouts and bombing raids – it was understandable how eager they were to finally be able to let loose and enjoy themselves. Colourful bunting and flags soon lined the streets of villages, towns and cities across Britain. On the eve of VE Day, bonfires were lit, people danced, and the pubs were full of revellers.



A national holiday was declared in Britain for 8 May 1945. In the morning, Churchill had gained assurances from the Ministry of Food that there were enough beer supplies in the capital and the Board of Trade announced that people could purchase red, white and blue bunting without using ration coupons. There were even commemorative items hastily produced in time for the celebrations, including 'VE Day' mugs. Some restaurants had special 'victory' menus, too.

Various events were organised to mark the occasion, including parades, thanksgiving services and street parties. Communities came together to share the moment. London's St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people. Due to the time difference, VE Day in New Zealand was officially held on 9th May. The country's leadership wanted to delay the national holiday until peace in Europe had been announced by Winston Churchill. New Zealanders therefore had to go to work on 8th May and wait until the following day to celebrate. In the Soviet Union, too, VE Day was on 9th May due to the different time zones.



The VE Day celebrations continued well into the night. The largest crowds in Britain were in the capital, but people all around the country took part in the parties, singing and dancing. Many bonfires and fireworks were lit to mark the occasion. An estimated 50,000 people were crowded around Piccadilly Circus by midnight. The joy of the day broke down normal social conventions, and people spoke to and embraced those whom they had never met before. Music was provided by gramophones, accordions and barrel organs, and revellers sang and danced to the popular tunes of the day. Licensing hours were extended so that people could toast the end of the war with a drink (or two), and dance halls stayed open until midnight.

We encourage everyone to take part and gather in the streets, gardens, town and city halls, clubs and pubs, and at home too, and be part of this anniversary providing a day of joy, reflection, and celebration, as part of the Commonwealth's 2.4 billion people, reaffirming our commitment to world peace, ensuring future generations understand and cherish its value.

At 9am Town Criers will undertake the VE Day Proclamation as the VE Day 80 flags are raised, and at 12noon, pipers will play a unique tune especially written for the occasion entitled 'Celebratum' from the top of the UK's four highest peaks. At 6.30pm, cathedrals and churches will ring out in united celebration throughout the nation. Then at 9.30pm over one thousand beacons and hundreds of Lamp Lights of Peace will shine throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, with their flames and lights representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war. Along with all of this, the nation coming together in city and town squares to village greens, and all other manner of locations at this special and unique one moment in time, and sing the great British Hymn 'I Vow To Thee My Country', standing side by side in gratitude, honouring the many sacrifices that secured our freedom.



**“Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, love and peace”.**

**How are you celebrating VE DAY 80?**

### **Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 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 at 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 Anne Clarke on



### **Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

#### **East Didsbury Circular via Heaton Mersey**

A 3.1-mile walk. One hill, mostly good paths, one area liable to be muddy, no stiles. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet outside Cineworld in Parrs Wood at 10.45. Lunch available at the Dog & Partridge in Heaton Mersey. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on



**GENERAL COFFEE MORNINGS**  
and  
**NEW MEMBER COFFEE MORNINGS**

Following the success of our last new members coffee morning, we have decided to hold this event every 6 months. Furthermore, you have told us that you would like to have a general coffee morning which is open to all members, both new and existing. Therefore we have decided to hold a general coffee morning every 3 months.

**General Coffee Morning**

Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 11am at Didsbury Baptist Church

**General and New Members Coffee Morning**

Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 11am at Didsbury Baptist Church

Come along and enjoy a free tea or coffee together with a nice biscuit and a good chat!

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



**EVENTS COORDINATOR**

**South Manchester u3a**

From time to time, South Manchester u3a are invited to take part in events like the Didsbury Festival, and we really don't want to miss out on opportunities to spread the word about the many activities which we have to offer in our u3a.

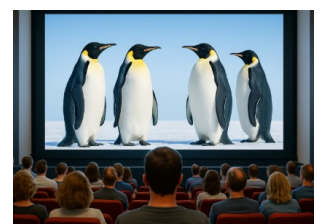
We need someone to confirm that we will be at the event, to book the space and perhaps a table, and to make sure that at least two people from South Manchester u3a are available to man the stand. These will usually, but not always, be committee members. And that's it! You won't have to man the stand yourself unless you want to. We have banners, posters and of, course, leaflets available to hand out.

Are you a "people person"? Is this a job which you would like to do? You could join our committee and take on this role. It will not be arduous and you will receive support from all of the other committee members. You will have the enjoyment of making new friends and being part of a team. The committee meeting will take an hour of your time each month, and the role itself will only involve the odd hour here and there.

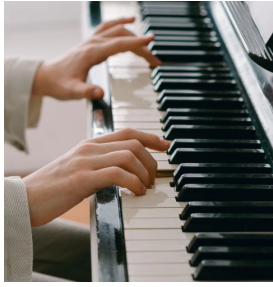
If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Andrew: [smu3a.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:smu3a.secretary@gmail.com)

**CINEMA GROUP**

"The Penguin Lessons" waddled into UK cinemas on Friday 18th April. Starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce, this true story follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history. The SMu3a Cinema group were lucky enough to have a sneak peek Don't miss this charming adventure on the big screen!



Russel Ramsden



## PIANO GROUP

The piano group has now met twice, and shared the piano music we are currently learning, which has covered a range of classical music and jazz standards. We've discussed the challenges of learning and our different approaches, and shared ideas and tips. Although space is limited by the size of the room, there are still a couple of places if anyone else wants to join us.

**Calling musicians/techie!** At our last meeting one of our members told the group about the GarageBand app, which can be used to create music of any kind by playing and combining virtual instruments. He has a contact at the Apple store in the Arndale Centre who offers tutorials on how to use it to groups of four or more people, so if anyone is interested in learning more about this and experimenting with it, let me know, and we will see if we can get a group together.

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

## HOLIDAY GROUP

There are spaces still available for a holiday in Scotland next year.

**23rd to 27th February 2026**

**Duke of Gordon Hotel in the Cairngorms National Park**

**£349 per person**

4 nights bed, breakfast and evening meal at this lovely 3 star hotel.

Coach travel from Manchester. Daily outings by coach.

There are still some spaces available with a very limited numbers of single rooms, so it would be preferable if you could share a double or if you were a couple.

This holiday is also open to people who are not in the u3a, so invite your friends as well.

For further information contact **Anne Clarke on**



**BREAKING NEWS!**

**ENGINEERS HAVE JUST  
MADE A CAR THAT CAN  
RUN ON PARSLEY...**

**NOW THEY'RE HOPING TO  
MAKE BUSES & TRAINS  
THAT RUN ON THYME!**



# North West Region

## Summer School

12<sup>th</sup>—15<sup>th</sup> August 2025

at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU).

Full details at: <https://northwestregion.u3asite.uk/summer-school-2025/>



### Archaeology around Cottonopolis

Tutor : Maggy Simms

Manchester became the world's first industrial city in the 19th century. Based firmly in textile production, it attracted the nickname 'Cottonopolis'. But in the rush to create wealth, the older past was damaged, scattered and largely lost. In our few days together, we'll explore the sites that throw light on what that distant past looked like.

### An Introduction to Ancient Egypt

Tutor: Neil Stevenson

This course is aimed at anyone interested in learning about Ancient Egypt, from the predynastic to Greco-Roman period, covering four thousand years of Egyptian history. The course is suitable for complete beginners with no prior knowledge and also those with some knowledge and a desire to learn more.



### Intermediary Ukulele

Tutor: Debra Smith

The course is for players at an intermediate level. Enrolees must bring their own ukulele. Amongst other areas, suitable for the experience of those attending the course, will cover the following: -

- a. Reading tab and playing an instrumental piece
- b. Using your ukulele as a percussion instrument
- c. Bass melody lines and riffs

The list of courses available at the Summer School is as follows, with full details of all courses available on the above website link: -

Literature 'I have something to say'	Tutor: Meg Shaw
Archaeology around Cottonopolis	Tutor: Maggy Simms
Art - A Pot-Pourri	Tutor: Gill Baynes
Art - Challenges	Tutor: Jacqueline Cartwright
Folk Music	Tutor: Gill Russell
Intermediary Ukulele	Tutor: Debra Smith
Uzbekistan - Heart of the Silk Road	Tutor: Kelvin Rushworth
An Introduction to Ancient Egypt	Tutor: Neil Stevenson

**Places are filling up quickly for these courses, so please apply soon**

# VE 80 Celebration, Didsbury

Friday May 9th 2025, 7.00pm

St Catherine's Community Centre, School Lane

Tickets £15 pp

Didsbury Good Neighbours, Didsbury Civic Society  
and Didsbury Probus are organising  
a community evening party celebrating VE 80.

Tickets available from  
Didsbury Good Neighbours  
Didsbury Probus

Or contact Gordon Browne 

When buying tickets please let us know of any dietary requirements.

Tickets include a Hot pot supper, dessert, tea or coffee.,  
followed by live entertainment, singalong session,  
free raffle (option to buy extra tickets) and dancing.

A bar will be available all evening. Last orders: 11pm

For people wishing to come dressed in outfits of the period,  
there will be prizes!



**BIG BOWLS WEEKEND**  
24th to 26th May 2025

**Bowdon Bowling Club** - St Mary's Road, Bowdon are taking part in the BCGBA 'Big Bowls Weekend' by throwing our club open to prospective bowlers on Saturday 24th May between 2 and 5pm. As a past u3a member

myself I'd like to offer a warm welcome to any u3a member who has wondered about Crown Green Bowling but never had the opportunity to try. Our members will be present on the day to give advice and encouragement perhaps with tea and biscuits to follow.

For more information, contact Ric Stubbs:



## MANCHESTER GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

### GEOLOGY DAY

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Manchester Geological Society are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. They are planning to run a Geology Day aimed at u3a members and their friends. It will be held in the Geology Department at the University of Manchester on Oxford Road. The planned date is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

The day would consist of two to three talks on themes relating to the geology of the North West of England, (including an introduction to the general geology of the area), with the opportunity to examine specimens and maps from the University collection. The target audience is the amateur geologist or someone reading this, who may not have really thought of geology before, but who thinks, 'that sounds interesting'. They also plan to hold a number of field trips in the Manchester area related to the event. One of these might form part of the event. The event would run from mid-morning to early afternoon.

The Manchester Geographical Society is seeking to gauge the level of interest in such an event. Please go to the North West u3a site: [northwestregion.u3asite.uk/u3a\\_events/manchester-geographical-society-geology-day/](http://northwestregion.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/manchester-geographical-society-geology-day/)

From this web page, you can link to an online form which you can fill in to express your interest. If there is enough interest from u3a members across the region, then the event can go ahead.



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

##### **"Scientists, Engineers, Mathematicians and Medics associated with Didsbury" by Diana Leitch**

*With Didsbury's close proximity to educational, academic, medical and manufacturing heartland of Manchester, Didsbury became home for many very prominent people in their field. Come and see how many of them you know.*

#### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

##### **"Dementia - Curable and/or preventable " by Bob Baldwin**

*A brief introduction about what dementia is and who is at risk. Looking at treatments, new drugs and whether or not they are a breakthrough. Also discussions about strategies for preventing dementia.*

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.



# 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

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



### **BETROTHAL IN A MONASTERY (Prokofiev)**

Lyric-Comic opera after Sheridan's Duenna. One of Prokofiev's most radiant and buoyant works. Beautiful staging by Kirov Theatre. Anna Netrebko stars as the heroine, Louise

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2025**



### **ELEKTRA (Richard Strauss)**

A woman totally at the end of her tether, single-minded in her thoughts of vengeance, a powerful and tragic presence. Strauss's Elektra is a searing masterpiece of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**



### **NORMA (Bellini)**

A priestess is torn between love and duty in a timeless tale of love and betrayal. Star soprano, Sonya Yoncheva, brings the Bel Canto!



**WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

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

### **"Why Are There No Green Stars?" by Paul Money**

*This talk explores how we see and perceive colour and why, when we view the stars, there appear to be no green stars out there!*

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

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

## QUIZ

### METROLINK



All the of the answers are the full or part names of tram stops

1. “The Phantom of the Opera”, “Chicago” and “The Lion King” are the longest running musicals on this famous street.
2. A famous landmark in the middle of Rome
3. Melbourne is the capital of this state.
4. Swelling of the parotid glands is the most common symptom. The parotid glands are a pair of glands responsible for producing saliva. They're located in either side of your face, just below your ears. What is this illness?
5. What to look out for in January?
6. The Theatre of Dreams (on a good day!)
7. The nationality of a host of Q.I.
8. The largest city in Alaska
9. Cosgrove Hall’s happiness dragon in Wheelie World
10. A famous Welsh actor who starred in ‘The Spy who came in from the cold’ and ‘Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf’. He was one half of a world-famous couple.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

**My wife has just fainted on the luggage carousel at the airport!  
But I think she's OK - she's coming round slowly.**



Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 25th March 2025

Castlefield to Salford Quays



The rain held off for our walk to Salford Quays. We met up at Deansgate-Castlefield tram stop and made our way to the Bridgewater canal. This canal, opened in 1761, was the first great achievement of the canal age, and it paved the way for the canal-mania of the 18th and 19th centuries. It was built by the Duke of Bridgewater to transport coal, from his mines in Worsley, to Manchester. This area of the canal in Castlefield has been regenerated and provides a lovely walk.

We made our way out of the city, crossing the canal at the wonderfully-named “Throstle Nest bridge”. From here, we dropped down on to the Manchester Ship canal. We paused briefly to look at what was left of Pomona docks and Shirley showed us some old photos of Pomona dock and Pomona Island, which was opened in 1845 and was at the heart of Manchester’s entertainment scene during the industrial revolution. It was home to the Royal Pomona Palace which, during its time, was the largest of its kind in the country, seating up to 30,000 people!

We walked along the ship canal, passing “Gnome Island”, which has been a home to Gnorman the gnome from 2017. Since then he has been joined by many of his gnome family and friends, including his wife, Gnorma. After wishing the gnome family well, we continued our walk up to Salford Quays and crossed the bridge into the Lowry Centre, where we enjoyed our lunch at the Harvester restaurant. I wonder what the gnomes had for their lunch. Perhaps they had the short ribs followed by strawberry short cake.



## 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 every Friday 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>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>Gary Pearson</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 GROUP</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 Nazarene College. <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. Broadway
2. St Peters Square
3. Victoria
4. Oldham Mumps
5. Sale
6. Old Trafford
7. Sandy Toksvig - Dane (Road)
8. Anchorage
9. Chorlton
10. Richard Burton (Road)



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# May 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<b>1</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 - 11:15</b> <b>Circus Skills</b> Suspended until further notice. Spanish Conversation <b>14:00</b>	<b>2</b> Bridge <b>10:00 – 12:00</b> (Every Friday) Italian Conversation <b>10:30</b> Getting by in Welsh <b>10:30</b> St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage Keep Fit <b>11:30</b>
<b>5</b>  <b>Early May Bank Holiday</b>  Beginners/Improvers <b>Bridge 13:30-15:30.</b> See Hilary's email for directions to today's location which is the DGN Centre in Didsbury Park.	<b>6</b> Table Tennis / Badminton. <b>10:00</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> <b>General Meeting 14:00-16:00</b> <b>Didsbury Baptist Church</b>	<b>7</b> Book Group 1. Meg's house <b>10:30.</b> Bird Watching & Nature. <b>11:00–12:00</b> If interested, contact Rita: [REDACTED]	<b>8</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 - 11:15</b> Book Group 3. <b>13:30</b> HOME Café, Emmanuel Church	<b>9</b> Bridge <b>10:00 – 12:00</b> (Every Friday) Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> Board Games <b>14:00-16:00.</b> Parrswood Pub Poetry Writing (With. Lib.) <b>14:00-16:00</b>
<b>12</b> Creative Photography <b>10:30</b> The Parsonage Poetry Appreciation <b>11:00</b> Victoria Grange Beginners/Improvers Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b> <i>New players see 19<sup>th</sup>.</i>	<b>13</b> Table Tennis / Badminton. <b>No meeting.</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> Singing for fun <b>14:00–16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church.	<b>14</b> Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter	<b>15</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 - 11:15</b> Egyptology <b>10:30-12:30</b> The Parsonage Spanish Conversation <b>14:00</b> Community Sing-Along <b>14:00</b> BELONG M20 2UW	<b>16</b> Bridge <b>10:00 - 12:00</b> (Every Friday) Italian Conversation <b>10:30</b> Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> <b>New Music &amp; Mindfulness 14:00 – 15:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE
<b>19</b> Anglo Saxon & Medieval History Via Zoom <b>10:30</b> Psychology. <b>13:30</b> St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage Beginners/Improvers Bridge <b>13:30-15:30</b> <i>Please Note:            New players <u>must</u>            email Hilary <u>before</u>            the session date.</i>	<b>20</b> Table Tennis/ Badminton. <b>No meeting.</b> TaiChi. <b>No class.</b> Playreading <b>13:30</b> Philosophy <b>13:30</b> French Group <b>14:00-15:00</b> HOME Café, Emmanuel Church	<b>21</b> Lunch Group. <b>13:00</b> Armenian Tavern 3-5 Princess Street Manchester M2 4DF. <i>To be added to the contact list please email John at:</i> [REDACTED] Art Appreciation <b>14:00</b> Didsbury Parsonage.	<b>22</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 - 11:15</b> Piano Group see 29 <sup>th</sup> Current Affairs <b>13:30</b> Olde Cock Pub Didsbury Book Group 2. <b>13:30</b> Didsbury Library.	<b>23</b> Bridge <b>10:00 - 12:00</b> (Every Friday) Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) <b>10:30-12:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> <b>New Music &amp; Mindfulness 14:00 – 15:00</b> St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE
<b>26</b>  <b>Spring Bank Holiday</b>  Beginners/Improvers <b>Bridge 13:30-15:30.</b> See Hilary's email for directions to today's location which is the DGN Centre in Didsbury Park.	<b>27</b> Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter Table Tennis / Badminton. <b>No meeting.</b> TaiChi <b>13:00-14:00</b> Singing for Fun <b>14:00–16:00</b> Didsbury Baptist Church.	<b>28</b> Knit & Natter <b>14:00-15:30</b> <i>New venue:</i> The Nazarene College. Dene Road M20 2GU  <b>OVAS 15:00–17:15.</b> [REDACTED]	<b>29</b> Ukulele <b>10:00 - 11:15</b>  <b>Piano Group 11:00</b> [REDACTED] <i>Note: Places are limited so contact group leader first.</i>	<b>30</b> Bridge <b>10:00 - 12:00</b> (Every Friday) German Conversation <b>10:30</b> Nazarene. Creative Writing <b>10:30</b> (With. Lib.) Keep Fit <b>11:30</b> Cinema <b>12:15</b>