

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

**AROUND THE
WORLD IN 10 TREES**
A tree walk around
Manchester Page 6

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK
A campaign to
celebrate and
recognize the
contributions of
volunteers Page 8

**NW REGION
CONFERENCE**
Next month sees the
North West region
conference and AGM
Page 9



Check out our website

Registered Charity Number
1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



The Walking for Health group taking a well deserved rest outside Chadkirk Chapel during their walk to Romiley along the Peak Forest canal on an extremely hot day.

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

NO LATER than Saturday 21st June 2025

Printed by Peter Woolley, Offset & Digital Printers, 31 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, M20 6TW. Tel: 0161 445 9607

Email: matt@didsburyprinters.co.uk. Web: www.didsburyprinters.co.uk

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Chair and External Ambassador	Beryl Cowen		
Secretary	Andrew Bradbury	smu3a.secretary@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Ian Burn	smu3a.treasurer@gmail.com	
Membership Secretary	Joanie Yoffe	smu3amembership@gmail.com	
Assistant Membership Secretary	Patricia Ford		
Groups Co-ordinator / Vice Chair	Diane Ward	smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com	
Publicity	Wena Stevenson		
Safeguarding Officers	Pam Smith Liz Williams	smu3a.safeguarding@gmail.com	

SUPPORT (non-committee)

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

GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 3rd June at 2.00pm

“A Life Less Ordinary” by Philip Caine

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,

A few weeks ago this country remembered VE Day 1945. I attended an event in Didsbury organised by the Civic Society. It was a time to reflect, reminisce and enjoy good food and fun. I met up with friends, old and new, and it was a great evening. Peace in our time. This, however, is not strictly true as there has only been 1 in 100 years where there has been no conflict. Remembering war, destruction and sacrifices is still a daily news item and could make us depressed. We do not have world peace. However, we can help towards peace in our own communities as we in the u3a, work together.

It is so lovely to see smiling faces at our monthly meetings and to hear happy chatter and laughter over coffee. In our interest groups, it is good to see people happy and getting along with each other. (If you're there and come across any problems, please see the committee).

We may not be politicians or diplomats working for world peace, but by the way we live and help each other, we can do our bit to bring forth peace in our community. A cup of coffee and a listening ear or a helping hand to a neighbour, all help to develop harmonious communities. May we in South Manchester u3a be known as peace loving welcoming people.

Enjoy the sunshine and here's to a happy, harmonious, and peaceful community.

Beryl

NATIONAL AND NORTH WEST NEWS

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

National Newsletter: May newsletter can be found here: [May 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

Helen Rourke

Michael Ward

Carol Orgel-Rosel

John Lawrence

Judy Walker

Tradesperson Book

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



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



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

We are giving the following performances: -

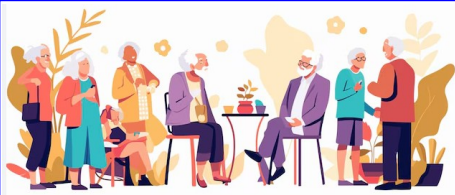
Thursday 12th June 2025 at 2pm at BELONG (M20 2UW)

Friday 4th July 2025 at 2pm at Buccleuch Lodge (M20 2XA)

To celebrate the NHS birthday and for prayers to USA!

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

Contact Mike Evans for more details on



GENERAL COFFEE MORNING

Tuesday 17th June 2025 at 11am

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

The Food Group



South Manchester u3a is offering its members the opportunity to join a new group called "The Food Group".

The idea is that a small group of food enthusiasts or members with an interest in expanding their repertoire in the kitchen, might meet up on a monthly basis to share and enjoy cooking ideas.

The sessions will take the form of 2 hours in a host's house where the host will choose the dish(es), buy the ingredients and lead the rest of the group in a joint cooking session. Then

the group will sit down and enjoy eating the food and will discuss the session.

The 'host' will rotate through the group members, so if the group comprises 6 people the hosting will fall to each group member once every 6 months.

If this is something which you would like to take part in, or you wish to have further information, please contact Rob Tomlinson on

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 2pm

at Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“A Life Less Ordinary” by Philip Caine



Born in 1950 in Barrow-in-Furness, Philip's working life began in the hotel business. His career developed in the oil industry and 30 years were spent in places such as the North Sea, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia. From 2003, he spent 7 years in post-war Baghdad, working with the American coalition, then a further 3 years running oil services companies in Dubai. He retired in 2015 and began writing and public speaking. Since then, he has spoken at over 500 venues and written 7 fictional adventure thrillers and 2 crime thrillers.

Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 11th June 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 travel 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 Anne Clarke on



Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 24th June 2025

Marple to Dobbie's Garden Centre Centre

A 3.1-mile walk via the Peak Forest Canal. Mostly good paths, some steep ups and downs, some steps. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a travel pass if you have one. Meet at Stockport interchange by the ticket office at 10.20. Lunch at Dobbie's Garden Centre. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on

Around the World in Ten Trees

In May, I went on a guided walk led by Anne Beswick and organised by the National Trust. Anne is a member of Heaton Moor u3a, so I was interested to meet her and find out about her walk.

The walk was about 10 trees in Manchester city centre which have enhanced and decorated our environment. Like many Mancunians, they come from many parts of the world and have many different stories. They beautify our city and deal with our changing climate. Most of the time, we hardly notice their existence. This was a chance to have a look at nature in our city and the stories it's got to tell.

1. Manchester Poplars (*Populus nigra* subsp *betulifolia*) - St John's Garden

The Manchester Poplar is one of only two trees which is named after a city, the other is the London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*). Both named after their respective cities as they are two of the few trees which are able to survive in the most polluted conditions, and are found in the two greatest cities of the Industrial age. The Black Poplar or Manchester Poplar is the most endangered native tree in Britain.



2. Willows (*Salix*) - Bridgewater Basin

This is a fine example of a group of willows in their natural waterside environment. People have taken advantage of the medicinal properties of willow trees since ancient times (as early as 400 BC). Chewing on willow bark was said to be an effective way of treating fever and inflammation. This is because the bark contains salicin, which is a chemical similar to the active ingredient in aspirin - acetylsalicylic acid.



3. River Birch (*Betula nigra*) - Hanging Ditch, Deansgate

A good example of modern landscape architecture and an imaginative species choice. When he once spotted it on a tour of the United States in the 1860s, Prince Maximilian of Austria judged it the most beautiful of trees.



4. Robinia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) - Canal Street

Here is a good example of a linear monoculture group lining the canal edge and narrow cobbled street giving character and shading to a popular and vibrant street scene. Also known as the Black Locust, the name locust is said to have been given to the Robinia by Jesuit missionaries, who thought that this was the tree that supported St. John in the wilderness, but it is native only to North America. The locust tree of Spain (*Ceratonia siliqua* or Carob Tree), which is also native to Syria and the entire Mediterranean basin, is said to be the true locust of the New Testament.



5. Redwoods (*Sequoioideae*) – UMIST, Sackville Street

These are impressive specimens with an exciting future growth potential which is very unusual in city centres. The earliest redwoods showed up on Earth shortly after the dinosaurs, before flowers, birds, spiders and, of course, humans. Redwoods have been around for about 240million years.



6. London Plane (*Platanus × acerifolia*) - Friends Meeting House, Mount Street

A striking example of a large street tree being successfully retained in close proximity to buildings. Its positioning blends and softens the architecturally old and the new. A single urban tree is capable of removing 21.8kg (48lb) of particles such as black carbon (soot) and diesel matter from the air every day.



7. Ash (*Fraxinus*) - Sackville Gardens

The largest example of its species in the city centre. In Norse mythology the tree of life was an Ash tree called Yggdrasil which grew on an island surrounded by the ocean and its trunk reached up to the heavens, and its boughs spread out over all the countries of the Earth.



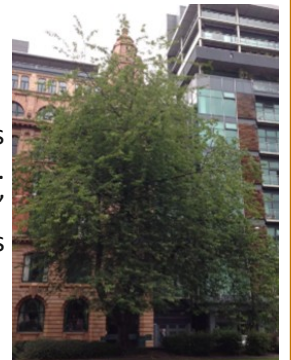
8. Sweet Chestnut, Tulip Tree, Liquid Amber, Dawn Redwood, English Oak, Pin Oak - Manchester Cathedral

An unusual group demonstrating the wide variety of species that can succeed in urban areas. It will be interesting to see which trees prosper with potential future climatic changes.



9. Cherry (*prunus avium*) - Parsonage Gardens

An impressive flowering species within green space setting. The Roman general Lucullus is said to have committed suicide in 56BC when he realised he was running out of cherries. Lucullus had introduced cherries to Europe in 72BC and named the cherry tree 'Cerasus' after a town of that name in what is now Turkey. The world record for spitting a cherry pip is 93ft 6.5in, set by Rick Krause of Michigan in 2003.



10. Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*) - Brazenose Street

Although the Indian bean tree grows best in full sunlight and with moist soil, as its Brazenose position shows, it is quite adaptable and has flourished almost every place that it has been introduced. The Indian bean tree is the only source of food for the *Catalpa sphinx* moth. Its caterpillars can completely strip a tree – but also make good fishing bait. Some anglers even plant themselves a bean tree orchard to guarantee a ready supply.



This was a fascinating and informative talk as well as a chance to get a bit of exercise. Have a walk around this route yourself, and see if you can spot all of the trees. You will never look at Manchester city centre in the same light again.

Ian Burn



2nd – 8th June
2025

#VolunteersWeek

Volunteers' Week:

A UK-Wide Celebration

Volunteers' Week is an annual UK-wide campaign held from the first Monday in June to celebrate and recognise the contributions of volunteers.

Launched in 1984, this initiative has been running for over 40 years, providing organisations and communities a platform to thank current and past volunteers for their invaluable efforts.

The campaign highlights the diversity and unity of volunteer work across the UK. In its 40th year, the campaign underwent a rebrand, introducing a vibrant identity to inspire continued engagement.

Volunteers' Week fosters connections between national organisations and grassroots groups, celebrating the spirit of volunteering that enriches communities each year.

This year's celebration runs from **Monday 2nd – Sunday 8th June.**

The value of volunteering

Volunteering is a vital component of UK society, with millions contributing their time and skills annually across Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland. These inspiring statistics highlight the incredible contributions of volunteers and the potential for even greater engagement across the UK.

- 14.2 million people in the UK have formally volunteered at least once a month
- Volunteering added £4.6 billion in productivity gains to the UK economy in 2024
- 25 million people in the UK volunteered informally at least once in the year



Most people in South Manchester u3a volunteer their time by attending group activities. Let's not forget our group leaders, who volunteer their time to organise and run the group activities and last, but not least, the committee members who give up their time to ensure that South Manchester u3a continues to prosper as an active and successful organisation which provides support and friendship for its members.

You could volunteer in other areas as well. I volunteer for the National Trust at Lyme Park. This helps the Trust to continue to save historic houses and to allow the general public to enjoy them. The opportunities are endless and you will be benefitting by making new friends, challenging yourself and learning new skills.

For more information about volunteering, go to the volunteers' week website: <https://volunteersweek.org/>

Programme

10.00	Registration and refreshments
10.55	Welcome
11.00	Speaker - Professor Steve Barrett
12.00	AGM
12.45	Lunch*
13.45	Group activity 1
14.30	Comfort break
14.45	Group activity 2
15.30	Chat time and goodbye

* Lunch – bring your own, eat at local cafes or order a sandwich buffet at the venue for £5, payable in advance. To book the lunch buffet please send £5 before June 23rd by BACS to the North West Account no: 00197002 Sort code: 30-90-16 and use NW AGM as the reference or post a cheque made payable to NW Region of u3as to Alan Hough,

Four activity groups will run in the afternoon. They will last approximately 40 minutes. Attendees can book to join two groups.

- **Network opportunity** – Time to talk with other members about their u3as.
- **Hand Bell Ringing** – a chance to sample handbell ringing. Please note, this will be limited to 8 people for each session.
- **Japanese Calligraphy** – Try writing some of those very confusing Japanese characters.
- **Interest Groups** – an informal chat about the sorts of activities your interest groups organise and different ways they are managed.

To register to attend the AGM and to select your preferred activities go to the NW region website:

https://northwestregion.u3asite.uk/u3a_events/north-west-region-agm-2025/

Please note, refreshments will be available on arrival, at lunchtime and at the afternoon break. There is no charge for these.

The venue is a short walk from both Liverpool Lime Street mainline station and Central Station on the Wirral Line. It is accessible and there are lifts to all floors. Parking is very limited at the venue but there is a public car park nearby in Hamilton Street. There is a discount at the carpark if you book in advance using the following code: QUAKERSLV. Please let me know if you need directions.

If you have any queries please contact Gill Russell: u3anwrchair@gmail.com or phone/text:



North West Region

Summer School



12th—15th 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



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
Carers Forum**
caring about carers



A carer is someone of any age who supports, unpaid, a relative, partner or friend. The person they care for may need help due to physical or mental illness, disability, frailty or addiction and could not manage without that support. A carer does not always live with the person they care for, or care for them full time.

You might not think of yourself as a carer, but just as someone's partner or friend. Recognising that you might be a carer means that you can access support, advice and guidance relevant to your situation.

Contact Point

The Contact Point acts as a first point of contact for support for unpaid carers in the Manchester City Council area who require advice and support.

Call 0161 543 8000 10am – 4pm Monday – Friday (except bank holidays).

Carers Manchester South

Carers Manchester South (CMS) works to identify unpaid carers and improve services in their community. CMS run regular free events for carers including bowling and RHS Bridgewater. The team also does lots of outreach work to identify new carers and raise awareness among professionals about how to best signpost carers.

If you are a carer wanting to hear more about CMS or a professional wanting us to support any events you run please contact: cmsouth@manchestercarersforum.org.uk

Do you struggle to hear conversations in difficult listening situations?



If you are 60 or older and struggle to hear in challenging listening situations, you may be suitable to participate in a research study investigating the development of communication strategies that may help.

Are you eligible?:

- ✓ Over 60
- ✓ Struggle to hear conversations
- ✓ May or not wear hearing aids
- ✓ May or not have had a hearing test
- ✓ Read, write, and speak English

Study details:

- Attend two sessions at the University of Manchester
- Complete questionnaires
- Discuss listening difficulties

Participant benefits

- Learn new strategies to help with hearing
- Share your experience of listening difficulties to help others
- Receive reimbursement for your participation

Contact

For further information or to get involved contact:
Gemma Perfect: gemma.perfect@manchester.ac.uk

QUIZ

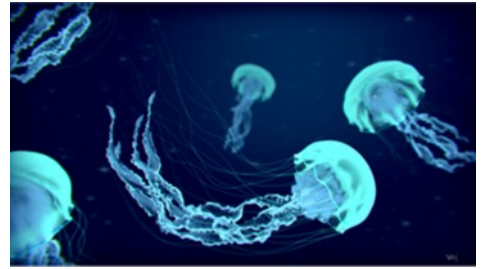
Animals

1. What are the most common farm animals on earth?

- a) Pigs b) Cows c) Chickens d) Goats

2. Which of the following describes a group of apes?

- a) A shrewdness b) A wisdom c) A jungle d) A posse



4. Puck the budgerigar has the world record vocabulary of any bird. How many words can he say?

- a) 28 b) 72 c) 172 d) 1,728

5. Which of these marine animals has been living on the earth for the longest time?

- a) Crocodile b) Turtle c) Shark d) Lobster

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18



Didsbury Probud Programme 2025

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

Thursday 5th June 2025

“All at Sea” by Mark Llewellyn

Mark tells the story of the Cunard Line on his time at sea, both as a passenger and an entertainer.

Thursday 19th June 2025

“My Life in Crime ” by Simon Michael KC

Now an author after 37 years as a barrister, working at the Old Bailey and other criminal courts, defending and prosecuting a wide selection of murderers, armed robbers, etc., he now writes crime thrillers.

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.



Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 29th April 2025

Romiley, Chadkirk Chapel and Peak Forest Canal



We met on what was probably the hottest day of the year so far. There were 22 of us on this walk although the photo doesn't reflect this for reasons which will become apparent.

We travelled by bus from Stockport to Romiley and, after making sure that we had ample water supplies and sunscreen, we made our way through a housing estate for a brief period then on to the Peak Forest canal. Just before the canal was Hyde Bank Farm which was built in the 17th century. Anne Hyde was allegedly born here or at least lived here in her early life. She went on to marry James, Duke of York in 1660. They had 8 children but only 2 survived to adulthood - Anne and Mary, both of who went on to become Queens. Sadly Anne herself died 11 years after marrying James, before he ascended to the throne, so she never became Queen.

After a short walk along the canal, we branched off into Kirk Wood. The path here was a little bit narrow and close to a steep drop down the valley, so 5 of our group opted to carry on following the canal and to meet up with the rest of the group further on. Those of us who went through the wood enjoyed beautiful and peaceful scenery and were treated to some butterflies performing a mating dance. This walk took us into the Chadkirk estate where we stopped by the chapel for a photo opportunity. (Hence not everyone is included in the group photo).

From the chapel, it was a very steep uphill to get back on to the canal and rejoin our missing group members. A short walk along the canal took us into Romiley where we enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Duke of York pub.

SMu3a Groups A-Z LIST

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

ANGLO SAXON AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY	Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 10.30 via Zoom. This group covers all aspects of Anglo Saxon and Viking life in depth through language and social history readings and discussions. Beryl Cowen
ART APPRECIATION	Monthly meetings held at Didsbury Parsonage on the afternoon of the third Wednesday of the month cover a wide variety of artistic topics. Talks are either by the leader Diane Ward or guest speakers, followed by tea and discussion. Diane Ward
BIRDWATCHING AND NATURE	Meeting on the first Wednesday of every month from 11-12. Ideal Exploring birds in their natural habitats interacting with plants and trees. Rita Berriman
BOARD GAMES	Lots of different games are played by this group which meets at the Parris Wood pub from 2-4 pm on the second Friday of the month. Christine Salamone
BOOK GROUP 1	Meeting at 10.30 am in Meg's home in Didsbury on the first Wednesday of the month. A small friendly group who enjoy reading and discussing a wide variety of books. Meg Davis
BOOK GROUP 2	Held at Didsbury Library 1.30 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month, meetings are led by members in turn to discuss titles suggested and agreed by the group members. Tom Grimshaw
BOOK GROUP 3	This group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm. There's no fixed venue but we meet in our homes on a rota. Johanna Keane
BRIDGE	Held at the Nazarene Chapel on Dene Rd, Didsbury. We meet 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. Liz Thornhill
BRIDGE for BEGINNERS	This group meets weekly on Mondays from 1.30-3.30, at Emmanuel Parish Centre on Barlow Moor Rd. This group is for beginners and improvers although more experienced players are also welcome to join. You don't need a partner. Hilary Poole
CINEMA	Meeting on the last Friday of the month at 12.15 in the downstairs bar of HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place. This group watches a variety films then meets afterwards to discuss them. Group Leader emails what's on the Tuesday before the meeting. Russell Ramsden
COMMUNITY SING-ALONG	This group sings well known songs in unison (no rehearsal time needed) in residential homes. Dates and times vary. Mike Evans
CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY	The group meets at Didsbury Parsonage at 10.30 on the second Monday of every month. The emphasis is on creativity rather than technical skill. Ann Howarth
CREATIVE WRITING	We meet at Withington Library on the last Friday of the month at 10.30 am. Members read and discuss their writings. New members always welcome. Gary Pearson
CURRENT AFFAIRS	This group meets to share and discuss items in the news on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm in Ye Olde Cock pub, Didsbury. Adrienne Simpson
DRAMATIC READERS	Held on the 3rd Friday of the month, both face to face and by Zoom. Beryl Cowen
EGYPTOLOGY	This group meets at 10.30-12.30 on the third Thursday of the month at Didsbury Parsonage, to discuss all aspects of early Egyptian art and culture. Kathryn Fyfe
FRENCH CONVERSATION	We meet on the third Tuesday of the month 2 - 3pm at HOME cafe. Speakers of all levels of conversational French are welcome. Jean Thompson

GERMAN CONVERSATION	This group is for those who would like to practice their spoken German. Last Friday of the month at the Nazarene. Diane Ward
GETTING BY IN WELSH	At 10.30 on the first Friday of every month, this group meets at St Nicholas Church, Burnage, to discuss the language, history and culture of Wales. Beryl Cowen or Wena Stevenson
HOLIDAY GROUP	Keep an eye on the monthly newsletter for information about forthcoming holidays.
ITALIAN CONVERSATION	We are a small group looking to improve our Italian through listening and conversation. Please note that there is a separate group for learners – see Parliamo Italiano below. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday mornings of the month from 10.30 – 12.00. Annie Dodd
KEEP FIT	This fitness group caters for a variety of fitness levels – there is no competition! It meets every Friday morning at 11.30 at St Nicholas Church Hall in Burnage. Anne Clarke
KNIT AND NATTER	We work on either our own projects or on items for charity. Don't worry if you can't knit—this is the place to learn. It's never too late! We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at Nazarene College. Diane Ward
LOCAL INTEREST VISITS	These will be advertised in the newsletter from time to time. Jill Evans
LUNCH CLUB	The club meets monthly at a variety of local restaurants and pubs, chosen with a view to ease of parking or public transport as well as price. John Olbrich
MEDITATION	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. Paul Grace
OPERATIC AND VOCAL APPRECIATION SOCIETY (OVAS)	Lovers of opera and music meet from 3.30 – 5.45 on the last Wednesday of every month. Len Evans
PIANO GROUP	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. Hilary Taylor
PARLIAMO ITALIANO Let's speak Italian!	A friendly and fun group for people who have little or no Italian but would like to learn. We aim to be able to understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases which would be of value on an Italian holiday. We aim to be able to interact in a simple way and to improve with time so that in due course, members could move on to the Italian Conversation group or attend both. We meet at St Christopher's Church, Moorgate Avenue, from 10.30 – 12.00 on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Andrew Bradbury
PHILOSOPHY	This group meets at 1.30 pm at Withington Library on the third Tuesday of the month. Sandra Grant
PLAYREADING	Meetings are at Withington Library at 1.30 on the third Tuesday afternoon of the month. Numbers are limited for this group, but please contact the group leader to register your interest. Helen Nicolson (text or leave a voice message as I do not answer unknown numbers)
POETRY APPRECIATION	Poems on a chosen theme are discussed on the 1st Monday of the month from 11.00-12.30 at Victoria Grange, Barlow Moor Road. The group is currently full. Contact group leader to go on waiting list. Lynne Taylor

POETRY WRITING	This group meets on the 2 nd Friday of the month from 2pm – 4pm at Withington Library Paul Grace
PSYCHOLOGY	This group meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 2 pm via Zoom and the 4th Monday of the month face to face at St Nicholas Church, Burnage at 1pm. Beryl Cowen
SINGING FOR FUN	This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 2pm at Didsbury Baptist Church Judith Newton
SPANISH CONVERSATION	This group meets on the 1 st and 3 rd Thursdays of the month at 2 pm at the Slug and Lettuce in Didsbury Debbie Delange
TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON	Every Tuesday from 10.00-12.00, this group meets at the Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield. Equipment can be provided and the cost per session is £3.50. June Slatter
TAI CHI	Gentle exercise which benefits balance and calmness at the Lower Hall, Emmanuel Offices, behind the church from 1-2 pm every Tuesday. Peggy Foster
UKULELE	Would you like to strum and sing along with the ukelele group? Beginners are welcome. We meet from 10 – 11.15 at the Upper Hall of Emmanuel Parish Centre, behind the church, every Thursday Gerard Allcock
WALKING FOR HEALTH 1	Walks of around 3 miles are enjoyed by this group on the last Tuesday of every month. Details are given in the newsletter. Ian Burn
WALKING FOR HEALTH 2	This group meets on the second Wednesday of every month to follow the same route as Walking for Health Group 1. Anne Clarke

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- 1.) Chickens 2.) A shrewdness 3.) Eye 4.) 1,728 5.) Shark 6.) Paws



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

Monday 9th June 2025 at 7pm

“Active Galactic Nuclei and Supermassive Black Holes” by Ian Robson

Monday 14th July 2025 at 7pm

AGM and members’ evening

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

For more details visit www.wdas2.com.

**I went to an antique auction yesterday...
Three people bid on me.**

June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2</p> <p>Poetry Appreciation 11:00-12:30 Victoria Grange</p> <p>Psychology 14:00 Zoom</p> <p>Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see info for 9th Jun below.</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton. No meeting this week.</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>General Meeting 14:00- 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30. Closed Group.</p> <p>Bird Watching & Nature. 11:00 – 12:00 If interested, contact Rita: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Bridge 10:00 - 12:00 (Every Friday)</p> <p>Italian Conversation 10:30 – 12:00</p> <p>Getting by in Welsh 10:30 St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players must email Hilary before the session date.</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Singing for Fun 14:00 – 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church</p> <p>Community Sing- Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Bridge 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano No meeting this week.</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p> <p>Board Games 14:00-16:00 Parrswood Pub</p> <p>Poetry Writing 14:00-16:00 (Withington Library)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see info for 9th Jun above.</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Table Tennis/ Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Playreading 13:30</p> <p>Philosophy 13:30 Withington Library</p> <p>French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lunch Group. 13:00 <i>To be added to the list contact John at:</i> [REDACTED]</p> <p>Art Appreciation 14:00 The Parsonage.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Ukelele 10:00- 11:15</p> <p>Egyptology 10:30-12:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Piano Group 11:00 [REDACTED]</p> <p><i>Note: Places are limited so contact group leader first.</i></p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Bridge 10:00 - 12:00 (Every Friday)</p> <p>Italian Conversation 10:30 – 12:00</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p> <p>Music & Mindfulness 14:00 – 15:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see info for 9th Jun.</i></p> <p>30</p> <p>Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see info for 9th Jun.</i></p> <p>Psychology 13:30 St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Singing for Fun 14:00 – 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p> <p>Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Knit & Natter 14:00-15:30 The Nazarene College, Dene Road M20 2GU</p> <p>OVAS 15:00 – 17:15. [REDACTED]</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library</p> <p>Current Affairs 13:30 The Olde Cock Pub</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bridge 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>Creative Writing 10:30</p> <p>German Conversation 10:30 Venue TBA</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p> <p>Cinema 12:15</p> <p>Music & Mindfulness 14:00 – 15:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p>