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Check out our website

Registered Charity Number
1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



The u3a Facebook group September photo submission: "Holidays".

Sue Treagus submitted hers. She spent a most wonderful holiday in Italy. It was the first time she'd holidayed abroad in 20 years. She was staying on a working vineyard in Tuscany with her daughter and daughter-in-law, enjoying being looked after and visiting many places that she'd long wanted to see.

Here is an upward looking view of San Gimignano

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

NO LATER than Tuesday 21st October 2025

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GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 2.00pm

“Float to Live” by Gwyn Williams

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 on a lovely Autumn day.

A few weeks ago I took my 2 great granddaughters to Manchester Airport's viewing park. Lots of noise, huge aircraft up close and lots of fun. There were many people there; some sightseeing and others waving goodbye or hello to friends and family. It was actually quite emotional.

Life is full of such moments; welcoming and saying goodbye. I sometimes regard the u3a like that viewing park. Saying goodbye to friends who can no longer meet with us and the joy of saying hello to new members. A warm welcome to all our new members and we continue to miss others.

We need to make the most of all of the time that we have been given. I will let you into a secret. When I have nothing to do on free days, I sometimes sit on the couch with the TV on and play canasta on my phone. Sometimes I am busy, but when not, I actually feel more tired. My body needs activity. In fact doctors recommend that we are active everyday, if only for an hour. So keep fitters, well done! Walkers, well done, and everyone in a group, well done because being with others is very healthy, what ever you are doing. It is so good to see members enjoying mental and physical groups. So if you have not joined a group do please think of doing so. You will benefit so much.

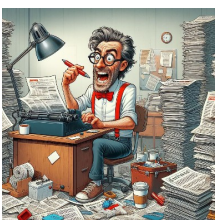
Group leaders, you do a grand job every week, monthly or fortnightly. We on the committee would love to see you all on Thursday October 9th at 2pm at Didsbury Baptist Church to meet together and hear how your groups are getting on. Please put that date in your diary, we really want to see you.

Christmas is 2 months away (oh boy,) and our Christmas plans are in place. December 2nd at our general meeting, the ukulele group will lead us in a sing song and also there will be a quiz.

The day after, Wednesday 3rd, is our Christmas Lunch at Hough End. A snip at £22 with good food and more fun. Bookings are open today. So don't miss out. See Pat Ford at the monthly meeting or see the advert in this newsletter.

So let's press on, keeping body, mind and spirit healthy and active. Have a great enjoyable October.

Beryl



Message from the Editor

If you have an article or interesting story that you can submit for the newsletter which our readers might find enjoyable, I would be very grateful. The story could be about something which you have done with the u3a or it could be totally non-u3a related. Perhaps something you did on holiday, some interesting place which you have visited or something to do with your hobby.

Please email me: editor.smu3anews@gmail.com

NATIONAL AND NORTH WEST NEWS

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

National Newsletter: September's newsletter can be found here [September 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

Robert Higgo	Rebecca Craven	Don Campbell	Diane Frost
Bernadette Fallon	Joyce Barclay	Thomas Boyd	Michelle Registe
Nia Harper	Paul Miller	Lois Gale	Lorrie Morgan
Phil Slater	Paul Evans	Reba Badhuri	Louise Davies
Jacqueline Hill	Ann Harden		

Tradesperson Book

**This book has gone missing! Has anyone picked it up and taken it home by mistake?
Without it our members can't access some brilliant tradesmen**

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 2pm	"Float to Live" by Gwyn Williams
Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 2pm	"Women in Ancient Egypt" by Neil Stevenson
Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 2pm	A Performance by the SMu3a Ukulele Group Followed by a Christmas Quiz
Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 2pm	"The Neville Family and their Many Connections Including Didsbury, Burnage, and Bramall Hall" by Dr. Diana M Leitch
Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 2pm	"The British in Palestine" by Paul Atherton
Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 2.15pm	"Dementia. Can It Be Cured or Prevented?" by Dr. Robert Baldwin
Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 2pm	"My Life of Crime" by Simon Michael
Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 2pm	"All at Sea" by Mark Llewellyn
Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 2pm	TBA
Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 2pm	"The Lost Buildings of Manchester" by Jonathan Schofield
Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 2pm	"Centenarian Lady Hires Buff Butler" by Paul Isherwood

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“Float to Live” by Gwyn Williams



A brief history of the RNLI, coast and inland water safety and our role in staying safe near water.

Gwyn has been part of the RNLI water safety team as a volunteer for 11 years. His grandparents and parents lived in New Quay in Wales which has always had a lifeboat station. As a keen dinghy sailor in his teenage years, he recognised the invaluable role of the RNLI in saving lives at sea.



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

We are giving the following performances: -

Thursday 16th October 2025 at 2pm at BELONG (M20 2UW)

Monday 24th October 2025 at 2pm at BELONG

Our most recent songs bring us into the era of the 70's and 80's. Though starting with “The Deadwood Stage” and “I Whistle a Happy Tune”, we also include favourites from “Evita”, “The Jungle Book”, Jesus Christ Superstar”, “Phantom” and “Les Mis”.

This was the collection that I attempted to put together with the help of A.I. What a waste of time! It was like asking your newest office junior to undertake the tasks of your absent P.A. In fact, it took me back to the early days of computers in schools in the 60's, way before the BBC computers that were omnipresent in the 80's. Some will recall the FORTRAN programming, which did not use phrases, but where every symbol and piece of punctuation had to be perfect for the program to run. These were the days of IBM having a 70% world market share and computers occupying several large rooms. We would emphasise to the Sixth Form that these things were only machines which needed perfect instructions.

This is how I experienced ChatBox, which I read that our Government would like to be made available to everyone. Don't hold your breath! On the other hand, I also read that A.I. is leading to great medical breakthroughs. So, I will not rubbish all of A.I.

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

Contact Mike Evans for more details on

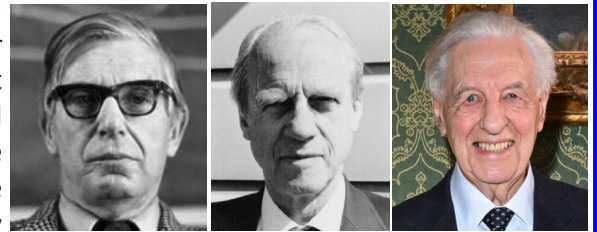


The History of the u3a

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The history of the u3a began in 1972 in France with the “Université de Troisième Âge” (University of the Third Age). It was founded by Professor Pierre Vellas of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Toulouse University. Each U3A university group is associated with a local university. The university affiliation generates various opportunities, such as highly qualified teaching personnel, a variety of subject choices, opportunity for students and faculty to conduct research based on the professional, cultural or historical experiences of the elderly. U3As do not issue diplomas but rather certificates and teach in many fields according to the interests of the groups of older students (usually 55+) such as computer skills, languages, entrepreneurship, hereditary law, religion, politics, etc. Sometimes U3As provide groups with vocational training and formal continuous education opportunities.

The UK movement started in 1981, inspired by the French model but with a distinct “self-help” approach emphasizing peer-to-peer learning rather than a formal academic structure. The movement aimed to provide opportunities for learning and social engagement for people in their “third age” – no longer in full time employment – using the knowledge and skills within the membership itself. The British U3A movement was founded by Peter Laslett, Michael Young and Eric Midwinter, who met at Cambridge University to discuss intellectual and cultural prospects for older people. Peter Laslett made a visit to the continent and on his return, pronounced the organisation admirable in its way but too elitist - Second Agers, mostly men, deciding what Third Agers should learn. The three friends knew that older people were perfectly capable of teaching each other. It is this mutual learning principle, forming a learning cooperative, which marks our organisation in the UK from other U3As around the world. The three set about getting the organisation off the ground.



Eric Midwinter, a distinguished educator, became the front man and made influential appearances on TV and Radio. Peter Laslett, a sociologist, helped to shape the aims and principles of the new organisation and Michael Young, later Sir Michael, was an enormously influential ideas man who set up many worthwhile projects in his lifetime - not least the Open University. The three friends put their reputation on the line and took the gamble to set up the first U3A in Cambridge. Objectors pointed out the number of LEA (local education authorities) and WEA (Workers’ Educational Associations) classes that were available at the time but the three academics and their supporters held out for their new ideas of self-help learning. Cambridge was closely followed by the founding of London U3A. Several of our members were closely involved in the birth of the London U3A and some years later started the Ealing Group. The founders’ act of faith was rewarded and now there are around 500 U3A groups in the UK and more are being formed all the time; we are expanding rapidly. In 2020, the UK organisation changed its name to u3a in a rebrand.



The UK u3a is designed to be a self-funded, self-help organisation, independent of academic institutions. Members are not working for qualifications but simply for the pleasure of learning, and everyone can take turns being a “teacher”. The “third age” refers to a period in life after full-time employment or raising a family, offering the opportunity to learn for its own sake. The initial development in the UK received £9,000 from the Nuffield Foundation used to establish the movement and create a national umbrella organisation. The movement grew rapidly in the UK, with the establishment of numerous local groups and the formation of the national umbrella organisation, the Third Age Trust in 1983.



The core principals of the u3a are: -

Life-long Learning

Encouraging people to continue learning and engaging in new subjects and activities.

Peer-to-Peer Learning

Members share their knowledge and expertise, learning from each other in a collaborative way.

Non-qualification

Learning is pursued for enjoyment and interest with no formal qualifications being awarded or required.

Self-funding and Self-help

The organisation is supported by member subscriptions and operates through voluntary efforts.



South Manchester u3a



The u3a movement may well be 44 years old but our very own South Manchester u3a is a relative baby at 23 years old. We were formed in September 2002 and quite a few of our current members were part of the creation of SMu3a.

September 2027 will mark our 25th anniversary and we would like to create an article for the newsletter in 2 years' time with stories about those early days.

We need your help! Were you present at the first meeting of our u3a in September 2002? What do you remember about that meeting? Did you make new friends who are still your friends? What groups did you join?

Even if you weren't at that first meeting but were a member in 2002/3, what can you remember about those days? If you have any stories or memories about those early days, would you please share them with us. If you have any photographs of those early days, that would be fantastic.

If you have anything which you could offer, please email the Editor: editor.smu3anews@gmail.com

If you would prefer to write down your memories on paper, you can give them to Ian Burn or any other committee member at one of the monthly meetings.

I know that it seems early to be doing this when the anniversary is 2 years away, but I want to capture your memories whilst they are still fresh in your mind. After all, as awful as it sounds, we are all getting older!

The u3a Coffee Morning - It's a Kind of Magic!

Our coffee morning in September was something special. We had a magician to perform for us! There were 30 people at the event, attracted I'm sure by the lure of the magic performance. Amongst the 30 attendees were several new members and this was their first taste of South Manchester u3a. They were welcomed and given our booklet containing details of all of the groups operating at SMu3a. Let's hope that they take the opportunity to join one or more groups.



The proceedings started with a 25-minute magic performance by Robert Newgrosh, who performed close up magic tricks using decks of cards. It was amazing! I couldn't tell how he did it. Perhaps the magic is real? He involved the audience in his tricks, asking them to examine the card closely and to choose cards where appropriate. It was very entertaining.

Following this, we had a 15-minute break where we could get our tea, coffee and biscuits. After this suitable refreshment, we sat down again so that Robert could tell us all about himself and what he does.



Robert Newgrosh, who is an award-winning trainer and performing magician, set up "Magic Skills for Schools" in 2008, which is a high-quality developmental programme for children in years 4, 5 and 6.

Magic is a great form of entertainment, but Robert recognised that it could also be used as part of children's education and development, given the wide range of skills involved. In particular, it was clear that teaching a child how to perform magic would boost their confidence and self-esteem. Magic Skills For Schools boosts confidence, self-esteem and social skills. In addition, it develops manual dexterity, memory, co-ordination, presentation, reasoning and verbal skills. The underlying concept at the heart of the programme is simple - magic increases a child's self-belief because once they can do something that's really amazing, it has the potential to change their whole outlook. At the end of the programme the children perform a show for classmates and parents, further boosting their confidence and self-esteem.

Thank you to Robert and thank you for all of the members who attended and made the coffee morning a great experience.

What do you call a magician who has lost their magic?

Ian.

SMU3A SEASONAL CONCERT



TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2025

2PM AT DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

THE SINGING FOR FUN GROUP WARMLY INVITES MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO OUR CHARITY CONCERT. WE'LL BE SHOWCASING SOME OF OUR RECENT SONGS AND ADDING A SEASONAL TOUCH.

BEING "SEASONAL", THERE WILL OF COURSE BE A CHANCE FOR YOU TO JOIN IN, SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP!

OBVIOUSLY, IT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY WINE AND MINCED PIES.

URGENT NEWS!

Do you know a pianist?

At Christmas we'll be losing the services of Bill Watson as our accompanist. At the concert, you'll realise that Bill is pretty difficult to replace!

Would you help us find his successor?

If you can think of anyone that we could discuss it with, please pass their details to Judith Newton or Mike Evans. Thanks.



u3a Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 12.30 for 1.00pm

Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road West, M21 7SX

Last Day for Booking is 16th November 2025

It's that time again and we need you to decide if you will definitely be attending — and to pay. The cost is £22 per head. The room hire and catering charges have both increased this year so, sadly, we have been unable to subsidise the lunch as much as usual and, with regret, we have increased our ticket price slightly, but this is the first price rise since 2019.

Last year the event was a big success. The food was good and everybody enjoyed the occasion. We intend to repeat it this year!

When booking, please specify your choice of meal: traditional turkey dinner or vegetarian Wellington and either Christmas pudding with brandy sauce or bread and butter pudding with ice cream and/or brandy sauce or ice cream alone.

There will be a performance by the ukelele group and perhaps a chance to sing along to some Christmas songs. Suggestions for other entertainments will be welcomed (no strippers!!). There will also be a raffle and a quiz. I hope that you can cope with the excitement

If you will be attending the October or November general meeting, you can sign the list and pay using card, cash or cheque. If you want to book but won't be attending the general meeting, please send your name and meal choices to xxxxxxxxxxxx or by post to: P A Ford, xxxxxxxx. We would prefer that you paid by bank transfer, if possible, using your name followed by Xmas as a reference. The bank details are as follows: -

Account Name:	South Manchester U3A
Account Sort Code:	40-31-20
Account Number:	61483765

Alternatively, you can send a cheque made out to South Manchester U3A



Age is a Number

During the last month I have been astounded by the activities, talent and ingenuity of older people.

First of all, I was at the NWu3a Summer School where people were sharing and learning about a range of subjects, including Archaeology, Art, Literature, Ukulele and Uzbekistan. It was a real pleasure to meet strong characters from all over the country, all sharing common goals.

Then, I went to see The Thursday Murder Club at the cinema. It was a truly positive presentation of active older people (thank you Richard Osman). The average age of the four lead actors is 77.

I listened to the BBC Prom from Bradford where Angelique Kidjo (Benin/France) brought the house down with her tribute to African Music. As a person of pensionable age, she danced, sang and roused the audience for two hours.

I went to Home Manchester for a wonderful concert as part of Japan Week. Most of the performers were of retirement age, with the highlight for me being Grand Cheer, a dance group made up of women aged 50 to 87. They were fantastic fun. Here is a picture of some of them (average age 70).



Russell Ramsden

Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 8th October 2025

Higher Broughton to Salford Crescent

A 3.3-mile walk on good paved paths, except for one stretch which could be muddy. Downhill to start then level. Some steps, no stiles. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Manchester Victoria train station by the information board at 10.25. Lunch available at the Old Pint Pot pub. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke.



Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 21st October 2025

Stockport to East Didsbury

A 3-mile easy walk by the River Mersey. Good paved, level paths. A few steps, no stiles or hills. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Stockport Interchange by the information office at 10.50 to start the walk. Lunch available at the Cheshire Lines pub. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn.



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

Monday 13th October at 7pm

“The Caldwell Catalogue” by Ingrid Hogan

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

For more details visit www.wdas2.com.



Opera at Menorah

Opera for All and Menorah Synagogue

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

30th October 2025



HAMLET (AMBROISE THOMAS)

A Danish prince becomes melancholic after the death of his father. But when the late king appears as a ghost and claims that he was murdered, events begin to spiral out of control. Thomas's adaptation was one of the most popular French operas of its day.

13th November 2025



ARABELLA (R STRAUSS)

On the surface, a simple comedy plot with Viennese waltzes and a late Romantic wall of sound – but, at a closer distance, an entertaining as well as multi-layered dismantling of values and binary role models.



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 2nd October 2025

"Sent to Siberia" by Terry Callahan

Terry, a cryobiologist, tells us of his experiences with the people and climate in this very large country. Come and listen to this very interesting and informative talk.

Thursday 16th October 2025

"Solar Energy - From the Sun to Your Kettle" by George King

Solar energy is radiant energy from our sun that can be harnessed and converted into useable forms of power, photovoltaic systems, concentrated solar power (groups of mirrors concentrating on one point), and solar water heating. How does it all happen?

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

trivia

1. What percentage of the species alive on earth do scientists estimate have yet to be discovered?

- a) 6% b) 46% c) 66% d) 86%

2. How many planet earths can you fit inside Jupiter?

- a) 13 b) 130 c) 1,300 d) 13,000

3. What caused the loudest sound in recorded history?

- a) an avalanche b) a volcanic eruption c) an asteroid impact d) an earthquake

4. What colour are sunsets on Mars?

- a) Red b) Green c) Purple d) Blue



5. Which of these travel the fastest?

- a) Tennis ball b) Golf ball c) Shuttlecock d) Cricket ball

6. What is the most popular flavour of ice cream?

- a) Vanilla b) Chocolate c) Strawberry d) Mint chocolate chip

7. In which part of your body is your philtrum?

- a) Head b) Hand c) Foot d) Stomach

8. On average, during a normal match (excluding shoot outs), what proportion of penalties are scored by professional footballers?

- a) 38% b) 58% c) 78% d) 98%

9. Approximately what percentage of the 8 billion people on earth live in the northern hemisphere?

- a) 30% b) 50% c) 70% d) 90%



ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

Manchester Peterloo Speakers Club

*where you become a better speaker,
better presenter and better leader*

We practice public speaking in a friendly, fun and sociable environment. Come along and see what we do. The first two attendances are free before joining.

We are affiliated to the Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC) and we use "The Speaker's Guide" to gain confidence to speak in front of an audience.

The club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Our meetings are held at the Northern Tennis Club, Palatine Road, West Didsbury, M20 3YA.

Visit: manchesterpeterloospeakersclub.com or email: peterloospeakers@gmail.com





Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 26th August 2025

Bromley Cross and Jumbles Reservoir



We met up at Victoria station to catch the train to Bromley Cross where we started our walk. The weather was warm and sunny and we thought that the rain which was forecast for midday, might not happen. From the station we walked past some very nice, but expensive, houses and entered the Jumbles Reservoir Country Park.

Jumbles reservoir was built in 1971 to supply the needs of Bolton. Part of the reservoir sits in a disused quarry which normally cannot be seen, but the recent dry weather has lowered the reservoir level to below 50% and the quarry is clearly visible, as is the small brook which feeds the reservoir and is normally submerged. The name Jumbles appeared in the 19th century and is a variation of *Dumbles*; a northern term for a steep valley with wooded sides.

As we reached the far end of the reservoir, the heavens opened and the Met Office proved that they are always right! Here, our photograph was taken during this downpour, but it is not a true representation of the whole walk which was carried out in glorious sunshine. Two thirds of the way round, we came to the Jumbles café where Gill was tempted in to the kiosk to buy an ice cream. Many other of our fellow walkers rushed to save Gill but also succumbed to the lure of the ice cream. It was carnage! We were only 30 minutes from having our lunch. Roger tried to argue that he was having his dessert before his main course. I was having none of it, especially because when we eventually had our lunch, he went and ordered a dessert from the menu. He is a growing lad! As you may have guessed, our walk finished at the Railway pub where some wonderful food was waiting for us.

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 of 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
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. John Olbrich
PLAYREADING	Meetings are at Withington Library at 1.30 on the third Tuesday afternoon of the month. Numbers are limited for this group, but please contact the group leader to register your interest. Helen Nicolson
POETRY APPRECIATION	Poems on a chosen theme are discussed on the 1st Monday of the month from 11.00-12.30 at Victoria Grange, Barlow Moor Road. The group is currently full. Contact group leader to go on waiting list. Lynne Taylor
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 or Ray Dumpleton
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
WELSH CONVERSATION	Siaawns am Sgwrs. For learners who have already made a good start with conversations and want more practice. Not suitable for beginners. We meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from 10.15 - 12.00 at the Didsbury pub on Wilmslow Road Megan Bennett


ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ

1. 86%
2. 1,300
3. A volcanic eruption
4. Blue
5. Shuttlecock
6. Vanilla
7. Head (*the vertical groove from the upper lip to the nose*)
8. 78%
9. 90%



greater manchester older people's network

Greater Manchester Older People's Network




Macc
Manchester's local voluntary & community sector support organisation

The Greater Manchester Older People's Network is for people aged 50 and over and organisations who want to participate, connect and make a difference. We work together to challenge ageism, and promote a more positive view of ageing that recognises everyone's contributions, experience and expertise. We want Greater Manchester to be the best place to grow older.

Our variety of ways to participate means we can cover a wide range of goals and our different groups are constantly working with partners to tackle ageism and age-related barriers.

For more information visit: <https://www.gmopn.org.uk/> or email: gmopn@macc.org.uk

See the latest newsletter here: [GMOPN Newsletter August 2025](#)



I was once kidnapped by a group of mime artists. They did unspeakable things to me!

October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<p>1 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30 (Closed Group).</p> <p>Bird Watching & Nature 11:00–12:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita: [REDACTED]</p>	<p>2 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>3 Bridge 10:00-12:00 <i>Note: Bridge is every week *</i> Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Getting by in Welsh 10:30 St. Nicholas Ch. Kingsway, Burnage. Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p>
<p>6 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History via zoom 10:30 Poetry Appreciation 11:00 Victoria Grange Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see 20th</i> Psychology 14:00 via zoom.</p>	<p>7 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 General Meeting 14:00- 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p>8 Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter Welsh Conversation (note new time) 10:15 - 12noon The Didsbury Pub Wilmslow Rd.</p>	<p>9 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café</p>	<p>10 Bridge 10:00-12:00 * Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Keep Fit 11:15-12:15 Board Games 14:00- 16:00 Parrswood Pub</p>
<p>13 Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see 20th</i></p>	<p>14 Table Tennis / Badminton. 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Singing for fun 14:00–16:00 Baptist Church.</p>	<p>15 Lunch Group. TBA. To be added to the notification list please contact: [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] Art Appreciation 14:00 The Parsonage</p>	<p>16 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Egyptology 10:30-2:30 The Parsonage Piano Group 11:00 <i>See 17th for more info.</i> Spanish Conversation 14:00 Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW</p>	<p>17 Bridge 10:00 - 12:00 * Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Keep Fit 11:15-12:15 Piano Group. We meet in group members' homes in Chorlton & Didsbury. Contact Hilary for details. [REDACTED]</p>
<p>20 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History via zoom 10:30 Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>Please Note:</i> <i>New players <u>must</u></i> <i>email Hilary <u>before</u></i> <i>the session date.</i> [REDACTED]</p>	<p>21 Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter. Table Tennis / Badminton. 10:00 TaiChi. No class this week. Playreading 13:30 Philosophy 13:30 French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Current Affairs 13:30 OldCock Pub Didsbury Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library (Closed Group).</p>	<p>24 Bridge 10:00 - 12:00 * Parliamo Italiano No meeting this week. Keep Fit 11:15-12:15 Music & Mindfulness 14:00 – 15:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE</p>
<p>27 Psychology 13:30 St. Nicholas Church Kingsway, Burnage Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see (See</i> <i>20th above)</i></p>	<p>28 Walking for Health 1. Moved to 21st Oct. Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Singing for Fun 14:00–16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church.</p>	<p>29 Knit & Natter 14:00-15:30 Nazarene, Dene Rd. M20 2GU OVAS 15:00 – 17:15. [REDACTED]</p>	<p>30 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Spanish Conversation 14:30 Nazarene</p>	<p>31 Bridge 10:00 - 12:00 * German Conversation 10:30 Creative Writing 10:30 Keep Fit No meeting this week Cinema 12:15 Music & Mindfulness 14:00 – 15:00 (see 24th)</p>