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Check out our website

Registered Charity
Number 1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



The Walking for Health group on a walk from Higher Broughton to Salford Crescent having a well-deserved rest by a colourful building in the Castle Irwell flood basin. The building was painted by graffiti artist, Tony Kelzo.

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

NO LATER than Friday 21st November 2025

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

Email: matt@didsburyprinters.co.uk.

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GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 4th November at 2.00pm

"Women in Ancient Egypt" by Neil Stevenson

See page 5 for details

Parking at Didsbury Baptist Church – Members please note that there is no parking at the church with the exception of temporary drop-off for the catering team. (Blue badge holders could use double yellow lines)



Message from the Chair

Dear Members,

I started this letter in a beautiful spot called Rhu, just outside Ullapool. I was visiting my brother and family there. They have a bungalow that overlooks Loch Broom, the sea and the Highlands. I was there when the storm hit and the sea changed to raging white horses. The trees bent over but it was all still beautiful. I spent my time writing, watching ferries to the Hebrides, as well as seeing birds feeding outside my window every morning. It was lovely to see how these birds sustained themselves and even fed their little ones. They carried on even in the high winds.

I finished preparing this epistle in bed with a rather embarrassing virus attack and was not allowed out for over a week. This confinement and idleness made me more determined than ever to see more people enjoying life out of their homes and with others. I realised too, how u3a members can sustain each other.

I have met people who are afraid of retirement, lonely and aimless. This should not be the case. Old age is inevitable but should not be dreaded. Embrace this third age and keep getting involved with others. We have many members who are not in any group and this worries me. Why? If we are not meeting your needs, please see the committee so that we can get something started.

The committee needs you too. You are all like the beautiful views from Ullapool; ever changing but ever valued. We need you in our groups and on the committee. So please get involved in our exciting organisation. Enjoy life!

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

GREAT NEWS!

Bee Network buses are running another trial in November



Throughout the month of November, anyone holding an older person's or disabled person's travel pass can travel free of charge **before 9.30am**. This applies to **bus travel only**. It also allows travel on the Bee Network night buses.

After 30th November, the current free travel restrictions apply.

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: October's newsletter can be found here: [October National Newsletter](#)

North West Region: www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west for the latest information and newsletter

SOUTH MANCHESTER u3a NEWS

SMu3a welcomes the following new members

Martin Rogers	Peter Thornhill	Gaynor Guthrie	Rachel Williams
Simon Wells	Ann Harden	Jacqueline Hill	Cindy Felton
David Denham	Maria Gligan	Steven Dalton	Karina Dalton
Peter Clayton	Diane King	Virginia Bazley	Barbara Watson
Gail Bull			

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

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 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 4th November 2025 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“Women in Ancient Egypt” by Neil Stevenson



As the u3a’s authority on Egyptology, Neil will reveal the importance of women in Egypt and how family life and respecting and supporting the female lineage was key to generations of success. Succession from a woman was definitely parental, whereas a man’s lineage could not be guaranteed, so the royal lineage passed through the female, rather than the male lines, most unusual in history.

His beautiful photography from Temples and the ‘Valley of the Queens’ will take us through the ancient Egyptians’ timeline, even sharing with us some amulets from his collection.

Neil has been a member of Up Holland & District u3a since 2009 and a member of Wigan u3a since its formation in 2018. In the past, he has been the trustee for the North West of England and a director of the Third Age Trust and TAT Trading Ltd. He is also a member of the North West Region of u3as Executive Committee. Neil has travelled to some of the least visited and remote parts of the world.

WARMTH FOR WAR-TORN UKRAINE



Once again, the u3a Knit and Natter team have produced a gorgeously colourful blanket, much of it made up of squares by Karen Malies, to bring warmth to someone in Ukraine, as the Winters there can be viciously cold. As you read this, more squares are being produced using scraps of yarn left over from other projects.

The Knit and Natter team are part of a nationwide group of knitters and crocheters, who have banded together to produce blankets like this, not only for Ukraine, but for other places where there is a need, like Syria and even Yemen. Overall, many hundreds of blankets have been produced.

If you would like to take part, please contact:
Diane Ward on smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com

The Knit and Natter group is always happy to welcome new members. They meet at the Nazarene College in Didsbury on the last Wednesday of the month.

The Real Story of Bonfire Night: 5 things you might not know

Over 400 years on from the foiled Gunpowder Plot, extravagant celebrations continue to mark the 5th of November. Guy Fawkes has been immortalised in popular culture, as one of England's most infamous figures. But what was the significance of this event and Guy Fawkes' role? And why do we celebrate a failed assassination attempt with fireworks?

Here are 5 things you might not know about the Gunpowder Plot and Bonfire Night.

1. Guy Fawkes wasn't the ringleader

While Guy Fawkes is the name synonymous with the 1605 Gunpowder Plot, the charismatic mastermind behind it all was Robert Catesby. Catesby was a devout Catholic, invested in converting England from Protestant to Catholicism. He was also a participant in the failed 1601 Essex rebellion and shared Guy Fawkes' fanatical Catholicism. Fawkes' role in the Gunpowder Plot was to light the fuse, detonating the 36 barrels of gunpowder. His knowledge of explosives came from fighting for Spain against its Protestant enemies. The Spanish war is also where he adopted the Italianised version of his name, Guido. It was under this name that he signed his confession.



Bates, E. Wister, C. Wright, J. Wright, P. Fry, Fawkes, Catesby, T. Wister.

2. The plotters numbered an unlucky thirteen

The participants of the Gunpowder Plot were predominantly members of the gentry with a shared devotion to Catholicism. But included in their number was Catesby's servant, Thomas Bates, who stumbled across the plot and took their number to a rather ominous thirteen.

The plotters were angered by King James' signing of a peace treaty with Catholic Spain. In their eyes, this was a monumental blow to their hopes that Spain would invade England and restore Catholicism. The gathered plotters swore an oath on a prayer book and schemed to blow up the entire Houses of Parliament. They hoped that by killing King James I and his heir Prince Henry they could launch a pro-Catholic uprising. The next stage of the plan was to indoctrinate James' young daughter Elizabeth - installing her on the throne with Catholic noblemen ruling on her behalf.

3. Alterations to the Houses of Parliament gave the plotters their chance

The original 11th-century building had undergone many alterations and extensions. This resulted in a mismatch of meeting rooms, apartments, shops and even taverns within its walls. At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, the large room the Lords met in was originally built in the 13th Century as the Queen's bed-chamber. This multitude of clashing people and businesses resulted in minimal security. In March of 1605; an undercroft below the House of Lords became available. The plotters found gunpowder easy to obtain due to the end of the war with Spain, so Guy Fawkes assumed the identity of 'John Johnson' and began to transfer the gunpowder.

4. The plot began to unravel several days before the 5th of November

A few days before the plot was due to take place, Lord Monteagle, a Catholic sympathiser, received a cryptic letter. This letter discouraged him from attending Parliament citing 'they shall receive a terrible blow'. He took it to King James' right-hand man, the Earl of Salisbury. Despite the King now knowing of a proposed plot, Robert Catesby decided to proceed in the belief that the letter was too vague.

With heightened suspicions, the King ordered searches of Parliament. Guy Fawkes was discovered on the 4th of November with a suspicious amount of firewood.



The gunpowder was found in the early hours of the 5th, prompting Fawkes' arrest and subsequent torture. Days of gruelling torment resulted in a confession and an order for his execution. With the names of the other plotters uncovered, investigators moved quickly to arrest them. Eight plotters made a final stand against 200 men at Holbeach House in Staffordshire; most were killed or wounded, while the few remaining survivors were hung, drawn and quartered.



5. The Guy on the bonfire was originally the Pope

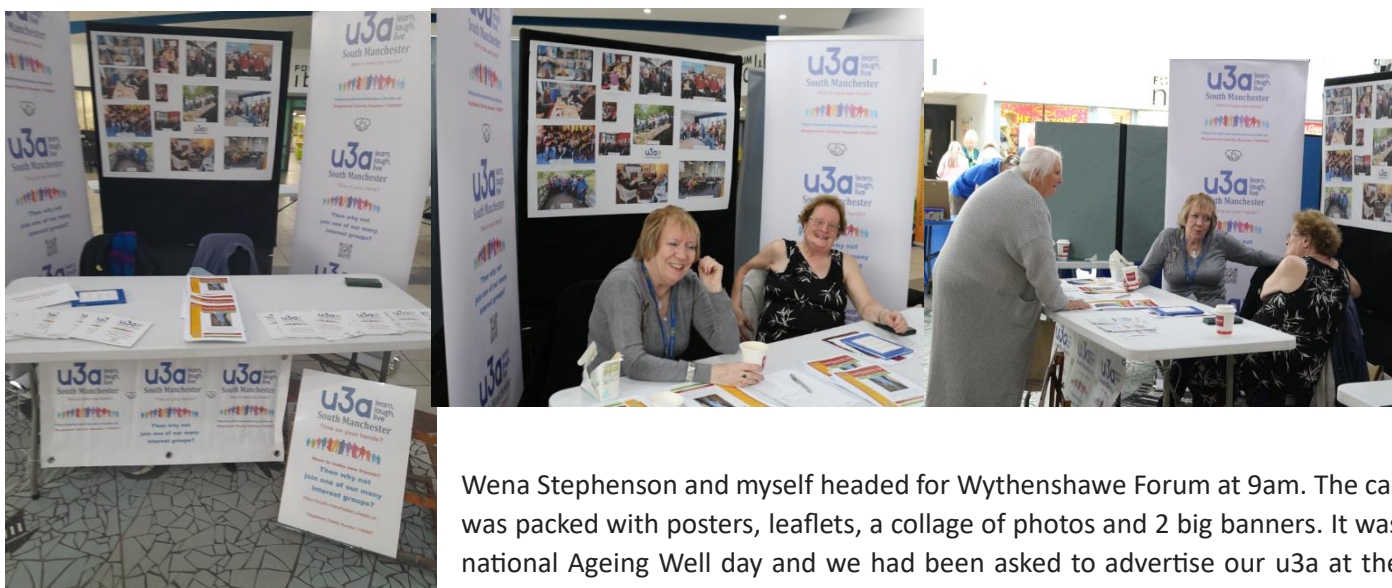
The Gunpowder Plot became infamous and fuelled anti-Catholic sentiment. In 1606, it became mandatory for all English churches to host a service on the 5th of November. Soon, other forms of celebration began, taking the form of bonfires, puppet shows and official artillery salutes. In 1673, crowds began the practice of parading around an effigy and stringing it up above a bonfire - initially in the form of the Pope. It was during the 1800s that the figure burnt above a bonfire became the familiar Guy Fawkes of today.

These days, Bonfire Night celebrations are stripped of their anti-Catholic sentiment. Guy Fawkes now seems to hold a more sympathetic anti-hero role in today's popular culture, while the fireworks, bonfire and revelry take centre stage.

Thank you to English Heritage 

AGEING WELL IN WYTHENSHAW

There was an event at Wythenshawe Forum on Tuesday 30th September called "Ageing Well in Wythenshawe". There were stalls set up by lots of age-related groups, including our very own South Manchester u3a



Wena Stephenson and myself headed for Wythenshawe Forum at 9am. The car was packed with posters, leaflets, a collage of photos and 2 big banners. It was national Ageing Well day and we had been asked to advertise our u3a at the event. By 10am we had already spoken to several people and right up until 3pm, we were kept busy getting names of speakers, advertising our meetings and getting rid of booklets. The Forum was full of stalls, and leaflets were exchanged between the different organisations there. It was a worthwhile day and I think that Wena and I aged well that day!

Beryl Cowen



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 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 or by post to: P A Ford,. 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



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP NEWS



It's become "FULL HOUSE" nowadays when the group visits the Morris Feinmann (BELONG) Residential Home. And, though their event organiser assures me that everyone attending is experiencing dementia, there's no sign of it in the way everyone joins in the singing.

That's the power of music!!

Our next outings are as follows: -

Monday 24th November 2025 at 2pm at BELONG (M20 2UW)

Tuesday 9th December 2025 at Didsbury Baptist Church, contributing to the seasonal charity concert

Wednesday 17th December 2025 at 2pm at Buccleuch Lodge (M20 2XA)

Thursday 15th January 2026 at 2pm at BELONG (pianist permitting)

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

Contact me, Mike Evans for more details on

**** The group is anxiously looking for a new accompanist if our activity is to continue****



Please mark the date and bring your friends.....

Our Seasonal Charity Concert

in aid of St. Ann's Hospice and Francis House

Tuesday 9th December at 2pm Didsbury Baptist Church

A programme to interest everyone will include: -

- **SMu3a Singing for Fun Group's recent repertoire**
- **Solo instrumental items by Bill Watson**
- **Seasonal items and audience SING-ALONG with support from our Community Sing-Along Group**
- **An interval to enjoy wine and Minced pies**

Free admission with donations invited for two of our local charities.

See you there!



TODDLER-SIZED MINI TEDDIES

Bridge group leader, Liz Thornhill, is a prolific mini-teddy-maker, using up scraps of yarn from other projects. The mini-teddies shown here are off to an orphanage in Ukraine. According to one of the aid organisers, they bring joy to the little ones, who often have nothing of their own.

Liz belongs to our Knit and Natter group.

Are you aged 55–80 and interested in improving your gut health?



Researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University's Institute of Sport are inviting volunteers to take part in a groundbreaking new study called "Determining Implications of Gut Health on Muscle". This exciting research is looking into whether improving gut health through diet can help older adults maintain or even build muscle, potentially leading to better mobility, independence, and quality of life as we age. Participants will be asked to consume a natural, food-based supplement (green banana flour) for two weeks, and attend a small number of visits to the university for health checks and sample collection. The study includes expert support, personalised feedback on your body composition and diet, and a **£50 Amazon voucher plus travel expenses** as a thank-you.

Why take part?

- Contribute to important scientific research
- Learn more about your own nutrition and health
- Help identify affordable ways to support healthy ageing for all

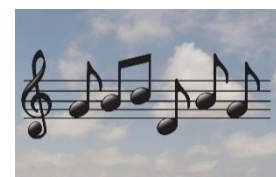
If you're curious about the connection between gut health and ageing muscles, this is your chance to get involved.

For more information or to express your interest, please click the link: <https://join.studyssetgo.com/digest>
Alternatively, contact Anna Lazaratou on annalazaratou2004@gmail.com or 07564 062006

URGENT.....VERY URGENT!

***Without a new accompanist our
Community Sing-Along Group will
fold.***

**If you know of anyone who could help on piano,
keyboard or guitar please pass the details to Mike Evans
on**



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

From South Manchester u3a **Dramatic Readers** and **Play Reading** groups, who would like to be “actors” in a private reading of a “play” in order to assess if it would be of interest to a future u3a audience at a venue in central Manchester.

The Secret Rehearsal of *Hindell Wakes*

No lines need to be learned, as the “script” is carried by each of the famous people below, who have been brought back for an unprecedented get-together with revelations not made public before.

Arnold Bennett
Annie Horniman
Dodie Smith

Harold Brighthouse
Stanley Houghton
Marie Stopes

Lewis Casson
L.S. Lowry
Sybil Thorndike

Edyth Goodall
Ian McKellen

Sir Ian McKellen

“I’ve raced through your script with great interest... I found it ‘entertaining’ as well as informative... Your audience would be as thrilled as us old ‘uns must be by your cast list... Their names are long-neglected, but their reputations you revive and, in the right context, I can see it working very well. Good luck.”



SAPERE AUDE ?

Dr. Paul Mortimer

For more information, contact Beryl:

Salford u3a

HISTORY STUDY DAY

Tuesday 4th November 2025 10am to 3pm

Elm Bank Conference Centre

46 Half Edge Lane, Eccles, M30 9BA

TOPICS

Who writes history?
Who is remembered?

Heraldry and hatchments: the history all around us

Revolutionary women

New history activities for Salford u3a

Cost £17.50

Including refreshments and buffet lunch

BOOKING

Online: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FEOH>

Further details: salfordu3a@gmail.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

13th November 2025 – ARABELLA (R STRAUSS)

11th December 2025 – TOSCA (PUCCINI)



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 6th November 2025

“A.I. - Genesis or Nemesis?” by Alistair Sutcliffe

In 1950, Alan Turing’s work on the “Bomb” computer at Manchester proposed the “Turing Test” to assess a machine’s intelligent behaviour. John McCarthy, in 1955, coined the term “Artificial Intelligence” and established it as a field of study. But what does that mean today and in the future?

Thursday 20th November 2025

“Prison Life from a Governor’s Perspective” by Carl Bailey

What is involved in Running a Prison?

Carl Bailey MBE, had 34 years in the prison service, rising through the ranks from Prison Officer to Governor. Carl’s talk today is about his experiences in the service with some “interesting stories”.

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.

Festive Favourites ❄ Timeless Classics ❄ Soaring Showtunes



Proudly Present...

THE MAGIC OF Christmas

Come along and hear our vibrant choir
as we bring some sparkle to the season!

Friday 5th December 2025, 7.30pm

St Nicholas Church, Kingsway

Tickets £9 (Under 18s free)

Buy tickets online:



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

Monday 10th November 2025 at 7pm

"Astrobiology" by Mike Legett via Zoom

Monday 8th December at 7pm

"Meteorites in Motion: Dark Flight Modelling and Flux Estimates from NEO Data" by Chloe Kadir

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

For more details visit www.wdas2.com.

CALLING ALL OPERA AND BALLET LOVERS

Did you know that you can watch *live* opera, ballet and theatre performances at cinemas including Cineworld at Parrs Wood?

Here is a list of live performances to the end of 2025: -



The Royal Opéra – Covent Garden

Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 18:45

Tosca by Puccini

Ana Netrebko as Tosca

Freddie De Tomasso as Cavaradossi

Gerald Finley as Baron Scarpia

The Royal Ballet

Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 19:15

La Fille Mal Gardée

Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 19:15

Cinderella

Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 19:15

Nutcracker

The Metropolitan Opera (New York)

Saturday 18th October 2025 at 18:00

La Sonnambula by Vincenzo Bellini

Saturday 8th November 2025 at 18:00

La Bohème by Giacomo Puccini

Saturday 22nd November 2025 at 18:00

Arabella by Richard Strauss

Saturday 13th December 2025 at 18:00

Andrea Chénier by Umberto Giordano

If you need more help or more information, please contact Joan Timm: joan@timmfamily.co.uk

Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 12th November 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 Barlow Croft pub. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on



Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 25th November 2025

Worsley Wood and Beesley Green

A 2.9-mile walk through Worsley Wood and Beesley Green. No stiles, mainly hard paths, some hills and some steps. May be muddy in places. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at St Peter's Square outside Wagamama at 10.10. Lunch at the Barton Arms in Worsley. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on

QUIZ

TRUE OR FALSE

Please answer “true” or “false”

1. Gatophobia is the fear of cats
2. A Dublin theatre manager made a wager that he could introduce a new word into language within 24 hours in 1782. The word that he made up was “quiz”
3. Only female ducks quack
4. Mr Tickle was the first Mr Man
5. South America is larger than Antarctica
6. Fruit flies were the first living creatures sent into space
7. Nicholas Cage and Michael Jackson both married the same woman
8. Napoleon was of below-average height
9. According to Scottish law, it is illegal to be drunk in charge of a cow
10. Meghan Markle’s first name is Rachel
11. “K” is worth 4 points in Scrabble
12. In a deck of cards, the King has a moustache
13. In the English language, there is no word which rhymes with “orange”
14. A lion’s roar can be heard up to 8 km away
15. Prince Harry is taller than Prince William
16. Your “radius” bone is in your leg
17. The small intestine is about 3¹/₂ times the length of the body
18. Spaghetti is the singular word for a piece of spaghetti
19. You’re shorter at night than you are in the morning
20. Our blood contains gold

ANSWERS ON PAGE 19

Your u3a Needs You

We have a number of vacancies which will help our u3a to run more smoothly



Speaker Secretary – To arrange guest speakers for our monthly meetings. We have a library of available speakers

Outings Organiser – To organise group outings for interested people to museums, shows, etc.

Event Organiser – To co-ordinate SMu3a’s attendance at special events such as Didsbury Festival

For more information contact smu3a.secretary@gmail.com or any other committee member



Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 30th September 2025

Higher Broughton to Salford Crescent



This walk almost didn't happen. When the bus strike was announced, we hurriedly had to go to plan B, which was a train journey to Littleborough for a walk around Hollingworth Lake which Anne had kindly volunteered to lead. At the eleventh hour, (Monday to be exact), the strike was called off, so we quickly went back to plan A. Cancelling and rebooking lunch reservations was fun (not!).

Anyway, the walk happened. A short bus journey from Victoria station took us to Higher Broughton where our walk started. The day began dry and warm, then once the sun came out half an hour into our walk, it turned positively tropical. A long steep descent took us into Kersal Dale woods on our way into the Irwell Valley. On reaching the Irwell, we were greeted with the Castle Irwell flood basin. This cost £10 million to build and opened in 2018. At 28 hectares in size, it protects the area from flooding. When the river level rises, water is directed into the flood basin. Once the river levels drop sufficiently, the water from the basin is pumped, in a controlled manner, back into the river.

The flood basin is on the site of the old Manchester racecourse which held horse races from the mid-19th century up until its last race in 1963. The site was then sold to Salford University who planned to build halls of residence there but nothing came of that. In 2015 Salford council acquired the site and the building of the flood basin began. Wes, who was walking with us, remembered going into one of the old racecourse buildings before they were demolished and finding a hand-written journal, which detailed the races which took place there. He said that many of the races were called off due to flooding, so clearly this area has been prone to flooding for many years.

After we had walked around the basin past a sunbathing heron and a colourfully decorated little building by Tony Kelzo, we reached a main road where we saw the old turnstile entry building into the racecourse. This is the only building remaining from the days of the racecourse.

We carried on alongside the river until we reached the grounds of Salford Museum where we stopped to look at the flood monument which is a tall obelisk with marks on showing the height of the various floods to hit the area. Walking past the museum we walked back across the river to reach the Old Pint Pot pub for a delicious lunch.

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	This group is now closed for Winter. It will restart in April 2026. Rita Berriman
BOARD GAMES	Lots of different games are played by this group which meets at the Parrs Wood pub from 2-4 pm on the second Friday of the month. Christine Salamone
BOOK GROUP 1	Meeting at 10.30 am at Meg's home in Didsbury, on the first Wednesday of the month. A small friendly group who enjoys 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 College, Didsbury. This group meets fortnightly on Fridays from 10 to 12 noon. This group is for experienced players only. Liz Thornhill
BRIDGE for BEGINNERS	This group meets fortnightly 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 film 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. Sandra Grant
CURRENT AFFAIRS	This group meets to share and discuss items in the news on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1.30pm 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 group caters for a variety of fitness levels – there is no competition! It meets on Friday mornings 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 meets 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 2 pm. 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 10-12, 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 CONVERATION	Siawns 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 TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. True – Fruit flies were sent into space on a V2 rocket in 1947
7. True – Both married to Lisa Marie Presley
8. False – at 5’7” he was above average height at the time
9. True
10. True
11. True
12. False
13. True
14. True
15. False – William is 1.91m and Harry is 1.86m
16. False – it’s in your forearm
17. True – it is the longest section of the digestive tube at 22 feet or 7 metres on average
18. True – in general, Italian words ending in “o” are singular and words ending in “i” are plural
19. True
20. True

When my wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo.....

I had to put my foot down!

November 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>3 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</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 10th Nov below.</i></p>	<p>4 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>General Meeting 14:00- 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p>5 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30. (Closed group)</p> <p>The Bird Watching & Nature group is Closed until April 2026</p>	<p>6 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>7 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 <i>*Note: Bridge is every week.</i></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>10 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>11 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>12 Welsh Conversation 10:15 – 12:00 The Didsbury Pub Wilmslow Rd.</p> <p>Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p>	<p>13 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.</p>	<p>14 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 *</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>Board Games 14:00-16:00 Parrswood Pub</p>
<p>17 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see info for 10th Nov above.</i></p>	<p>18 Table Tennis/ Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Playreading 13:30</p> <p>Philosophy 13:30 Chorlton Library</p> <p>French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café</p>	<p>19 Lunch Club. 13:00 Little Yang Sing 17 George St M1 4HE. <i>To be added to the list contact John at:</i></p> <p>Art Appreciation 14:00 The Parsonage.</p>	<p>20 Ukelele 10:00 - 11:15</p> <p>Egyptology 10:30-12:30 The Parsonage.</p> <p>Piano Group 11:00. <i>We meet in group members' homes in Chorlton & Didsbury. Contact Hilary for</i></p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>21 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 *</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>24 Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:30 - 15:30 <i>New players see info for 10th Nov</i></p> <p>Psychology 13:30 St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage</p> <p>Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW</p>	<p>25 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>26 Knit & Natter 14:00 - 15:30 Nazarene Conservatory Dene Rd. M20 2GU</p> <p>OVAS 15:00 – 17:15.</p>	<p>27 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>28 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 *</p> <p>Creative Writing 10:30</p> <p>German Conversation 10:30 (Nazarene)</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>