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U3A?**

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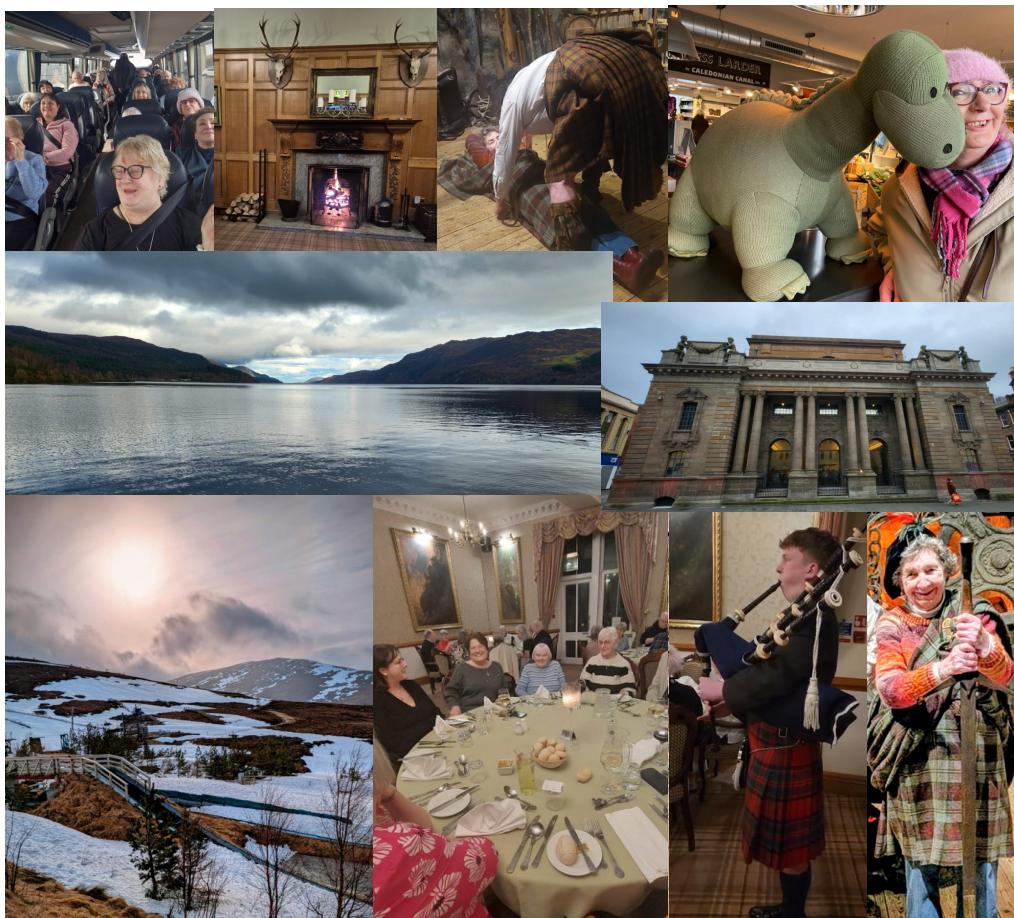
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Registered Charity Number
1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



The SMu3a Holiday group trip to the highlands of Scotland



Check out our website

May 2026 Newsletter items to: editor.smu3anews@gmail.com

NO LATER than Tuesday 21st April 2026

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GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 2.00pm

“My Life in Crime” by Simon Michael

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)

Tradesperson Book

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



Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Recently some of our u3a went on a visit to Gorton Monastery. A once beautiful building but now in places neglected and stripped of paintings, with its amazing architecture broken in places. It is still an imposing iconic building but not like it was.

Rather like our u3a could become very soon. I have to ask you a question: How much do you value your u3a in South Manchester?

If the answer is 'not very much', then I am saddened and I have failed. If the answer is 'yes, you do value it', then we need your help on the committee or else this organisation in South Manchester will close down along with the groups.

Several major roles are needed to be filled since, according to our constitution, some people have to step down from office as well as some ordinary committee members. We have to follow the rule book regarding maximum years in office and the Treasurer has to stand down now with the Secretary standing down next year. These are the most important roles on the committee. In fact, without a treasurer we cannot function.

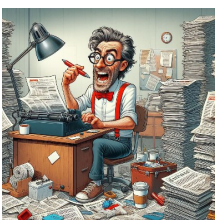
Our membership is now over 565 and we need just 8 people to come forward. I rarely get angry and downhearted but I am very concerned that if we don't fill these roles, South Manchester u3a ceases to exist right now! Groups will lose their venues and their insurance. I love our u3a and what it does for the health and well-being of older people; however all organisations need a committee or else they fold. It is up to you. If you really value this group of 565 marvellous people, then please consider becoming a committee member. It is not arduous, with just one meeting a month. The retiring officers will help you settle in and guide you through the jobs that need doing. No skills are needed, just a willingness to serve others.

I am sorry to sound angry and disappointed, but I am. I dearly love you all but serving this community needs commitment from all of the members. Your committee and your u3a needs you.

If you feel that you can help in this way, please contact me or see me at the next general meeting, otherwise that meeting could become the last one.

From a saddened chair.

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: March newsletter can be found here [March National Newsletter](#)

North West Region: <https://northwestregion.u3asite.uk/> for the latest information and newsletter

SOUTH MANCHESTER u3a NEWS

SMu3a welcomes the following new members

Louisa Mitchell	Sue Tucker	Michael Tucker	Jan Lancaster
Jennifer Tonge	Bob Baldwin	Martin Ward	Pravin Patel
Pam Oultram	Edward Ball	Ann Green	Patrick Mc Guinness
William Ayres	Richard Venes	Gill Burke	Malcolm Morrison
Marilyn Cummins	Chris Caplin	Karla Smith	

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

Tuesday 7 th April 2026 at 2pm	"My Life of Crime" by Simon Michael
Tuesday 5 th May 2026 at 2pm	"All at Sea" by Mark Llewellyn
Tuesday 2 nd June 2026 at 2pm	"Osteopathy" by Jennifer Emmott
Tuesday 7 th July 2026 at 2pm	"The Lost Buildings of Manchester" by Jonathan Schofield
Tuesday 4 th August 2026 at 2pm	"Centenarian Lady Hires Buff Butler" by Paul Isherwood
Tuesday 1 st September 2026 at 2pm	"My Life in Broadcasting" by Roger Johnson
Tuesday 6 th October 2026 at 2pm	"Great Forgers" by Jim Williams
Tuesday 3 rd November 2026 at 2pm	"My Life and Challenges" by Dr. Carl Austin-Behan OBE DL
Tuesday 1 st December 2026 at 2pm	A Performance by the SMu3a Ukulele Orchestra followed by a Christmas Quiz hosted by Tom Grimshaw
Tuesday 5 th January 2027 at 2pm	"The Story of Pyrex" by Dr. Diana M Leitch MBE
Tuesday 2nd February 2027 at 2pm	"Underground Manchester" by Keith Warrender
Tuesday 2nd March 2027 at 2.15pm	Piano Recital by Andrew Wilde
Tuesday 6th April 2027 at 2pm	"The Work of Age UK" by Sharon Boswell

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

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“My Life in Crime” by Simon Michael



Simon Michael practised as a barrister for 37 years - so far, so ordinary you may think. Not so! Born and raised in the heart of the East End, Simon believes himself to be the only member of The Honourable Society of The Middle Temple to have been a council labourer, a van driver and a gardener. More than this, in a lifetime of criminal justice, working, amongst other places, at The Old Bailey, Simon defended and prosecuted enough assorted villainy to gather an almost inexhaustible supply of real-life crime stories. What better use could he put this material to than writing a series of best-selling crime novels and talking about his fascinating life? Turn up and be swept away on a wave of anecdotes which will leave you reeling with laughter.

URGENT!

NEW TREASURER WANTED



**KEEP
CALM
AND
BE A
TREASURER**

Ian Burn has stepped down as Treasurer of South Manchester u3a. He has served in this role for 6 years but according to our constitution, he now has to retire.

This means that our u3a does not have a Treasurer and as such, in the eyes of national u3a and the Charities Commission, we can no longer operate as a u3a group.

We urgently need someone to volunteer to take on the role as Treasurer. You do not need to be a trained accountant. You simply need to be able to handle simple accounts and be able to use simple spreadsheets. Full training will be given. This role is an important and rewarding one and you can make a big difference if you so wish.

If you would like to know more about the Treasurer role or would like to put your name forward, please contact our outgoing Treasurer, Ian Burn, on smu3a.treasurer@gmail.com

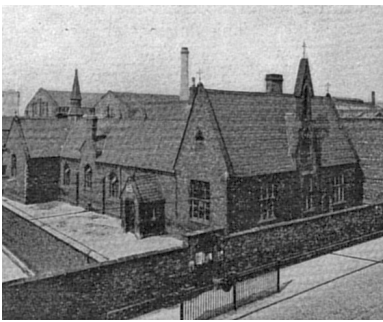
VISIT TO GORTON MONASTERY



In March, a group of 21 members of South Manchester u3a visited Gorton Monastery for a talk on the history of the building and a guided tour. The outing had been organised by Jill Evans and it included a buffet lunch - all for the princely sum of £22.95!



Our volunteer guide, Grahame, gave us an interesting talk on the history of Gorton Monastery. The Monastery started life with a different name. It was The Church and Friary of St Francis, West Gorton. Locals called it the monastery. The Franciscan friars, dressed in their habits, would have looked like monks to the people of Victorian Manchester. Victorian Manchester saw new Catholic Irish communities arrive and a growing demand for Catholic churches. Failed harvests brought famine to Ireland. Many families fled resulting in large-scale migration to England and Scotland. Manchester transformed from an 18th century market town to a commercial and manufacturing centre of the north. In the ten years leading to 1861, the population of Gorton doubled to 10,000. Gorton now housed large Irish Catholic communities in its new urban housing. These men and women provided much needed labour for the rapidly industrialising city.



Franciscan values, dedicated to working for the poor, meant that Gorton was exactly the right place to build their church and friary. But how could they afford it? The Friars had previously built a school and chapel on Gorton Lane. Next to the school there was a plot of four acres that contained a large house called Bankfield Cottage. The friars bought the site for £2,200 and on 25 April 1862 they moved into Bankfield Cottage, their new home in Gorton. Building work was slow and often non-existent until Father Willibrord van den Neucker became Guardian in 1871. He was the driving force behind the successful completion of the church. His

large-scale fundraising in the city was very profitable and he also secured £4,000 of the old Franciscan funds. Edward Pugin, a member of the family dynasty of architects and a devout catholic, designed the friary. Building work started in 1866 and was completed just 6 years later in 1872.

At that time the area around the friary was packed with terraced houses, shops and factories and masses regularly attracted up to 1,000 worshippers. By the 1970's, factories were closing and the local council began slum clearances, demolishing all of the housing and shops. The congregation at mass then dropped to around 50.



Eventually, the friary closed in 1989; in 1990, it was sold to a development company with the aim of converting it into apartments. The interior was stripped out, including the pews and the organ. Not long afterwards, the developers went into liquidation and many people who had paid deposits for the apartments lost all of their money. The building now lay empty for a number of years. The lead and slates from the roof were stolen causing water ingress, and vandals entered the premises and vandalised much of the buildings contents, including the 5 altars.

Paul and Elaine Griffiths (Paul was an altar boy here in the sixties) led a team of volunteers from the local community to save the Monastery. They set up a charitable trust in September 1996 to raise money and awareness to restore the site. The next year, the plight of the Monastery came to the attention of the World Monuments Fund who placed it on the World Monuments Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites. It was a global call to action for heritage sites in need of immediate intervention. This brought Manchester Monastery back into the limelight. Tireless campaigning resulted in Heritage Lottery Funding and European Regional Development Funding to restore the building in 2005 – one of the biggest community-led restoration projects in the UK.

The Monastery is now self-funding and hosts concerts, weddings and corporate events. It's well worth a visit!

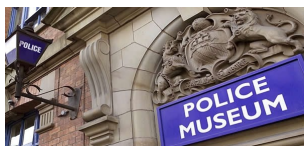


This outing was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to Jill Evans for organising it. We would love to offer more such visits but it needs people to organise them. Jill can only do so much. Do you know of anywhere which would make a good outing for SMu3a and would you be willing to help organise it? If so, please contact any member of the committee (details are in this newsletter).

Ian Burn

FUTURE OUTINGS

There have been a number of suggestions for future South Manchester u3a outings: -



- Bridgewater Hall "Behind the Scenes" Tour
- People's History Museum
- Greater Manchester Police Museum
- The Palace Theatre Tour
- Royal Exchange Theatre Tour
- Stockport Air Raid Shelters
- Hatworks Museum



Whilst it would be great to go on these outings, we desperately need people who would be willing to help with arranging them. Would you be up for it? Remember that our u3a is provided for members by members. We need people who are prepared to contribute. Full support will be given.

If you would like to put your name forward, please contact:

HOLIDAY GROUP IN SCOTLAND

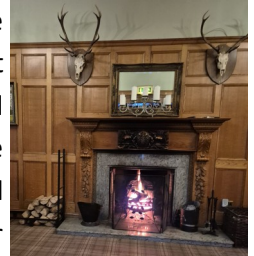
The SMu3a holiday group spent a week in Kingussie in Scotland at the end of February. Everyone had packed their winter woollies because, after all, it is the highlands in February. Could you believe that we had a week of unseasonably warm weather? And there was very little rain!



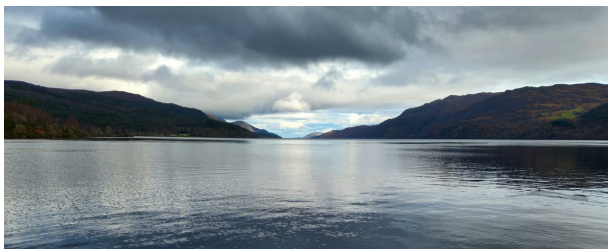
43 of us travelled by coach from Didsbury to Kingussie, which is a lovely little town near Aviemore in the highlands of Scotland. This was the largest number of holidaymakers in a long time. It was a long coach journey, interspersed with frequent stops for comfort breaks - a must for a coach full of pensioners! The views as we entered the highlands made it all worth while. We had 4 nights half board in a lovely hotel called The Duke of Gordon in Kingussie. It looked like it had come out of a fairytale - it



was so picturesque! The heating was on full blast and a roaring fire also added to the ambience. It was a little too warm, amazingly, inside the hotel due to the unexpected warm weather outside. The food was very good and plentiful, and the staff were incredibly friendly and helpful. We were even piped in to our evening meal on one occasion by a talented 16-year old piper.



Our days out included a visit to the Clansman centre in Fort Augustus, where Meg volunteered to be dressed in full tartan by a burly Scotsman, a process which involved her lying on the ground with said Scotsman standing over her. Only Meg would have seen if he was a true Scotsman! Some people went in



search of Nessie with a boat trip on Loch Ness and the coach back to the hotel drove around the loch. On the following day, we visited Perth to see the Black Watch Museum followed by some free time in the city. On our final day we visited the Highland Wildlife Park where we saw

polar bears, snow leopards, arctic foxes and many more wonderful animals. Although they were fenced in, they had ample space to roam freely allowing the more shy animals to hide from the humans if they wanted to. The

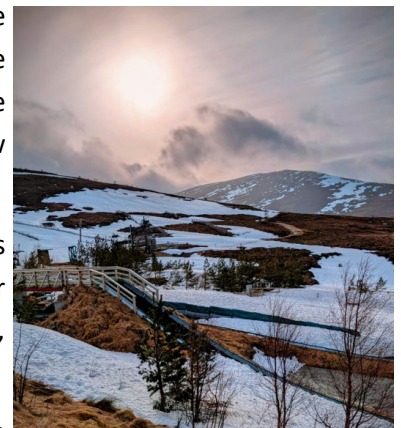


afternoon should have seen us going up the Cairngorms on the mountain railway but unfortunately high winds



closed the railway for the day. We visited the railway base station instead for a photo opportunity, where we were nearly blown off our feet by the incredibly strong winds. However, the photographs were worth it. The snow was plentiful and deep.

Our journey home on Friday was challenging because one of our group had fallen and fractured a bone in her pelvis. The hotel loaned her a wheelchair and the coach driver was very obliging, allowing her to travel safely home in the coach.



All in all, it was at times a challenging, but mostly enjoyable and memorable holiday with some brilliant people. A big thank you to Anne Clarke for organising what was a fantastic (and cheap) holiday.

Ian Burn

A Meeting of the (Temporary) Bay of Biscay u3a



Helen and I took a cruise back in January. On our way back to Liverpool, one of the day's activities was an informal u3a meeting. As the meeting was not hosted by the entertainment staff, the first task was to find our fellow u3a members. After responses of "u3who?" from some of the residents in the lounge, about 12 of us got together.

We came from many parts of the country. One lady in her 90s from Northumberland had formed 3 u3a groups. Another couple came from the Dumfries and Galloway u3a which served a very rural catchment area. When a rural bus service was withdrawn, they lost a number of members who could no longer get to meetings. Others came from Gloucester and Leicester. All groups seem to have similar problems. Difficulty in getting committee members, particularly Treasurers, was one.

There was a great variation of membership numbers, from our 600 plus, to 30 in the lady from Northumberland's u3a. There was also a difference in membership fees, from our £15 up to £30 for some. Apart from the problems, all were enthusiastic about what the u3a gave to members not only in group work but also the social contact that membership delivered.

Richard Chambers



KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Knit and Natter group members were amused when Carole Orgell-Rosen arrived at a recent meeting at the Nazarene College with a huge ball of golden-coloured yarn – and were then fascinated when she produced this cosy blanket in less than two hours using a technique known simply as "arm-knitting". Well, as the name suggests, this is knitting with your arms rather than needles!

For those of us who love to knit, this is how it is done: Stitches are cast on to one forearm, using your hands to work through the stitches to grab the working yarn drawing through to create a stitch, which is then placed on your other arm. The rows of the project are worked backwards and forwards. There is no turning of the work in arm knitting as you would in regular needle knitting – you are simply working through the stitches from your right arm and passing the new stitches onto the left. When you're finished working the row, you simply work in the other direction, working through the stitches on the left arm to pass them over to the right!

The Knit and Natter group meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Members either work on their own knitted or crocheted projects, or knit 12 inch squares which are later pieced together to make warm blankets to be sent on to various places in the world where they are needed, like Ukraine for example.

If you would like to join the group, please get in touch with Diane Ward on



Culture Corner

By Helen Nicolson



On the 16th of March, I was at the Bridgewater Hall to hear the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (Національний Симфонічний Оркестр України) on their second visit to Manchester. The lively and excited pre-concert chatter was in both English and Ukrainian, and I got the impression that, for many, this was a significant occasion for showing solidarity and meeting fellow countrymen and women. Once in the hall, the stage was empty until the forty-five players filed in and took their seats, to continuous applause. The conductor, Ukrainian-born Volodymyr Sirenko, was also given a warm welcome. He has been the orchestra's Artistic Director since 1999 alongside maintaining a busy international career. His style is expressive but not flamboyant, and he clearly has a special relationship with this group of players. I imagine them having mixed feelings of anxiety about what is happening in their war-torn country, and of pride at being able to represent their homeland and demonstrate that their culture is still alive.

The programme opened with the first known symphony by a Ukrainian composer, Maksym Berezovsky. It was probably composed around 1770 in Italy where he is known to have studied, and where the manuscript was discovered quite recently. The composer was a contemporary of Haydn and Mozart, and this short Symphony No 1 was in similar style. Beethoven's 'Emperor' Piano Concerto followed, and Maria Pukhlianko, distinguished Ukrainian pianist and music professor, gave a powerful account of the virtuoso solo part. After rapturous applause she still had the energy to return and give a full-blooded encore.



After the interval came a change of mood with a sensitive rendering of two quintessentially English works: 'On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring' and 'Summer Night on the River' by Delius. To finish, the full orchestra came into its own with a committed performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. The wind solos in the third movement were particularly delicate, and the famously fiery last movement was taken at a fast pace with bows bouncing off the strings. The enthusiastic reception by the audience, some of them holding up a huge Ukrainian flag, was rewarded with a gentle haunting encore probably based on a traditional folk melody. All in all, an evening to remember.

COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP



The group is continuing its programme of monthly visits to the Morris Feinmann (BELONG) Residential and Nursing Home on Palatine Road in West Didsbury. Our next performances are: -

Thursday 9th April 2026 at 2pm

Thursday 14th May 2026 at 2pm

New members are always welcome. Anyone who enjoys singing well known songs (covering a fair cross-section of songs from 20th century) should try it. We sing in unison and lyrics are provided. Where some tunes are less well-known we each find YOUTUBE a good resource, so some times a little prep is a good thing!

Contact Mike Evans for more details on



Online learning events

Jean Thompson contacted me about an interesting talk on the Pendle Witches which she heard through the u3a learning team. She reminded me that there are many talks and activities which can be accessed online.

If you would like to know more about the u3a learning website and the many talks, workshops and courses available online, go to their webpage here: -

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events#ONLINE-EVENTS>



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

Monday 13th April 2026 at 7pm

“Exploring the Invisible Cosmos through Island Universes ” by Jeni Millard

Monday 11th May 2026 at 7pm

“Sun Spots and Solar Activity ” by Charlotte Proverbs

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

16th April 2026



Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky)

A radiant example of Russian Lyric Opera with a deeply moving tale and packed with big tunes, dances and a heart stopping duel. A setting of Pushkin’s novel-in-verse, Eugene Onegin is a uniquely Russian opera, but one with a universal message and appeal.

7th May 2026



Orphee et Eurydice (Gluck)

This hauntingly beautiful opera interprets the ancient Greek myth of poet musician Orpheus braving the terrors of Hades in search of his beloved Eurydice. A timeless story of how love and art can bring meaning to life.

AI - what's all the fuss about?

The u3a North West Region - AI Workshop

Monday 27th April 2026, 10am – 12noon

The u3a Third Age Trust National AI team and members of the NW Region will help you improve your AI Literacy.

This online Zoom session will explain: What AI is and is not. Why it is suddenly everywhere. How it can help you in everyday life. How to use it safely.

Remember the early days of the internet? Or getting your first smartphone? Online banking? Online shopping? You've successfully navigated and embraced countless technological advancements.

AI might sound daunting, but it's just another digital tool to understand and use. Join our online u3a event to demystify Artificial Intelligence (AI) and see how it can enhance your daily life, just like the internet did.

Register for a ticket to the event by emailing: groupu3a@gmail.com

In your email you should include the following information

Your Full Name:

The Name of Your u3a:

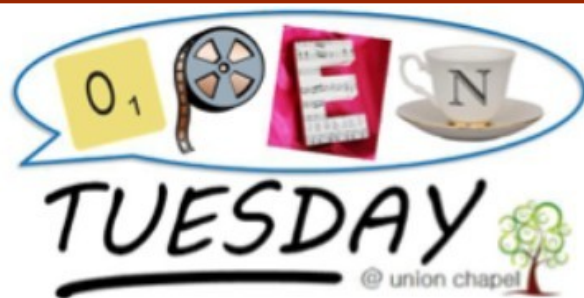
Your Email Address:

Please register early as demand for this event is expected to be high. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you.



At our March general meeting, Dr. Robert Baldwin gave a fascinating talk on dementia. It provoked a great deal of discussion at the end and everyone thought that it was a brilliant talk. Robert put up a slide with the details of some dementia charities and information. Here are those details: -

Admiral Nursing Service:	www.dementiauk.org/	0800 888 6678
Alzheimer's Society:	www.alzheimers.org.uk	0333 150 3456 (dementia helpline)
Manchester Dementia Adviser Service:	sarah.pacitto@alzheimers.org.uk	0161 962 4769 / 07704 661553
Older driver concerns:	www.olderdrivers.org.uk/driver-assessment	
Take the test? (Alzheimer's Research UK)	www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/brain-health/think-brain-health/	



OPEN TUESDAY

A programme of activities, interesting discussions, films.

A selected film every other week with a discussion afterwards

7.30pm on Tuesdays

New term starts Tuesday 14th April with a talk by local artist Liam Curtin, talking about the part art plays in our lives. Lots of time for discussion.

Always a warm welcome, tea, biscuits and a chat

FREE

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

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

Or contact Megan Bennett:

MANCHESTER ORGANIC GARDENERS

Welcoming all gardeners in the Greater Manchester area and beyond



Saturday 11th April 2026 at 2pm

The Right Plant for the Right Place

By Alison Peirce, Naturalist and Horticulturalist

How to assess conditions and gaps, and identifying which plants to choose

Withington Methodist church, 439 Wilmslow Road, Withington, M20 4AN

Access by car from Egerton Crescent off Parsonage Road

£3 members / £5 guests includes light refreshments

Enquiries: morganicg22@gmail.com

All welcome



AS I SUSPECTED, SOMEONE HAS BEEN ADDING SOIL TO MY GARDEN

THE PLOT THICKENS!



QUIZ

Identify the Flags



a)



b)



c)



d)



e)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18

Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 8th April 2026

Dinting to Broadbottom

A 3.5-mile walk on good tracks and roads. May be muddy in places. Very hilly with a steep downhill at the start and a long steep uphill midway. No stiles. Some steps.

Meet at Piccadilly Station concourse near Platform 2 at 10:15. A lunch is available at Lyme field Garden Centre in Broadbottom. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke on



Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 28th April 2026

Ashton Moss

A 3.3-mile walk. 3 low stiles, mostly flat, some steps, may be muddy with standing water. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Cornbrook tram stop at 10.10 to catch Ashton tram. Lunch at the Sheldon Arms pub. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on

**Someone tried to sell me a coffin today.
I said that's the last thing I need.**

Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 17th February 2026

Cheadle Hulme to Cheadle



The day of our walk could not have been any more different to the previous days which had pouring rain and freezing conditions. Our walking day was dry and sunny, if not a little bit cold.

We took a bus from Stockport Interchange to the March Hare pub in Cheadle Hulme. From here we walked along the Ladybrook Valley trail eventually reaching the Demmings industrial estate. This was the site of a former print-works established in 1789. By 1892, it had become the Demmings Dye and Bleaching Works and had several reservoirs containing water from the nearby Micker Brook which supplied the works. No doubt the waste water would have fed back into Micker Brook making it an environmental disaster. All but one of the reservoirs have been filled in. The remaining one is now a fishing lake. By 1936, the dye and bleaching works had ceased trading. The former mill yard has now become an industrial estate and the rest of the works consists of residential buildings.

From the industrial estate we went past Cheadle golf course, emerging on to Cheadle Road. A short walk up here took us past the rear of the Village hotel, back across Micker Brook and into Cheadle where we ended our walk at the Ashlea pub. We arrived 30 minutes early at the pub and the staff were able to get the food out to us almost immediately, despite being early. What great service! And what a lovely meal with great company!

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	Meetings take place 1st Wednesday of the month from 11am to 1pm. No experience necessary. 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 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 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. Sandra Grant
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 0161 445 0358 smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com
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. However, the group is currently full. If you like to be put on the waiting list contact: Diane Ward
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 on the 4 th Thurs of month at Didsbury Baptist. 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 second 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 2pm 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. Ray Dumbleton
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	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 10am - 12 at the Didsbury pub on Wilmslow Road. Megan Bennett

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- a) Croatia b) Tunisia c) Cyprus d) Belgium e) Uruguay



Didsbury Probud Programme 2026

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 April 2026

“Mining Memories” by Gary Conley

A very interesting and amusing talk about a coal miners life above and below ground, from his own experiences as a miner in the Lancashire coal field.

Thursday 16th April 2026

“Green Energy” by Peter Webb

Peter will be looking at the many aspects of Green/ Renewable Energy, but focusing on Geothermal and the very deep sources of heat energy available.

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.

April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<p>1 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30 (Closed Group). Bird Watching & Nature 11:00-13:00 Note: please contact Rita: ()</p>	<p>2 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>3 Bridge 9:45-12:00 DGN Centre Didsbury Park. Good Friday Bank Holiday</p>
<p>6 Easter Monday Bank Holiday Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 DGN Centre Didsbury Park. See Hilary's email for details. <i>New players see 20th below.</i></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 10am (for 10:15) to 12pm The Didsbury Pub Wilmslow Rd</p>	<p>9 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW</p>	<p>10 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 * Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE Getting by in Welsh 10:30 St. Nicholas Church, Kingsway Burnage Keep Fit 11:15-12:15 (Closed Group). Board Games 14:00- 16:00 Parrswood Pub</p>
<p>13 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30 Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Poetry Appreciation 11:00 Victoria Grange Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15 - 15:30 <i>New players see 20th</i> Psychology 14:00 Zoom</p>	<p>14 Table Tennis / Badminton. 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Philosophy 13:30 Chorlton Library Singing for fun 14:00-16:00 Baptist Church.</p>	<p>15 Lunch Group. TBA. To be added to the notification list please contact: () Art Appreciation 14:00 The Parsonage.</p>	<p>16 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Egyptology 10:30 - 12:30 The Parsonage Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>17 Bridge 9:45-12:00 * Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Keep Fit 11:15-12:15 (Closed Group). Dramatic Readers 14:00 Northern Tennis Club. Note: new group.</p>
<p>20 Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15 - 15:30 <i>Please Note: New players <u>must</u> email Hilary <u>before</u> the session date.</i> ()</p>	<p>21 Table Tennis / Badminton. 10:00 TaiChi. No class this week. Playreading 13:30 French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Piano Group 11:00-12:30. Didsbury Baptist Church. <i>For more details, contact Hilary Taylor:</i> () Current Affairs 13:30 OldCock Pub Didsbury Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library (Closed Group).</p>	<p>24 Bridge 9:45-12:00 * Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave. M20 1HE. German Conversation 10:30 Keep Fit 11:15-12:15 (Closed Group). Cinema 12:15</p>
<p>27 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30 Psychology 13:30 Burnage Library. Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15 - 15:30 <i>New players see 20th</i></p>	<p>28 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Singing for Fun 14:00-16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church. Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter.</p>	<p>29 Knit & Natter. 14:00-15:30 Nazarene Conservatory OVAS. 15:00 - 17:15 ()</p>	<p>30 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Spanish Conversation 14:30 Nazarene</p>	