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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 group pictured after a particularly steep climb uphill in Broadbottom when there should have been a stunning view to make it all worthwhile. Sadly, the low cloud on the day put paid to that!

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

NO LATER than Thursday 21st May 2026

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GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 2.00pm

“All at Sea” by Mark Llewellyn

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

Happy spring time! Thank you to all of those who have volunteered to serve on the committee and for keeping us functioning. You are a real asset to u3a. Spring is a reawakening; a new beginning for the earth, and our new committee members are our new start in South Manchester. Many thanks! I hope that you will enjoy being on the team.

On Easter Saturday I went on a murder mystery train ride with my eldest son. It was a Christmas present. We spent a lovely evening solving puzzles whilst solving a murder. The meal was delicious and the clues well hidden. It was not easy but if we listened, watched, read and asked the right questions, you found the murderer. We came 3rd as we missed 2 clues. We missed out by just 2 points.

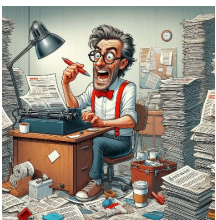
Missing out is not what is needed on such an evening of mystery, and it is a mystery to me how some of our members are not yet enjoying being involved in a group and are therefore missing out. Being a group member is a means of getting to know people of like mind and making new friends in a learning and fun atmosphere. Our u3a members are not meant to be loners so, if you are not a group participant yet, have a go, see what is on offer and join. There is also the chance to start new interest groups. Talk to Diane our groups coordinator for help in doing this.

On April 11th at 2am, I watched the astronauts landing back on earth and saw the moon pictures and our beautiful Earth. The moon is full of craters and high mountains making it a difficult place for man to live there but that appears to be the plan so that more planets can be explored. I am awestruck by our universe and the bravery of the astronaut pioneers who flew further than any one has done before.

What about us in our later years? We can still be pioneers, starting new ventures and making a difference to the planet we live on. Making a mark on our society and in u3a is pioneering work. So what about it? Can you step up, step out and achieve great things?

You can do it. In the murder mystery, we came third because we missed 2 clues. So don't miss out in u3a. Join a group. Make a difference. You are of value. You can do it. Enjoy!

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

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

SOUTH MANCHESTER u3a NEWS

SMu3a welcomes the following new members

Gunn Grande

Hafwen Davies

Moira Coleman

Judith Canham

Peter Hopkins

Gary Herman

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

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



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

Our next performance is: -

Thursday 14th May 2026 at 2pm at BELONG in West Didsbury

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

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“All at Sea” by Mark Llewellyn



Born in Bristol, Mark studied drama in Yorkshire, worked in London and now lives and works in Greater Manchester. His career has included a varied roster of work: actor, writer, voice-over artist, broadcaster, TV presenter, garden centre owner, business consultant and cemetery tour guide. His late partner was actor Roy Barraclough MBE, who is best remembered as Coronation Street's pub landlord Alec Gilroy and Les Dawson's comedy partner - the Cissie to his Ada. Mark has been involved in a number of charities: including Willow Wood Hospice, Guide Bridge Theatre, Highgate Cemetery and Your Manchester CIC. However, as a self-confessed committee-phobic, he prefers to help out by giving talks and performances to raise funds. He has worked with everyone from Ken Dodd to Kim Woodburn, Postman Pat to Barbara Knox, Angelina Ballerina to a team of very randy, real reindeers! Mark is currently the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester.

In “All at Sea”, he will talk about British cruise ships with a particular focus on the Cunard Line.

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

Walking for Health Group 2 Walk - Wednesday 13th May 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 Anne Clarke on



Walking for Health Group 1 Walk - Tuesday 26th May 2026

Sale Water Park via Priory Gardens

A 3-mile circular walk following part of Sale Water Park and the River Mersey and passing through Priory Gardens. No stiles, some small inclines and steps. Can be muddy after wet weather. Wear suitable shoes or boots. Bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Sale Water Park tram stop at 10.45. (This stop is on the airport line). Lunch at the Boathouse pub. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on

The Secrets of Lyme Hall

Uncovering the Elizabethan Staircase

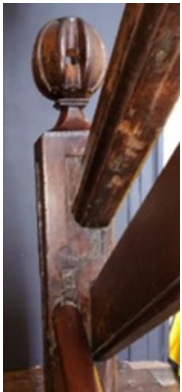
By Ian Burn



Lyme Hall dates from the mid-16th Century when the building of an L-shaped Elizabethan Hall was completed by around 1570. Externally, very little of original Elizabethan architecture still exists, having been covered over in the early 18th century by elegant stonework designed in the Palladian style. However, inside the Hall, there are many clues to the house's 16th century origins.

Following a visit from the Central Buildings Conservation team of the National Trust, the staff at Lyme Hall were able to piece together thoughts on where the Elizabethan staircase for the original Elizabethan Hall could have been and discovered pieces of it reused elsewhere.

What is now known as the Housekeeper's Stairs, (formerly a servant staircase), is mostly made up of pieces from the original Elizabethan staircase. The elm newel posts and handrail being repurposed elsewhere in the house. There are signs on each newel post of reuse, where new pieces of timber cover old joins. The scars left behind indicate that the turn on the original staircase was much tighter than the current Housekeeper's stairs, indicating more of a spiral.



The features at the top of the newel posts are most likely pomegranates, a common feature used in the Tudor period, mostly by Catherine of Aragon and her daughter Mary I. They were designed as a conversation piece to tease out your Catholic sympathies. The pendant drops are also of a very traditional Elizabethan design and have been pieced together.

But where was the Elizabethan staircase originally located?

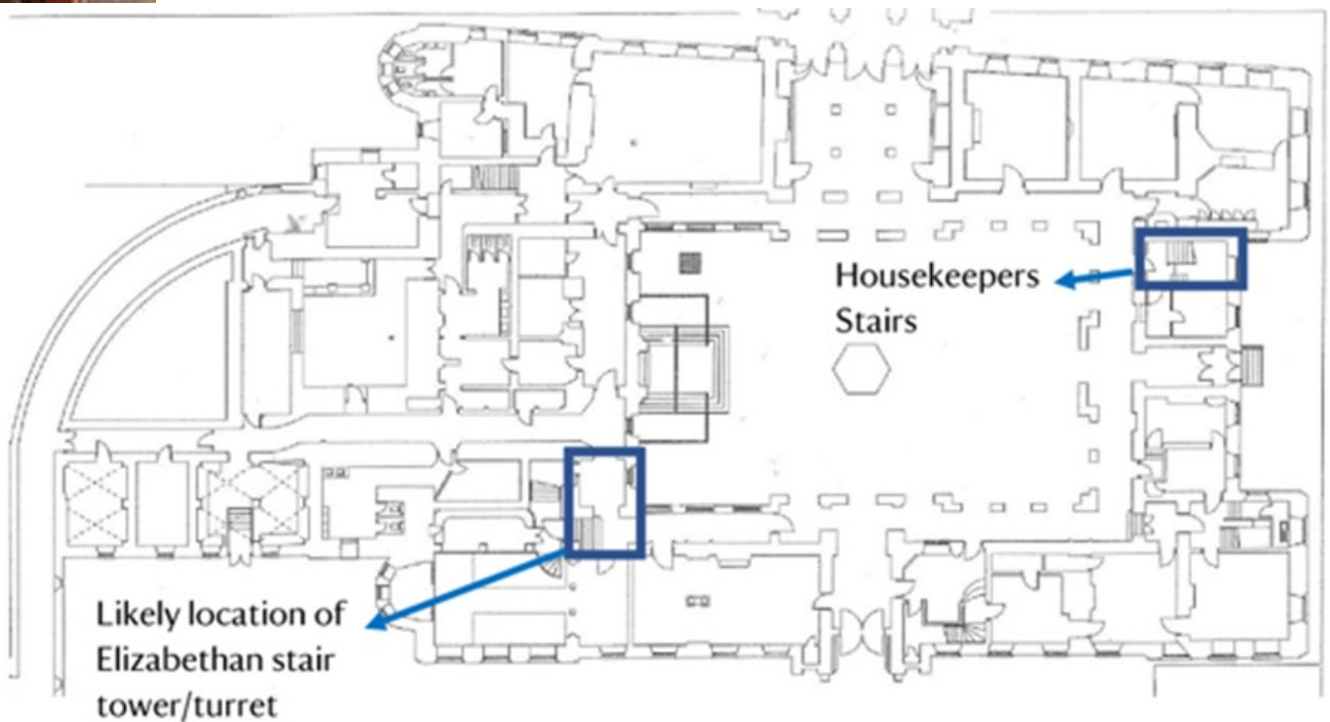


Figure 3: Ground Floor plan

The original balustrade was likely to be Tudor strapwork rather than the strings which are on the staircase today. The hunt for potential strapwork began. When looking around the house, the team came across several different options (images below). However, the most likely original design can be found just off the Family Pew in the Chapel.



Here the same newel posts can be seen with strapwork in the middle between the handrail and the string. Although the way the strapwork joins the newel posts indicates the pitch of the stair doesn't quite work, it's the closest we have found. It's also not too far from the suggested location of the Elizabethan stair tower.

Figure 4: potential original staircase design along the Family pew



Figure 5: other strapwork on the Housekeepers Stairs

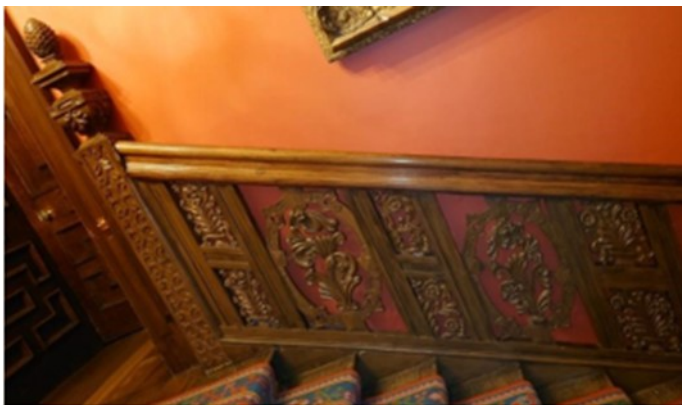


Figure 6: Stairs up to the Drawing Room from the Entrance Hall



Figure 7: Image of the reconstructed staircase at the Staircase House in Stockport

A very similar staircase design has been reconstructed at the Staircase House in Stockport after an unfortunate fire in 1995. This could mean the that same joiner worked on both structures.

Thank you to Kat Croxford, Collections & House Manager at Lyme, and her team.

CULTURE CORNER

By Helen Nicolson

The historic Little Theatre in Altrincham hosts monthly showings for the **Manchester & Salford Film Society**, and in April I went to see the Japanese film **'Perfect Days'** — for the third time! Tokyo city wanted a documentary about its string of state-of-the-art architect-designed public toilets, but in the hands of German director Wim Wenders the film became a poignant fictional tale of Hirayama, a middle-aged cleaner employed by The Tokyo Toilet company. He leads a simple life: we see his morning routine in detail, and how his face lights up as he steps out of his modest flat and looks up at the trees and sky. On his rounds he cleans diligently and thoroughly, politely stepping out when a customer needs the facilities. He takes his sandwich lunch to a temple garden, enjoying 'komorebi', the concept of 'sunlight leaking through trees', and occasionally collecting another miniature acer seedling for his carefully tended collection. The actor Kōji Yakusho has a wonderfully expressive face which portrays his character's pleasure at small events like reuniting a lost toddler with a distraught mother. We gradually realise that Hirayama has a rich inner life, playing classic rock and soul cassettes in his work van, and seeking out William Faulkner and Patricia Highsmith novels (in translation) in a small specialist bookshop.



The **M&SFS** is the longest-running volunteer-led film society in the country, now celebrating its 95th season, with two more films to go. Guests are welcome, at £7 per film. <http://www.mandsfilmsociety.org.uk/>

Do you remember the snowy winter of 1962-63?



It serves as the backdrop to 'The Land in Winter' by Andrew Miller. The novel follows two somewhat mismatched couples in a Somerset village, and by focussing on each in turn Miller gradually reveals more about their back stories. The two wives, whose paths would not normally have crossed, form a bond: both are pregnant and the coming of the snow interrupts their otherwise boring days. Several dramatic events unfold, and at the end I really wanted to know what would happen next to these people whose lives I had been immersed in. Miller's writing is rich and satisfying: as well as bringing his characters vividly to life, he has a way of weaving in small details that evoke the period.

To look out for

More Georgian music is coming to Emmanuel Church, on Tuesday 26 May. The Lalkhori Ensemble are from the rugged North Caucasus mountains of Georgia, and they specialise in researching the culture and dialect of the remote Svaneti region. Their aim is to preserve their rich and distinctive heritage with lively songs, instruments and dance.



ACHES and PAINS?

In June, Jennifer Emmott will be giving a talk about Osteopathy at our monthly general meeting. She would love to be able to talk to the audience about people's individual musculoskeletal ailments.

If you will be attending our June general meeting and suffer from musculoskeletal problems such as shoulder, back or hip pain, would you like Jennifer to address your ailment in detail?

If so, let me know briefly, what your ailment is and I will pass it on to her. If you wish to remain anonymous amongst the audience, I won't reveal to everyone whose ailment it is.

Please contact Ian Burn at: smu3a.treasurer@gmail.com



Helen Chambers has gathered together some “facts” from various Facebook posts. If they’ve come from the internet, they must be true? Actually, please don’t take them as medical facts although there may be a little truth in them. What do you think?

TRY AT YOUR OWN RISK

- Acidity** – Chew fennel seeds – burning settles quickly
- Bloating of stomach** – Warm water, salt and a little lemon – bloating goes fast
- Cold hands & feet** – Symptom of anaemia
- Coughing constantly** – Honey & black pepper – irritation reduces in 5 mins
- Headache** – Place a cold cloth on your forehead – brain heat drops instantly
- Joints painful** – Turmeric milk at night – stiffness eases naturally
- Skin is dull** – Rub ice on your face – skin instantly refreshed
- Sleepless** – Massage feet with warm oil before bed – brain switches to sleep mode
- Sore throat** – Keep a small piece of ginger in your mouth – burning stops in 30 secs
- Stress** – Smell eucalyptus oil – stress lowers within seconds
- Yawning** – Touch your tongue while yawning - you stop yawning

8 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT SITTING

- Sitting slows blood flow to your legs within 20 minutes, increasing clot risk.
- Your brain gets less oxygen when you sit too long, reducing focus and memory.
- Sitting tightens your hip muscles, which then causes lower-back pain.
- Long sitting reduces insulin sensitivity so your body stores more fat.
- Your metabolism drops by nearly 90% when you sit for hours.
- Sitting too long compresses your spine, causing long-term posture damage.
- Prolonged sitting weakens your glutes, which affects balance and walking strength.
- Standing or walking for 2-3 minutes every 30 minutes reverses most of the damage.



EYE FACTS



- Screens – don’t damage eyes, but they do cause serious strain.
- 20-20-20 rule works: every 20min look 20ft away for 20sec.
- Sleeping - eyes are the only part of your body that doesn’t rest.
- Blue light isn’t the main problem – it’s that you forget to blink.
- Blinking happens 66% less when staring at screens causing eyes to dry out.
- Sunglasses - wear to prevent cumulative & permanent UV damage .
- Carrots don’t improve vision - WW2 propaganda to hide radar tech.
- Dark mode isn’t easier on eyes, contrast is more important than colour.
- Dim Light doesn’t ruin your vision – it just causes temporary strain.
- Peripheral vision is better at night than your direct vision.
- Eye twitching is mostly caused by fatigue, strain or dry eyes.

I recently developed a fear of lifts. I’m taking steps to avoid them.

My friend can only sleep on stacks of old magazines. He’s got back issues.

Czech the Music Events Ltd.

presents

THE SONG OF TEREZÍN



Friday 15th May 2026 - 7.30 pm

Didsbury Baptist Church

TICKETS:



An evening commemorating the lasting musical legacy of the composers of Terezín.

The music will be enriched with stories and memories shared by Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines.



www.facebook.com/CzechtheMusic

TICKETS

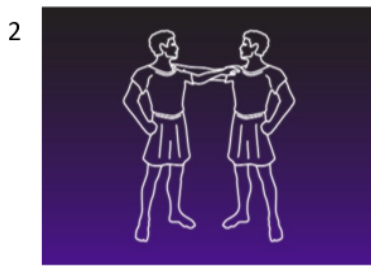
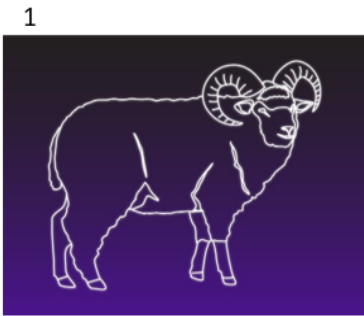
Important Facts to Remember as You Grow Older:

- Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- Life is sexually transmitted.
- Good health is simply the slowest rate at which one can die.
- Give a person a fish and feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months or perhaps years.
- All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- Don't worry about old age: it doesn't last that long



QUIZ

Identify the Star Signs



ANSWERS ON PAGE 15



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 21st May 2026

“A World of Mules and Minders” by Brian Topping

Brian tells of his life as a customs officer and the world of drug smuggling. He will guide us through the background and history of smuggling drugs, also providing examples of detection and investigation and the skills of officers in maintaining this success. Some interesting anecdotes when things didn't go quite right for the smugglers.

All meetings are held in the Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane, opposite the Scout Hut and Didsbury Metrolink station.

Tea/coffee and biscuits are served from 10.30am before the talk at 11am.

Visitors are very welcome. Any donations from visitors to help with running costs would be very helpful.

Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 31st March 2026

Dinting to Broadbottom



Our walk was more challenging than normal today. It was 3.5 miles and very hilly, including a very steep downhill and a very steep uphill. What a bunch of troopers though! Everyone managed it with no complaints (well just a few complaints). The weather could have been better. At least it was dry and reasonably mild, but there were low clouds on the hills so the promise of good views after our hard slog up, faded fast. As you can see from the photo, you have to use your imagination.

A short train ride from Piccadilly took us to Dinting where we started with a long steep down hill to cross the Glossop brook, then turning right to follow the brook past Melandra Roman Fort. It is thought that the Roman name for Melandra was Ardotalia (the place of the high, dark hill). The early wooden fort dated from the last quarter of the 1st century C.E. It was replaced by a stone fort in 108 C.E. It covered 3.5 acres but was demolished in the 18th century, when some of the stone was used in the building of Mottram church. There is not much to see now, but it is a protected monument.

A long steep uphill now, crossing over the river Etherow and eventually dropping down into Broadbottom where we enjoyed a lovely lunch in the tea room at Lymefield Garden Centre. After lunch we suffered a half-mile uphill walk up to Broadbottom station to catch our ride back to Piccadilly.

It may have been a struggle at times, but everyone enjoyed the walk.

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	This group is for experienced ACOL bridge players. We meet every Friday from 9:45 to 12 noon at the Nazarene College, Didsbury. It isn't necessary to have a bridge partner but you must be prepared to play with anyone in the group where necessary. 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
GETTING BY IN WELSH	At 10.30 on the first Friday of every month, this group meets at Burnage Library, 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 Burnage Library at 1.30pm. 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 07913 391419 judithnewton1@ntlworld.com
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 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	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

1. Aries 2. Gemini 3. Virgo 4. Sagittarius 5. Libra 6. Capricorn



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
EVERYONE WELCOME - FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

25th Anniversary Meeting

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

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.

4th June 2026



La Clemenza di Tito (Mozart)

Set in ancient Rome, this is a tale of political intrigue, betrayal, vengeance and guilt. Mozart's score is full of dramatic and stunningly beautiful music. This was to be his final opera.

May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<p>1 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 Burnage Library.</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Early May Bank Holiday</p> <p>Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15 - 15:30 DGN Centre Didsbury Park. <i>Closed to new players.</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>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>6</p> <p>Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30. (closed group)</p> <p>Bird Watching & Nature 11:00–13:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita:</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 -11:15</p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 *</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p> <p>Board Games 14:00-16:00 Parrswood Pub</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Poetry Appreciation 11:00-12:30 Victoria Grange</p> <p>Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>Closed to new players.</i></p> <p>Psychology 14:00 Zoom</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Philosophy 13:30 Chorlton Library.</p> <p>Singing for fun 14:00 – 16:00. Didsbury Baptist Church</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Welsh Conversation 10am (for 10:15) to 12pm The Didsbury Pub Wilmslow Rd</p> <p>Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 -11:15</p> <p>Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.</p> <p>Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 *</p> <p>Italian Conversation 10:30 – 12:00</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p> <p>Dramatic Readers 14:00 Northern Tennis Club.</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>Closed to new players.</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton. No session.</p> <p>TaiChi 13:00-14:00</p> <p>Playreading 13:30</p> <p>French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Lunch Group. 13:00</i> <i>Rozafa Greek Restaurant M2 4EQ.</i> <i>To be added to the list contact John at:</i></p> <p>Art Appreciation 14:00 The Parsonage, Stenner Lane.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 -11:15</p> <p>Egyptology 10:30 - 12:30 The Parsonage</p> <p>Spanish Conversation 14:00</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 *</p> <p>Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:30-12:00 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave M20 1HE</p> <p>Creative Writing 10:30</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30</p> <p>Spring Bank Holiday</p> <p>Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15 - 15:30 DGN Centre Didsbury Park. <i>Closed to new players.</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>Table Tennis / Badminton. No session.</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>27</p> <p>Knit & Natter 14:00-15:30 Nazarene Conservatory.</p> <p>OVAS 15:00 – 17:15.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Ukulele 10:00 -11:15</p> <p>Piano Group 11:00-12:30. Didsbury Baptist Church. <i>For more details contact Hilary:</i></p> <p>Current Affairs 13:30 The Old Cock Pub</p> <p>Book Group 2. 13:30 Closed group.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 *</p> <p>German Conversation 10:30</p> <p>Keep Fit 11:15-12:15</p> <p>Cinema 12:15</p>