

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BRIDGEWATER HALL

We go behind the
scenes on a fascinating
journey. **Page 6**

CULTURE CORNER

Helen injects yet more
culture for you to
enjoy. **Page 7**

REBUS QUIZ

Can you think outside
the box? Try our quiz.
Page 10

WERNETH LOW

How the walking
group made the uphill
challenge to enjoy
some stunning views.
Page 11



Check out our website

Registered Charity Number
1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



The walking group made the challenging climb from Gee Cross to the War Memorial in Werneth Low Country Park on a very hot day to enjoy some spectacular views.



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

NO LATER than Friday 21st August 2026

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

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

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Chair and External Ambassador	Beryl Cowen		
Secretary	Andrew Bradbury	smu3a.secretary@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Bernadette Fallon	smu3a.treasurer@gmail.com	
Membership Secretary	Joanie Yoffe	smu3amembership@gmail.com	
Assistant Membership Secretary	Patricia Ford		
Groups Co-ordinator / Vice Chair	Diane Ward	smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com	
Publicity	Wena Stevenson		
Safeguarding Officer	Liz Williams	smu3a.safeguarding@gmail.com	
Newsletter Editor Webmaster	Ian Burn	editor.smu3anews@gmail.com	
Speaker Secretary	Jan Lancaster		
Committee Member	Barbara Frankl		
Committee Member	Carole Orgell-Rosen		
Committee Member	Sandra Grant		

SUPPORT (non-committee)

"Meet & Greeters" Co-ordinator	Barbara Aston		
Newsletter Proofreader	Megan Bennett		
Facebook Editor	Rosemary Mallace		
Monthly Diary Sheet Production	Liz Thornhill		
Catering	Shirley Shaw		
Quiz Master	Tom Grimshaw		

GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 2.00pm

"Centenarian Lady Hires Buff Butler" by Paul Isherwood

See page 5 for details

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

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

Tradesperson Book

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



Message from the Chair

Happy holidays everyone.

I do hope that you have managed in these heat waves and drunk a lot of water. I have got a liking for hot tea in this weather as it really does cool you down.

When I was a little girl many moons ago, if our dinner was late, my brother and I would sing 'Why are we waiting'. It was a piece of fun but, in all honesty, I still find waiting for something difficult to do. Queueing drives me mad, especially in airports and supermarkets. Waiting for a bus and then 3 come along together can be exasperating, and then waiting rooms and NHS waiting lists also.

Our u3a has waiting lists and I think, in all honesty, that this is wrong. If a meeting is full (and that is an excellent thing), then I think that experienced group members with the correct skills, should be able to start another group in that subject. So, think about this and if your group is large enough to have a waiting list then think about starting a second group. However I am not asking the current leader to do this as they have an enough to do. There will be enough people in the group to step up and do this. Let's do away with waiting lists and start more groups. This is the ethos of our u3a. You are all valued members.

On an exciting note, we are arranging more outings and hope to put on at least 3 per year. So, watch this newsletter for information. Our next ones may be The Police Museum and then the People's History Museum. Both in Manchester.

One of our member would like to start a quiz group. There are 5 people interested but she needs 12 to make it viable for teams. So, if you want to have a go, see me and I will pass on the information.

This general meeting is the last call for questions for Roger Johnson the TV news reader and reporter. I need to collate them so that he can answer them in our September meeting. Please write them down and give them to me at the general meeting or email them to me now. The last day for submitting questions is August 10th.

We have an exciting year ahead of us as usual. If you are on holiday have a great time. If you are continuing groups also have a great time. Happy August!

Beryl

WE'RE
GROWING



Our wonderful South Manchester u3a has been steadily growing in numbers since the massive decline during Covid.

We now have more than 600 members! This is our largest number ever!

Thank you everyone for joining our u3a and a big thank you to everyone who is getting involved in group activity, especially those of you who have stepped up to help run the groups.

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: July newsletter can be found here [July 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

Sandra Thurm	John McGuire	Trevor Clark	Wendy Clark
Rita Powell	Paul Dawson	Joan Toovey	Val Hempstock
Sara Saxon	Aileen Bennett	Wendy Taylor	Anita Lal

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 2pm	"Centenarian Lady Hires Buff Butler" by Paul Isherwood
Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 2pm	"My Life in Broadcasting" by Roger Johnson
Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 2pm	"Great Forgers" by Jim Williams
Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 2pm	"My Life and Challenges" by Dr. Carl Austin-Behan OBE DL
Tuesday 1st December 2026 at 2pm	A Performance by the SMu3a Ukulele Orchestra followed by a Christmas Quiz hosted by Tom Grimshaw
Tuesday 5th 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
Tuesday 4th May 2027 at 2pm	"Raptor Migration and Birding in Southern Spain" by Dennis Atherton
Tuesday 1st June 2027 at 2pm	"An Oasis in the Pandemic: Cultivating Hospitality in Stretching Times" by Dr. Deirdre Brower
Tuesday 6th July 2027 at 2pm	"Strange Meetings - A Performance on Wilfred Owen" by Shaun Higgins
Tuesday 3rd August 2027 at 2pm	"On the cobbles: Early Days at Coronation Street" by Mark Llewellyn
Tuesday 7th September 2027 at 2pm	TBA by Alison England
Tuesday 5th October 2027 at 2pm	"My Life in Crime Part 2" by Simon Michael
Tuesday 2nd November 2027 at 2pm	"Women of the Special Operations Executive During WW2" by Michele Higginbotham
Tuesday 7th December 2027 at 2pm	TBA
Tuesday 4th January 2028 at 2pm	TBA by Dr Diana M Leitch MBE
Tuesday 1st February 2028 at 2pm	"The Life of a BBC Reporter" by Kevin Fitzpatrick
Tuesday 7th March 2028 at 2.15pm	"Reflections of a Retired Academic" by Professor Pete Naude
Tuesday 4th April 2028 at 2pm	"My Life at the Manor" by Gary Conley

South Manchester u3a September General Meeting

Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“Centenarian Lady Hires Buff Butler” by Paul Isherwood



Years ago, Paul’s curiosity was piqued when stumbling across an advert saying ‘Want to get paid for going out wearing just a bow tie, cuffs and a bottom-revealing apron, for fun and different celebrations?’ From the sublime to the ridiculous, sharing his most clean and humorous anecdotes. With the finale being requested specifically, by Marge for her landmark 100th birthday.

Paul is a Buff Butler and is happy to share anecdotes from this challenging career. He has been a Butler in the Buff since 2008 so is obviously very experienced. Apparently, back in the day, this service was very popular at Ann Summers parties, but as these are now less fashionable, he entertains at hen parties, divorce parties and even Ladies Day at Aintree.

Paul lives in Blackpool and tells us that he doesn’t use fake tan. We think this picture was taken several years ago.

QUESTIONS FOR ROGER JOHNSON



For our general meeting in September, we are being joined by Roger Johnson from the BBC.

Roger is a television journalist, newsreader and presenter, currently working as the main presenter for BBC North West Tonight and as a regular weekend presenter of BBC Breakfast and other national BBC News platforms.

He will be talking about his work at the BBC but what he really enjoys is answering audience questions about anything relating to his work. It would be very useful if Roger could have a list of questions ready to be asked at his presentation. If there’s anything that you would like to ask him, please email your question to: -

Beryl Cowen at: by Tuesday 10th August at the latest. You can speak to Beryl in person at the August general meeting.

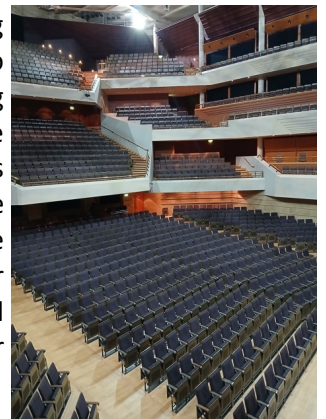
BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

At the start of July, a group of 18 of us went on a tour of 'Behind the Scenes of Bridgewater Hall'. This followed last month's newsletter article about the history of the venue.

Our guide was the very knowledgeable Simon who introduced us to the history behind the building of Bridgewater Hall. Construction of the building began on 22nd March 1993. Before that, the preferred concert venue in Manchester was the Free Trade Hall. This building was constructed in the 1850's at a time when acoustics were not important and not understood. It suffered bomb damage in the 2nd world war and the reconstruction was poorly carried out. It became clear that the Free Trade Hall did not have the correct acoustics nor the correct facilities therefore it was suggested that a new purpose-built venue was constructed. Together with a grant from the European Economic Community (now the EU), £42 million was spent to build what was to become known as the Bridgewater Hall.



Simon told us that the architects of the building worked closely with acousticians who were able to show how to make the acoustics of the building perfect. He took us to the gallery at the top of the auditorium and explained that everything was designed to enhance the acoustics, including the design of the headboards of the seats and the shape of the ceiling. He invited us to clap our hands once and to listen for the echo which lasted 2.2 seconds. (We had to take Simon's word for this). 2 seconds is the perfect acoustic echo, so the Bridgewater isn't far off.



We went backstage and Simon pointed out the difference in the quality of the carpets which were much more plain (and cheap) than the ones front of house. The exception being the Green Room where the best quality carpet was installed as a result of a visit from the late Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh not long after the Bridgewater was opened.



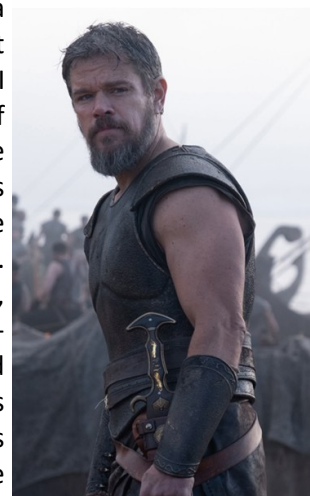
Finally Simon took us into the basement where the famous springs are, which enable the hall to be completely separate from the vibrations of the road and trams outside. The whole building sits on just a few long stilts which are sunk down to meet the bedrock beneath. These stilts have springs at the top of them where the building rests on them. The walls of the building do not rest on the ground, in fact he showed us one section of the wall where you could see daylight between the bottom of the wall and the ground. He also told us a story about when the IRA bomb exploded in Manchester in 1996. Whilst many people heard the bomb from even 2 miles away, the Dutch engineers, who were working on the organ at the time, heard and felt nothing. They were amazed when told to evacuate the building and when they emerged out of the building, they were surprised to see the chaos and smoke.



This tour was amazing and very interesting. If you get the chance to go on the tour, take it! A big thank you to Wena Stevenson for organising the tour.

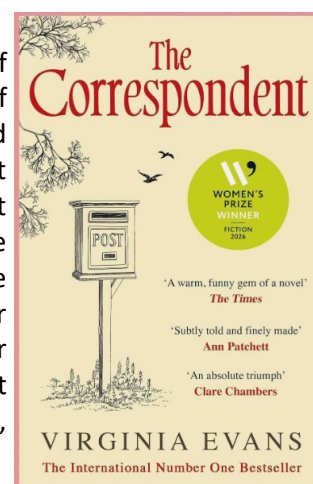
FILM: The Odyssey, directed by Christopher Nolan

'A masterpiece in every way' ... 'a strange, fearsome and trailblazing machine of a movie' ... 'a monumental adaptation' ... I don't usually go to blockbuster movies, but when this one was billed as 'by some distance, the best [film] of the year so far', I decided to make an exception. Well, I won't say I enjoyed it exactly: I staggered out of the cinema after nearly three hours feeling battered and shell-shocked. (I'm told there is a 4D version in which your seat shakes, you feel the wind and sea spray, and arrows whistle past your ear: thank goodness I didn't choose that option by mistake!) Of course the subject matter is war and the aftermath of war, and there's plenty of violent action. When the besieging Greeks finally break into Troy with the famous wooden horse ploy, there are brilliant scenes shot from above of a city on fire, intercut with bloody hand-to-hand fighting. As Odysseus sets off to return home, his three ships with red sails and rows of oarsmen look impressively authentic, especially when navigating the perilous whirlpool of Scylla and the terrifying strait of Charybdis with monstrous rocky arms plucking men from the deck. Many other well-known and scary characters from the 2,500-year-old epic are portrayed, including the one-eyed giant Cyclops in his cave, the dreaded Circe who turns men into pigs, blind Tiresias who gazes into a bowl of blood and foretells the future. To sum up: it's skilful film-making and 'a great introduction to Homer', with striking set pieces and many famous names in the cast — but not for the faint-hearted.



BOOK: The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

This 'epistolary novel', awarded the 2026 Women's Prize for Fiction, is made up of letters written by crotchety 70+-year-old Sybil Van Antwerp, who over the course of several years diligently keeps up a correspondence with various family members and friends. Occasional replies, and later some surprising emails, are included. At first it seemed a light and somewhat inconsequential read and it took me a while to figure out who was who, so making a few notes was helpful. We gradually build a rounded picture not only of an interesting woman with significant life experience, both in the workplace and as a mother and loyal friend, but also of many of the people she writes to. With her letters, she re-evaluates some of her relationships, and courageously steps out of her comfort zone when faced with some unexpected developments. She's also a great reader, and she and her longstanding friend Rosalie swap their thoughts on books, sending me in search of some of the titles to read or revisit.



ART: Beneath the Great Wave: Hokusai and Hiroshige at the Whitworth Gallery

I was curious to see the 'Great Wave' print by Hokusai that has become one of the most recognisable images in the world. It is from a series of '36 Views of Mount Fuji', and I was soon drawn in to the world of Ukiyo-e: colourful woodblock prints, many no bigger than an A3 sheet, covering scenes as diverse as landscapes, Samurai battles, a rice market, and a workshop scene of women involved in the printmaking process. My brief visit was too short to take in the historical information and the subtle details of the sixty-plus prints on show. I will definitely be returning to do this fascinating exhibition full justice.





COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

Following our continuing successful concerts at Belong, our next performance is: -

Thursday 27th August 2026 at 2pm at BELONG (Morris Feinmann) M20 2UW

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

HOLIDAY GROUP IN SCOTLAND

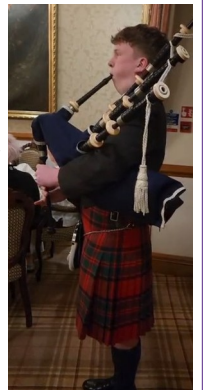
Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th March 2027

Four nights bed, breakfast and 4 course evening meal at the Duke of Gordon Hotel in the Cairngorms National Park for just £375 per person!



This includes all travel from Didsbury, a cruise on Loch Ness, a visit to Glamis Castle, a trip to Pitlochry, evening entertainment in the hotel and a special Scottish night with a candlelit dinner and a traditional piper.

There is an optional visit to a distillery for an additional £15.



A group of us went to the Duke of Gordon in February this year and had a great time. It's a lovely warm, comfortable hotel with a welcoming coal fire, a cosy, well-stocked bar, a formal dining room and a large ballroom with dance floor. There is also the chance of seeing the Northern Lights from the hotel car park! For those who may be put off by the length of the journey, please note that we will have 3 stops on both the outward and homeward journeys, meaning that there will be no longer than 2 hours between stops.

At the moment there still some twin/double rooms for sharing, however all of the single rooms have been taken, so if you would like a single, I can put you on the waiting list.

Contact Anne Clarke for further details.



BOOK GROUP 4

Because our 3 book groups have all been such a success that they are all full, we are just starting up a 4th book group. What a success!

Val Hempstock, a recent newly-joined member, will be running this group and the first meeting will be: -

Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 2pm

After this, meetings will take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Val's home in Didsbury.

For more information, contact Val Hempstock



Didsbury Probis Programme

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

Thursday 6th August 2026

“Does the Criminal Justice System Work?” by Martin Rowley

This talk covers:- Parliament making Laws; who can charge you with a criminal offence; what happens in court, and in prison; also how then does the Probation system work.

Thursday 20th August 2026

“The Libraries of Manchester” by John Carpenter

John gives a visual walk around five of Manchester’s libraries. Why were they built? Their social histories. Who went to these early libraries in these different areas? He also looks at the introduction of Carnegie funded libraries.

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.



Could you volunteer for The Witness Service?

About the Witness Service

The Witness Service provides free, independent support to any witness giving evidence in criminal courts in England and Wales — both for the prosecution and the defence.

Why volunteer with us?

- Make a difference - you will volunteer directly with victims and witnesses.
- Gain skills and experience - you will receive training on how to provide practical and emotional support.
- Join our community - you will be part of a large community of over 2,000 volunteers and staff
- Beyond your role – attend one of our many events/webinars and join one of our six Equality, Diversity & Inclusion networks.

Diversity Matters

VS strives to represent the diverse communities we serve and are passionate about creating an environment where all staff and volunteers feel respected and heard. Being a diverse organisation with an inclusive culture is integral to us being able to meet our aim of ensuring that anyone who is a victim of crime gets the support they need.

VS is also a Disability Confident Employer and we provide a Guaranteed Interview Scheme for candidates that are disabled and meet all essential criteria for a role.

We are happy to make reasonable adjustments to support you through the application process.

Ready to apply?

[Please click this link to apply](#)

Want to find out more?

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about this role, please contact: -
volunteering@victimsupport.org.uk

QUIZ

REBUS PUZZLES

1



2



3



4



5



ANSWERS ON PAGE 14



LIMBO

I was pickpocketed while doing the limbo.
I don't understand how someone can stoop so low.

Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 30th June 2026

Werneth Low Country Park



Today's walk took us from near 'Puregym' in Hyde, through Gee Cross and into Werneth Low Country Park. The weather was dry and warm with thunder storms threatened for the afternoon. Fortunately, the storms never materialised but, instead, the sun shone.

The first half of the 2.5 mile walk was a challenging uphill slog. At times the ascent was quite steep but we took our time and had plenty of stops. The reward was some stunning views at the top by the war memorial. We took in the views whilst we rested. Another slight uphill alongside the golf course took us to a country road where our descent began, still with some fantastic views. We continued downhill to our lunch stop at the Grapes pub in Gee Cross where we enjoyed some tasty food.

South Manchester u3a Walking for Health Walk Group 2 – Wednesday 12th August 2026

Daisy Nook Country Park, Oldham

A 2.5-mile walk. No stiles. Short climb at the start with some steps. Can be muddy in wet weather. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one.

Meet at Piccadilly Gardens by Queen Victoria monument (opp. Travelodge) at 10.20. Lunch at the Daisy Nook Garden Centre. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke



South Manchester u3a Walking for Health Walk Group 1 - Tuesday 25th August 2026

Clayton Hall to Ashton Moss

A 3.2-mile walk via Ashton Canal. Mostly level, with a few steps down, no stiles, on good surfaced paths and roads. 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 10.30 to catch Ashton tram. Lunch at the Sheldon Arms pub. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn

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 Parrs 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. We meet at Emmanuel Parish Centre on Barlow Moor Road. 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. Marie O'Sullivan
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 10.00 – 11.30 on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Andrew Bradbury
PHILOSOPHY	This group meets at 1.30 pm at Chorlton 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
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
TAI CHI FOR BEGINNERS	Gentle exercise which benefits balance and calmness at the Lower Hall, Emmanuel Offices, behind the church from 2.30 - 3.15pm 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 REBUS QUIZ

1. Travel overseas
2. Up for grabs
3. Summer - The mathematical equation 'SUM' is used in this riddle. The alphabet 'R' is added (sum) with another 'R'. So we can read it as 'Summer' (SUM – R)
4. Forgive and forget
5. Split pea soup



SHORT MAT INDOOR BOWLING

Short Mat Bowling shares similarities with the long mat game but is played on a 45ft mat and introduces more tactical elements into the game.

A new short mat bowling group will start in September 2026. If anyone is interested in taking part, we will meet on Sunday afternoons from 1pm at Cheadle Drill Hall, located behind St Mary's church on Brook Street in Cheadle.

For more information contact Gordon or Margaret

A little Bit of Everything

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarves are not happy.

What do you do when your hot pants catch on fire? Put them out with your panty--hose.

I have many jokes about unemployed people. Sadly none of them work.

Peter Pan is a terrible boxer. Whenever he throws a punch it Neverlands.

What do you call a bundle of hay in a church? Christian Bale.

August 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History No meeting. Poetry Appreciation 11:00-12:30 Victoria Grange Psychology No meeting. Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 17th Aug</i>	4 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 New Group: Beginners Tai Chi 14:30 - 15:15 General Meeting 14:00- 16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church	5 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30. (Closed group) Bird Watching & Nature 11:00-13:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita: 	6 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Spanish Conversation 14:00	7 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Getting by in Welsh No meeting. Keep Fit 11:00-12:00
10 Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 17th Aug</i>	11 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 New Group: Beginners Tai Chi 14:30 - 15:15 Philosophy 13:30 Chorlton Library Singing for fun 14:00-16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church.	12 Welsh Conversation 10am (for 10:15) to 12pm The Didsbury Pub Wilmslow Rd Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter	13 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.	14 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:00-11:30 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave M20 1HE Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Board Games 14:00-16:00 Parrswood Pub
17 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History No meeting. Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>All new players must email Hilary before the session date.</i> 	18 Table Tennis/ Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 New Group: Beginners Tai Chi 14:30 - 15:15 Playreading 13:30 Withington Library French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café Emmanuel Church.	19 Lunch Group. 13:00 TBA. To be added to the notification list please contact: Art Appreciation 14:00 The Parsonage	20 Ukelele 10:00- 11:15 Egyptology No meeting Spanish Conversation 14:00	21 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Dramatic Readers No meeting.
24 Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 17th Aug</i>	25 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 New Group: Beginners Tai Chi 14:30 - 15:15 Singing for fun 14:00-16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church. Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter	26 Knit & Natter 14:00-15:30 Nazarene Conservatory Dene Rd. M20 2GU OVAS 15:00 – 17:15 	27 Ukulele 10:00 -11:15 Piano Group 11:00-12:30. Didsbury Baptist Church. <i>For more details contact Hilary:</i> Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library Current Affairs. No meeting. Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW	28 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 Creative Writing 10:30 German Conversation 10:30 (Nazarene) Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:00-11:30 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave M20 1HE Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Cinema 12:15
31 BANK HOLIDAY Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 DGN Centre Didsbury Park. <i>New players see 17th</i> Psychology No meeting.				