

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

KNIT and NATTER

Find out how much
knitting and nattering
goes on. **Page 5**

LOST RAILWAY LINE

Find out about Heaton
Mersey's lost railways.
Page 6

NW SUMMER SCHOOL

Find out about what
happened at the
Summer School.
Page 9

DAISY NOOK STROLL

The walking group
enjoys Daisy Nook.
Page 15



Check out our website

Registered Charity Number
1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



Pat Ford, AKA Lewis Hamilton, delivering our mobility scooter to a grateful new owner on behalf of Withington Assist. She did a wheelie shortly after this photo was taken.

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

NO LATER than Monday 21st September 2026

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Catering	Shirley Shaw		
Quiz Master	Tom Grimshaw		

GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 2.00pm

"My Life in Broadcasting" by Roger Johnson

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

Dear Friends,

A month ago, a family of 5 moved in to my house to share it with me. They have spent many years as missionaries in the Philippines and Japan working with trafficked children. A challenging and sometimes heartbreaking task. They were used to a very different culture, climate and language to Britain. Now they have to readjust and think in different ways. They have to survive.

This reminds me of our retirement when we have to readjust in order to live fruitful lives in older age. We have left work, maybe moved and left old haunts and friends. We now have to feel our way into new experiences and this is the value of our u3a. It takes time too.

A very warm welcome to all new members who have joined over the last few months and welcome to our u3a family. I hope that over the coming weeks, you are enjoying groups, learning new things and having fun. Despite the challenges, getting involved is exciting. Adjustments will work like the family living with me. Enjoy the new experiences and enjoy this new part of your life.

September is here and we are turning our thoughts and taste buds to our u3a Christmas lunch. It is a great event with good food, good company, a lovely venue and thanks to Pat our organiser who will provide a lot of fun and entertainment. So when sign up day comes, don't delay and book early. It is a bargain!

Autumn is underway and, after the drought, I look forward to cooler rainy days and green grass. The autumn of our years should see us involved with others, getting out and about, learning new skills and living life to the full. So I am giving you all a challenge. This autumn invite someone new, who is lonely, to join our u3a so that they can enjoy their later years. (Perhaps we can reach 650 members by Christmas? - only joking!). Seriously, I know that there are still people in South Manchester who are alone or frightened. If you are the person who invites the most people to join our u3a, we will give you a fabulous prize! We can help them. We are the u3a.

Happy days and happy challenges.

Beryl

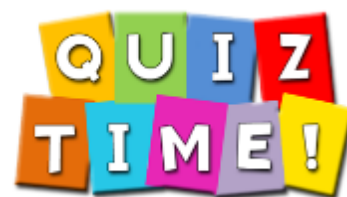
QUIZ GROUP

The first meeting of the new quiz group will be on Wednesday 7th October 2026 2-4 pm and monthly thereafter.

The venue will be The Parr's Wood Pub, 356 Parr's Wood Road, Didsbury M20 6JD. There will be a small charge to be advised. As it's a pub we cannot take our own drinks but obviously drinks will be available to purchase at the bar before we start.

As I need to know numbers before the day in order to organise teams please let me know if you are going to attend by email to

Val Youde



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

Linda Penman	Paul McCrory	Nina Fedorsky	Jeanette Preece
Lisa Lightfoot	Val Heliar	Malcolm Allum	Patricia Moreland
Carole Roberts	Athena Heynes	Steven Goldenberg	Alicia Gamley

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

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 1st September 2026 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

“My Life in Broadcasting” by Roger Johnson



Roger Johnson 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 talk about his life in broadcasting but he will also answer questions about himself from the audience. Members of South Manchester u3a have been asked in advance of the meeting to submit their questions for Roger to answer on the day.



Admittedly lots of nattering does go on at the monthly Knit and Natter meetings, but members achieve a lot as you can well see from the photos below. Member Pam Smith knitted the beautiful pastel-coloured cot blanket, Liz Thornhill produced 23 tiny teddies and both Karen Malies and Paula Gerrard made the collection of brightly-coloured squares. Once the squares have been crocheted together with others to make blankets of various sizes, all of these items will be forwarded to wherever they are needed. Many end up in refugee camps around the world where hopefully they bring a bit of warmth and colour into very difficult lives. Those tiny teddies are particularly popular with little children in these camps who may have no other toys.



The Knit and Natter group meets on the last Wednesday of every month from 2 pm at the Nazarene College on Dene Road in Didsbury. New members are always welcome. We help each other when stuck, and can teach you to knit or crochet if you want to learn. And if you prefer, you are welcome to work on your own projects rather than the items for charity.

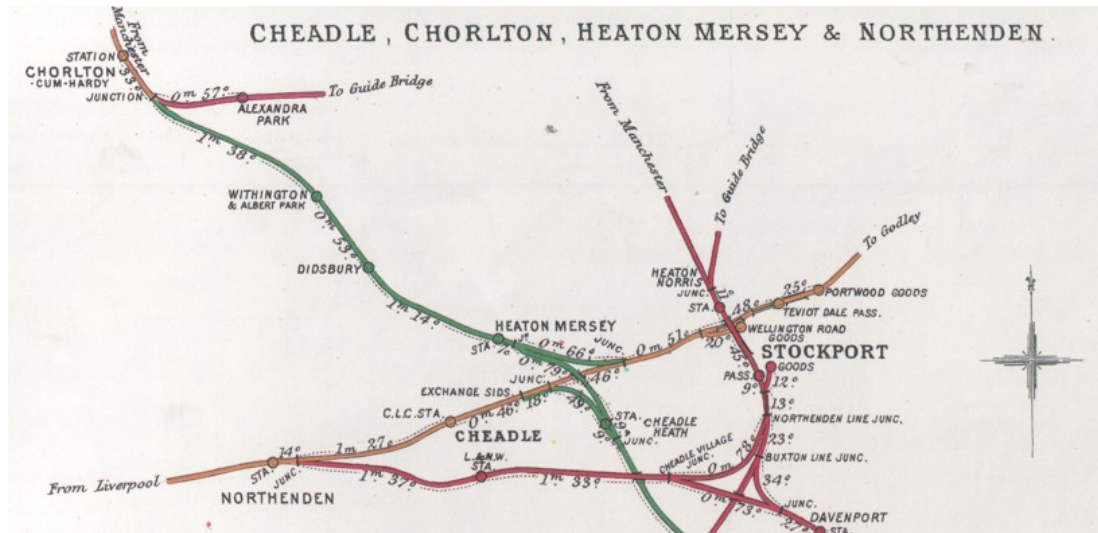
For any further details please contact Diane Ward at

Heaton Mersey's Lost Railway Line

I recently read a post on Facebook from our new Mayor, Bev Craig. She announced that the long-awaited Metrolink tram line from East Didsbury to Stockport had been given the green light, although she still could not say when the work would commence. This prompted me to look at the proposed route for this new line and I was pleased to see that much of it would re-use the original railway line from Manchester to Stockport and beyond, which was closed in 1969 with the track being lifted in 1970. This former railway line is now a walking and cycling route which runs from the East Didsbury Metrolink terminus through to Stockport. Living in Heaton Moor, this is a route which I regularly walk.

I love local history, so I thought that I would share with you the history of this railway line and the interesting buildings nearby. The line was originally a suburban railway, the Manchester South District Railway (MSDR), which was opened by the Midland Railway in 1880, in order to allow Midland Railway expresses from London to reach Manchester Central station. The line ran south from Manchester Central to Stockport Tiviot Dale. It was partially transferred to the ownership of the Cheshire Lines Committee in 1891, and remained in their ownership until nationalisation in 1948.

From the beginning, the line carried both a regular local service between Manchester Central and Stockport Tiviot Dale (these were known as the South District trains), trains to Buxton, and long distance Midland Railway expresses to London, running via Matlock and Derby. In 1901 the Midland Railway opened a new line between Heaton Mersey and New Mills via Cheadle Heath. The new line was built to provide a faster route to the south for express services, avoiding Stockport Tiviot Dale.



The line ran through what is now East Didsbury Metrolink station, although originally, no such station existed. The line continued along what is now the cycleway past Heaton Mersey station. The main station building was a substantial brick-built structure located on the east (southbound) side of the line. A footbridge led across the twin railway tracks to the northbound platform, with a smaller brick-built shelter. Station staff could use a wooden boarded crossing at the north end of the facility. It closed in July 1961.



The station buildings were demolished and the entire station site was buried as part of a land fill scheme in 1970. An industrial estate now stands on the station site. There is no physical evidence that a station stood on this site now. The only giveaway is the road, which currently runs to its original location, called Station Road.



Evidence of the line disappears just after Heaton Mersey station as it has been obliterated by an industrial estate. The estate lies on what was once the Heaton Mersey Bleachworks. Established in 1765 by Samuel Oldknow, it was made up of a lower and upper bleachworks, the latter being where cloth was laid out to dry. This upper bleachworks is now Heaton Mersey Park. The bleachworks wound down in the 20th century and was demolished in 1961. This aerial photo from the 1920s shows the Heaton Mersey rail line running along the top of the photo and the Cheshire Lines rail line running along the bottom.

After the industrial estate, the path of the line is once again visible, passing through the woods towards the river Mersey. Just before it meets the river, it splits in two with the left-hand line running adjacent to the river to Stockport Tiviot Dale station (long since gone). The right-hand line crossed the river over a now demolished bridge. It is this bridge which will need to be rebuilt in order for the proposed new Metrolink line to cross the river. The original bridge was partnered with another bridge running at an angle to it, which carried the Cheshire Lines railway from Liverpool to Godley in the Peak District.



Today, these two gargantuan bridges are hardly visible where once, numerous steam engines would have thundered across. The walk and cycle route along this old railway line brings many people, myself included, much joy and exercise. If the new Metrolink extension goes ahead, it will be sad to lose this unless, of course, a new path is created running alongside the tram track. Given how long we have waited for this Metrolink extension, I hope that I'm still alive to see it!

Ian Burn



Mobility Scooter Finds a Good Home

In our June edition of the newsletter, we advertised a mobility scooter which was available free to anyone who needed it.

As there were no takers from our u3a, it was offered to Assist in Withington and was snapped up by one of their service users. Pat and Joanie delivered it to her and here's Pat riding it round to her house. Brmm brmm! It's actually silent but who cares?

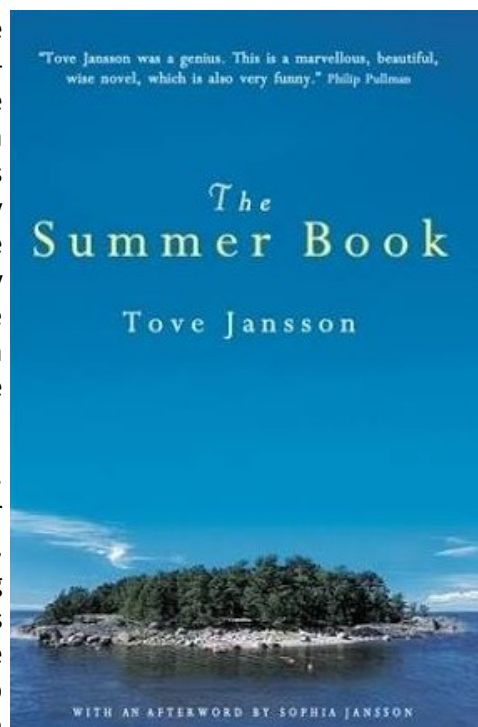
I'm so glad it's been taken, although it's possible she that might not keep it. She's 93 and very small but she has space at the side of her house to practise. She's keen to try and has driven around on an Assist day out.

Patricia Ford

The Summer Book ... and film

This beautiful film is set on a tiny Finnish island, where the cinematographer faithfully captures the essence of the place: the sun-glinted sea lapping gently against the reeds and rocks of the shore, the gorgeous sunsets, the wide open sky in all its moods. The characters are a wise grandmother (Glenn Close convincingly made up to look ten years older than her actual mid-seventies); her morose son who has recently lost his wife; and his daughter, about ten years old. They are spending the long summer in the family's basic but comfortable timber-built holiday home. While the father has to keep on with his work as an illustrator, the other two spend time together, the grandmother stumping around with a stick over uneven rocks and through tree-root tunnels with her inquisitive and occasionally fractious granddaughter.

The film is inspired by the 1972 book of the same name by Tove Jansson, based on many summers she spent as a child, and with a partner in later life, on small islands in the Gulf of Finland. Jansson, a prolific author, painter and illustrator, was born into Finland's Swedish-speaking educated elite in 1914, and she is perhaps better known for her children's books about the oddly shaped Moomintroll Family. One critic said of *The Summer Book* "Jansson's brilliance is to create a narrative that seems to have no forward motion, to exist in lit moments ..." In my memory it had a magical and elusive feel, whereas the film has to present us with solid, flesh-and-blood humans, losing some of the subtlety. The opposite of an action movie, it is more matter of tuning in to the slow pace and appreciating the visual effects.



Agatha Christie ... not to be underestimated

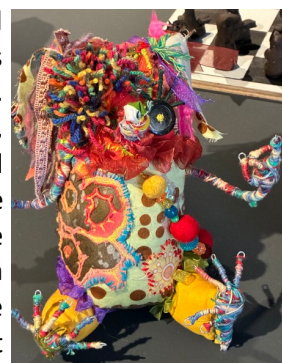
For light reading over the summer, I revisited 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd', published in 1926. I thought I had remembered what was surprising about the outcome (no spoilers here, except to say that it's a classic example of an unreliable narrator) but I was still in the dark until the end. It led me to want to find out more about this extraordinarily prolific, clever yet unassuming author. Born in 1890 in Queen Victoria's reign into a prosperous family in Devon, what led her to a writing career that spanned five decades? She invented two of the most famous sleuths in the detective novel genre and brought pleasure to millions, if not billions, of readers across the world. The more I delved, the more intrigued I was, and my research is continuing.

An exhibition to catch if you can

If you read this before Sunday 6 September, you still have a chance to visit the biennial Manchester Open art exhibition. Over 400 artworks are on show, celebrating the talents of artists from across the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester.



Such a range of styles and media: drawing, painting, sculpture, video, photography; textile art, from quirky to polemical; and thought-provoking ceramics. It's at the HOME arts centre (which is also the meeting place of our own U3A Cinema Group), a few minutes from Deansgate tram stop or a short walk down from St Peter's Square.





SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP

We now have 9 participating members in our group and this number will hopefully grow. We are also meeting in a new venue.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 2pm to 3.30pm at HOME café in St James Emmanuel church on Barlow Moor Road in Didsbury.

For more information contact: Debbie Delange on

NORTH WEST REGIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL



In early August, more than 100 members gathered for the annual NWu3a Summer School. It took place over five days in the very modern Brooks Building of Manchester Metropolitan University. The weather outside was very hot (perfect for archaeology excursions etc) but we were cool and calm in the air-conditioned rooms. Other subjects included Art, Geology, US politics, Opera and Ukulele.

Accommodation was onsite and appreciated by members from our region and from around the country. I met people from Scotland, Norfolk and Surrey, amongst others. The days were busy but breaks were included as well as lunch, dinner and evening activities. There was a quiz one evening with a winning team that included members of our own u3a – not me sadly - there were lectures open to all and a “Gala Dinner” on the final evening.

There was an excellent atmosphere at all the events and it was great to talk to members of other u3a groups and to hear about their work. The whole event was inspiring. It was wonderful to witness the spirit of u3a in action, we really did live, laugh and learn.

Russel Ramsden



The art group showing their work



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



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

We lived up to our name in Burnage at the end of July, singing unaccompanied on this occasion to entertain older members of the area at the "HOLIDAY CLUB". This is a three day event organised annually by four of the churches in the area. This is a true community based event and it was good to wave the SMu3a flag.

As I write in mid-August our next visit to BELONG is special as we will be helping to celebrate a 100th Birthday. Apart from other numbers from before the sixties we will be doing "A Special Medley" covering 1926 - 1946 for the birthday girl herself! That medley will require some homework by members of the group.

Our next performances all take place at **BELONG** (Morris Feinmann) Care Home as follows: -

Thursday 24 September 2026 at 2pm

Thursday 22 October 2026 at 2pm

Thursday 12 November 2026 at 2pm

Thursday 3rd December 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



BOOK GROUP 4

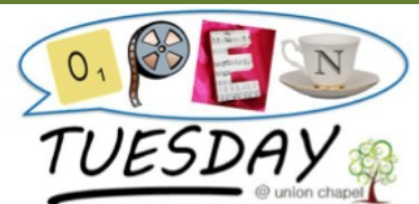
Because our 3 book groups have all been such a success that they are all full, we are just starting up a 4th book group. What a success!

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

Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 2pm

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

For more information, contact Val Hempstock on



OPEN TUESDAY

Activities, interesting discussions, films.

A selected film every other week with a discussion afterwards

7.30pm on Tuesdays (New term starts on 8th September 2026)

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:



Lipreading and



Managing Your Hearing Loss Class

Who are these classes for?

These classes are designed for people with a hearing loss who may be finding it difficult to follow conversations.

What will the class provide?

The qualified lipreading teacher will provide, for example:

- Lipreading practice in a friendly atmosphere
- Useful information about organisations and equipment
- Strategies and tactics for difficult situations
- A chance to share problems and solutions with others who have similar problems

When can I join?

You can join at **set times** of the year depending on numbers in the class. Please contact us to check that there is a place for you.

Classes held in Withington and Stretford at the following venues:

Meeting Room, Withington Library, 410 Wilmslow Road, M20 3BN on
Wednesdays - morning class: 10.30am to 12.30pm
afternoon class 1pm to 3pm

St Matthew's Community Hall, Chapel Lane, Stretford, M32 9AJ on
Thursdays - morning class: 10.30am to 12.30pm
afternoon class: 1pm to 3pm

There is also an evening class on Thursdays in Altrincham 6-8pm as well as classes in Bury and Glossop.

For information on joining the class contact:

Email: lipreading@outlook.org

Post: Manchester Centre for Deaf Studies, PO Box 319, Manchester, M21 3DG



Menorah Synagogue

Cheshire Reform Congregation

Art & Music Insights



We are delighted to invite you to participate in an exciting new series on Art and Music, by two brilliant presenters, complemented by Menorah's excellent sound and vision.

The ten two-hour sessions will run monthly at **1.30pm** from **Thursday 8th October** with an interval break for refreshments and socialising.

The programme is open to all. However, non members attending Menorah for the first time are kindly asked, for security purposes, to seek a member to vouch for them.

The sessions will be priced at £10 each but you are urged to take advantage of the

25% DISCOUNT, BOOKING ALL TEN SESSIONS FOR £75

[Click here](#) to purchase

Michele Sutton and I are jointly organising this venture and are looking forward to meeting you.

Best wishes, Gita Conn

insights@menorah.org.uk

Safer driving for longer

Putting confidence back behind the wheel

FREE experienced driver sessions **BOOK NOW!**

**SAFER
ROADS
GM**

The session will enable older drivers to reflect on their own driving, increase confidence in their own ability and consider efficient alternatives to driving. Your session will include interactive discussion and a FREE driving session.

Go to <https://tfgm.com/drivesafe/safer-driving-for-longer-course> to find dates and locations of future sessions or call us on **0300 123 1518**. We're open 8.30am to 3pm Monday to Friday.

How to protect yourself on ever-busier roads.

How to get the best performance and efficiency from your car.

How to save on your running costs.

Each session is built around your needs. Our friendly trainers will get to know you and make sure you leave as a better, more confident driver.



Join **Balakun**: become a mentor and support Ukrainians!

Join our community by registering as a mentor and you will have the opportunity to connect with students who are looking to improve their English, German, French, Spanish, or any other skills. Your help is invaluable to their success, so join today



Advantages of becoming a mentor

1

Support Ukrainians

You can give support to Ukrainians without spending money, just your time

2

Increase someone's confidence

You can make a big difference for someone in terms of gaining confidence and fluency

3

Mutual benefit

Mentoring a student is rewarding for both mentor and student.

4

Community and friendship

You can build connections and friendships

Who can be a mentor



You must be fluent in the language you want to mentor in (English, German, Spanish and Ukrainian are most popular)



You must be over 18



You must be able to commit at least one hour per week



You must be motivated to join Balakun to help the student in their learning journey



You must complete a verification interview in English

We match Ukrainians who want to improve their spoken English with English-speaking volunteers for relaxed, informal online conversations. Most mentoring pairs meet remotely for around an hour each week, although this varies depending on what works best for both the mentor and the student. No teaching experience is required. Many of our volunteers simply provide a friendly, supportive environment where students can build confidence and practise their conversational English.

View our website: <https://balakun.org/mentors>

For more information email: info@balakun.org

QUIZ

RIDDLES

- 1 A man looks at a painting in a museum and says,
"Brothers and sisters I have none,
but that man's father is my father's son."
Who is in the painting?
- 2 What can be touched but can't be seen?
- 3 I weaken all men for hours each day.
I show you strange visions while you are away.
I take you by night, by day take you back,
None suffer to have me, but do from my lack.
What am I?
- 4 Often held but never touched, always wet but never rusts,
often bites but seldom bit, to use me well you must have wit.
What am I?
- 5 Where is there is no south, west, nor east, and weather
not fit for man or beast?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

MANCHESTER ORGANIC GARDENERS

Welcoming all gardeners in the Greater Manchester area and beyond

Saturday 12th September 2026 at 2pm

"Ordsall Hall - An Organic Public Garden in Salford"

By Joanna Green - Head Gardener

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



Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 28th July 2026

Daisy Nook Country Park



We met up in Piccadilly Gardens for a 40 minute bus journey to Daisy Nook Country Park. The weather was forecast to be cooler with a chance of rain, but it turned out to be dry and sunny. (That's the Met Office for you!).

We set off on a 2.5 mile fairly easy walk, starting with a steep climb up to the top of the Medlock valley. We followed this path, taking in the lovely views and images of some beautiful horses. From here we dropped down the valley towards the river Medlock and then followed the river to Bardsley Bridge. We crossed the Medlock over the bridge and went back into Daisy Nook Country Park to follow the now disused Fairbottom branch of the Ashton canal. This branch was 1 mile long and went from its branch off the main canal to Fairbottom where the barges carried coal from the mines at Fairbottom. We reached the end of the canal at Sammy's Basin which formed the junction of the Fairbottom branch of the Ashton canal with the Hollinwood branch. We followed the now disused Hollinwood branch past the Daisy Nook café and out of the country park where we made our way to the Daisy Nook Garden Centre and had lunch at the Riverside Café.

Sadly this was not a pleasant experience. The staff had no record of our group lunch booking and so were completely swamped by all of the orders for food which they received. Given their surprise of this occasion, they still did a good job of getting the orders out in a reasonable time.

Our journey home was also a challenge. We waited an hour for our bus to arrive and when it did, we were told that the bus could not proceed because there was a road traffic accident blocking the route. The bus had to turn around and go back to Ashton where we caught a tram to get us into Manchester. I was never so glad to get back home!

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 Anne Clarke on



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

Marple Bridge to Rose Hill

A 3.4-mile walk along the Peak Forest Canal, Midshires Way and Alan Newton Way. Mostly good paths, steep uphill climb at start and half way, some steps, some ups and downs. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Piccadilly train station by platform 1 at 10.10. Lunch at the Railway Inn at Rose Hill. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn on

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 2nd and 4th 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
BOOK GROUP 4	This group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 2pm in Val's home in Didsbury. We take it in turn to suggest a book of our choice and introduce it at our meeting. Val Hempstock
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 2pm at HOME café in Emmanuel church on Barlow Moor Road 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
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 RIDDLES QUIZ

1. His own son 2. Another's heart 3. Sleep 4. Tongue 5. South Pole



Didsbury Probud Programme

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 3rd September 2026

"Moors Murders - A true detective story" by Alan Kibble

The story of Alan's participation in the fascinating detective work involved in the reinvestigation of the Moors Murders.

Thursday 17th September 2026

"A World of Mules and Minders" by Brian Topping

Brian will share his experiences as a customs officer. He will guide us through the background and history of drug smuggling, providing examples of detection and investigation skills of officers in maintaining their success and some anecdotes from 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.

**So I was in a shoe shop this morning trying on a shoe,
I said to the assistant "It's too tight".**

**She said: "Try it with the tongue out"
I said: "It'th nho ghoo, itth thill thoo thigh."**

September 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Beginners Tai Chi 14:30-15:15 General Meeting 14:00-16:00 Didsbury Baptist Ch.	2 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30. Closed Group. Bird Watching & Nature 11:00-13:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita: [REDACTED]	3 Ukulele 10:00-11:15 Spanish Conversation 14:00-15:30 HOME Café Emmanuel Church	4 Bridge 9:45-12:00 Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Getting by in Welsh 10:30 Burnage Library Keep Fit 11:00-12:00
7 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30 Poetry Appreciation 11:00-12:30 Victoria Grange Psychology moved to the 14 th (this meeting only). Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 21st.</i>	8 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi No meeting. Beginners Tai Chi No meeting. Philosophy 13:30 Chorlton Library New group. Book Group 4. 14:00 Val's house [REDACTED] Singing for fun 14:00-16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church.	9 Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter Welsh Conversation 10am (for 10:15) to 12pm The Didsbury Pub Wilmslow Rd	10 Ukulele 10:00-11:15 Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church.	11 Bridge 9:45-12:00 Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:00-11:30 St. Christopher's Ch. M20 1HE Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Board Games 14:00-16:00 Parris Wood Pub <i>2nd date added, see 25th</i> Poetry Writing 14:00-16:00 (With. Lib)
14 Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 21st.</i> Psychology 14:00 Zoom	15 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi No meeting. Beginners Tai Chi No meeting. Playreading 13:30 French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café	16 Lunch Group. 13:00 The Grand Pacific, 50 Spring Gardens Manchester M2 1EN. To be added to the list, please contact: [REDACTED] Art Appreciation 14:00 The Parsonage	17 Ukulele 10:00-11:15 Egyptology 10:30-12:30 The Parsonage. Spanish Conversation 14:00-15:30 HOME Café Emmanuel Church	18 Bridge 9:45-12:00 Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Dramatic Readers 14:00 Northern Tennis Club.
21 Anglo Saxon and Medieval History via zoom 10:30 Beginners/ Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>All new players must email Hilary before the session date.</i> [REDACTED]	22 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Beginners Tai Chi 14:30-15:15 Singing for Fun 14:00-16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church	23	24 Ukulele 10:00-11:15 Piano Group 11:00-12:30. Didsbury Baptist Ch. <i>Contact:</i> [REDACTED] Current Affairs 13:30 The Olde Cock Pub Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW	25 Bridge 9:45-12:00 Creative Writing 10:30 Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:00-11:30 St. Christopher's Ch. M20 1HE German Conversation 10:30 Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Cinema 12:15 Board Games 14:00-16:00 Parris Wood Pub <i>Additional date. also see 11th</i>
28 Improvers/ Beginners Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 21st.</i> Psychology 13:30 Burnage Library	29 Table Tennis / Badminton 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Beginners Tai Chi 14:30-15:15 Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter	30 Knit & Natter 14:00-15:30 Nazarene College Dene Rd. M20 2GU OVAS 15:00-17:15 [REDACTED]		