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Check out our website

Registered Charity Number
1168597

Web: www.south-manchester.u3asite.uk



www.facebook.com/groups/807060236097165



Roger Johnson of the BBC visited our u3a last month and answered a number of prepared questions with honesty and emotion.

It was our largest attendance since the pandemic: standing room only!

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

NO LATER than Wednesday 21st October 2026

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OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

Chair and External Ambassador	Beryl Cowen	berylcowen6@gmail.com	
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		
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GENERAL MEETING at DIDSBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 2.00pm

"Great Forgers" by Jim Williams

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

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,

As I look out of my office window the wind is blowing, the sun is behind the clouds and rain threatens. The ground is strewn with leaves. Autumn is coming! Nights are drawing in and getting cooler. So do we batten down the hatches and hibernate? Of course not! This is the u3a. We carry on and keep ourselves warm inside with all of our activities.

Thank you to all group leaders who staunchly keep our groups interesting and stimulating. It is also exciting to see new groups developing as well. Well done to those pioneers. I wish you every success as new interest groups start and welcome.

Some groups are poorly attended despite people saying they would come along, so there are lots still to join. Contact group leaders to find out more.

I can't believe it is two months before Christmas when the hype begins in earnest. One piece of great news is that our Christmas lunch is on Wednesday December 2nd at Hough End. (See the advert in this newsletter). The meal is very good, the company good fun and we have our ukulele group to entertain us. There is a free raffle, a quiz and mince pies too. What could be better? Please sign up now. At £22, it is a real bargain. The more the merrier. Many thanks to Pat for organising it.

I was at Rylands Library in Deansgate this week. It contains thousands of books which we can research for our groups if needed. It is well worth a visit.

Here is a funny story to close with: My blind friend went to Spain to visit her son. She knew exactly what she had packed so was confident that all of her luggage was OK. After 2 hours of her luggage being searched, a suspicious bundle of "money" was discovered. On unwrapping the package, it was found to be a new pack of wet wipes. Needless to say, customs were embarrassed. So my friends, when going on holiday, label your wet wipes clearly. Or you might be "wiped clean"

Enjoy this month. Cheers

Beryl



MOBILITY SCOOTER GOING FREE

In our last newsletter, we reported that the mobility scooter which we advertised back in June had gone to a good home. Unfortunately, the lady who received the scooter has discovered that it is not suitable for her. Therefore we now have it back in our possession.

This electric scooter is free to good home. It is in good condition and full working order, so far as is known, but should be serviced and checked out before use. Obviously no guarantees are offered. It is given in good faith.

Free delivery can be arranged if required.

Do you need a mobility scooter or do you know someone who does?

Contact Patricia

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: September newsletter can be found here [September 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

Carole Preston	Alan Stokes	Eamon O'Connor	David Blower
Angela Counce	Sue McDermott	Laura Gurevitz	Jacqui Malloy
Linda Cross	Sheila Lane	Deborah Vaughan	Gwyn Williams
Eileen Morrison	Mary Connerty	Jackie Nixon	Patricia Mulholland
Peter Mackereth	Peter Jackson	Alan Thomason	Joan Thomason
Mandy King	Alan Jones		

South Manchester u3a General Meeting Speakers

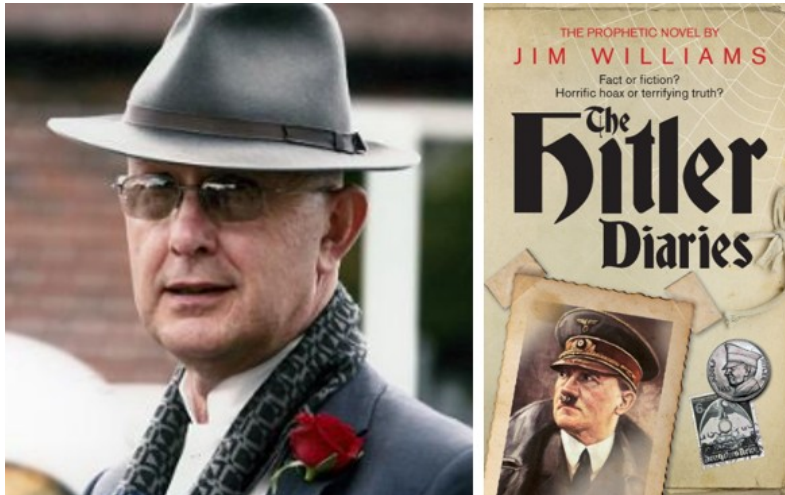
Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 2pm	"Great Forgers" by Jim Williams
Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 2pm	"My Life and Challenges" by Dr. Carl Austin-Behan OBE DL
Tuesday 1st December 2026 at 2pm	A Performance by the SMu3a Ukulele Orchestra followed by a Christmas Quiz hosted by Tom Grimshaw
Tuesday 5th January 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 6th October 2026 at 2pm

At Didsbury Baptist Church, School Lane

"Great Forgers" by Jim Williams



The boundary between a forgery and an homage or honest copy is not always obvious, and some of the great artists have turned their hands to forgery in order to pay the bills. This talk focuses on great 20th century forgeries, including the man who sold a fake Vermeer to Hermann Goering and the forging of the autobiography of Howard Hughes. The centrepiece is an explanation of the Speaker's personal role in the great Hitler Diaries forgery.

Jim Williams was born in Oldham, the son of a coal miner and a cotton mill worker and grew up in circumstances that would today be considered poor. However, he had loving parents and benefitted from a good education.

He has a degree in law and sociology and speaks French, German and Spanish and has a smattering of other languages. Since 1970 he's been a qualified barrister, though he no longer practices. He is a Fellow of the Indian Society of Arbitrators, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the founder and a fellow of the Institute of Applied Charlatantry. One of these qualifications is entirely worthless and he leaves you to guess which.

Roger Johnson Visit to South Manchester u3a



We were very honoured to have Roger Johnson of the BBC come to our September general meeting to answer questions about himself and his profession. It seems that he was a very popular visitor because 139 people squeezed into the Baptist church in Didsbury. For some it was standing room only, but no one cared about that because Roger was so entertaining.

Our group was asked to submit questions for Roger to answer and we received 15 very good ones which Beryl, our Chair, put to him. He answered the questions honestly and in an entertaining way. He talked about himself and his job. He also talked about some of his happy times as well as a rather embarrassing interview which he did, telling us the story without shame and eliciting a huge amount of laughter from the audience. He also talked about his young nephew who underwent a heart transplant, receiving his organ from the

tragic death of a young girl. He was driven to tears as he told the story showing us his very human side.

Roger had intended to get away sharply after his visit because he was hosting BBC North West at 6.30pm that evening, but so many people wanted to talk to him that he was a good 30 minutes late in leaving. I did check BBC1 at 6.30 and I'm happy to report that he did make it back in time without breaking a sweat.

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

I wrote this poem on the last night of the u3a holiday to Valkenburg in October, 2018. The evening had been set aside for packing and I could not understand the Dutch TV. This poem freezes a moment in time, when all was well in my world. Although we did not know it, the pandemic would arrive on the planet the following year, and climate change was about to get more noticeable. Our hotel in Valkenburg was flooded and destroyed so that it had to be rebuilt. The u3a can no longer go there. Just For Groups are more limited in which holidays they can offer us, because they had to sell off their own hotels, as the pandemic destroyed their business. As well as bad weather and pestilence, we face war and poverty.

I look back with nostalgia on this time, with the great holidays and the social events in Manchester. Our lovely garden is the one thing that has not changed and it always fills me with pleasure to write about it.

The Creative Writing Group is flourishing and I hope to submit some poems from the excellent poets among our members.

Sandra Grant

*The tall, graceful Buddleia, swaying in the cooling breeze,
Ragged and fading, the splendour of summer gone.
July's rich purple blooms, the haunt of bees and butterflies, just a memory.
I survey the garden, rich with vegetation:
The mauve Michaelmas Daisies, the still red Fuchsia, the glowing Pyracantha,
And the Holly, laden with berries, scarlet against the green.
While the Floribunda Rose explodes in orange rose hips, like an early firework.
A magical feeling of fulfillment and peace hangs over the garden.
The beauty of the season overwhelms.*

*Manchester Lit Fest once again.
Alan Johnson at The Dancehouse Theater.
An invitation to VIP drinks at The Principal Hotel.
The winter garden splendid with trees festooned with lights.
In the background, Thursday Jazz in the bar.
Noisy young people, full of vitality.
A smiling Alan shakes hands all round,
Chats to admirers.
At The Dancehouse, he shares his musical history:
The Dansette record player,
The Beatles and Stones,
Coffee Bars and Rock and Roll.
The audience, of a certain age, shares his past with delight.*

*U3A holiday in Valkenburg, Holland.
We recapture the summer,
As we sit in sunlit squares drinking coffee.
The quaint houses of ancient Monschau,
The buzzing cobbled piazzas of Maastricht,
As The River Maas flows gently by.
The tall, Gothic splendour of Cologne Cathedral,*

*Pillars and aisles, carvings and stained glass, the best you could ever see.
We quaff a half-litre in the old brewery,
A vault full of atmosphere where all are merry,
And wander the streets looking at Hermes, Longchamps and Louis Vuitton,
And take a stroll on the banks of The Rhine.*

*Back in Manchester, the autumn advances.
The thin rain bites and chills,
The winds buffet, the sky is leaden.
Fallen leaves lie sodden.
Winter is upon us.*

October 2018



TWO NEW LANGUAGE GROUPS STARTING UP SOON!

Two new groups are currently being set up: -

Italian for Intermediate Speakers will be starting in January 2027.

German Conversation 2 will be an overspill group which will be starting on a date to be confirmed.

If you want to brush up on your language skills or learn a new one,

contact our Groups Coordinator: smu3agroupscoord@gmail.com



COMMUNITY SING-ALONG GROUP

Our groups' contributions to the social life of residents at BELONG are now described as one of their monthly highlights, occasions not to be missed! Certainly both we and the residents thoroughly enjoyed our contribution to the 100th Birthday celebrations in August.

In September we revisited the Carpenters and ABBA while in October we will look again at the selection of musicals of the second half of the 20th century. By November it might be time to re-enjoy the Beatles and by December we'll enjoy songs and carols of Christmas.

Our next performances are: -

Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 2pm at BELONG

Thursday 12th November 2026 at 2pm at BELONG

Thursday 10th December 2026 at 2pm at BELONG (*this is a change to our original programme*)

We are likely to be called on for short seasonal programmes on MONDAY 14th December and on WEDNESDAY 16th December.

Watch this space for more details, knowing how busy diaries are on the run up to Christmas. Please book those dates.

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

'Tokyo Story': a Japanese classic

This subtle, understated black-and-white film, released in 1953, is widely regarded as one of the greatest films in the history of cinema. Director Yasujiro Ozu explores family relationships and evolving values in the post-war period of rapid social change in Japan. An elderly couple make the trip from their rural small town to visit family in Tokyo. They are greeted politely by their doctor son and hairdresser daughter, but they soon feel unwelcome, and the two young grandsons are sullen and uncooperative. Plans for outings are overtaken by the demands of work, and the spa the parents are sent to 'for a treat' (or to get them out of the way) is noisy and uncongenial. In contrast, their young widowed daughter-in-law treats them with empathy and respect. The story ends back at the parental home, where the youngest daughter, a primary school teacher, is still committed to old-fashioned family values.



Watching it now, at the remove not only of time but of culture, requires the patience to immerse oneself in the experience and let the story unfold. I've found scenes replaying in my mind, revealing more about how they contribute to the satisfying whole.

More about Agatha Christie

Lucy Worsley's excellent 2022 biography, sub-titled 'An Elusive Woman', answered many of my questions about the world's most successful novelist. When Agatha was born in 1890 her father was a gentleman of leisure, living on inherited wealth from his American family firm. But by the time he died when she was only eleven most of that money had melted away. It was fortunate that (in true Jane Austen style) her big sister Madge soon made a good marriage, to James Watts, son of a successful Manchester cotton merchant.

In 1914 Agatha volunteered as a wartime nurse, a formative experience of meeting people from beyond her social circle, and her training as a pharmacy assistant gave her a useful knowledge of drugs and poisons. When her first husband Archibald Christie came back from the war they lived in London on his modest salary, and her first detective novel, 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles', written in response to a challenge from Madge, was published in 1920. Her unlikely 'hero' Hercule Poirot was inspired by the numerous Belgian refugees who arrived in Torquay during the war, and possibly intended as a contrast to the upper-class British sleuth Sherlock Holmes. Worsley's entertaining and thorough biography follows Christie through her long life (she died in 1976), including a psychologically convincing account of the famous eleven-day disappearance that followed her discovery of Archie's infidelity. The success of her long second marriage to archaeologist Max Mallowan was founded on mutual respect and a shared sense of adventure.



Christie was modest about her achievements, claiming to be 'a craftsperson rather than an artist'. Her working methods are explored in 'Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks' by John Curran, who was given access to a hoard of shabby exercise books full of notes revealing how initial ideas were gradually worked into complex, if sometimes implausible, plots.

The local connection is that the Watts family owned Abney Hall in Cheadle, where Agatha frequently spent holidays and Christmas. Aspects of the house itself and the comfortable well-heeled lifestyle creep into some of her books. The 200-acre grounds are open to the public, and Cheadle Civic Society is a rich resource for Christie-related activities.





South Manchester u3a Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 2nd December 2026 at 12.30 for 1.00pm

Hough End Centre, Mauldeth Road West, M21 7SX

Last Day for Booking is 16th November 2026

It's that time again and we need you to decide if you will definitely be attending — and to pay. The cost is £22 per head, the same as last year!

Last year the event was a big success. The food was good and everybody enjoyed the occasion. We intend to repeat it this year.

When booking, please specify your choice of meal: traditional turkey dinner or vegetarian wellington and either Christmas pudding with brandy sauce or bread and butter pudding with ice cream and/or brandy sauce or ice cream alone.

There will be a performance by the ukelele group and a chance to sing along to some Christmas songs. Suggestions for other entertainments will be welcomed (no strippers!!). There will also be a raffle, a quiz and Christmas bingo. I hope that you can cope with the excitement

If you will be attending the October or November general meeting, you can sign the list and pay using card, cash or cheque. If you want to book but won't be attending the general meeting, please send your name and meal choices to Patricia by post. We would prefer that you paid by bank transfer, if possible, using your name followed by Xmas as a reference. The bank details are as follows: -

Account Name:	South Manchester U3A
Account Sort Code:	40-31-20
Account Number:	61483765

Alternatively, you can send a cheque made out to South Manchester U3A





Before You Send That Group Email... STOP!

Are you about to send a group email?

Then please take 10 seconds to check one thing:

Have you used BCC (Blind Carbon Copy), or have you put everyone's address in the 'To' or CC box for all to see?

If you're not using BCC, here are three very good reasons why you should.

1. You're handing out people's email addresses

When you use 'To' or CC, every recipient can see everyone else's email address.

Many people regard their email address as private information. They may not want it shared with dozens of strangers, acquaintances, clubs or organisations.

Using BCC keeps everyone's address hidden. It's simple, polite and respectful.

2. You could be creating a scammer's wish list

Cybercriminals love lists of genuine, active email addresses.

If just one recipient's email account is compromised, a fraudster may gain access to the message and the addresses of everyone included in it. That information can then be used for convincing scam or phishing emails.

Why make their job easier?

3. It could get you into trouble

Revealing other people's email addresses without their permission can amount to a personal data breach. Organisations have been investigated and fined for exactly this type of mistake.

The easiest way to avoid the problem is simple:

If you're emailing a group of people who don't already know each other, use BCC.

Where is the BCC button?

All major email services, including Gmail, Outlook and Yahoo Mail, have a BCC option.

Look near the address lines when composing a new email. It is often tucked away in a corner and easy to miss.

Can't find it? A quick Google search or YouTube video for your email provider will show you where it is.

The Golden Rule

One recipient: use 'To'.

Lots of recipients: use BCC.

It's safer, more private and more considerate.



COFFEE AFTERNOON

Thursday 15th October 2026 at 2pm

Didsbury Baptist Church

Come along and enjoy a free tea or coffee together with a nice biscuit and a good chat!

New members are especially welcome. Come and meet the committee, make friends and find out what's on offer in our u3a

For more information, contact Beryl: berylcowen6@gmail.com

John King-Hele

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John King-Hele who died peacefully after a short illness at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

John was a long-standing and active member of South Manchester u3a. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.



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 1st October 2026

"A.I. Its Impact on Society" by Chris Goswami

Artificial Intelligence and its impact on society is a very fast changing use of technology, some aspects are very good and important, others very bad and many we don't even know exist. Come and be surprised by the extent of its influence.

Thursday 15th October 2026

"So You Would Like to Become an Aircraft Salesman" by John Schofield

The talk is about his personal journey in Aircraft Sales, with some interesting anecdotes, also the rise and fall of the British Aircraft Industry. He spent 30 years in sales at British Aerospace, now BAE Systems, flew well over a thousand times, visited 72 countries and met some very interesting people.

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.



MANCHESTER HISTORIES

Threads of a City: The Manchester Tapestry Project

Over 17 weeks, participants have been working as part of the research team to explore a theme from Manchester's rich history, spanning 1853 to the present day. The aim of the project is to co-create 30 tapestry panels that will visually tell Manchester's stories.



The Manchester Tapestry Project offers many opportunities for public participation – from research and storytelling to the design of tapestry panels and their embroidery. We welcome people from all backgrounds and experiences to help tell the diverse and rich stories of Manchester.

This is a unique opportunity to explore how history, craft, and storytelling come together in a participatory art project that reflects Manchester's diverse identities. Ideal for people interested in history, visual communication, or community arts, but all enthusiasts are welcome.

In October 2026 the stitching phase commences with workshops at Manchester Histories Hub and the Whitworth Art Gallery. There will also be

a call out for community stitch groups to take on a panel and collaboratively complete it using the designated stitches.

If you are a keen sewer or stitcher and would like to get involved,

contact the organisers at this website: <https://manchesterhistories.co.uk/contact/>



Free Beethoven concert in Manchester – help with research into music and hearing.

We would like to share an unusual opportunity that may be of interest to anyone who enjoys classical music.

On **Thursday 29 October at 3pm**, Manchester Camerata will perform extracts from Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony at **The Stoller Hall** in Manchester as part of a free research concert exploring the experience of listening to live music with hearing loss and hearing aids.

The research is part of the Cadenza project, which is looking at how hearing aids can be better designed for music. The concert is open to people with and without hearing loss, and you do not need to be a hearing-aid user to take part.

It should be a fascinating afternoon for anyone who loves classical music — and by taking part, you can help researchers understand how hearing technology could make listening to music a better experience.

To start with, the Camerata will play a movement from the symphony and you can just sit back and enjoy. Then we will start the experiment. The orchestra will then perform short excerpts in different ways to explore common problems people with hearing loss have with live classical music. You will be asked to give feedback on each rendition via a simple questionnaire. The Camerata will finally play another movement, where you can just relax and listen or do an optional additional research task.

The answers you give will help us to develop new ways to improve music for those who have a hearing loss and/or hearing aids. Results will also be published in scientific papers.

The event will finish with a short Q&A with experts from the Cadenza project so you can ask about hearing loss, hearing aids and listening to music.

The concert is free, but places need to be booked at <https://cadenzachallenge.org/docs/camerata/intro>



WEST DIDSBURY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EVERYONE WELCOME – FROM COMPLETE BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED ASTRONOMER

Monday 12th October at 7pm

"Islands In Infinity – Galaxies 3D" by Derek Ward-Thompson

Monday 9th November at 7pm

"The Search For Planet Vulcan " by Paul Fellows

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

For more details visit www.wdas2.com.



Have you thought about becoming a school Governor?

Our governors support and challenge school leaders and make a positive difference in the lives of local children.

This is a voluntary role. If you are interested, please complete our short Expression of Interest form or send an email; we'd love to hear from you.



www.bright-futures.co.uk/join-us/governance-vacancies



governance@bright-futures.co.uk

QUIZ

CARTOONS

1. What colour are Mickey Mouse's shoes?
2. What colour is Betty Boop's dress?
3. What colour is Robin's cape?
4. Name the fictional cat shown here created by the Japanese company "Sanrio"

5. In collaboration with other artists, who is best known for creating Spiderman, the Hulk and the X-Men?
6. What breed of dog is Santa's Little Helper in The Simpsons?

7. Spongebob Squarepants lives in a what under the sea?
8. Name this hunter

9. Name this French skunk

10. Who is the creator of Wallace and Gromit and Shaun the Sheep? (Nick ??? Of Aardman Productions)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18



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

Walking for Health Group 1 – Tuesday 25th August 2026

Clayton Hall to Ashton Moss



We had a lovely walk in August from Clayton Hall to Ashton Moss. The weather was cooler than it had been but thankfully dry. Having met in St Peter's Square, we took the Ashton tram to Clayton Hall. This part of Manchester was named after a hall called Clayton Hall. It is a 15th century manor house which is Grade II listed and sits on the site of a 12th century house built for the Clayton family. Up until 1620 it was owned by the Byron family to which Lord Byron belonged. The Byrons sold it to the Chetham family who went on to found Chetham's School of Music. It is currently a living museum which is open free once per month.

We walked along the Ashton canal, soon going over a hump back bridge (where we took our group photo). This bridge passes over a spur of the Ashton canal, now long-since filled in and covered over, which originally went to Stockport, ending at what is now the Albion Flour Mills on the big roundabout at the top of Lancashire Hill. Continuing along the canal, it eventually turned right with a small marina looking straight ahead. This was once another branch off the main Ashton canal called the Hollinwood branch. Once again, most of this branch canal has been filled in, but parts of it are still visible as it passes through Daisy Nook Country Park. In fact, we walked alongside this last month on our walk at Daisy Nook.

We eventually came off the canal and walked past Ryecroft Hall. It was built in 1849 and is Grade II listed. It was built by James Buckley, a prominent mill owner. The land had previously been owned by the Earl of Stamford. In 1913 the hall was sold to Austin Hopkinson, an industrialist, inventor and MP for Mossley. It was used as a hospital during WW1 and in 1920 he donated it to Audenshaw council. It is now run by Tameside council for use by the local community. A short walk further on took us to our lunch stop at the Sheldon Arms where most of us opted for the carvery meal. Very nice it was too!

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. The group is currently full. To go on the waiting list, contact Marie. 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.
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. The group is now full - waiting list only. 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 (text or leave a voice message as I do not answer unknown numbers)
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
QUIZ GROUP	We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at The Parr's Wood Pub, 356 Parr's Wood Road, Didsbury M20 6JD from 2pm to 4pm. Val Youde
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 QUIZ

1. Yellow
2. Red
3. Yellow
4. Hello Kitty
5. Stan Lee
6. Greyhound
7. Pineapple
8. Elmer Fudd
9. Pepe Le Pew
10. Nick Park

South Manchester u3a Walking for Health Group 2 - Wednesday 14th October 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. If you want to come, phone Anne Clarke



South Manchester u3a Walking for Health Group 1 - Tuesday 27th October 2026

Altrincham to Sale via Bridgewater Canal

A 3-mile walk. Navigation Road tram stop in Altrincham to Sale along the Bridgewater Canal. No stiles, mainly flat, some steps. Wear suitable shoes or boots, bring a wet coat and a bus pass if you have one. Meet at Cornbrook tram stop at 10.30 for Altrincham tram to Navigation Road. Lunch at The King's Ransom pub in Sale. If you want to come, phone Ian Burn

October 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15 Spanish Conversation 14:00	2 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
5 Anglo Saxon & Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30 Psychology 14:00 Zoom Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 19th</i>	6 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 Church	7 Book Group 1. Meg's house 10:30. (Closed group) Bird Watching & Nature 11:00-13:00 Note: If interested, please contact Rita:	8 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15 Book Group 3. 13:30 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church	9 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 Poetry Writing 14:00-16:00 (With. Lib)
12 Creative Photography 10:30 The Parsonage Poetry Appreciation 11:00 Victoria Grange Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>New players see 19th</i>	13 Table Tennis / Badminton. 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Beginners Tai Chi 14:30-15:15 Philosophy 13:30 Chorlton Library Singing for fun 14:00-16:00 Didsbury Baptist Church. Book Group 4. 14:00 Val's house	14 Walking for Health 2. See Newsletter Welsh Conversation 10am (for 10:15) to 12pm The Didsbury Pub Wilmslow Rd	15 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15 Egyptology 10:30-12:30 The Parsonage Spanish Conversation 14:00	16 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 Italian Conversation 10:30-12:00 Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Dramatic Readers 14:00 Northern Tennis Club.
19 Anglo Saxon & Medieval History Via Zoom 10:30 Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30 <i>Please Note: New players must email Hilary before the session date.</i>	20 Table Tennis/ Badminton. 10:00 TaiChi 13:00-14:00 Beginners Tai Chi 14:30-15:15 Playreading 13:30 French Group 14:00-15:00 HOME Café, Emmanuel Church	21 Lunch Group 13:00 <i>To be added to the contact list please email John at:</i> Art Appreciation 14:00 Didsbury Parsonage.	22 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15 Piano Group 11:00-12:30. Didsbury Baptist Ch. <i>Contact:</i> Current Affairs 13:30 Olde Cock Pub Didsbury Book Group 2. 13:30 Didsbury Library. Community Sing-Along 14:00 BELONG M20 2UW	23 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 Parliamo Italiano (Andrew) 10:00-11:30 St. Christopher's Church Moorgate Ave M20 1HE Creative Writing 10:30 (Withington Lib.) Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Board Games 14:00-16:00. Parrswood Pub
26 Beginners/Improvers Bridge 13:15-15:30. <i>New players see 19th.</i> Psychology 13:30 Burnage Library	27 Walking for Health 1. See Newsletter 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 Ch.	28 Knit & Natter 14:00-15:30 Nazarene conservatory Dene Road M20 2GU OVAS 15:00-17:15.	29 Ukulele 10:00 - 11:15	30 Bridge 9:45 - 12:00 German Conversation 10:30 Nazarene. <i>Currently full, please contact: marie.osullivan.freelance@gmail.com</i> Keep Fit 11:00-12:00 Cinema 12:15