



Bolton u3a Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Hello friends!

I hope this newsletter finds you well despite the endless winter we seem to have here in Bolton.



Yes Eamonn & I have been away...but no we didn't go to the moon this time!

In fact we went to the southern USA and I took this picture at NASA HQ in Houston, Texas.

We didn't go with Riviera this trip, but if you would like to assist our u3a in gaining commission, this is what you do: contact Riviera Travel directly on special number 01283 248 304 to make your holiday booking. Mention you are

a member of Bolton u3a and want to claim the commission. At the end of your holiday, Riviera Travel make a payment to the Third Age Trust. After deducting a 1% handling fee, the Third Age Trust will pass the commission to our u3a.

If you prefer to book your holiday online, contact Riviera within 24 hours of making your booking either by emailing affinity@rivieratravel.co.uk (or calling 01283 523 470) with your booking reference and stating you want the commission to go to Bolton u3a - and Thank You in advance for any funds we receive.

Finally, I hope you will join me on Friday 28th March to hear Louise Bentley of Lancashire Wildlife Trust speak about the RSPB & the Swifts that are an endangered species.

'Til next time,
Learn, laugh, live!
Jeanne Kelly

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk 07740 625 080

Bolton Parish Church lunchtime concerts

Bolton Parish church holds free lunchtime concerts throughout the spring and summer on Tuesdays, some of us tack a visit on from our coffee and chat meeting at the Olympus.

The free lunchtime concerts start at 1315 and finish around 1350 and offer a varied programme of soloists, singers and groups, mainly classical music, drawing from the young talent at RNCM and other schools and universities.

The timings for this year have just come out and there are two pre-season concerts on 11 March and 8 April. The regular, weekly, Tuesday concerts run from 29 April to 29 July and then from 2 September to 28 October.

If you fancy coming along after our coffee and chat group I don't think you will be disappointed as we have seen some really budding musicians in the past.

Admission is free, though donations are welcomed, and tea and coffee is served.

Bolton Choral Union concert

The Choral Union are holding a concert on Saturday 22 March at 1930 at Bolton Parish Church. The programme includes Gounod's St Cecilia Mass and operatic choruses from Donizetti, Mascagni, Rossini and Verdi. Please try to support them if you can.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN MARCH 2025

ARCHAEOLOGY:

The group will meet on Thursday 13th March at 1400 on Zoom - the meeting link is sent out a few days before each meeting. New or 'taster' members welcome - sign up on Beacon and the link will be sent to you a day or so before the meeting.

ARTS AND CRAFT:

The next Art and Craft session will be on Tuesday 11th March from 1030-1200 in our **new venue** at The Hive Community Workshop area on the upper ground floor of the Market Place Shopping Centre in Bolton. We will be creating raised embossed images using embossing folders and then applying decorative chalks to enhance the image to create unique gift cards both pastel and vibrant. If you would like to join us please contact Serena.

BRIDGE GROUP:

The group meets every Wednesday from 1315 – 1530 at St Andrew & St George Church. New players welcome - some interest in cards is useful, we will help with the rest.

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE

Meetings on Monday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March at 1600 for 1 hour at Harwood Methodist Church (old building), Longsight Lane, Harwood, Bolton BL2 3JP. New members welcome. Free parking in the church car park. Great music and a good chat. See the video on www.boltonu3a.org.uk/Groups-in-Action.

CHINESE STORIES POP-UPS

Session 1: Wednesday 12th March from 1030-1230 at Waterstones Coffee Shop, Bolton. Literature under Mao: Focus on The Red Lantern opera.

Session 2: Wednesday 19th March from 1030-1230 at Waterstones Coffee Shop, Bolton. Contemporary writing. Focus on Short Stories from Urban China. "Shi Cheng"

CINEMA GROUP:

The next cinema group meeting will be on Thursday 27th March at the Light Cinema in Bolton. Details of the film chosen and time to meet will be emailed to members the weekend before.

New members wishing to join us please contact Duncan to be included in the email list.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (GREECE AND ROME):

The meeting will be on Thursday 6th March at 1030 at The Hub. Just before International Women's Day our topic will be: 'Wild, Wicked, Wise, Wonderful - some Greek and Roman women who made history'.

NB - this month the meeting is on the 1st Thursday

CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th March at 1400 at Claremont Church, St George's Road.

This is the second branch quiz group, open to all members, including existing members of Mike's group. Please come long for some light hearted fun with a competitive edge. Look forward to seeing you.

Those planning to attend are asked to let Steve know in order to inform refreshment needs.

COFFEE AND CHAT:

These meetings are held in 4 different venues across Bolton and are an excellent way to meet and chat with other members in a friendly and informal setting.

Olympus restaurant on Tuesdays 4th and 18th March from 1030. Everyone welcome.

Egerton at the Globe Café on Tuesday 11th March from 1030. Some members stay for an optional early lunch/brunch.

Heaton at The Coffee Shop, New Hall Lane, Heaton on Tuesday 11th March from 1030 onwards.

Harwood at the cafe at Harwood Methodist Church on Thursday 6th March from 1030. Everyone welcome, there is a big car park behind the church.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS:

Group One will meet on Fridays 7th and 21st March at 1400 at Olympus restaurant in Bolton town centre at 1400.

This group has learnt all the basics of how to solve cryptic crosswords and completes two moderately difficult crosswords in each session.

Group Two will meet on Tuesday 18th March at 1400 at Waterstones café, 32-36 Deansgate, Bolton BL1 1BL at 1400.

This group has learnt the basics of how to solve cryptic crosswords, is now learning about more challenging clues, and also completes two crosswords in each session.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

The group will meet on Friday 7th March at 1030 in Queen's Park, outside the café (now run by The Wildlife Trust). There is free parking nearby in the Queen's Park car park at the end of Spa Road.

The next meeting will be on Friday 21st March at 1030 in Waterstones' coffee shop. New members are welcome.

DINING GROUP:

The Dining Group is meeting on Thursday 13th March at 1300 at The Cross Guns on Blackburn Rd Egerton (BL7 9TP). There is a large car park opposite the pub and some blue badge parking next to the pub. Please let Chris know by Friday 7th March if you would like to attend so she can book the restaurant.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP:

The next meeting is on Tuesday 11th March from 1400-1600 in the Local History section, Bolton Central Library. We use the Council's free edition of Ancestry, pairing an

experienced Ancestry user with a novice to help the novice uncover their own family history. New members welcome.

HISTORY GROUP:

Thursday 20th March from 1030-1230 at The Hub.

Topic - Disraeli - one of Britain's most interesting PMs. Author, womaniser and politician. Was he the founder of the modern Conservative Party, or a 'dandy' who did simply only want to 'get to the top of the greasy pole'?

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION:

The group will meet on Friday 28th March at 1030 at the Hub.

The project on 'Language and Food' will this month be on Festive Foods, and why they matter to the individual and to society. Join us if you fancy it - just turn up.

LOOKING AT LIFE IN OTHER COUNTRIES):

The next meeting is Monday 3rd March at 1400 at the Hub.

Topic: Aftermath of the German elections by Brian Jones

MAH JONG:

Monday 24th March from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players and beginners always welcome. Please contact Chris on **01204 468848** for more information.

MATHS GROUP:

The next meeting is on Friday 21st March at 1330 at the Hub.

The topic will mainly be algebraic graphs, so please bring a sharp pencil, a ruler and your best specs! I shall bring graph paper. I do hope you can come.

EARLY REMINDER: our April meeting should be on the 18th April but, as that is Good Friday, it is cancelled. New members are always welcome.

MINDFULNESS:

The group's next meeting will be on Monday 3rd March on Zoom at 1300 for about an hour. For further details, please contact Annie Jones.

MUSIC APPRECIATION:

Monday 10th March at 1030 at the Hub.

Continuing the study of Elgar, we will hear how he was initiated as a boy into the musical activities of the small town of Worcester, and became a great all-round performing musician and composer at an early age.

The group is open to new members, and does not need any prior knowledge of music or about music. It is simply an opportunity to sit and listen to the interesting details of the life of a genius, and all the great composers are that, and to hear some of the wonderful works they produced. No need to phone, there is always room for a new person.

PHILOSOPHY:

The Philosophy Group will meet on Tuesday 25th March at 1400 at the Hub. Nick Tyldesley will lead the group and the topic will be "What is History?"

POETRY FOR PLEASURE:

The next meeting of the poetry group will be on Thursday 20th March at The Hub from 1330 to 1515. The topic for the meeting is: Travel and Travelling. Please bring poems on this topic to the meeting, if you are happy to read them out, and we can discuss them. This is a friendly group and new members will be welcomed.

PSYCHOLOGY:

Tuesday 4th March at 1400 at The Hub.

Our former leader Brenda will be joining us at our next meeting and will lead a discussion about Developing Resilience; why this is important and how to achieve it. I hope you can join us

QUIZ GROUP:

The next meeting is on Friday 14th March at 1330 at the Hub.

The Question Master will be Michael.

This group is currently fully subscribed and unable to accept new members. A 2nd group for potential new quizzers, Clueless at Claremont, meets at Claremont Baptist Church, St George's Road, on either the 3rd or last Wednesday of the month.

READING GROUP:

The group will meet on Thursday 20th March at 1030 on Zoom – the meeting normally lasts about an hour. We will be discussing Pema Chodron's book 'When Things Fall Apart'. New members welcome, if you would like to join us, please contact Annie. The updated list of books we will be reading in the coming year is given below,

Date	Author	Title
17/04/2025	Ann Napolitano	Hello Beautiful
15/05/2025	Clive Myrie	Everything is Everything: A Memoir of Love, Hate & Hope
19/06/2025	Jennie Godfrey	The List of Suspicious Things
17/07/2025	Ta-Nehisi Coates	The Water Dancer
21/08/2025	Rory Stewart	The Places In Between
18/09/2025	Sandra Newman	Julia: 1984
16/10/2025	Pat Barker	The Voyage Home
20/11/2025	Kate Atkinson	Death At The Sign of The Rook
18/12/2026	Jessie Burton	The House of Fortune

RUMMIKUB:

Monday 24th March from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players always welcome, no previous knowledge of games required.

SCRABBLE:

Monday 24th March from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players always welcome,

SINGING FOR PLEASURE:

The group will gather on Friday 7th and Friday 21st March at 1030 in the Seminar Room at Claremont Church, St George's Road under our Musical Director, Win Conway. We welcome new members in all voices (Alto, Bass, Soprano, Tenor) who want to enjoy singing with others. Claremont Church is an excellent central venue, on bus routes 125, 501 and 575 about a 5-minute ride from the Interchange. There is ample car parking at NCP Topp Way a short walk from the church.

TABLE TENNIS:

The group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

Table tennis is a relatively new activity since late last year and members who attend are enjoying the health benefits that it provides. It is excellent for co-ordination, balance and general physical exercise. It is also FUN, and we have plenty of that. You can play as much, or as little during the session, taking a break whenever it suits you.

The next meetings are on Fridays 14th and 28th March from 1030-1230 at Triangle Annex, New Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5QP. For Sat Nav use: BL1 5SH. Free car parking at Doffcocker Lodge behind the annexe. There are nearby bus stops on the 501

and 125 routes, if travelling by bus. Don't worry if you arrive a little late you are welcome to come at any time during the meeting times.

New members welcome. Please contact Christine Hart if you are interested in joining this group.

TEXTILE ARTS

The next meeting is on Thursday 6th March at 1030 at Bank Top URC, Ashworth Lane, Bolton, BL1 8RX.

If you are interested in any textile art that involves needles and stitches - sewing, knitting, embroidery, crochet, soft toy making - then we have it covered.

Members are working on a range of different projects and we enjoy sharing chat and learning about the different techniques and skills others are working on. Bring your own project or join in with a group activity. Come and join us for a creative and fun session!

TOPICAL

Monday 17th March at 1400 at the Hub.

Topics: Science in the news this month - do feel free to bring along any items that you have come across to share with the Group.

Fascinating Fungi - Uses in industry, medicine, and as food. Their role as recyclers, in communication networks, in the gut and in diseases!

No specialist knowledge needed - just an enthusiastic enquiring mind!

All are very welcome - just come along!

Bolton U3A Monthly Meetings

Please support them if you can. They are held from 1400-1600 on the 4th Friday of every month, (except December), at St Andrew & St George United Reform Church, St George's Road, Bolton. Visitors, for an entry fee of £3, are welcome to attend twice.

Carol Dean, Speaker secretary

SPEAKERS for 2025

28 th March 2025	The Birth of Television	Frank Vigon
25 th April 2025	History above your head - origins and oddities of English Inn signs	Michael Astrop
27 th June 2025	Singing for pleasure choir.	Paul Dyson. Win Conway (musical dir.)

25 th July 2025	My Career with Lancashire Constabulary	Mahmood (Meb) Ahmed
22 nd August 2025	Barrow to Baghdad	Philip Caine
23 rd May 2025	Wakes Weeks and Holidays in Blackpool	Professor Robert Snape and Sandra Nichol
26 th September 2025	Blame it on the Beatles	John Winter
24 th October 2025	The Magic of the Musicals!	Marilyn Shalks

Help us to stay informed

If you know of a member who has been ill, or is recently deceased, please inform the relevant group leader so that the information can be circulated appropriately. Please leave a phone number if you want a group leader to respond to a phone message.

Groups and activities

We are always happy to support new groups and activities.

E-mail: groupscoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk

Newsletter items

Please send contributions to news@boltonu3a.org.uk

Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is **Wednesday 17th March**.

Committee Members		
Chair	Jeanne Kelly	chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk jeanne@jmkmarketing.co.uk
Vice Chair	Steve Brown	vicechair@boltonu3a.org.uk
Business Secretary	Carol Dean	secretary@boltonu3a.org.uk.
Treasurer	Mark Pillar	treasurer@boltonu3a.org.uk
Group Leaders' Coordinator	Steve Brown	groupscoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk
Newsletter Editor	Pauline Treuherz	news@boltonu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretaries	Helen Yeldon Lynn Webber	u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk
Publicity Manager	Kathryn Chatwin	publicity@boltonu3a.org.uk
Website Manager	Maggy Simms	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk
Venues Coordinator	Maggy Simms	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Bolton U3A Meeting Venues

To help new - and existing - members find their way around the myriad of locations used for group meetings the addresses of all the venues used by the Bolton u3a are given below.

VENUE	BRANCH GROUPS AND EVENTS
BANK TOP URC, ASHWORTH LANE, BOLTON, BL1 8RX	TEXTILE ARTS
BOLTON CENTRAL LIBRARY	FAMILY HISTORY
BRADSHAW BOWLING CLUB, THE RIGBYS, BOLTON, BL2 3EU	CROWN, GREEN BOWLS

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk