



Bolton u3a Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Having fun while learning something new is what u3a is all about and it's so nice to see you all participating in our groups. Recently, u3a member Ted Wisedale took videos of our members playing Scrabble, Rummikub and Mah Jong. You'll find these on our new website www.boltonu3a.org.uk and our profound gratitude goes to Ted for filming and producing these. Well done Ted.

I'm really pleased that almost 40 local people have chosen to join our u3a since the start of our u3a year last October. Welcome to you all and I hope to meet you at our groups and the monthly speaker meetings.

On Easter Monday we will again have a stall at the Bolton Unity Festival, held at BWFC stadium at Middlebrook before the match. We will need volunteers to help man our stand (but all those that do can have a free ticket to the football match) so please see the article in this newsletter about this event for details.

And finally, please consider if you can spare a few hours each month to help out with a committee role. We have several roles becoming vacant after November's AGM but none of them are particularly onerous. Committee members manage and steer our u3a following members' wishes. We are all volunteers so we do as much as we can (we don't have bosses now) and roles are adapted to tie in with committee members' skills and abilities. So, if you are someone who likes being involved in things, then please contact me for a chat.

Wishing you a Happy Easter break
Learn, Laugh, Live

Jeanne Kelly
chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk



To promote u3a and look for new members, Bolton u3a will again be having a stall at the Bolton Unity Festival 2024 at the Bolton Wanderers' Toughsheet Community Stadium on Easter Bank Holiday Monday, 1st April, between 1100 and 1300 ahead of Bolton's match against Reading FC (kick-off at 3pm).

As last year it is expected to be a very well attended event so if you have a couple of hours to spare that day, and/or want a FREE TICKET TO THE FOOTBALL MATCH will you please contact **Kathryn Chatwin** or **Jeanne Kelly** chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk stating the hours you can help man the stand between 11am and 3pm. Thank You.

The story of Bolton U3A

Do you have any recent photos of U3A events in Bolton that you would be willing to share with others?

If so, please could you sent them to Jeanne Kelly at chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

Advance information about a new group

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at patchwork and quilting?

Would you like to improve your techniques or learn new ones?

I am hoping to start up a new group where you can be inspired to use patchwork, quilting and embroidery techniques to work on a range of small and larger projects.

I have many years' experience of teaching textile crafts, from Year 7 up to postgraduate level, so whether you are a complete beginner or a more advanced stitcher, come along and let your creativity flow!

For further information and to register your interest please email me at news@boltonu3a.org.uk

I hope to hold a short meeting on Thursday 2nd May at 1030 at the Olympus restaurant in Bolton to see if there is a viable group. I am planning to hold morning meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month.

NEWS OF INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN APRIL 2024

ARCHAEOLOGY: MAGGY SIMMS

The group meets via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1400. 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: SERENA JOHNSON

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th April at 1030 at St Andrew and George Church. We will be using metallic wax, a water-based pigment wax, to embellish embossed paper, creating elegant greetings cards.

The group has 2 vacancies so if you would like to join the group please contact Serena.

BEELINE TRAVEL: MICHAEL BIGGS

Group A: Tuesday 23rd April Warrington. Meet Bolton Interchange at Stand R at 1020.

Group B: Wednesday 17th April. Blackburn/Chorley. Meet at Bolton Interchange Stand B at 1020. Final details will be sent out the week before. Arrive back in Bolton at approx 5pm. This group is currently oversubscribed and a waiting list is in place.

BRIDGE GROUP: BARBARA & CHRISTOPHER HARDING

Meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1315 – 1530 at St Andrew & St George Church. New members are welcome but must have a knowledge of cards.

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE JEANNE KELLY chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

NO meeting Easter Monday and Mon April 8th. Classes on Monday 15th, 22nd and 29th at 1600 for 1 hour at Harwood Methodist Church (old building), Longsight Lane, Harwood, Bolton BL2 3JP. New members welcome. Free parking in church car park. Great 60s music.

CINEMA GROUP: CHRIS & DUNCAN MACPHERSON

The next cinema group meeting will be on Thursday, 25th April at the Light Cinema in Bolton. Details of film chosen and time to meet will be emailed beforehand. Any new members wishing to join us please contact Duncan so that you can be included in the email list.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (GREECE AND ROME): PAUL DYSON

This month's meeting will be on Thursday 11th April at 1030 at The Hub.

This is an Olympic Year - the 2024 Games are in Paris. The original Olympic Games were a Greek national religious festival dating back to the 8th century BC and lasting for more than a thousand years. So our topic will be 'Power Games - the Ancient Greek Olympics'.

COFFEE AND CHAT: DUNCAN MACPHERSON

Olympus restaurant from 1030 on Tuesday 2nd and Tuesday 16th April.

Egerton at the Globe Café on Tuesday 9th April at 1030.

Heaton at The Coffee Shop, New Hall Lane, Heaton on Tuesday 9th April at 1030.

Harwood at Longsight church hall on Thursday 11th April at 1030.

Everyone is welcome to attend these groups on a drop-in basis.

CROWN GREEN BOWLING GROUP: MICHAEL HAWORTH

The 2024 season will start its weekly sessions on Monday 8th April at 1400 at Bradshaw Bowling Club, The Rigby's, Bradshaw Brow. We will not be bowling on the first Monday in April as it is Easter Monday.

Please contact Michael by email if you are interested in joining the group.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS: EAMONN KELLY

Group One will meet on Friday 5th April at Olympus restaurant at 1400.

Group Two will meet on Tuesdays 2nd and 16th April at Olympus restaurant at 1400.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: JANET THATCHER

The group will meet at 1030am on Friday 5th April in the centre of Westhoughton, outside Greenhalgh's shop. The following meeting, on 19th April, will be at St. Andrew and St George's church at 1030.

Our first meeting in May will be in Bolton town centre, where we will take photos showing the changes that are taking place in Bolton.

DINING GROUP: CHRIS DRUCK

The next meeting is on Thursday 11th April at 1300 at The Rivington restaurant. This is in Horwich on Chorley Old Road. It has a car park and is on the 125 bus route.

Please let Chris know by email by Friday 5th April if you plan to attend.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP: EAMONN & JEANNE KELLY

Please note the new time for this group: 1100-1300. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th April at Harwood Library near Morrisons. This month's topic is CHILDREN, so please bring at least one family photograph showing children in times gone by to talk about. New members welcome. Free parking.

HISTORY GROUP: TONY SETTLE

Thursday 18th April from 1030-1230 at the Hub.

Topic-Saladin. One of the greatest leaders of the medieval period: his rise to power, victories over the Christians in the Levant, and leadership of the Muslims during the Third crusade.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: BRIAN JONES

There will be no meeting in April or May due to Bank Holidays.
Next meeting Monday 3 June at 1400 at the Hub. Topic: TBA.

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART: LIZ ROBINSON secretary@boltonu3a.org.uk

Our next session will be held on Tuesday 16th April from 1030-1200 at the Hub. We shall be looking at patronage in the city states, i.e. moving away a bit from Florence! Please note that this group is currently oversubscribed.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION: WIN CONWAY

Please contact Win for information.

LINE DANCING: JEANNE KELLY chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

Meeting on Friday 12th and 26th April from 1030-1200 at Triangle Annex, New Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5QP. **For Sat Nav use:** BL1 5SH. Wear loose clothing and no trainers. New members welcome — it's great fun and good exercise. Free car parking at Doffcocker Lodge.

LOCAL HISTORY: JOAN BLUNSDON

No meeting in April - our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st May at 1400 at The Hub.

MAH JONG: CHRIS DRUCK

Monday 15th April from 1030-1200 at the Hub. Beginners welcome. Please contact Chris for more information.

MATHS GROUP: PAT TODD

Friday 19th April at 1330 at the Hub. We shall be building on trigonometry begun in March. We will also have a go at another maths puzzle which kept previous generations amused on their social occasions and travels (alongside their songs, stories and poetry.) Everyone welcome.

MINDFULNESS: ANNIE JONES

The group meets on alternate Mondays on Zoom at 1300 for about an hour. The next meetings are on 8th and 22nd April. Everyone welcome, up to a maximum of 12 people. For the Zoom link and further details, please contact Annie on j.annie@virginmedia.com or 07702 058525.

MUSIC APPRECIATION: WIN CONWAY

Please contact Win for information.

MUSIC CHOICE: MURIEL/GEOFF JEAVONS

Please contact Muriel or Geoff for information.

NORDIC WALKING: LYNN GRAY

The groups will meet from 1000-1200 at Moss Bank Park on the following dates:

Thursday 28th March, and 3rd, 11th, 17th and 25th April.

The car park we normally use tends to be locked so I suggest you use the bottom car park as the top one can become very full. Walk up to the café where we will meet.

Please let me know by 0900 on the day that you are coming so I bring equipment for you, and to wait for you should you be running late.

If we manage to assess another suitable walk for any of the above sessions, I will notify the meeting point via the Group Whatsapp.

PHILOSOPHY: CAROLE COLLINS

Tuesday 23rd April at 1400 at the Hub.

The topic will be Descartes' Dualism (Mind/ Body Question) and the philosophy of Gilbert Ryle and W.V.O. Quine.

PILATES: JANET THATCHER

The group will meet on Mondays 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th April from 1330-1415 at the Westhoughton Hub on Central Drive. We will not meet on Easter Monday, 1st April.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Janet Thatcher, the group leader (tel. 01204 846573 and leave a message with your phone number).

POETRY FOR PLEASURE: LYNN GRAY

Thursday 18th April from 1330-1530 at the Hub.

This month's theme – Your own choice, for part of the session so bring 1 or 2 poems that you would like to share with the group; the other half we plan to look at 'The

Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes. Any member who happens to be free would be most welcome to join us. If you would like any further information please contact Lynn.

PSYCHOLOGY: STEVE BROWN

Tuesday 2nd April at 1400 at The Hub. We will be discussing the Psychology relating to The Seven Deadly Sins. Hope you can join us.

QUIZ GROUP: MIKE HAWORTH

The next meeting is on Friday 12th April at 1330 at The Hub.

The Question Master will be Mike.

This group is currently over-subscribed and unable to accept new members.

READING GROUP: ANNIE JONES

The group will meet on the 3rd Thursday, 18th April at 1030 on Zoom – the meeting normally lasts about an hour. The book for discussion has the fascinating title 'Around India in 80 trains' by Monisha Rajesh,

New members welcome, if you would like to join us, please contact Annie.

The other books we'll be reading through this year are listed below.

16th May: The women of Troy by Pat Barker (sequel to The Silence of the girls),

21st June: Lessons by Ian McEwan,

18th July: Small great things by Jodi Picoult,

15th August: Free food for millionaires by Min Jin Lee,

19th September: Moderate, becoming good later by Toby Carr and Katie Carr,

17th October: The unconsolated by Kasuo Ishiguro,

21st November: Three daughters of Eve by Elif Shafak.

RUMMIKUB: NELLIE PLATT, TONY SETTLE

Monday 15th April from 1030-1200 at the Hub. Beginners welcome.

SCRABBLE: NELLIE PLATT TONY SETTLE

Monday 15th April from 1030-1200 at the Hub. Beginners welcome.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE: PAUL DYSON

The group will meet on Friday 5th and Friday 19th April 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.

TOPICAL SCIENCE: ROSEMARY ASHWORTH

Monday 15th April at 1400 at the Hub.

Topics: Science in the news this month. New scientific techniques applied to archaeology, eg finding the routes of Roman roads or dating long-buried objects.

Members are welcome to bring along any items to share with the group.

All very welcome.

WALKABOUT: JOAN BLUNSDON

Walks currently suspended - please contact me if you have any suggestions for walks in the area.

Bolton U3A Monthly Meetings

From 1400-1600 on the 4th Friday of every month, except December, at St Andrew & St George United Reform Church, St George's Road, BL1 2BS.

Visitors, for an entry fee of £3, are welcome to attend twice.

The next monthly meeting is **Friday 22nd March** when Frank Vigon will speak about the sixties - an era that many of us know well!

OTHER SPEAKERS for 2024

April 26th Miss Lydia Becker / Joanna Williams

May 24th Memsahibs and Their Servants / Jenny Malin

June 28th To be Announced Later

July 26th My Life with the Lancashire Constabulary / Mahmood Ahmed.

August 23rd Billy's War / Paul Atherton

September 27th Bedpans and False Teeth / Denise Adlard

October 25th The Artifacts of Folk Magic / Peter Watson

November 22nd Annual General Meeting

Committee Members		
Chair	Jeanne Kelly	chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Lynn Gray	vicechair@boltonu3a.org.uk
Business Secretary	Liz Robinson	secretary@boltonu3a.org.uk
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Venues Coordinator	Steve Brown	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

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 or membership secretary 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.

Newsletter news

Please send contributions to news@boltonu3a.org.uk

Deadline for inclusion in the April newsletter is **Friday 12th April.**

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