



Bolton u3a Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Hello friends!

May I first offer a warm welcome to our new members who have joined this year. I learned this week that Bolton u3a now has over 300 members with 60 joining since October 2023. Most members have joined through friends' recommendations (or found us via our website) so do encourage your friends to come along and share the fun that you have at our meetings.

I hope you all read the results of our member survey, which I sent out earlier this month. If not, then please contact me at chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk. Your committee and I are working on many of your suggestions as we speak and will be in touch once things are arranged. If you have further comments, ideas and suggestions please contact me. This year's AGM will be held on Friday 22nd November and as usual all members are invited to submit motions and complete nominations for committee members. Further details are included in this newsletter.

Finally, like many of you, I was shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Joe McArevey and am thankful to Paul Dyson for writing movingly about Joe.

'Til next time,

Learn, laugh, live!

Jeanne Kelly

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

Winter Fuel payments

We have all heard that the government is stopping the Winter Fuel payment for all pensioners unless they receive Pension Credits so here is some information to help you. To get Pension Credit as a single person, your income must not be more than £173.75 a week. To get Pension Credit as a couple, your total income must not be over £265.20 a week. You can use the online calculator to see how much you might get. Go to www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator

You can apply for Pension Credit online: go to: www.gov.uk and search for 'Pension Credit' or by calling the dedicated number 0800 99 1234.

You can also get help applying from **Citizens Advice**: call free on 0808 278 7804, or visit Oxford St, Bolton, BL1 1RD Thursdays 10am – 3pm, and **Bolton Age UK**, 01204 382411, or visit The Square, 53-55 Victoria Sq, Bolton, BL1 1RZ, Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.

Membership renewal reminder and printed newsletter option

Our u3a year ends on 30th September and so membership is now due for renewal for 2024/25. The cost of membership remains at £20.

There are **3** payment options:

1 Members with access to online banking are encouraged to use this method to pay their £20 subscription directly into our Lloyds Bank account.

Account Name: Bolton U3A

Sort Code: 30-91-01

Account number: 01623946

As the reference, please add your name and membership number (if known) so that we can identify who has paid.

2 Pay £20 by cheque or cash at the monthly meeting.

Printed newsletter option

This time last year we introduced a new 'Postal Membership' for those who do not use email. The cost will be £30 per year, ie £20 membership + £10 for a year's posted newsletters.

So if you would like to receive your newsletter by post please pay £30 rather than £20 when you renew your membership.

Joe McArevey Obituary

Joe McArevey, who had been a member for eight years, died suddenly in mid-August, aged 76.

He was a keen, regular attender at Singing for Pleasure and took part in several of the group's performances. At the Olympus Restaurant he entertained diners on Thursday afternoons by playing classical and modern pieces on the grand piano. He also played and assisted in other ways at the St George's Day Centre. Recently he had enjoyed the series of Lunchtime Concerts at the Parish Church.



Born in Ireland, Joe graduated in English Literature at Manchester University and qualified as a secondary school teacher. When he retired, he was Head of English at Swinton High School. As a retirement interest Joe restarted the piano playing he had enjoyed as a boy and began entering music festivals. Only two years later he won first place in the open piano class at the Chester Festival of Performing Arts with his performance of Clementi's Sonatina No 6. An avid follower of sport, Joe was always ready to chat about Manchester United and Irish Rugby successes. He had looked forward to watching the Paris Olympics on TV. Singing for Pleasure will greatly miss his enthusiasm and helpfulness.

Local History Walk

A reminder about the one-off local history walk booked for 25th September at 1400 at Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, Blackburn Road, Egerton BL7 9PR (near Ciao Baby restaurant). Still remaining mostly untouched since it was built, this is a rare chance to see this fine 300 year old chapel and learn about its history and the people buried in the churchyard from Janet Cox, a member of the congregation.

Proposed new walking groups

A new member, Lizzie Bomber, has volunteered to lead two different walking groups in the Spring if there is sufficient interest from members.

It is planned to have one group for members who can only cope with short flat walks, eg around Doffcocker Lodge, whilst the other one will cater for members who prefer a longer walk, about an hour or so, with some inclines.

To establish the levels of interest, Lizzie is attending the coffee and chat groups at the Olympus in October to take names and details of emergency contacts. Anyone interested in being a member of either, or both, of the walking groups is welcome to meet Lizzie on either **Tuesday 1st October** or **Tuesday 15th October** from 1030. If you are interested, but unable to attend either meeting, please send an email to Lizzie at lizziebomber@gmail.com

Bolton u3a AGM

The Bolton u3a AGM will be held at the monthly meeting on 29th November. Please use the forms sent with your newsletter mailing if you wish to nominate anyone to the committee, or if you wish to suggest a motion for the AGM to consider. Completed forms should be sent to secretary@boltonu3a.org.uk or, if you wish to print the form, it can be handed to any committee member once completed.

Volunteering opportunity

A reminder that Bolton Lads and Girls Club (BLGC) are looking for local people who would like to spend a few hours every 2 weeks volunteering for them.

One particular role is a befriender of young people in the care system. This involves meeting up with a single young person to engage in positive activities, to help guide and support them into becoming independent when they leave the care system.

It's all about helping to shape the future generation of Bolton and to give them a helping hand.

Full training is given and there is ongoing support.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Kathryn Macgillivray at BLGC.

kathryn.macgillivray@blgc.co.uk

Christmas Afternoon Tea

With Christmas already on the horizon it's time to think about buying your tickets for our popular annual tea party!

Full details are given below.

Christmas afternoon tea

Bolton U3A is hosting a Christmas-themed afternoon tea at St Andrew & St Georges Church, St Georges Road, on **Friday 6th December** from 12:30pm - 3.00pm.

Drinks on arrival

Quiz

Entertainment provided by the Pheonix Knights of Harmony



Tickets are **£12** for members only and you can get yours:

- by **cash** or **cheque made payable to Bolton U3A** at the general meeting on Friday 25th October, or the AGM on Friday 22nd November
- by **cheque** posted to The Treasurer, 14 New Tongfield, Bromley Cross, Bolton, BL7 9XU
- or by **BACS** to Bolton U3A, Sort Code 30-91-01, Account number 01623946, giving your name as the reference.

Vegetarian food will be available on every table.

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER 2024

For further information about any of our groups please email

u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

ARCHAEOLOGY:

The group meets via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1400 and our next meeting is 10th October.

We've kicked off this Autumn by discussing some of life's big issues, and what archaeological evidence there is to show how people acted when faced with them. After examining the evidence for sacrifice as a cultural practice in our September session, our October topic will be the evidence for slavery in archaeology.

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:

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th October from 1030-1230 at St Andrew & St George Church. Our chosen project is Cheats Patchwork. Why cheats?

Because there is no stitching involved! We cheat in the following crafting way; a variety of patterned/plain material is provided, you cut it into squares, create a pattern that you like and stick it together. All you need is scissors, glue and imagination!

Join the group in cheating and have fun.

Images of recent creative work produced by the group are available to you on the Bolton U3A website. Go to 'Groups' and scroll down to the Art and Craft Gallery where you will find a number of group creations for you to see.

Any new members wishing to join us please contact Serena.

BEELINE TRAVEL:

This group goes out on trips in Greater Manchester Lancashire and North Cheshire. Travel is by bus/tram/train.

Two groups operate; Group A on the 4th Tuesday of each month and Group B on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Group A: Tuesday 22nd October - Imperial War Museum/Lowry Centre/Media City.

Group B: Wednesday 16th October - Burnley.

Full details, including where and when to meet, will be sent out the week before.

BRIDGE GROUP:

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

CANAL WALKS 2024:

The last of our planned walks along the canal is on 28th September. As previously agreed, both groups will walk together. I have really enjoyed the walks and look forward to more in early 2025.

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE

Meetings on Monday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th October 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.

CINEMA GROUP:

The next cinema group meeting will be on Thursday 24th October at the Light Cinema in Bolton. Details of 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):

This month's meeting will be on Thursday 10th October at 1030 at The Hub when the subject will be: '1200 years of Classical Civilisation - linking it all together.'

We have covered our topics in a disconnected way, in no particular order. Here we'll pull the main elements together into a coherent story.

CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT:

Please note the new starting time for this group.

The meetings will be on Wednesday 30th October, 20th November and 18th December **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 from 1030 on Tuesday 1st and Tuesday 15th October.

We are planning to have our Christmas lunch at the Olympus on **Tuesday 3rd December**. This Christmas lunch is not restricted to the Olympus members. Anyone from our Egerton, Harwood and Heaton coffee and chat groups is welcome to attend but please advise Duncan (see above) so you can be included in the menu email to make your choices.

They are not yet taking bookings but members will be sent the menu when it is published to make their choices and reserve their place.

Egerton at the Globe Café on Tuesday 8th October from 1030. Some members stay for an early lunch/brunch.

Heaton at The Coffee Shop, New Hall Lane, Heaton on Tuesday 8th October from 1030.

Harwood at the cafe at Harwood Methodist Church on Thursday 3rd October from 1030. Everyone welcome, there is a big car park behind the church.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS:

Group One will meet on Friday 4th October at Olympus restaurant 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 1st October at a venue to be agreed 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 has a field trip on the first Friday of the month. On Friday 4th October we shall meet outside the cafe in Moss Bank Park at 1030 to take photos of autumn colour. On the 3rd Friday, 18th October, we shall meet at 1030 in St. Andrew and St George church to compare our pictures.

DINING GROUP:

The Dining group is meeting on Thursday 10th October at 1300 at La Scala Italian restaurant on the A6 on the outskirts of Westhoughton. There is a large car park. Please let Chris know by email by Saturday the 5th October if you plan to come along so that she can make the booking.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th October from **1100-1300** at Harwood Library near Morrisons. 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. 3 hours free parking in Morrisons' car park.

HISTORY GROUP:

Thursday 17th October from 1030-1230 at the Hub.

Topic: The Road to Independence. A look at the events and issues that resulted in the American colonies breaking away from GB in 1776. Including the Boston Tea Party and the involvement of George III and Parliament.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES:

The next meeting is Monday 7th October at 1400 at the Hub.

Topic: Norway - presentation by Steve Brown. International Studies is mainly a discussion group. Every month we have a chosen topic with a presentation followed by a general discussion.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION:

The group meets on the 4th Friday of each month at 1030 at the Hub. The next meeting is on Friday 25th October and this will be the 2nd session given to looking at the use of figurative language, this time having a bit of fun sharing 'sayings' people use without thinking - strange phrases such as 'losing his marbles' or 'on the fiddle' or 'in a pickle'. We will then consider proverbs, the storehouse of folk wisdom through the ages. Finally we will look at a handout giving interesting examples of colourful writing from Shakespeare's Sonnets to *Toad of Toad Hall* and Alan Bennet's *Talking Heads*. Come and join us in looking at these expressions and learning a little about where they come from, and how they provide colour and interest in the language. No need to phone. Simply turn up and see if you like it - I promise you it will be fun.

MAH JONG:

Monday 21st October from 1030-1200 at the Hub. Mah Jong is an ancient Chinese game for 4 players and beginners are very welcome. Please contact Chris for more information.

MATHS GROUP:

The next meeting is on Friday 18th October at 1330 at the Hub.

We shall be revising prime factors, Highest Common Factors (HCF) and Lowest Common Multiples (LCM). The terms may not be familiar to you but you use them when you work out fraction calculations.

In maths we follow the higher GCSE syllabus which includes arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, graphs, number systems and lots more too long to list here. We are a friendly, helpful group of people all keen just to learn (or revise) the subject. Do come along if you would like the challenge. Lots of help is available.

MINDFULNESS:

The group meets on alternate Mondays on Zoom at 1300 for about an hour.

Our next meetings will be on Mondays 7th and 21st October at 1300 pm on Zoom.

Interested in practicing mindfulness with like-minded others?

MUSIC APPRECIATION:

Monday 14th October at 1030 at the Hub.

This month we will continue to follow the life and music of Mendelssohn, looking at the ten years he had as a happy husband and father of 5 children. We shall then go on to read his letters home to Berlin, describing his visits to Buckingham Palace where he struck up a great friendship with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Hopefully a very interesting session.

The group is always 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 always 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.

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING:

The group will meet on Thursday 3rd October at 1030 at Bank Top URC, Ashworth Lane, Bolton, BL1 8RX. It is open to beginners and those with more advanced skills.

We are using patchwork, quilting, embroidery, and other decorative textile techniques on a range of small and larger projects. You work at your own pace and follow your interests, whether you are a beginner or an advanced stitcher; it is not necessary to have the use of a sewing machine and many of the materials and equipment needed are provided. This month we will plan some products for Christmas that could be used as decorations or given as gifts.

Do come and join us for a creative and fun activity!

PHILOSOPHY:

The Philosophy Group will meet on Tuesday 22nd October at 1400 at the Hub. Nick Tyldesley will give a presentation on Machiavelli. Newcomers will be most welcome. (You do not need to know anything about Philosophy before you attend).

PSYCHOLOGY:

Tuesday 8th October at 1400 at The Hub.

All are welcome to join us to discuss what causes people to behave as they do. This month's meeting will be a presentation by Richard Jagger from Bolton University about his project on memory loss. I hope you will all remember to attend!!!!

QUIZ GROUP:

The next meeting is on Friday 11th October at 1330 at The Hub.

The Question Master will be Mike.

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. Please refer to the entry earlier in this newsletter for further details.

READING GROUP:

The group will meet on Thursday 17th October at 1030 on Zoom – the meeting normally lasts about an hour. We will be discussing 'Moderate, Becoming Good Later' by Toby Carr and Katie Carr. New members welcome, if you would like to join us, please contact Annie.

The other books we'll be reading this year are:

21st November: The Unconsoled by Kasuo Ishiguro

19th December: Three daughters of Eve by Elif Shafak.

RUMMIKUB:

Monday 21st October from 1030-1200 at the Hub.

SCRABBLE:

Monday 21st October from 1030-1200 at the Hub.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE: The group will gather on Friday 4th and Friday 18th October 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 will meet on the second and fourth Friday of each month.

The next meetings are on Friday 11th and 25th October from 1030-1200 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.

New members welcome. Please contact Christine Hart on **07955 203106** if you are interested in joining this fun group.

TOPICAL SCIENCE:

Monday 21st October at 1400 at the Hub.

Topics : Interesting Science Topics in the News over the Summer.

Members are free to bring along any other items that they want to share with the Group.

Adhesives - Let's get stuck in!

No specialist knowledge needed - just an enthusiastic enquiring mind!

All are very welcome - why not give it a try?

TRIPS AND OUTINGS:

Our next trip is to York Christmas markets in November and is fully subscribed.

At the moment, there are no further trips yet planned.

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, BL1 2BS. Visitors, for an entry fee of £3, are welcome to attend twice.

Next meeting is **Friday 27th September** when Denise Adlard will give a talk entitled 'Bedpans and False Teeth'.

SPEAKERS for 2024

October 25TH The Artifacts of Folk Magic

Peter Watson

November 22ND Annual General Meeting

Committee Members		
Chair	Jeanne Kelly	chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk jeanne@jmkmarketing.co.uk
Vice Chair	Lynn Gray	vicechair@boltonu3a.org.uk
Business Secretary	Liz Robinson	secretary@boltonu3a.org.uk.
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Membership Secretary	Alison Dyson	u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk alison.dyson1676@gmail.com
Venues Coordinator	Steve Brown	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	PATCHWORK AND QUILTING	
BRADSHAW BOWLING CLUB, THE RIGBYS, BOLTON, BL2 3EU	CROWN, GREEN BOWLS	
CVS, THE BOLTON HUB, BOLD STREET BOLTON, BL1 1LS	CLASSIC CIVILISATIONS HISTORY INTERNATIONAL STUDIES LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION MAH JONG SCRABBLE TOPICAL SCIENCE	MUSIC APPRECIATION PHILOSOPHY PSYCHOLOGY QUIZ GROUP RUMMIKUB MATHS
CLAREMONT CHURCH, ST GEORGES ROAD, BOLTON, BL1 2BY	CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT QUIZ SINGING FOR PLEASURE	
THE COFFEE SHOP, NEW HALL LANE, HEATON, BOLTON, BL1 5LW	HEATON COFFEE AND CHAT	
THE GLOBE CAFÉ, 273 BLACKBURN ROAD, BOLTON, BL7 9SN	EGERTON COFFEE AND CHAT	
HARWOOD METHODIST CHURCH LONGSIGHT LANE BOLTON BL2 3JP	CHAIR BASED EXERCISE HARWOOD COFFEE AND CHAT	
HARWOOD LIBRARY, GATE FOLD, HARWOOD, BOLTON, BL2 3HN	FAMILY HISTORY	
THE LIGHT, MARKET PLACE SHOPPING CENTRE, BOLTON, BL1 2AL	CINEMA GROUP	
OLYMPUS RESTAURANT, 35-41 GREAT MOOR STREET, BOLTON, BL1 1SW	CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS OLYMPUS COFFEE AND CHAT WELCOME MEETINGS	
THE TRIANGLE ANNEXE NEW CHURCH ROAD,	TABLE TENNIS	

BOLTON, BL1 5QP	
URC OF ST ANDREW AND ST GEORGE, ST GEORGES ROAD, BOLTON, BL1 2BS	ARTS AND CRAFTS BRIDGE MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING
VARIOUS VENUES ANNOUNCED IN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER	BEE LINE TRAVEL DINING CLUB WALKING GROUPS
ZOOM MEETINGS	ARCHAEOLOGY MINDFULNESS READING

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 October newsletter is **Wednesday 16th October**.

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk