



NewsFlash

Registered Charity No: 1082254

The Newsletter of u3a Clitheroe April 2026

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/clitheroe>



Here's to lighter
days and many
more opportunities
to learn, laugh, and
connect together!

Hello Everyone,

I hope you've all been enjoying the lovely spring days we've been treated to recently. As we look ahead, our AGM on 14th April is fast approaching, and this year marks a significant moment: five of our eleven Committee members will be stepping down. Together, they have contributed a remarkable 33 years of service, and I'm sure you'll agree that we owe each of them our huge thanks for their dedication and commitment to our u3a.

Although we have received only one nomination to join the Committee, I am both pleased and relieved to let you know that the lady concerned has kindly agreed to take on the vital role of Secretary. Without her willingness to step forward, our wonderful u3a would have folded, so many thanks are due to her.

Our Constitution allows for up to 15 Committee members including three places available for co-option until the next AGM in 2027. I'm delighted to say that three ladies have expressed an interest in being co-opted. This will give us a Committee of ten — a strong foundation for the year ahead — but, as always, we will continue to rely on the invaluable work of our Support Teams, our Convenors and the help, goodwill, and involvement of you all to ensure our u3a continues to thrive.

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter!

Maureen

Group Schedule for APRIL

	1	Wednesday	2pm	Architecture
	1	Wednesday	10am	Circle Dancing
	2	Thursday	12.30pm	Lunch with Friends
	2	Thursday	2pm	German
	3	Friday	2pm	Garden
	6	Monday	2pm	Music Appreciation
	7	Tuesday	10am	Singing for Pleasure
	8	Wednesday	2pm	Geology
	8	Wednesday	2pm	Scottish Country Dancing
	9	Thursday	2pm	Discussion
	10	Friday	2pm	Poetry
	13	Monday	2pm	Photography
	14	Tuesday	1.30pm	MAIN MEETING + AGM
	15	Wednesday	10am	Science & Scientific Enlightenment
	15	Wednesday	10am	Circle Dancing
	15	Wednesday	2pm	Board Games
16	Thursday	3pm	Wine appreciation	
	21	Tuesday	2pm	French conversation
	21	Tuesday	10am	Singing for Pleasure
	21	Tuesday	2pm	Canasta
	21	Tuesday	10,15am	Plodders
	22	Wednesday	2pm	History
	23	Thursday	2pm	Book Discussion
	23	Thursday	1pm	Table Tennis
	23	Thursday	7pm	Food & Wine
	24	Friday	10.15am	Trekking into the past
	24	Friday	10am	Walking
	27	Monday	11am	Strollers
	27	Monday	1.15pm	Play Reading
	28	Tuesday	10am	Genealogy
	28	Tuesday	2pm	Art Appreciation
	28	Tuesday	2pm	Craft

April Meetings

Activity Group	Date	Time	Group Convenor	Information	How often
Architecture	April 1st	2 pm	Paul Fisher 07874 696374	Meet at Trinity Hub. 'The Magnificent Seven.' The work of Liam McCormack by Ivan Wilson	1 st Wed
Art Appreciation	April 28th	2pm	Ann Ward topgm@hotmail.co.uk	Meet at WBVH. Paul Fisher presents 'The Art of Advertising'	4 th Tues
Board Games	April 15th	2pm	Lesley Charnley 01200 538476 lwcharnley@gmail.com	Meet at Convenor's Home. 1 Meadowlands, Low Moor, Clitheroe BB7 2ND.	3 rd Wed
Book Discussion	April 23rd	2pm	Ann Yates ann.yates01@gmail.com	Meet at Clitheroe Library. Margaret Drabble – <i>Pure Gold Baby</i>	4 th Thurs
Canasta	April 21st	2 pm	Christine Snape clitheroechristine@gmail.com	Meet at Christine's home BB7 1EZ	3 rd Tues
Circle Dancing	April 1st/ 15th	10 am	Sally Maxwell 01772 379926	Meet at Pendleton Village Hall.	1 st /3rd Wed
Craft	April 28th	2pm	Sandra Marshall 07968 675419 sandra23marshall@gmail.com	Meet at Sandra's home. 23 Croasdale Drive BB7 1LQ Continuing with Art Work.	4 th Tues
Discussion Group 1 Group 2	April 9th	2pm	Susan Duckworth susanduckworth47 @gmail.com John Wilson john.eardswick @yahoo.co.uk	Meet at Whalley Old Grammar School. New to Discussion? Please inform Susan or John if you'd like to join.	2 nd Thurs
Food and Wine	April 23rd	Noon	Gill Kilbey 07840 882775	Meet at Scholar's Restaurant at Blackburn College	4 th Thurs
French Conversation	April 21st	2pm	Ann Connell 07568 172854 shudbtaylor@yahoo.co.uk	Meet at Whalley Old Grammar School, Station Road BB7 9RH.	3 rd Tues
Garden Group	April 3rd	Am or Pm	Jenny Grimes jennygrimes46@icloud.com	Meet at Jenny's Home Morning or Afternoon. 2 Lowerfield Langho.	1 st Fri
Genealogy	April 28th	10am	Marianne Wilson mrsmariannewilson@gmail.com	Meet at WBVH. "Family Research - hints and tips".	4 th Tues

Group	Date	Time	Group Convenor	Information	How often
Geology	April 8th	2pm	Frank Taylor frankhtaylor@yahoo.co.uk 07952 720778	Meet at WBVH. 'Geology of Tenerife' and an intro to the Carboniferous.	2 nd Wed
German Conversation	April 2nd	2pm	Denis Cassidy 01254 822345. David Grimes davidgrimes1@mac.com	Meet at the home of Sacha Kinglake.	1 st Thurs
History	April 22nd	2pm	Hazel Best hazelbest@gmail.com 01200 426756	Guided walk around Rimington. Trevor Marklew. Now Full	4 th Wed
Lunch with Friends	April 2nd	12noon for 12.30pm	Ann Ward topgm@hotmail.co.uk	Meet at Tiggis on Longsight Road BB1 9EX.	1 st Thurs
Music Appreciation	April 6th	2pm	Frank Robinson bb7u3amusic@btinternet.com	Meet at WBVH Sir John Barbirolli by Frank Robinson.	1 st Mon
Photography	April 13th	2 pm	Francis Garner 07477 626772.	Meet at Barrow Village Hall. Photographic rules and Photoshop adjustments.	2 nd Mon
Play Reading	April 27th	1.15 pm	Kate Hamlin 07732 721963 Helen Coles 07835 920887	New Meeting Venue, Meet at Whalley Grammar School. Doors open 1.15 for 1.30pm.	4 th Mon
Plodders	April 21st	10.15 am	Marjorie Taylor 07716192447 marjorietaylor@hotmail.co.uk	Meet at Whalley Abbey for a walk to Billington. See page 8	3 rd Tues
Poetry	April 10th	2pm	Roy Gonsalves rmgonsalves1953@outlook.com	Meet at The Trinity Hub. 'Celtic Poets.'	2 nd Fri
Science and Scientific Enlightenment	April 15th	!0am	David Grimes davidgrimes1@mac.com 01254 240707	Meet at The Trinity Hub. "The Wise Men did not come from the East." Alan Taylor	3 rd Wed
Scottish Country Dancing	April 8th	2pm	Sandra Marshall 07968 675419	Meet at Pendleton Village Hall.	2 nd Wed
Singing For Pleasure	April 7th/ 21st	10am	Denise Hayton 07779 915392 u3aclitheroe@icloud.com	Meet at West Bradford Village Hall.	1 st /3 rd Tues
Strollers	April 27th	10.45am	In need of convenors	Meet at the Calf's Head Worston BB7 1QA. See page 8	4 th Mon
Table Tennis	April 23rd	1-3pm	Janet Elliott 01254 248106 Jkelliott108@gmail.com'	Meet at Trinity Hub.	4 th Thurs

The AGM will take place during the Main Meeting on Tuesday April 14th at The Old School Rooms and Assembly Hall Lowergate BB7 1AD

1.15pm onwards for Refreshments

Our AGM will take place first.

The AGM Agenda is on the following page 6 and Accounts on page 7.
The Minutes of our last AGM in April 2025 may be found in the Committee section of our website.

Then follows a presentation by Pauline Lowther.

Medical Detection Dogs with Pauline Lowther



Pauline is a Volunteer Speaker in Lancashire.

She says: "My talks always start with an apology. I'm sorry for saying 'amazing' too much, but that's just what the work of Medical Detection Dogs is; amazing."

Pauline has been a volunteer speaker for over 5 years after meeting another volunteer at a local dog show. Over the years, Pauline has secured significant donations from her talks which are delivered with expertise and enthusiasm.

Group	Date	Time	Group Convenor	Information	How often
Trekking into the Past	April 24th	10.15am	Ron Loebell 01200 374094	Meet at the Edisford Recreation area near the toilets. See Page 6	Last Friday
Walking Group	April 24th	10.45am	Terri Fisk 07791 686967 Tafisk29@gmail.com	Meet at Downham main Car Park for a walk to Brownlow. See Page 8.	Last Friday
Wine Appreciation	April 16 th	3pm	Christine Snape clitheroechristine@gmail.com	Meet at Christine's Home. Members presentations of Zinfandel and Chenin Blanc	3 rd Thurs

u3a Clitheroe

Agenda for the 28th Annual General Meeting to be held on

Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 14.00 at The Assembly Rooms, Clitheroe

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Appointment of Tellers
- 3 Minutes of the 2025 AGM
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 7 Groups Co-ordinator's Report
- 8 Election of Officers and Committee members for 2026-2027
- 9 Resolutions from the Chairman

Following the business

Pauline Lowther will present "Medical Detection Dogs"

Members proposed for election to posts on the 2026-2027 committee:

Name	Position	Proposed	
Seconded			
Janet Rees	Secretary	Robert Rees	Su Penson

Committee members remaining in post for 2025-2026

Chair	Maureen Pickup
Vice Chair	Jacquie Melia
Treasurer	Christine Snape
Groups Co-ordinator	Denise Hayton
Committee Members	Su Penson Ann Ward

Members of the support team

Webmaster	Frank Taylor
Publicity	Su Penson
ICT Support	Jonathan Pickup /Philip /Paul Fisher/ Brian Hudson
Special Events	Gill Kilby / Marjorie Taylor / Liz Wolstenholme
Refreshments	Liz Wolstenholme / Sue Monk

Clitheroe U3a

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year 1st January 2025- 31st December 2025

Opening Bank Balance as at 1st January

£8,117.92

Income

Membership (£20 per year per member)	£10,130.00	
Income from Interest Groups paid into U3a Account	£8,331.05	
Visitors	£22.50	
Special Events (Summer Lunch, Ceildh, Christmas Lunch)	£5,444.00	
Equipment sold	£100.00	
		£24,027.55

Expenditure

Coffee Mornings	£163.70	
Room Hire for Main Meetings	£881.00	
Committee Expenses	£590.95	
Special Events (Summer Lunch, Ceildh, Christmas Lunch)	£7,242.05	
U3a Fair	£309.82	
Speakers for Main Meetings	£265.00	
Group Expenses - Room Hire and Equipment to facilitate meetings	£8,121.45	
Refreshments	£34.35	
U3a Shop	£1,391.40	
Sum up Card and bank Charges	£51.43	
Third Age Trust	£1,600.00	
Printing	£915.42	
		£21,576.57

Opening Bank Balance carried down	£8,117.92
Income minus Expenditure	£2,450.98
Closing Bank balance as at 31st December, 2025	£10,568.90

U3a Clitheroe

Examiner's Statement

I have examined the accounts for U3a Clitheroe as presented to me. I can report that the final accounts for the year 1st January, 2025 - 31st December 2025 agree to the underlying accounting records, and I have no reason to believe that accounting records have not been properly kept. The examination took place on

4th March 2026

Signed

Treasurer U3a Longridge

Date

5/3/2026

ANTHONY GRAHAM GORNALL

Group Information

Strollers Group. Convenors needed

STROLLERS Monday 27th April meet at Calf's Head Worston. BB7 1QA. 10.45am/ 11am start
2.5 miles on lanes and field paths within the boundary of Worsaw and Pendle Hill.

Ann Kay

SEE PAGE 9

Plodders Group.

Walk Leader: Marjorie Taylor

Meeting Place: Whalley Abbey Gate.

Details Below:

This is a walk with slopes and pavements through to Billington and back. The walk will take around 1hr 15 mins.

Group Convenor: Marjorie Taylor Tel: 07716 192447 – Email: marjorietaaylor@hotmail.co.uk

Walking Group

The 24th April walk sets off from Downham Main Car Park, towards Brownlow and back. There are styles and climbs.

Finishing with lunch at the Assheton Arms

See you at 10.45 for a 11.00 am start.

Group Convenor: Terri Fisk – 07791 686967. tafisk29@gmail.com

Trekking into the Past

Edisford Bridge and surrounding area walk. 1.1/2hrs

Meeting at the riverside recreation area near the toilets.

2 hrs parking at the sports car park minimum. 1015 for 1030 start

Suitable walking and attire recommended.

Edisford history / ghost aplenty, good field walk with bits of hidden history along the way.

C2 bus from bus station 0930 am to St Pauls Church arrives 0950.

On road parking is difficult.

Group Convenor: Ron Loebell – 01200 374094

STROLLERS. GROUP CONVENORS REQUIRED.

To plan the monthly walk between March and November from the suggestions put forward by other members of the group and enter the details via Robin into the monthly Newsflash. The walks are approximately 3 miles taking place on the 4th Monday in the month starting at 11am followed by a pleasant lunch at a local hostelry if required.

Please contact Ann on 07768322125 or Wendy on 07964802433 for details.

PLEASE don't let us loose this group which is so important for both our physical and mental health.

QUIZ

What a fantastic Quiz Night at Pendleton Village Hall! Was it a fix? Our Treasurer's table won first prize.

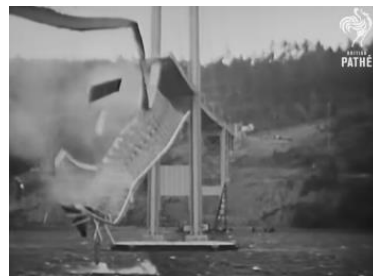
Lots of requests for another quiz evening later in the year.

Why not start a NEW Group?

What about a PADEL Group (at Mytton Fold) or CHESS Group or an INDOOR BOWLING Group etc. (Bowls available at West Bradford Village Hall). Contact our Group Co-ordinator Denise with your ideas.

Architecture Group March 2026 (Meets monthly at the Trinity Hub, on the first Wednesday of the month)

The architecture group was treated to a great presentation by Martin Jolly one of the members who presented “Bridges” an unassuming title for what was a hugely interesting subject. Martin, who is a qualified civil engineer, took us around the world with pictures of famous and infamous bridges. The Tacoma Bridge as pictured was badly designed and the roadway actually acted as a giant wing with aerodynamics that lifted it so that the suspension rods were unstrained thus allowing the bridge to flex and destroy itself. This was in a 35mph wind!!



We also saw more local bridges, one in Manchester, the Dearman’s Bridge which is very elegant but again has stability issues and probably the ugliest bridge going over the M25 motorway..



The architecture group is visiting the Masjid-E-Vali Mosque, Preston New Road, Blackburn on Wednesday 3rd June commencing at 10am. There are several places available to all members with a nominal £1.00 per head. If you wish to come and see this amazing building and learn more about the workings of a mosque, please let me know and I shall include you in the group. Numbers are limited to 25 so be quick!



Paul Fisher, 07874696374 or pfisher3@btinternet.com

Singing for Pleasure Group



Can you help?

The Singing for Pleasure group is looking for a competent musician/singer to join their team and whose main role would be to choose songs and teach them to the group.

If you think you are that person, please contact Denise Hayton, Wendy Richardson or Bev Jones.



Bus Pass Group

The Bus Pass Group will meet on Wednesday April 16th.

We will take the 10.05 am Bus 280 from Clitheroe bus station to Preston where if you would like we can go to the Harris Museum where entry is free.

Return buses are at 14.15 or 15.15.

Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Marjorie Taylor 07716 192447

Birds of the Month



The Siskin - *Carduelis spinus*

In winter, I see fast-moving flocks of these tiny finches, usually near conifers, alder and birch trees where they feed on tree seeds. Recently, I have been delighted to see a pair of siskins feeding regularly on peanuts and sunflower hearts in the garden. They are likely to come into gardens now, when the supply of seeds in the wild is low.

These beautiful birds, weighing less than an ounce and with a wingspan of up to nine inches are noticeably yellow-green. The male has a black cap, chin and tail and a broad, yellow bar on the black wings. The female is paler and more grey, with black streaks in its underside.

Siskins build a tiny nest of twigs and stems lined with hair, high in conifer and mixed woods. They have one or two broods of four to five eggs in May to July and their numbers are secure. It is lovely to see these lively, twittering, brightly-coloured birds at any time of the year.



The Whooper Swan - *Cygnus Cygnus*

It is nearly time for the Whooper Swans to return to Iceland and Scandinavia where they breed. These swans, like the similar but smaller Bewick's swans can be seen in the UK from October to April. The Whooper swan is a large, white swan with a wingspan up to nearly eight feet, 240 cm. A wild bird, usually seen from a distance as they are shy and unapproachable, they can be identified by the long, slim neck held upright, the head held horizontally and the distinctive bill which is long, wedge-shaped and mainly yellow with a black tip. The flocks can often be seen, feeding on the remains of crops on ploughed fields.

The Whooper swan makes a loud trumpeting call, especially as it greets others in the family group, whereas their powerful wings make little sound.

It is truly a thrilling sight to see a flock of swans lift from their roosting sight at dawn.

Gill Cameron



U3A members were very creative at the recent Fabric Workshop run by the Visual Arts Group. Taking inspiration from photographs, participants interpreted their images using a variety of fabrics, haberdashery and embellishments. With helpful advice from leader, Jenny Pek, they cut, sewed, and glued their way through the afternoon, creating amazing pieces, each with their own unique style. Completed work was framed in an embroidery hoop. Fortified by a brew and delicious home-made biscuits halfway through, everyone gave the whole afternoon a big thumbs up!



Have you anything to contribute to the NewsFlash? We would like all our members to contribute. Anything that interests you, short pieces are fine. Text should be sent as Word Documents, or just within an email rather than attachments. Illustrations or photographs are best sent separate from text, in jpg format.

May NewsFlash deadline: April 22nd. Please send contributions by email to the Editor Robin Taylor

PHILOSOPHY BITE 2 ON BEAUTY

Our ability to recognise and take pleasure in the beautiful is one of the good things in life. We shall look at the nature of this response and at some of the attempts to define or describe it.

Thursday mornings 10.30 - 12.30 on 14th: 21st: 28th May at Clitheroe Library.

There will be a modest fee payable at the first meeting.

PLEASE REGISTER ASAP AS THE NUMBER IS LIMITED.

email: shawmargret@gmail.com or <tel:01200426103>

Margret Shaw

A Warm Welcome to New Members

Graham Hampshire, Eileen Hampshire, Freda Fletcher, Vanessa Wilson, Tim Ingles and CaroleThompson

Lunch with Friends

Lunch with Friends

May 7th Clitheroe Golf Club

12.00 for 12.30

To book please contact:
Host for May, Ann Ward.
topgm@hotmail.co.uk

A non u3a Event

Monet at The Grundy Art Gallery Blackpool

8th March – 13th June 2026



This spring visitors will have the rare opportunity to fully experience Monet's breathtaking The Petit Bras of the Seine at Argenteuil (1872) in person as part of The National Gallery Masterpiece Tour 2025–2027.

Clitheroe u3a Officers and Committee 2025

Chair:	Maureen Pickup		clitheroeu3achair@gmail.com
Vice Chair:	Jacque Melia		jacquiemelia@gmail.com
Secretary:	Julie Whitehead	07474 860250	secretaryu3aclitheroe@outlook.com
Treasurer:	Christine Snape	07896 877690	treasureru3aclitheroe@outlook.com

Committee Members

Groups Co-ordinator:	Denise Hayton		u3aclitheroe@icloud.com
Membership secretary:	David Grimes, 01254 240707,		davidgrimes1@mac.com
Newsletter editor:	Robin Taylor, 01254 249897,		newsflasheditoru3aclitheroe@outlook.com
Speakers Secretary:	Roy Gonsalves, 01200 442460,		rmgonsalves1953@outlook.com
Committee Members	Su Penson, Jeremy Lambert and Ann Ward.		

Co-opted Members

Committee Support Team

ICT Support Team:	Jonathan Pickup, jon.pickup55@gmail.com
	Brian Hudson, mail@abhudson.co.uk
Publicity Officer:	Su Penson
Refreshments	Liz Wolstenholme and Sue Monk
Special Events:	Gill Kilbey, Liz Wolstenholme, Marjorie Taylor
Webmaster:	Frank Taylor frankhtaylor@yahoo.co.uk