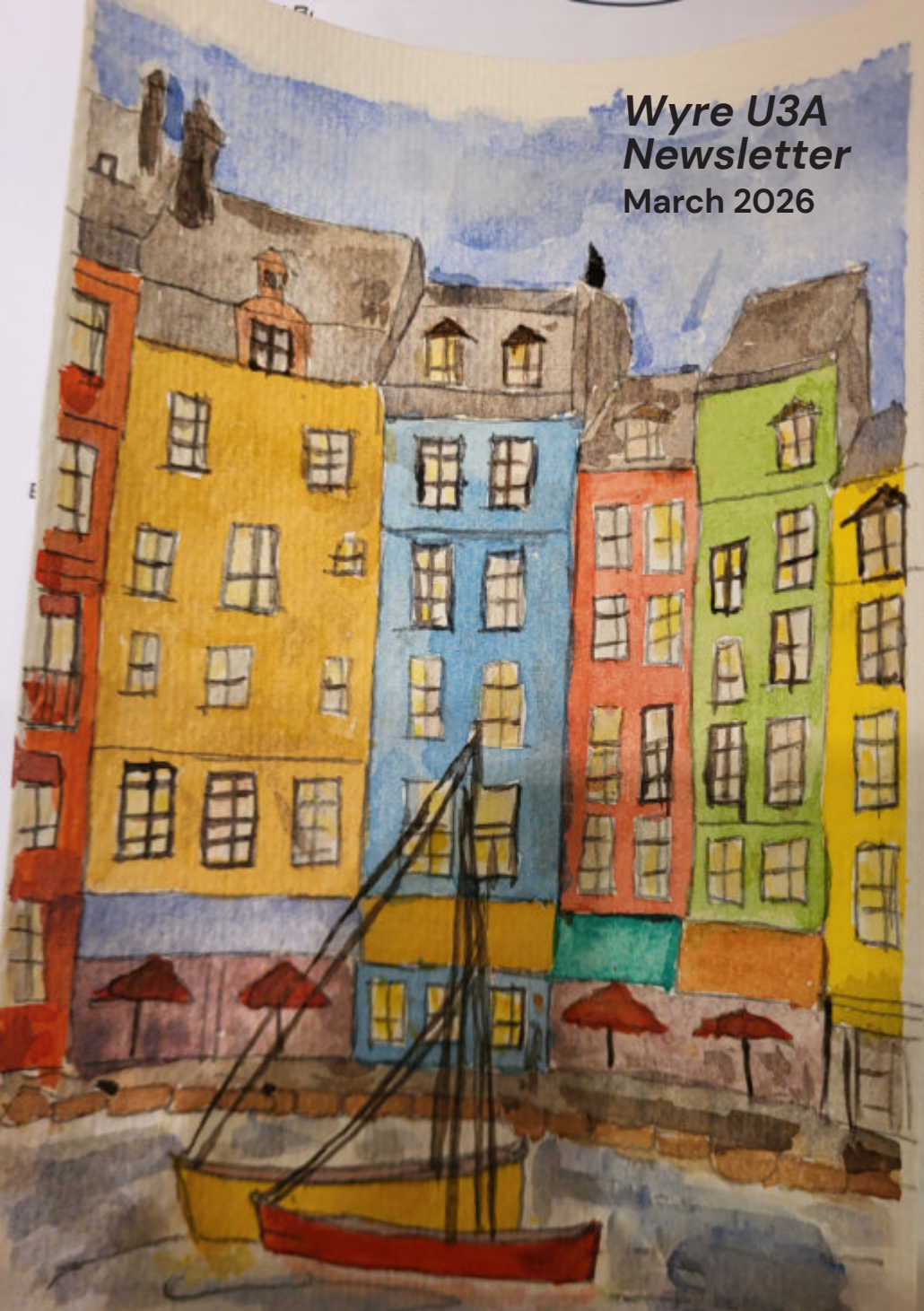


# Wyre U3A Newsletter March 2026



Mick Carey Wyre U3A

RUJRIIHOI JOYEL MENDONCA, MAÎTRE D' HOTEL

Any changes to reservations will be subject to availability. For guests on Saver Fare, a €2 per person

embracing out

public music

The committee recently held a meeting, during which preparations for our upcoming AGM were discussed. Plans are progressing well, and arrangements are being put firmly in place.

We currently have vacancies on the committee for the roles of Chair and Treasurer. If you are interested in supporting our u3a and would like to find out more about either position, please speak to a committee member.

### **Membership and Beacon**

Membership subscriptions are due on 1st April.

Beacon closes one financial year and opens a new one in line with [HM Revenue and Customs](#) (HMRC) reporting requirements. Once payment has been received, members' names will change from red to black on the system. This process greatly assists the committee in managing finances, budgeting, Gift Aid, and other administrative responsibilities efficiently.

Thank you in advance for your prompt payments — your co-operation is very much appreciated.

### **Library Room Hire**

Following enquiries regarding library charges, further investigation has confirmed that a fee is only required when a private room is specifically requested. General use does not incur a charge.

### **Holiday Proposal**

Thank you to Margaret for very kindly offering to organise a holiday for members of our u3a. There has already been a strong response, and many names have been registered.

Further details will follow in due course.

### **Tai Chi / Tai Gong Group**

Interest in establishing a Tai Chi and Tai Gong group has also been very encouraging. We have identified a tutor and have sufficient interest from members.

Tai gong t'ai chi will launch after Easter on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to be held at Thornton Methodist church hall Victoria Road Thornton at 11.30am.

The tutor will be Bryan Nuttall.

### **Gift Aid**

Chris has worked diligently over the past few months on our Gift Aid submissions. As a result, our charity has received approximately £500 back from the government. This is excellent news — well done and thank you, Chris.

### **Membership Fees**

We are pleased to confirm that membership fees will remain at £25 for the coming year. This equates to under 50 pence per week — excellent value for the activities, learning opportunities, and social connections our u3a provides.

This brings me to my thought for the day

“May you live as long as you want to..... and WANT to as long as you live”

Warm regards Lindy x

## Groups Co-ordinator

*Marie Currie*

Some good news! At our February monthly meeting we asked for any interest in a T'ai Chi group and 18 people put their names down . I now have confirmation that this group will start Thursday 16th April 11.30 am at Thornton Methodist Church Hall .

If you have already given me your name for this group , we will be in touch with further details . If you haven't given me your name but you are interested in joining this group , please email me .

More good news ! The science and technology group is going to continue , thank you to those who have helped to make this possible.

Even more good news! The watercolour group now has 2 sessions to accommodate its popularity these sessions are : 2pm on the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of the month at Carleton Memorial Hall .

The best news of all is that our membership is growing and more people in our community are enjoying the friendships and learning that they are involved in !  
Marie Currie Groups co ordinator

## Secretary Notices

*Valerie Whitney*

### Wyre U3A - AGM

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.15pm on Thursday, 11th June 2026 at Christ Church, Meadows Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 2TW.

The Nomination form for Election to the Committee is on our website.

## U3A 2006 Residential Summer School

Manchester Metropolitan University from Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> August – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> August.

You can also attend as a non-residential day delegate. There are a variety of interesting courses. For more information visit the U3A Trust website

### U3A Festival 26

University of York 1<sup>st</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Lots to do! Music & Entertainment, Sports & Exercise, Talks & Walks, Workshops. For more information visit the U3A Trust website.

### Learning Activities

The U3A Trust has a wide range of learning opportunities on their website.

## Future Speaker Events

Forthcoming speaker events will be held at the Christ Church, Meadows Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 2TW. The start time for events is 2:15 pm.

Doors will open at 1:45 pm to allow sufficient preparation time for groups already using the facilities to vacate the premises.

Christ Church has a large car park with an entrance and exit on Meadows Avenue. Please use to entrance on the right (nearest to the church) and exit from the other gateway.

### **12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Changing Face of Medical Education – Professor David Brigden.**

The story of the evolution and development of medical practice and education over the past 75 years.

### **9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Blood Bikers – Speaker TBC**

Blood bikers provide a service to the NHS by delivering blood on request between hospitals and from blood banks.

The talk is about this service and the associated highs and lows.

### **14<sup>th</sup> May – King Arthur, Man or Myth – David Hampton**

An examination of the Arthurian legend. Fact or fiction?

Its origins and development and a possible Lancashire connection.

### **11<sup>th</sup> June – Fostering – Ruth Bond**

An introduction to fostering in the North Lancashire area.

### **9<sup>th</sup> July – Be Our Guest – David Evans**

Blackpool is noted for its entertainment business connections. This talk focuses on the celebrities who were born in or died in Blackpool.

### **10<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – Craft apprentice to Crime Author – Ron Salmon**

Ron Salmon has written several crime books under the pen name of Harry Navinski.

The presentation covers Ron's career changes and his development as a writer.

At each monthly meeting there will be a collection box inside the foyer at the Christchurch for the RNIB Please leave 10mm of envelope paper around the stamp.

## Membership Secretary

*Carol Pocock*

It's that time of year.

Membership fee's of £25 per person are due from 1st April for year April 2026– March 2027.

Fee's can be paid:-

Cash – at the monthly meeting on 9th April

Cheque– sent to 15 Myrtle Avenue Thornton–Cleveleys FY5 2ZD

Bank transfer–

Natwest Bank – Sort Code: 01-02-11 – Account number: 22304444

## News From The Groups

### Play Reading Group

*Graham Bannister*

The group completed the reading of Tennessee Williams “The Glass Menagerie” and started to read “A Streetcar Named Desire” by the same author. The first London production of this play was at the Aldwych Theatre in 1949 . It was directed by Laurence Olivier and had a cast that included Vivien Leigh, Renee Asherson, Bonar Colleano & Bernard Braden.

The play follows Blanche DuBois, a faded Southern belle who moves in with her sister Stella and a volatile brother-in-law Stanley Kowalski in New Orleans.

Blanche’s genteel illusions clash with Stanley’s raw brutality, leading to a mental breakdown, violent rape and her ultimate institutionalization

### Lite Bites Group

*Diane M Whitworth and Helen Kehoe*

Our next lunch is planned for Thursday, 19th March, 12.30pm at the “ Park’s Art Deco Cafe” Stanley Park, West Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9EQ.

Pre orders are required please so names will be taken and menus available at the Monthly Meeting in March and also on our WhatsApp Group, which everyone is welcome to join.

If you wish to be included for lunch but are unable to attend the monthly meeting or do not wish to be part of the WhatsApp Group or simply require further information please contact us by email @ [social.wyreu3a@gmail.com](mailto:social.wyreu3a@gmail.com)

Displayed on the Social Events’ Organiser’s communication table at the monthly meetings will be a “Blue Book”. This will contain detailed information of forthcoming dates and venues and members are encouraged to enter all their contact details.

## Watercolour Group

*Neil Bullen*

The Watercolour group meets at Carelton Memorial Hall on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1330 to 1530

We are a small but friendly and inclusive group of mixed experiences and abilities

The topics we cover are discussed and selected by attendees. Anyone who would like to try their hand at Watercolour painting can turn up and basic materials will be available for the first session.

We give advice on selecting equipment in future should they wish to continue.

You may wish to attend once a month that's fine.

## Sewcial Bee

*Linda Johnston & Alison Hamer*

We have been very busy bees in the last 6 months with various projects. We stitched over 100 bags of all shapes and sizes with love and care, using up much of our stash of fabric and learning new skills along the way and theS were gifted to U3a members who attended the November monthly meeting.

We hope that you were lucky enough to receive a bag, but if you were not, there are still some bags looking for good homes and these are still available from a member of the committee. Please take one for yourself or a friend.

We then moved onto making Syringe driver bags for Trinity Hospice, the bags will enable patients to carry their medication discreetly and move around more freely. We managed donate 50 bags to the hospice in December.



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Following the talk from 'Feet First' at the January monthly meeting, we were moved by the poverty in Malawi and so after discussion with the charity we are going to make some shorts, t-shirts and dresses for the children and possibly some teddies too.

In between all these activities we also get on with our own projects sharing ideas and exchanging skills and knowledge, valuing the support and expertise that is within the group.

We are a small but very friendly group, and happy to welcome new members with all levels of experience.

Our monthly meeting place at Christ Church, Meadows Avenue, is a church which serves the community in many ways, including providing a food bank helping those really struggling in these difficult economic times.

So we all benefit and contributions of non-perishable food can be donated either at the meeting or by just visiting the church.

## **French Conversation**

*Jackie Ainsworth*

During February, a wide variety of topics were shared and discussed by the group, including the topic of smoking which prompted some interesting personal anecdotes.

We also took turns reading an article on the subject and listened to the song "C'est la fumée" sung by Jean Sirjo. One of our members shared her experiences of a pleasurable visit to Hebden Bridge and a rather underwhelming one to Winchester! Another member recounted a trip to visit a family member. One member brought an article about the adoption of tango in France in the early 1900s.

Please note that this group is currently at full capacity so we are sadly unable to welcome any new members at this time.

## **Science and Technology Group**

*James Morgan*

At February's meeting we had four presentations from members of the group. Diane Whitworth told us about Rosalind Franklin, who worked on DNA with Crick, Watson and Wilkins, but has had very little recognition for her vital contribution. Hypatia of Alexandria was the subject of Helen Kehoe's talk, a brilliant female mathematician at the end of the Roman period.

Sue Cox talked about Alice Augusta Ball, an African American who became a major figure in the treatment of leprosy in Hawaii at the start of the 20th century when prejudice and segregation was rife.

James Morgan presented on the life of George Stephenson who went from very humble beginnings to being one of the great engineers of the Victorian era.

Next month we are making a visit to Eco Town, Leyland, Lancashire's recycling centre. Our visit starts at 2pm on the 16th March, so there is no meeting at the Carleton Memorial Hall.

Our April meeting will be a talk from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust on "Repairing the Peatlands".

## **History Group**

*Susan Cox*

At the January meeting, Peter Davies gave an in depth talk on migration mainly to the USA in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

At the February meeting Val Fillingham gave an illustrated presentation on the history of Lancaster from pre roman times to the buildings of the university campus.

At the March meeting Kevin Daniels will be presenting the role and preservation of a branch railway.

## Holiday Group

*Margaret Blaney*

Looking to organise a trip in September and hope there is enough response from our own u3a to have a coach to ourselves. Have asked the travel agent to look at 2 destinations: (a) Bletchley Park and (b) Northumbria. I used to organise trips in South Manchester U3A but since then we have survived Covid, all our bills have increased and increased again so I am waiting to receive the information as I cannot guess what the costs would be. I know, from experience, that single rooms can be an issue but I don't know Wyre u3a well enough to know how many people will be sharing rooms. I spoke a few words at the last meeting and there was interest from those present. I am hoping more will let me know.

So, Bletchley Park, hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon, if we have 30 people £589. 25 people £639, 20 people £709. The more people, the cheaper per head cost.

Northumbria - 30 £639, 25 £689, 20 £749.

Our own coach, good allowance of single rooms, ie 19.

Dates in September, possibly early October. I need to know who is interested and which trip.

Will have a meeting to discuss and get to know each other when I know there is enough interest.

Please email me on [margblaney1@gmail.com](mailto:margblaney1@gmail.com) or text to 07840 114759.

## Quiz and Games Group

*Jean Steele*

February's meeting saw 7 teams competing for first place in our quiz, and we were pleased to welcome some new members.

As usual, we covered a variety of subjects, as we tried to accommodate everyone's speciality knowledge.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the afternoon, go well.

In March, several of the organising group, will be missing

There will still be a meeting on March 23 though, as volunteers from the group will organise the activities, in our absence.

Jean, Alan and I are very grateful, but not surprised by this. Thank you to all concerned.

## Singing For Fun

*Arthur Jones*

Our February meeting was only a couple of days away from Valentine's Day so the theme was Love – or “Lurve” as most pop singers tend to (mis)pronounce it. We had a real “lurve-in” and welcomed a couple of new members as well.

Unusually our next meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in March, the 18<sup>th</sup> but then we'll be back to our normal 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from April onwards

The Italian group continues to meet up once a fortnight in Poulton library. We read and translated various articles which are currently in the news. A short time ago ie last December, Unesco put Italian cuisine – la cucina italiana – on the list of 'the Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This honours the entire tradition of the cuisine, not just specific recipes, and it includes the rituals of preparing and eating food together. We moved on to the Skyscraper in the Sky which made the News here. The American climber, Alex Honnold scaled the skyscraper without rope or harness. He called it 'free solo'. Apparently he has done this before many times.

Facts about Italy came up again eg the three active volcanoes in Europe are to be found in Italy – Etna, Vesuvius and Stromboli. The city of Bologna is home to the oldest university in the western world which goes back to the year 1088. Italy also has the world's oldest bank which is still running – la Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena.

We discovered that last year 2025 was called the Jubilee of Hope by the Catholic church. Pilgrims were invited from all over the world to come to Rome. Of great importance was creating a bigger refreshment place on the roof of St Peter's Basilica. There was a small bar there already but this has been extended to cater for the huge numbers of visitors and pilgrims.

Margery Hart,  
Group Leader

This small group continues to help members with travel and insurance options. Group members enjoyed a post Christmas meal in January.

In February, a day trip to Blackburn Cathedral to see the Britain at War exhibition was made.

Future plans are a Lochs and Glens holiday in April and various G Line trips. The next meeting will be Friday 27 February.



Thanks to those who attended our latest meeting on 18 February given by Mick Carey, a very regular presenter at our meetings and former group leader. Mick has travelled extensively around the world and his recent holidays as you may be aware have focused on some very interesting cruises, by sea and by river. So much so that Mick was presenting to us just 4 days after returning from a Caribbean cruise. This time we are staying within the European sphere with a sea cruise encompassing both Normandy and Bordeaux in France, two major regions of France with a great deal of history of their own, both very well known to the British public and with much to offer the would-be visitor. Mick explored the historical angle particularly well alongside his travel oratory. So here is the account of this intrepid journey in Mick's own words. Please see the pictures below to follow the voyage.

We sailed from Port of Tyne on Fred Olsen's "Balmoral" at the end of August 2025, an area a famous history of its own.

The First stop was Honfleur, Normandy. This was my favourite. This is also the region where we find the major maritime port of Le Havre and its environs. Next, we sailed to Bordeaux on the Garonne and spent the afternoon in the city. We stayed overnight in the dock at Bassens because we could not get through the bridge to Bordeaux. Next morning should have been spent in the famous St Emilion Wine Region but the guide was delayed, so I sulked on board!

The captain chose not to land at St Malo as planned on the way back so we missed out on both that famous port and the equally famous Mont St Michel, so it was back to the River Seine. We sailed up the river to the capital of Normandy, Rouen. Among other things the city is famous for its cathedral painted over and over by Claude Monet and as the site of Joan of Arc's trial and execution. Monet, the French painter and founder of Impressionism spent a lot of time with his work in the nearby Le Havre region, essentially the birthplace of Impressionism. There was some very spectacular Son et Lumiere at the cathedral in the evening and a second chance to explore the city next day. We then sailed back to Newcastle.

Once again, Mick produced another most enjoyable, atmospheric, entertaining and informative talk, embellished by excellent photography, a shed load of anecdotes and pulling no punches with the oratory.

For those who might like to try out this venture, Newcastle of course is only a mere 3 hours drive from here, with the port easily accessible. By journeying at sea, it also gives you a break from flying, a relaxing atmosphere and plenty of interesting places to stop at.

Looking ahead, in March, Claire and Bryan Fretwell-Parker will cover places of interest closer to home in Herefordshire. In April Julie Kay will give a talk on the city of Krakow, Poland. Val Fillingham's second part of her recent Indian cruise presentation then follows in May. Clive Jones will take on June's presentation 'Trains, Boats and Planes' which will cover a whole raft of journeys, by air, sea and land made by Clive to all corners of the globe over the years. A bit like 'Michael Portillo meets Burt Bacharach', if you will!

In July, Claire and Bryan will give another USA road trip talk this time to Idaho and Montana. After the summer break, in September Philip Alderson from the French Conversation Group will present for the first time with a general-purpose talk on travel and culture in France, where he has travelled to many times, focusing on where and when to go, travel planning, things that you need to be aware of and other useful tips. Look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

## Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues

Activity	Regular Meeting	Venue
Afternoon Tea Dance	Last Friday of the month at 2.00pm	St. Hildas Church Hall Carlton
Amblers Walking Group	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Time to be arranged	Check with the Co-ordinator
Artists and Paintings in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Centuries	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at 1.00pm - 2.30pm	Check with the co-ordinator
Badminton	Weekly on Wednesdays 10.00am - 12 noon	All Hallows Church Hall Bispham
Book Group	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 10.00am	Poulton Library
Canasta Group	Monday afternoons 2.00pm - 4.00pm First Monday of the month..	Carleton Memorial Hall
Card Making	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Crown Green Bowling	Weekly on Mondays 9.50am for 10.00am	HASSRA Green Anchorsholme Lane
The Dining Group	See Newsletter	See Newsletter
Family History	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 3.00pm	Fleetwood Golf Club
French for Improvers	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 1.30pm	Fleetwood Golf Club
French Conversation	Fortnightly at 10.45am	Thornton Library Check with co-ordinator
Gardening	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 2.00pm	Various - check with the co-ordinator
Gentle Movement to Music	Every Monday 1.00pm - 2.00pm	St Hildas Church Hall Carleton
History of Art	1st Tuesday at 10.30am	Check with the co-ordinator
History	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall

## Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues

Activity	Regular Meeting	Venue
Italian Group	Tuesday every two weeks at 11.00am	Poulton Library
Line Dancing	Every Friday 1.00pm – 3.30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> hour for beginners	Carleton Memorial Hall
Lite Bite Group	See Newsletter & Social Events Organisers communication table	See newsletter for details
Live Music	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm	The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East, Thornton FY5 5HQ
Man Friday Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm	The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East, Thornton FY5 5HQ
News and Current Affairs Group	First and third Friday of the month 10.00 – 12 noon	Church of St Martin And St Hildas
Philosophy	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Play Reading	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Quiz and Games	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 2.00pm – 4.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Science and Technology	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Sewcial Bee	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	No meeting in November & December. Next meeting 14 January 2026	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> weeks on Mondays at 2.00pm	Check with the co-ordinator
Spanish for beginners	First and third Wednesdays At 14.00	Poulton Library
Travel	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 10.00am	Carleton Memorial Hall
Walking	Last Wednesday of each month	Various – check with the co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday:1.30– 3.30pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Wayfarers Travel Group	4 <sup>th</sup> Friday in the month 2.00pm for 2.30pm	Carleton Memorial Hall

## Wyre u3a Committee Contact Details

**Chair**

*Lindy Porter*  
chairwyre@gmail.com

**Vice Chair**

*Graham Bannister*  
vchairwyre@gmail.com

**Secretary**

*Valerie Whitney*  
wyreu3asecretary@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

*Ted Armitage*  
treasurer.wyreu3a@gmail.com

**Assistant Treasurer**

*Chris Martin*

**Membership Secretary**

*Carol Pocock*  
membership.wyreu3a@gmail.com

**Groups' Co-ordinator**

*Marie Currie*  
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**Newsletter Editor / Webmaster**

*Gordon Ivett*  
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**Speakers' Secretary**

*Graham Bannister*  
speakers.wyreu3a@gmail.com

**Front of House**

*Paulina Holmes*

## Membership and Social Events Payments

NatWest Bank

Account Number 22304444 - Sort code 01-02-11.

## Wyre u3a Contact Details

**Beacon Administrator**

*Colin Gray*  
wyreu3abeacon@gmail.com

**Wyre u3a Website**

<https://wyrelancs.u3asite.uk>

**u3a National Newsletter**

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

**Wyre u3a Charity Number**

Registered No 1184776

**Social Event's Organisers'**

*Diane M Whitworth and Helen Kehoe*  
social.wyreu3a@gmail.com

## Risk Assessment Advice

Members are reminded that when participating in Wyre u3a activities, they do so at their own risk. This is relevant when undertaking any physical activity.

## Wyre u3a Newsletter

Any opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the newsletter team or of the Wyre u3a committee or of the u3a Trust.

## Wyre U3A Facebook Page

This is a private Facebook page for Wyre U3A members only.

## Carleton Memorial Hall

Please advise Peter Farrell for changes to group meetings as he needs to be notified in advance if the hall is not going to be used, otherwise Wyre u3a will be charged for the room. 07961 885668 or email [carltonmemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:carltonmemorialhall@gmail.com)  
Ad-hoc meetings must be agreed in advance by completing the Room Hire form under 'Forms' on our website.