



Wyre U3A
Newsletter
August 2026

Chair's Report

Graham Bannister

As I write this we are still in the middle of a heat wave, hopefully by the time you read it we will have had some badly needed rain.

Since the last Newsletter I travelled to visit my Granddaughter in Toronto. It's many years since I last visited and was surprised to see how the city had become a truly integrated multi national place to live. Canada has always been a liberal country but it seemed strange to see shops openly selling Cannabis.

The soccer World Cup was being played while I was there and interestingly the Croatian team and its entourage were staying in my hotel.

Of course being in the city it was natural to do some sight seeing. Visits to the CN Tower, the National Aquarium, Museum, Art gallery and a full day visit to Niagara were fitted in. The highlight of that day was sailing close to the American Falls and getting soaked.

Unfortunately on my return when I landed at Manchester Airport I was taken ill and spent 4 days in Wythenshawe Hospital. As a result I was unable to attend our July meeting which was very capably chaired by our hard working Secretary, Val.

I hope to be firing on all cylinders for our August meeting when our next speaker will be Dave Mallinder making a presentation on Elvis Presley, his life and his music.

Groups Co-ordinator

Colin Gray

A meeting for Group Leaders (GLs) was held on 23rd September – 16 attended.

Colin gave a presentation of his views, and a number of points were raised in the subsequent discussion.

The presentation and a summary of the points raised was emailed to all 40 GLs – further action will be determined once replies have been collated.

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 carletonmemorialhall@gmail.com.

Ad-hoc meetings must be agreed in advance by completing the Room Hire form under 'Forms' on the Wyre u3a 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.

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.

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.

August 2026 – The Elvis Presley Story – Dave Mallinder

A journey through Elvis's life, music and film career.

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.

October 2026 – The History and development of Lytham Hall – Denise Hadley

The history and development of Lytham Hall.

November – The Canary Girls – Peta Edwards

The story of the women who worked in ammunition factories during the two World Wars.

December 2026 – Christmas Concert – Featuring the Live Music Group

10th December 2pm at The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East, Thornton-Cleveleys.

Do not miss the concert of the year when our talented musicians and singers will be performing!

Future Speaker Events *continued*

January 2027 – The Painting Policeman – David Wiles

David starts with a blank canvas and demonstrates the technique of working wet on wet with oil paints

February 2027 – The Nepal Mustang Trail Race – Steve Cushing

A report of Steves experience running this race which is a supported 8 stage 170km high altitude trail race through the trans Himalayan region of Nepal

Newsletters

Back copies of Newsletters can be emailed by the Secretary on request.

Exclusive Holidays for U3A Members

u3a getaways – an exclusive holiday programme for u3a members has been launched. These bespoke trips have been designed to create opportunities for members to come together from across the UK to learn, discover and explore.

Every getaway blends relaxed, well-organised travel with enriching and immersive experiences. Beyond traditional sightseeing, you can expect talks, workshops and shared adventures that build lasting friendships.

We have teamed up with The UK Holiday Group, a highly respected name in travel with over 40 years' expertise in creating exceptional excursions.

A range of short stay trips are now available to book.

Find out more on the [u3a getaways website](#).

Wyre u3a Facebook Page

This is a private Facebook page for Wyre u3a members only.

Wyre u3a Newsletter

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

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.

Membership and Social Events Payments

NatWest Bank Account Number 22304444 – Sort code 01-02-11.

News From The Groups

Play Reading Group

Graham Bannister

The Group completed the reading of “Mystery at Greenfingers” and started to read “Caught in the Act” by Ray Cooney. It was first produced at the Theatre Royal Windsor in October 2000. The leads been taken by Ray Cooney, Trevor Bannister and Paul Nicholas. It was subsequently produced at the Vaudeville Theatre in London in the following year. The leads been taken by Russ Abbot, Eric Sykes and Carol Hawkins.

The sequel to “Run For Your Wife” finds our bigamist taxi driver, John Smith, still keeping both his families happy and unaware of each other. However his son by one wife and his daughter by the second meet on the internet. What follows is an ever spiralling situation as John tries to keep a lid on the developing relationship

Dining Out Group

Irene Evans

Our next dining out will be at Pizzeria Larco, 123 Victoria Rd West, Cleveleys FY5 3LA on Wednesday 5th August 6pm for 6.30pm.

If you would like to join us, or just join our WhatsApp group , please text me on 07889761767.

Everyone is welcome.

**Lite Bites Group***Diane M Whitworth and Helen Kehoe*

Our next lunch is planned for Thursday, 20th August, 12.30pm at "Daisy Clough" Nurseries, Station Lane, Scorton, Preston, PR3 1AN.

There is a gift shop at Daisy Clough, which is stocked with beautiful items, including clothes, candles, homeware, wines, spirits and indoor pots.

The Garden Centre has a good selection of bedding and vegetable plants as well as a great range of shrubs and trees.

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

If you wish to attend the 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 via email @ social.wyre3a@gmail.com.

Displayed on the Social Events' Organiser's communication table at the Monthly Meeting is a "Blue Book". This will contain detailed information of venues and dates and members are encouraged to enter their contact details.

Gentle Movement To Music Group

The Group is on its summer break until September 7th.

The Group Leader (GL) has withdrawn, and so a new Leader (or Leaders!) must take over.

Is anyone in Wyre u3a willing to consider this? If you would, and want further information, please contact Colin Gray – Groups Coordinator – wyregroups3a@gmail.com, before Monday 17th August.

If a new GL cannot be found the Group will be suspended.

It has been suggested that someone could be paid to lead the Group, but this is contrary to the u3a ethos, and complicated.

If you wish to discuss this aspect please contact Colin (details above).

Italian Group

Margery Hart

Over the month of July the group has read and translated from Italian various articles with a modern theme. We learnt from one article that chocolate does not have to be made using cocoa beans.

A start up company in southern Germany uses sunflower seeds instead which are more readily available. Apparently it's the process of roasting and fermenting the seeds which creates the taste of chocolate. A member of the group realised she had seen these new chocolate bars in Aldi.

Italians are famous for producing ice cream (gelato) which is usually at a reasonable price. However one gelateria has made a new ice cream which costs 95 euros for one cone.

Edible gold leaf is wrapped round the cone which makes the price exorbitant, but there are still people queuing up to taste it.

We watched various videos in Italian, one of which was about how Italians dress so smartly most of the time. People were interviewed on the streets of Milano and asked to describe their dress style. It was again noticeable that many English words were used to describe clothes and styles eg baggy, dei jeans, le sneakers, un cardigan, urban and many more.

We also read about football and the World Cup (Calcio e la Coppa del Mondo) which has taken up a lot of TV time.

A group member had visited the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and was able to show photos of the sports on the TV monitor. He also gave a running commentary of his own in Italian which prompted questions and conversation in Italian.

Unfortunately this group is still full, and currently cannot take on any more

Painting in Germany in the Nineteenth Century began with such Romantics as Otto Runge {whose early death robbed us of an artist who could have developed in a similar fashion to William Blake} and Caspar David Friedrich. Friedrich moved away from overtly religious landscapes, to depicting Nature, whether mountains, seas, forests, or even a single bare oak tree, when it is impossible not to sense his deep spiritual feelings. He is an artist best seen in a collection in one room, and in Berlin's National Gallery there is a superb display.

The other prominent artist in the second half of the Century was Adolf Menzel, a major figure who can be categorised as a Realist artist, but in many of his private drawings and paintings is being seen as a proto-Impressionist. All his work is worth exploring, for he devoted his life to showing what he saw about him. He was far more than the painter known just for 'Frederick the Great's Flute Concert', or 'The Iron Rolling Works.' At only four and a half feet, he ignored the taunts of Berlin society, and patiently drew everything and anyone, from the poorest beggars to the coronation of the Prussian king, from builders' rubble in waste land, to strangely alive plaster limbs from his studio. A measure of his achievement is that at his funeral, the Emperor walked behind his coffin. Finally we skipped back in time to the period known as 'Biedermeier', characterised as upholding the values of the emerging bourgeoisie, to look at some of the humorous works of Carl Spitzberg.

We return back in September, to review David Hockney's achievements, in relation to that other major post-war British artist, Lucien Freud. Unfortunately we cannot take on any new members at present.

At the July meeting, Cathy Sheppard from Fleetwood Museum gave an illustrated talk on the 93 known war graves in Fleetwood Cemetery. The talk covered the two world wars and one later casualty.

There will be no meeting in August. Details of the September meeting will be circulated on Whatsapp.

Quiz & Games Group

Alan Steele

Due to competition from a U3A going to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park on the same day, we had a reduced attendance at our meeting. However the 10 stalwarts who came along took part in games of "Chronology, Rummicub and Canasta" with great enthusiasm, possibly encouraged by the extra biscuits.

We hope to have our normal numbers attending our next session, which will be a quiz on 24th August. All members most welcome.

News & Current Affairs Group

Colin Gray

Meeting on the 1st and 3rd Fridays, 10:00 to 12:00, St Hilda's. August meetings – 7th and 21st. Last month's topics:

3rd July (Attendees – 9):

1. Bibles, Home Alone and perfume: Six surprising ways Trump made money in 2025
2. Why Gen Z are planning for life without a state pension
3. White working-class children failed by education system, says inquiry
4. Plea for households to read energy meter as prices rise
5. Ford rehires human engineers after AI fails to match quality checks
6. Tens of thousands rush for tickets to see Bayeux Tapestry in UK

17th July (Attendees – 9)

1. Mocking regional accents is last form of acceptable discrimination, says MP
2. Police say Ann Widdecombe killed in 'targeted attack' as motive investigated
3. Climate we had in 20th Century 'has now gone' – Met Office
4. £100 fines to tackle e-scooters, drugs and begging
5. New camera guidelines for female athletics coverage
6. Huge Lancashire Council Shake-up Plan Due Within Days

Our final meeting before the summer break in August was given by Clive Jones on 15 July as the second and final part of the series – ‘Travels in the Far East and South East Asia’ – by himself and other members of his family. As in the previous presentations, this account demonstrates what can be achieved through low-cost, independent travel by young adults. This time we were focusing on the 5 vibrant, distinctive and culturally and historically-rich countries of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macau. Now reachable by coastal highway bridge from Hong Kong, the former Portuguese territory of Macau consisting of a mainland element and the islands of Taipa and Coloane connected by a causeway is an SAR of China. It is famed for its unique blend of Portuguese and Chinese heritage. Thailand, formerly known as Siam, is of course, a monarchy. The Republic of Malaysia (formerly Malaya) operates a unique rotational monarchy where the national king is chosen every 5 years. For Republica Singapura (Singapore) – the name Singapura in Sanskrit means ‘Lion City’ – along with the Vatican City and Monaco one of the 3 city states in the world. Hong Kong, formerly a British Overseas Territory is now a Special Economic Region (SAR) within the southern region of the People’s Republic of China. Again, the account focused on travel opportunities, the diversity of peoples and faiths and the culture and history of each country. In Thailand, we saw the bustling capital city Bangkok, spectacular some national parks, the captivating city of Chiang Mai in the north central region of the country, the beautiful Phuket Island on the Andaman Sea and the island of Koh Phangan on the Gulf of Thailand with its diversity, pristine beaches and water sport activities – in all their glory. Moving onto Malaysia, we travel to the island of Penang in the north – a vibrant state known as the ‘Pearl of the Orient’, the stunning and ultra-modern capital of Kuala Lumpur and the southernmost state of Johore Bahru. From there you can then make the very short journey into Singapore, reputedly now ‘the most modern country in the world’ with much re-development having taken place to infrastructure and commerce in recent years. And finally onto Honk Kong (‘Fragrant Harbour’) with it’s fabulous and world-famous harbour, the iconic and bustling Hong Kong Island, the fascinating Kowloon Peninsula, the urban and rural mix of districts in the New Territories and the many outlying islands – again where much re-development and re-structuring has taken place in recent years. The talk concluded with a short section on historic, European-influenced Chinese painting and calligraphy. My words cannot do justice to describing the wonder of these far flung destinations; so you’ll need to try it out yourself! There is much to savour visiting these tropical and sub-tropical destinations.

By travelling in this way it is possible to immerse yourself in the many diverse destinations, wild life encounters, the many cultures, languages and heritages of the countries visited and visit iconic landmarks, places of antiquity and ancient civilisations. The potential to explore these exciting travel opportunities is both

endless and mind-blowing. Do look into entry/ visa requirements, best times/ seasons to go and medical considerations when planning your travel!

The Travel Group has some exciting talks/ presentations coming up over the next few months:

August and December – no meetings.

September – General-purpose presentation on what it's like travelling/ holidaying in France: regions, planning, preparation, travel, do's and don'ts, food and drink, the language, anecdotes and tips and advice – by Philip Alderson from many years of experience travelling there.

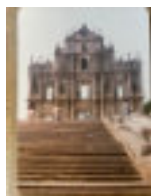
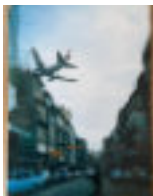
October – the Greek Island of Crete – Val Whitney.

November – Caribbean Cruise – Mick Carey.

January 2027 – Final part of 'Travels with the Jones Family' – Australia (Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and NSW) plus Fiji and New Zealand, and an input on Australian art and paintings.

If anyone is interested in giving a presentation next year please let me know.

These tantalising and exciting presentations that we hope will generate a lot of interest. Bring a friend with you and meet our fabulous speakers! Looking forward to seeing you soon. There is more than enough room to tempt other U3A members to the meetings and if you've been on any interesting holidays yourselves then why not come along and tell us all about it!



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<https://wyre3a.org.uk>

u3a National Newsletter

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

Wyre u3a Charity Number

Registered Number: 1184776

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 th Thursday Time to be arranged	Check with the Co-ordinator
Artists and Paintings in the 19 th and 20 th Centuries	3 rd 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 nd 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 nd and 4 th 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 st Monday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays at 3.00pm	Fleetwood Golf Club
French for Improvers	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays at 1.30pm	Fleetwood Golf Club
French Conversation	Fortnightly at 10.45am	Thornton Library Check with co-ordinator
Gardening	3 rd Wednesday at 2.00pm	Various – check with the co-ordinator
History of Art	1st Tuesday at 10.30am	Check with the co-ordinator
History	2 nd 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 st hour for beginners	Carleton Memorial Hall
Lite Bite Group	See Newsletter & Social Events Organisers communication table	See newsletter for details
Live Music	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm	The Ashley Club, Victoria Road East, Thornton FY5 5HQ
Man Friday Club	1 st 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 th Tuesday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Play Reading Group	3 rd Tuesday 12.15 – 14.15	Carleton Memorial Hall
Quiz and Games	4 th Monday 2.00pm – 4.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Sewcial Bee	1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays at 2.00pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday 2.30pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	2 nd and 4 th 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 rd Wednesday at 10.00am	Carleton Memorial Hall
Walking	Last Wednesday of each month	Various – check with the co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 st Tuesday at 1.30pm and 3 rd Wednesday at 1.30pm	Carleton Memorial Hall
Wayfarers Travel Group	4 th Friday in the month 2.00pm for 2.30pm	Carleton Memorial Hall