

**Wyre U3A
Newsletter
September 2026**

Well at long last the drought has ended. Hopefully without too much damage to local gardens, open spaces and wild life.

We had a very successful August meeting when we were entertained by Dave Mallinder who gave a presentation on the life of Elvis Presley.

I am pleased to report that an instructor for the Movement to Music Group has now been appointed and that the group will resume in September after its summer break. Howard and Liz Robinson have kindly agreed to act as joint group leaders.

Sadly I have to report the sudden death of Rhoda Bill. Rhoda and her husband Ray were two of the founder members of this branch. The funeral will be at 2pm Wednesday 16th September at the Methodist Church Poulton.

I also have to inform you that Colin Gray has, for personal reasons, resigned from his joint roles as Beacon Administrator and Group Coordinator. As we intend to split the responsibilities we need to recruit two replacements as well as the vacancy that still exists of Speakers Secretary.

Can I therefore appeal to all members to consider taking any of the vacant posts. It is obvious that if our Committee were to shrink further the future of this branch would be threatened.

Finally I look forward to seeing all who can make it to our September meeting when the speaker will be Ron Salmon whose talk is entitled "Craft Apprentice to Crime Writer" Ron writes under the pen name of Harry Navinski.

Notices

Speakers

We need a new Speakers Secretary. Could this be you?

Please help by finding some interesting people to speak at our monthly meetings and also join our committee. Speakers have been booked through to February and we have a list of possibles.

Please contact Valerie wyreu3asecretary@gmail.com

Front of House

Can anyone assist by helping to take the attendance register at our monthly meetings? It's a great way to get to know people!

Please contact Carol membership.wyreu3a@gmail.com

u3a Getaways

An exclusive programme for u3a members has been launched. A range of short stay trips are now available to book.

Just Google u3a getaways for more information.

Notices *continued*

Beacon Support

We are seeking someone to be the Beacon Administrator for the Wyre u3a database.

You will need some computer input skills and report to the committee for maintaining the Beacon System site.

Please contact Valerie wyreu3asecretary@gmail.com

Groups Co-ordinator

We are looking for a special someone to be the focus for all our interest groups and join the committee. As Groups Coordinator you will facilitate the setting up of new interest groups at our u3a.

This will be done by:

- Supporting and advising Group Leaders
- Ensuring good communications between group members, the Committee and Wyre u3a as a whole
- Encouraging and supporting Group Leaders to follow best practice in running their group safely.

Please contact Valerie wyreu3asecretary@gmail.com

Carleton Memorial Hall

They are looking for members to join their committee. It entails only four brief meetings a year with little or no involvement in the day-to-day running of the hall other than contributing to ideas, views and voting on proposals etc.

If you are interested please email carletonmemorialhall@gmail.com

Lancaster University

They are looking for adults aged 60–85 to take part in a hearing aid project. You must be a fluent English speaker, without any neurological, psychiatric or language disorders. You must also not have any implanted non-removeable metal near your head.

- They will provide you with hearing aids which you can keep after the study has ended.
- They will measure your brain stimulation and study whether this could improve the benefits of hearing aids for older adults.

If you are interested please contact Dr Jess Pepper for more information
jlpepper@lancaster.ac.uk

Future Speaker Events

Forthcoming speaker events will be held at the Christ Church, Meadows Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 2TW. On the second Thursday of the month. 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.

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 TheThe Ashley Club, Victoria Road East, Thornton-Cleveleys.

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

Free to members by ticket only. Collect your ticket from the October or November monthly meetings.

Due to seating we are unable to accommodate visitors on this occasion.

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

Wyre u3a Facebook

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.

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

Membership and Social Events Payments

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

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.

News From The Groups

Canasta Group

Maureen Parker

The next Canasta session is on Monday 7th September 2pm to 4pm in Carleton Memorial Hall, Moorfield Avenue, Carleton FY6 7QE.

Come along and enjoy a very pleasant afternoon in good company.

Afternoon Tea Dance Group

Geoffrey Parkinson

The tea dance is starting again on Friday, 25th September at 2pm at the church of St Martin and St Hilda. May I introduce myself as the new group leader. The dances I am planning to do are:-Ballroom Barn Dance, St Bernard Waltz, Square Tango, Bossa Nova 66, Gay Gordon's, Rumba Number One, Sweetheart Waltz, Cowboy Charleston, Eva 3 Step and Friendly Waltz.

Dancing is a very enjoyable exercise. Even if you think you can't dance, come along and give it a go. We always walk slowly through each dance before we do it to music. If you search on Google or YouTube you can find all these dances and try them at home if you like.

Looking forward to seeing you in September!

Watercolour Group

Neil Bullen



Play Reading Group

Graham Bannister

We completed the reading of "Caught in the Net" by Ray Cooney.

Bigamist John Smith experiences difficulties in keeping his two families at a distance.

When his teenage children from his two marriages meet on the internet and plan to meet, it plunges John into a crises situation. The answer to his prayers emerges as his lodger, Stanley. The ever increasing complications cause John more and more problems as he tries to keep a lid on the situation.

Science and Technology Group

James Morgan

The Group's summer break has drawn to an end and our programme restarts on September 21st at Carleton Memorial Hall, at 2pm as usual.

John Pal will be running an interactive session about Food Security, an especially important subject following this summer's drought. Those attending will be working in small groups, don't have to prepare anything and don't need any prior knowledge.

We hope we will see you there.

Lite Bites Group

Diane M Whitworth and Helen Kehoe

Our next lunch is planned for Thursday, 17th September, 12.30pm at The "Park's Art Deco Cafe", West Park Drive, 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 September 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.

Displayed on the Social Events' Organiser's table is a Blue Book. This will contain detailed information on forthcoming events and dates and members are encouraged to enter all their contact details.



Hello everyone

Just to reiterate my message in the July newsletter regarding the growing number of musicians and singers who wish to perform at our Live Music Group meetings, it has been decided to pause the acceptance of new performers.

This decision has been made to maintain a balanced programme and to ensure that our current performers continue to have adequate time to showcase their talents.

With the increased number of talented musicians and singers already involved, this situation is unlikely to change for the foreseeable future.

All u3a and new members are more than welcome to join us as audience members and enjoy the music, friendship, banter and wonderful atmosphere that makes our gatherings so special.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to welcoming everyone to future sessions.

We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month at 2.00 pm at the Ashley Club, Thornton, FY5 5HQ.

Gentle Movement To Music Group

Howard Robinson

The group starts again on 7th September with a new qualified tutor.
We look forward to welcoming you to our group.

History Group

Susan Cox

There will be no meeting at Carleton Memorial Hall on the usual date.

Lynda Wright of the Poulton Civic and Historical Society will be giving us a guided walk around Poulton town centre on Tuesday 29 September commencing at 2pm, meet at St Chads church steps.

Normal meetings resume on October 12 when Geoffrey Cowell will be giving an archaeology talk, all welcome.

Spanish For Beginners

Barbara MacDougall

Due to health reasons, I would like to pass on this course to another member of our u3a.

We have been meeting at the Poulton Library on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2 – 3 pm and used various materials.

I should be happy to pass on some materials that I have got. Please contact me.
Barbara MacDougall – Tel 01253 893427 or 07504 621962

Quiz & Games Group

Alan & Jean Steele

Twenty seven people attended the August quiz including some newcomers who we were pleased to welcome and who said they had enjoyed it. The rounds included general knowledge, musicals and plant identification. A close finish but a team of three were worthy winners.

On 28th September, there will be a Games session. As always, there will be a choice of games to play.

New members are welcome to come along and everyone is welcome to bring in games of their choice to play with others.

As of September this group now has a new group leader (and two stalwart backups to ensure each meeting is covered).

First and foremost a big thank you to Colin for getting this lively and informative discussion group up and running. We are all sorry to see him go and, of course, wish him all the very best in his future endeavours. A personal 'thanks' from me, for assisting in a seamless transition. Our last August meeting was spent discussing the best way to move forward and ensure we continue to build and grow over the coming months.

Our next meeting is: Friday, 4th September – same place, same time (10:00 am Carleton Memorial Hall)

Group lead: Diana, with Will and Neil as contributors and as back-ups. Each of us will choose a 'hot button topic' (!) for discussion, and we'll have a back up topic in case the group has little to say or is in complete agreement and we have extra time on our hands (hardly likely, but you never know!)

10:00 – 10:55 Focused discussion on topics: these are sent out on Wednesday morning to give 48 hours for those who wish to dive into the links or info provided

10:55 – 11:05 Coffee/tea break

11:05 – 11:45 Open current affairs/news discussion – given the speed of the news, there are likely to be pressing news items that everyone would like to discuss.

In this group all input is always welcome. We respect, welcome and hope for diverse viewpoints and opinions.

"If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're mis-informed." — Mark Twain

Diana Ward – Group Leader

The Travel Group continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 10am at the Carleton Memorial Hall, apart from August and December. Here is a list of presentations so far this year:

January – Road Trip from Florida, USA to Eastern Canada – Val Whitney.

February – Bordeaux (France) – Mick Carey.

March – Herefordshire, Monmouthshire and Worcestershire – Claire and Bryan Fretwell-Parker.

April – St Petersburg and Moscow (Russia), Ukraine, and Beijing, Xian, Guangzhou and Hong Kong (China) – Clive Jones.

May – Part 2 Indian Ocean Cruise – Val Fillingham.

June – South Korea, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam – Clive Jones.

July – Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macau – Clive Jones.

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.

16 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.

21 October – the Greek Island of Crete – Val Whitney.

18 November – Caribbean Cruise – Mick Carey.

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

There are several other presentations in the pipeline during 2027 including Bavaria (Germany) the Austrian Tyrol together with the Südtirol (Italy), a collection of holidays featuring various forms of travel (Trains, Boats and Planes), Krakow (Poland), the Philippines, Bali and Indonesia, and other Australia presentation including all regions, among others.

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!



Despite August being a popular holiday month, the group still met up. Our programme started off with the usual grammar and then reading to translate various articles one of which was about Amanda Knox, the American student who was embroiled in the death of her friend. This was on TV at the time of our meeting, and the death of Knox's friend is now almost twenty years ago. They were living and studying in Perugia, the town famous for chocolate and escalators outside as it is on top of a hill. Knox was found guilty and then not guilty of murder and she applied for compensation via the European Court of Human Rights. She won thousands of euros as the Italian police failed to conduct the investigations properly.

We watched another YouTube video about Katie and Matteo, (she is English and he is Italian) making the journey to England as they were too hot where they live in Milan. They have no car so when they reached the English Channel they were only allowed to take their dog with them in a taxi which had permission to go on Le Shuttle. This video was good for ordinary conversation spoken slowly for foreigners. There was also a short article to be read about Ferragosto which is a famous public holiday on the 15th August. The name was originally Feriae Augusti in Latin meaning 'rest and harvest' established by the Emperor Augustus. Later the Catholic Church aligned the Feast of the Assumption of Mary to the same date.

Towards the end of the month a member of the group organised a visit to the HUB cafe in Fleetwood to meet up with the manager who happens to be an Italian from Milan. This went very well as we were able to converse up to a certain level with him ie he would ask questions and we would answer individually all in Italian. Interestingly he did admit that Italian is a difficult language to learn – he meant the grammar. We asked him what Italians think of English people when they speak Italian. The answer was a total surprise, apparently we sound like Laurel and Hardy! The reason for this is in the past Italian TV broadcast the old Laurel and Hardy films which then had to be dubbed. The Italian person doing the dubbing spoke in an exaggerated, comical voice with a heavy accent. The films were called Stanlio and Ollio for Italian TV.

This group is still full and unfortunately cannot take on any more members at the present time.

Wyre u3a Contact Details

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Wyre u3a Website

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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 check with a co-ordinated	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
Gentle Movement To Music	Every Monday 1.00pm – 2.00pm	St. Hildas Church Hall Carlton
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