

**Wyre U3A
Newsletter
October 2026**



The last vestiges of summer have now gone and we are well into Autumn. "full of mists and mellow fruitfulness". The bright side is that we have all our group activities to look forward to, as well as our monthly meeting.

Last months speaker was very well received and I am sure that that will also be the case for this months speaker. Denise Hadley will be making a presentation on the history and development of Lytham Hall.

On a personal note after my 4 week stay in hospital and after the fitting of 4 stents I am looking forward to a full recovery and getting back to firing on all cylinders.

Make I also take this opportunity to thank all those who sent get well messages, they were much appreciated.

Notices

Enid Vindell

We are saddened to report the passing of Enid who died at her care home in Spain. Many of you will remember Enid for running Spanish classes over many years. There will be a memorial service for her at St Johns in a few weeks time. Sincere condolences to her family.

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

Christmas Concert

We will be holding a raffle at the concert. If you are able to donate a prize please bring along to the October or November monthly meetings. Many thanks.

Please also remember that free tickets will be available to collect from the monthly meeting. This year it will be strictly members only.

u3a Getaways

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

Notices *continued*

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

For groups using the hall please advise them of any cancellations over the Christmas and New Year period so they can re-let the rooms during those times.

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

CMH respectfully asks that when doing sports or dancing suitable footwear is worn (please avoid street shoes which may damage the floor).

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.

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.

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.

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

Future Speaker Events *continued*

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

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

Italian Group

Margery Hart

Over the past month the group has read and translated various up to date articles in Italian, some of which are specifically for learners of the language and others are taken directly from Italian news sites. One unusual article was about Kentucky Fried Chicken. The company is offering free meals for life – *pasti gratis a vita* – to anyone who will tattoo themselves with the KFC brand name. You have to read the small print though as only 36 meals per year are allowed and only in 3 cities. We also read another article about the grape harvest in the Douro region of Portugal. For tourists who are interested in participating in the harvest – *la vendemmia* – there is an excursion by train to the vineyards where they are issued with buckets, secateurs and straw hats. One member recounted the rendezvous at the HUB cafe in Fleetwood where the manager is an Italian from Milan, as not all members were able to attend. While some people practised their conversation in Italian, others watched a video taken by a member of the group, about La Festa Italia in Lancaster. This actually took place in May and repeats every year. The festa is in the centre of the city and displays all things Italian eg food – pizze, pasta, arancini, gelato. There is also a display of Vespa and Lambretta scooters.

This group is still full and unfortunately can't take on any more members at the moment.

Rusty French Group

Tom Halstead

Parlez-vous un peu français?

If you've grasped that so far you may be the person I'm trying to reach. Lots of us have done a bit of French in the past but over time it's gone a bit rusty. Maybe you had a decent handle on it at one time and would like to get the moving parts moving again.

That's where the French Improvers group can help you out. It's being renamed the Rusty French group to give a better idea of what it's all about.

It's a relaxed, social group and the friendly atmosphere will act like WD40 on your conjugations. Soon you'll be dreaming of ordering your coffee and croissant on some sun-drenched terrasse in the south of France.

There will be a get-to-know one another meeting on Thursday, November 5th at 1.30pm at Fleetwood Golf Club. If you would like to know more or want to attend please give me a call or send an email.

I must pay tribute to Christine Holt who has run the group for many years but has decided to take a well-earned break. We cannot thank her enough.

It's a very pleasant group to be a member of but we do need greater numbers to keep it viable.

There will now only be one meeting a month for the moment, none in October but one on November 5th.

tomandlynda@hotmail.co.uk - 07967 591641 À bientôt (at least I hope so)

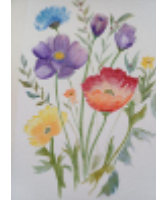
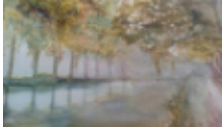
Play Reading Group

Graham Bannister

At our September meeting the group started to read "Drowning on Dry Land" by Alan Ayckbourn. The play was first produced in Scarborough in May 2004.

Charlie Conrad is a celebrity who unfortunately has no talent. The general public adopted him for the simple reason that he publicly continued to demonstrate his incompetence. His life however takes a downfall when he meets up with Marsha, a children's entertainer. His marriage and career go into freefall.

This play examines the current obsession with celebrity for its own sake but it also shows how celebrities can fall into public decline as quickly as they were made.



News and Currant Affairs

Diana Ward

We continue to meet for lively and informative open discussion on the first and third Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m., in St. Martin's and St. Hilda's Church Hall, Fleetwood Road, Carleton FY6 7LS (next to the Castle Gardens).

We are a lively, diverse, and welcoming group where all viewpoints are encouraged – respect for all opinions is the only requirement!

10:00 – 10:55 Focused discussion on topics: these are sent out on Tuesday afternoon to give plenty of time 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 the last month we have covered topics as diverse as the 'Flamingo Revolution' in Albania, how to fund political parties, where do we get our news these days to local issues such as the recently paused local unitary authority issue.

Our next meeting is on 2 October – come along and check us out!

"No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time...."

Winston S Churchill, 11 November 1947



Come and join us for a wonderful afternoon of live music and festive Christmas cheer!

Thursday 10th December 2026 – 2.00pm – The Ashley Club, FY5 5HQ

u3a MEMBERS ONLY – FREE ADMISSION – TICKET REQUIRED

FREE TICKETS will be available at the October and November u3a Main Meetings.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have received a complimentary ticket but later find that you are unable to attend, please let me know as soon as possible. (pauline.powell@me.com) This will allow us to offer your ticket to another u3a member.

SUPPORTING THE ASHLEY CLUB

The Ashley Club has very kindly agreed to allow the u3a to use its premises for our concert completely free of charge. We would therefore greatly appreciate your support for the club, by purchasing drinks and refreshments from the bar during the afternoon. Bar sales are an important source of income for the club, and your support will help us to show our appreciation for their generosity in providing the venue for our concert.

Thank you for your support, and we hope you enjoy the afternoon!

Lite Bites Group

Diane M Whitworth and Helen Kehoe

Our next lunch is planned for Thursday, 1st October, 12.30pm at The Venue, North Promenade, Cleveleys, No pre orders are required.

If you wish to be included in our monthly lunches but are unable to attend the monthly meetings or do not wish to be included in 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 at the monthly meetings is a Blue Book. This will contain detailed information on forthcoming events and dates and members are encouraged to enter their contact details.

Social Events Group

Diane M Whitworth and Helen Kehoe

Visit to Lytham Hall on Sunday, 29th November, 2pm.

Well it's that time of year again when the exquisite Georgian Hall will be themed for Christmas with twinkling, festive lights, tremendous trees and stunning themed decorations. This year's theme is "Lights, Camera, Christmas" where the carefully curated decorations will take you straight into the movies, immersing you in scenes from films inspired by your favourite Christmas films. The phenomenal model village will also be there too, transforming an entire room into a winter wonderland.

Refreshments will be available in the twinkling Courtyard and in the Cafe Bar, serving mulled wine, beers, hot drinks and a variety of homemade food.

The cost is £12 p.p, which is a reduced price for a group reservation. Payment, in cash please, is required at the time of booking. We will be taking names and payment at the monthly meeting in November.

We will be arranging a meal afterwards at a local venue, which of course is optional, with more detailed information to follow.

Dining Out Group

Irene Evans

I've booked the Agora Turkish Restaurant in Poulton for Wednesday 7th October 6pm for 6.30pm .

Anyone wishing to join us please text me on 07889761757

Everyone is welcome

Quiz & Games Group

Alan & Jean Steele

A small "elite" group met at Carleton despite the fine weather. We were pleased to welcome a new member to the Games session and hope he had an enjoyable time

For others thinking of joining us either for our quizzes or the games sessions (alternate months) -we meet the fourth Monday of each - 2pm to 4pm, at the Memorial Hall.

You can of course, come to both, as many do!

Jean and Alan were busy flying to France, but as always, loyal helpers assisted with the logistics.

Crown Green Bowling Group

Ken Speakman

Today the 28th of September was our last bowling group meeting of the 2026 season. After the really fine mornings bowling twelve of the group met up at the 'Tavern at the Mill' for a meal and prize giving to those who had won the early season pairs competition. The winners got two trophies (1 to keep and 1 to be returned for next seasons competition). Barbara Hirst also received a bunch of flowers for keeping the brew and biscuits under control.

I am hopeful that we can start bowling again on Monday 5th April 2027, weather permitting (of course).

Best wishes to all bowlers for the rest of the year and I look forward to seeing you all again next season.

Advanced French Conversation Group

Jackie Ainsworth

French Conversation reconvened this month after the summer break with all members providing interesting updates on their activities. One of our members had spent a month in France and had lots of news to share. At our subsequent meeting there were further summer catch ups and one member contributed an interesting article about King Charles III's tax position.

Our meetings start at 10:45 and finish around 12:00 / 12:15.

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

Last month we commemorated David Hockney, an artist who in his later years established himself as a National Treasure. His landscapes, in many different media, have been especially popular with the general public, while his simple philosophy "Love Life" has been apparent in most of his prolific output.

In a necessarily brief summary of his most engaging work, we would point to his portrait drawings, the theatrical sets and posters, the L.A. paintings, the tender studies of his parents, and of course the late works of the country-sides of East Yorkshire and Normandy.

We can only mention here his innovations in photographic art, his researches into how Old Masters, such as Vermeer and Caravaggio used lenses to create their astonishing naturalistic effects, and lastly, how this humble though famous man was ready to share and explain his craft in clear language, avoiding all jargon.

There is no disputing the artistic mastery of Lucian Freud, with whom Hockney shared a long friendship, yet the unsparing portrait paintings are difficult to appreciate. We concentrated on his earlier, pre-war work, though even here one senses a cold, dispassionate eye.

Both these artists excelled in their drawing skills, and next month we consider the engravings of William Hogarth, and then trace his influence right up to the present in the work of Barbara Walker.

Jon Pal led an interactive session looking at Food Security for September's Science and Technology meeting. With some help from ChatGBT Jon had identified fifteen possible government initiatives which might improve this country's food security, each with a time line and cost indicator. We were split into twos and threes and had to decide which initiatives we favoured within an overall cost budget.

After a bit of time considering the information we fed back our choices and which initiative we had completely rejected. These were collated by Jon and presented back to us. It was very interesting to see the alignment across the group.

There was a lot of support for on farm reservoirs and improving soil conditions to better withstand drought and wet. A big thank you to Jon for all the preparation he did.

For October's meeting James Morgan will be giving a talk on the Fylde Coastal Defence Scheme. James has no specialist knowledge in this field and is relying on help from Google AI and published reports on the internet.



The Village is Blain, Loire Atlantique Dept 44. The Archway is in Normandie Dept 50.
The Market Dept 13 and Hilltop Village Dept 04 are both in Provence.

Every once in a while we have a presentation on a French theme. This September we made a welcome return to France and we were delighted to introduce Philip Alderson from the French Conversation Group who presented to us for the first time. Philip is a stalwart member of the Conversation Group and seasoned traveller to France over more than 40 years with a wealth of experience of travelling to all parts of France by various means: ferry, road train, air, river, you name it. This year he made a visit by ferry, road and train to some of his old haunts. This has to be one of the most interactive session that we've had with endless opportunities for the audience to ask questions to enable us to take the conversation much further and delve deeper into essential travel advice and lots of interesting tropics. Packed with an encyclopaedic range of information, advice and anecdotes this was a very engaging and atmospheric presentation. Philip's theme was to provide a general overview on what it's like travelling to and holidaying in France these days post-Brexit.

For example, a guide to the many regions, planning, preparation, travel, do's and don't's, food and drink, the language, anecdotes, when to go, tips and advice and much more, including the travel regulations that have changed

since Brexit. The photos attached cover the the regions of Normandie, Loire-Atlantique (Nantes) and Provence, all stunningly beautiful areas and very popular areas to visit. All in all, an absolutely engaging and intriguing presentation which drew a great deal of interest and discussion within the group all supported by great photography. A big 'Merci beaucoup' to Philip for such an entertaining session and we very much look forward to his next presentation to the group in February next year where he will take us further into the iconic region of Provence in South Eastern France. For the photos, the Village is Blain, Loire Atlantique Dept 44. The Archway is in Normandie Dept 50. The Market Dept 13 and Hilltop Village Dept 04 are both in Provence.

From the many interesting presentations that the group has had, you can 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.

As always, do look into entry/ visa requirements, best times/ seasons to go, medical and security advice when planning your travel!

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

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

18 November – Caribbean Cruise – Mick Carey.

December – no meeting.

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 painting – Clive Jones.

17 February 2027 – An in-depth look at the region of Provence, France – Philip Alderson.

Next up. we now very much look forward to Valerie's talk on the Greek Island of Crete in October. There are several other presentations in the pipeline during 2027 including Bavaria (Germany) the Austrian Tyrol together with the Süd Tirol (Italy), a collection of holidays featuring various forms of travel (Trains, Boats and Planes), Krakow (Poland), the Philippines, Bali and Indonesia, and other Australia presentations 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!

The group restarted on 7th September 2026 under the supervision of a new group leader and the activities being delivered by a qualified instructor (Nikki). The four sessions to date have been well attended and enjoyed by all. Furthermore reservations for the group Christmas lunch at the Twelve restaurant were all taken up within 2 days of places being announced. The demand to take part in the movement activities has been high which has resulted in a waiting list being established for potential new group members.

The group would like to thank Linda Porter for her work in setting up and running the group for the past 6 years and also the committee members for agreeing to the group operating under different arrangements

Man Friday's

At the September meeting the members snooker playing skills were again demonstrated. There aren't many players who could make two games last nearly two hours; the lively chat and banter made up for the foul shots and missed pots!

The next meeting has been rescheduled to Friday 9th October as a number of the members were unable to attend on the 2nd. Please feel free to join us at the Ashley club between 4 and 6pm. Ability to play snooker and / or darts is definitely not required.



Wyre u3a Contact Details

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Wyre u3a Website

<https://wyrelancs.u3asite.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 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 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
Italian Group	Tuesday every two weeks at 11.00am	Poulton Library

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues

Activity	Regular Meeting	Venue
Line Dancing	Every Friday 1.00pm – 3.30pm <u>1st hour for beginners</u>	Carleton Memorial Hall
Lite Bite Group	See Newsletter & Social Events Organisers <u>communication table</u>	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
Rusty French	Fortnightly on Thursday afternoons. 1.30pm 1 st and 3 rd Thursdays	Fleetwood Golf Club
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
Tai Chi	Every Thursday 11.30am – 12.30pm	Thornton Methodist Church 60 Victoria Road East Thornton Cleveleys FY5 5HQ
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