



Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at Hallfold Church Whitworth. Refreshments are served at 1.00pm and speakers start at 1.30pm. New members are welcome for an annual membership of £15 and £2 monthly meeting subs.

7th May 2025

Fran Lawson speaking about 'Mary's Meals'

4th June 2025

Mark Llewellyn speaking about 'Cissie and Ada, my life with Roy Barraclough and Les Dawson'

2nd July 2025

Frank Rothwell speaking about Rowing the Atlantic single handed twice in his seventies'

6th August 2025

James Ellison speaking about 'Living sustainable' – is it possible?

3rd September 2025

AGM

1st October 2025

Richard Lord speaking about 'A virtual tour of old Rochdale and Whitworth'.

5th November 2025

Fran Sandham speaking about his 'Solo walk across Africa'.

3rd December 2025

Christmas showtime by members of the U3A groups.

Letter from the Chair

The photography group have an amazing display in the Whitworth library and the Art Gallery at Whitworth Leisure Centre - it is brilliant, what talents in that group.

The ukulele group continues to attract new members and is so much fun and the Tap group seems to be growing too and is always such a laugh and good exercise. These are of course My own experiences.

The speakers are as always very interesting at our monthly meetings. I loved the 'Peat bog' talk in February and the talk on 'Living and Teaching in the Falkland Islands' last month.

I have visited and enjoyed the 'craft group', I'm still trying to get around to visiting all the groups. Though the 'cold' I've had has continued to limit my endeavours this month!

I joined the fledgling knitting and crochet group last week. It was a lovely group and very helpful to me personally, I was assisted by Helen and Julie in my endeavours to learn crochet, I hope this group continues to develop and we can find a convenor to run the group and someone to support the convenor, my hope is I personally learn to crochet!

There are now enough people interested in the new History Group; Helen will be keeping us updated. The U3A Interest Groups are going from strength to strength with more new groups starting this year.

Lastly, thank you to Julie Latham and her husband Andy who have been updating our computer systems, their help is invaluable.

My kindest regards

**Barbara
Chair**

Interest Groups

For insurance purposes only members can join Interest Groups – details are available on our FB page, website or at the meetings. You can contact the Group Leaders for information on dates, times and venues for group activities. Lynne, our Groups Coordinator can be contacted on 07718913131

Group Leaders

Amblers:

Lynne Hutton 07718 913131

Helen Illingworth 07860 314968

Art:

Lindsay Fairhurst 07800 820096

Julie Latham 07801 306776

Birdwatching:

George Scaife 07956 294775

Book Club:

Helen Illingworth 07860 314968

Booklovers, Reading Classics & Modern Classics:

Emma Flook 0781 5862929

Julie Latham 07801 306776

Card Games

Brenda Garside brendagarside@gmail.com

Craft Group

Meg Starkey 07778017443

Creative Writing:

Kay Grayson 07903 570008

Family History:

David O'Reilly 07543655956

Flower Arranging:

Nina Gardner 07411 520771

Garden Inspiration:

Pat Matson 01706 853691

Learning Italian Together:

Meg Starkey 07778 017443

Luncheon Group:

Margaret Croxon 07790891962

Philosophy :

John & Shirley Hall john@firefly.me.uk

Photography:

Doreen Brown 07813 056481

Play Reading:

Mary Cawley 01706 356109

Tap Dancing:

Paula Bradbury

g-pbradbury@outlook.com

Walking:

Garry Bradbury 07486 009581

Wellbeing:

Sheila Daly 07762 757925

Ukulele:

Deborah Whitham 07776 332 666

Craft Group

Beautiful Easter hangings and cards



Book Club

April's book for discussion is *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doel. You may have seen the mini series on Netflix which was excellent. The novel is set during [World War II](#). It revolves around the characters Marie-Laure LeBlanc, a blind French girl who takes refuge in her great-uncle's house in [Saint-Malo](#) after [Paris is invaded by Nazi Germany](#), and Werner Pfennig, a bright German boy who is accepted into a military school because of his skills in radio technology.

Helen I

History Group

There are now enough people interested in starting up a History group, the next step being to look at what aspects of history and where and when to meet. The remit could include outings to local historical sites or museums as well as indoor meetings. The group could look at eminent figures from history, such as trailblazers both here and abroad. There are a lot of decisions to make which I hope will commence following the next Monthly Meeting.

Helen I

Flower Arranging Group

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Whitworth Library. We like to do seasonal arrangements using foliage from gardens if possible. We sometimes do experimental arrangements as well as some of the more traditional ones, but most of all we like to have fun and enjoy what we do. We are not experts but enjoy getting together, being creative and making something we take pleasure in doing.

Everyone would be very welcome. Contact me for details.

Nina



Amblers

Spring is here at last and the best thing about spring is getting out and about in the countryside. Our monthly ambles are perfect for enjoying the nature all around us whilst in the company of good friends.

April's amble was an old favourite – Denehurst Park, Oulder Hill, Broadhurst and the Golf Course with a stop off for coffee at the Bamford Barista. It's less than 3 miles, fairly flat with no stiles. New members are always welcome.

Helen I



Crown Green Bowling

12 members of the new group started bowling on Friday 4th April at The Ashcroft. Registration is £10 per annum for which members have use of the bowling green and Clubhouse on the first Friday morning of each month from 10am.

There are some experienced bowlers who are willing to teach novices so if it's something you would like to have a go, it's not too late. Remember, that's what the U3A is all about – trying new experiences whilst learning and having fun!

Helen I



'Up, Up and Away with U3A'



The first outing of the Up, Up and Away Group, enjoying the sunshine at the 'Warners Abba Tribute' weekend away, Which by all accounts was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Tap Dancing Group

After a huge sell out and successful Winter & Christmas tour, which included appearing at Parties, Masonic Lodges and Hospices, the U3A Tappers have had to lay their turkeys off for a time. As you can see from the photo, we have made full use of their feathers for fashioning our feather boas for our new dance routine-"Hot Honey Rag"! I would like to invite any U3A members who may be interested in joining the Tappers, or anyone who would just like to come to watch any of our classes, that they would be most welcome. We also have some spare tap shoes!!! Some of the dance routines include, "Jail House Rock", "In the Mood", "Jerusalem", "All That Jazz" etc.

The Tappers meet the last two Thursdays of every month, 1.30pm-2.30pm in the school room at Hallfold URC, Hall Street, Whitworth. For further details please contact Paula Bradbury 07914903208



Art Group

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2pm in Whitworth Library. Recently we've been using various mediums to explore the themes of "Sheep and Lambs", "Rabbits and Hares" and "Springtime and Hope". This month, on Thursday April 3rd, we met at the Haworth Museum in Accrington to study the Tiffany Glass collection there. Over the coming month we will look for inspirations for our own designs in a similar style and work on them at our next meeting. New members welcome
Julie Latham 07801 306776
julielatham@btinternet.com

Springtime
and
Hope



Rabbits
and
Hares

Garden Inspiration Group

Well, the group got off to a fine start by visiting Lyme Hall, Stockport. The weather was mixed but we were pleasantly surprised to see things in flower and by going to a stately home, we had somewhere indoors to retreat to!

We met to plan our year in January and now have a great list of venues to visit, which we hope to do by matching a garden with the season. An example is Ness gardens in April for the camelias and in September visiting Dunham Massey, for the hydrangeas. We car share and would welcome new members, especially if they can drive. We want to involve as many people as we can but it needs some of us to step up and offer to drive.

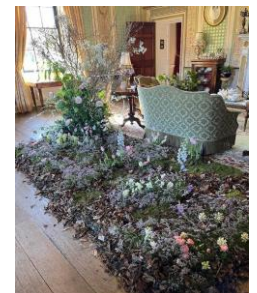
Hope to see some of you soon.

Pat, group convenor can be reached on 07932 593032 or patmatson123@sky.com

Lyme
Hall



Lytham
Garden
Festival



Ness Gardens



New Theatre and Cinema Group

New Theatre and Cinema Group

Julie Latham is looking to obtain group tickets to attend Heywood Amateur's production of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert on Wednesday May 21st. Tickets will cost around £18. Please let her know if you'd like a ticket.

Please note, This is an informal arrangement so we can sit together to enjoy the performance with friends, not an organised trip. There may be spaces available in private cars, however this can't be guaranteed.

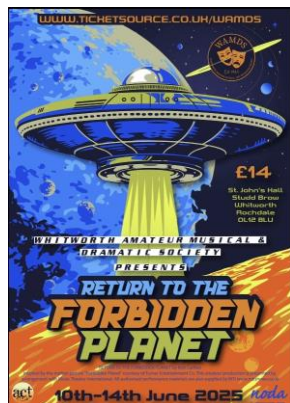
Please see Julie at the monthly meeting or contact details are below.

Julie Latham 07801 306776
julielatham@btinternet.com



This musical tells the story of two drag queens and a trans woman, who perform a drag show at a resort in Alice Springs

This musical is a jukebox musical by Bob Carlton based on the 1956 science fiction film Forbidden Planet, which, in turn, is loosely based on Shakespeare's play The Tempest.



This is a musical, with book, music and lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. It is based on the events in the Newfoundland town of Gander during the week following the September 11 attacks.



New Theatre and Cinema Group

Irene Banham will also be able to book group tickets for Whitworth Amateur's production of 'Return to the Forbidden planet' at St Johns School Hall Facit on Wednesday 11th June 2025 Tickets are £14 and their production of 'Come From Away' at the Curtain Theatre Rochdale on Wednesday 8th October 2025 tickets are £15.

I have reserved 12 tickets to sit together for each show but can only hang on to them for a few weeks.

Alternately you can book online on www.ticketsource.co.uk

Please note, This is an informal arrangement so we can sit together to enjoy the performance with friends, not an organised trip. There may be spaces available in private cars, however this can't be guaranteed.

Please see Irene at the monthly meeting or contact details are below.

Irene Banham 07989807069
irenebanham@hotmail.co.uk