



Bolton u3a Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Hello friends!

Here we are at the start of a new season of group meetings and fun activities. I do hope you've had a good time over the summer and have been neither too sunburnt nor too flooded out – what a summer it's been!

This edition of our newsletter contains details of what's happening in September and there's lots for you to get involved in. Our ever-popular Classical Civilisation and History groups are back, as are most of our interest group meetings, though some like Bridge and Bowling have continued over the summer.

Remember we still have some Nordic Walking equipment but no facilitator for a Nordic Walking group. If you have the skills, please let groups co-ordinator Steve Brown know so we can restart this group. Contact Steve at groupscoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk. New members, and older ones too, are invited to attend & observe any of the committee meetings we hold. Remember everyone in Bolton u3a is a volunteer and the committee is there to represent members' interests and develop the activities. So if you have a view on what you'd like to see at Bolton u3a, do come along or get in touch.

'Til next time,

Learn, laugh, live!

Jeanne Kelly

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

Woohoo - we've won another grant from Bolton CVS

It's only taken about 12 months of work to get here but I'm happy to announce that we have won access to more than £26,000 in grants from Bolton CVS. Working with 2 other community organisations in Bolton, the funds are to be spent in order that: 'Older people will stay connected, active & healthy, leading to measurable change in happiness, well-being and enjoyment of the environment.'

The funds will be spent on interest group specialists and room hire charges for many new activities for existing and prospective u3a members throughout the Bolton area.

Potential new interest groups include art and painting classes, dancing, languages, Tai chi, falls prevention, posture & balance improvement, and core stability ballwork.

We will also organise relaxing day retreats at Chetham Farm in Chapeltown set in gorgeous countryside, <https://www.chethamfarmretreat.com/> where we can utilise their outdoor hot tub - and I'll be first in the queue!



Chetham Farm in Chapeltown

Look out for more details as they come available but do tell your friends to come and join us at Bolton u3a so they can be first to access these great activities.

Newsletter items

Please send contributions to news@boltonu3a.org.uk

Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is **Tuesday 16th September.**

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER 2025

To contact any of the group leaders please email
u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

ARCHAEOLOGY: MAGGY

The group is temporarily suspended.

ARTS AND CRAFT: SERENA

The next meeting is Tuesday 9th September at 1040 at the Hive Community Workshop room on the upper ground floor of the Market Place shopping centre.

The Art and Craft Group is what it says on the tin!

We explore crafts chosen by the group members and the sessions are informal, friendly and supportive – nobody is an expert, and we all learn as we go along. We now have

over 20 different crafts in our 'How To' file. Essentially it's a 'dip your toe' into a number of crafts, and favourites do emerge along with new crafts to try. The great thing about doing art and craft is that it encompasses all the life skills we need whether we are 3 or 83, ie making choices, problem solving, hands-on application, working and communicating with others and reflection, ("Did this work, what can I celebrate, where can I take this next?"). So very much in keeping with the principles of U3A.

Images of recent work created by the group are available to browse on the Bolton U3A website. Go to 'Groups' and scroll down to the Art and Craft Gallery. We will also be presenting a display of the group's creations at the speakers' meeting, (Blame it on the Beatles) on Friday 26th September.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Serena.

BRIDGE GROUP: TONY

The group meets every Wednesday from 1315–1530 at St Andrew & St George Church. New players welcome - some interest in cards is useful, we will help with the rest.

CANAL WALKS: PAULINE and ALISON

The canal walking group usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. At the moment this is not a regular event although we are hoping to extend the number of events over the autumn/winter. So far our walks have been between 3 and 5 miles along sections of the Manchester canals, travelling to and from access points by a mix of train, tram and bus.

No meetings are planned at the moment - members will be contacted when the next walk is organised. For further information please contact Pauline or Alison.

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE: JEANNE chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

This is a class to build up your strength and balance, not much is done sitting on a chair. Meetings will be held on Mondays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th September at 1600 for 1 hour at Harwood Methodist Church (old building), Longsight Lane, Harwood, Bolton BL2 3JP.

New members welcome. Free parking in the church car park. Great music and a good chat. See the video on www.boltonu3a.org.uk/Groups-in-Action.

CINEMA GROUP: CHRIS & DUNCAN

The next cinema group meeting will be on Thursday 25th September at the Light Cinema in Bolton. Details of the film chosen and time to meet will be emailed to members the weekend before. New members wishing to join us please contact Duncan to be included in the email list.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (GREECE AND ROME): PAUL

The first meeting of the new season will be on Thursday 11th September at 1030 at The Hub. We will be looking at another varied selection of topics to do with Ancient Greece and Rome, beginning with '**The Legacy of the Etruscans**'. Before Rome came anywhere near to being great and glorious, the Etruscans ruled much of what is now Italy. Some of Rome's first kings were from Etruria, and Etruscans may have founded the city-state that would dominate much of the known world for centuries.

CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT: STEVE

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th September at 1400 at Claremont Church, St George's Road. Our next meeting will repeat the format of 5 rounds of 10 questions on a random topic, followed by a word quiz and a picture round quiz. As always, a bar of chocolate awaits the winning team. New members welcome - please come and join us.

If you plan to attend, please let Steve know in order to inform refreshment needs.

COFFEE AND CHAT: DUNCAN

These drop-in events are held in 5 different venues across Bolton and are an excellent way to meet and chat with other members in a friendly and informal setting. New members are always welcome.

Olympus restaurant in Bolton centre on Tuesdays 2nd and 16th September from 1030.
Egerton at the Globe Café on Tuesday 9th September from 1030. Some members stay for an optional early lunch/brunch.

Heaton at The Coffee Shop, New Hall Lane on Tuesday 9th September from 1030.

Harwood at the cafe at Harwood Methodist Church on Thursday 4th September from 1030 - come and join us, you will be made very welcome. Lunches can also be bought - there is a big car park behind the church.

Westhoughton - at the Hub Westhoughton on Friday 12th September from 1030.

CROWN GREEN BOWLING GROUP: MICHAEL

The group meets every Monday at 1400 at Bradshaw Bowling Club Green. As the season ends at the end of September, the last meeting this year will be on Monday 29th September.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS: EAMONN

Group One will meet on Fridays 5th and 19th September at 1400 at Olympus restaurant in Bolton town centre at 1400.

This group has learnt all the basics of how to solve cryptic crosswords and completes two moderately difficult crosswords in each session.

Group Two will meet on Tuesdays 2nd and 16th September at 1400 at Waterstones café, 32-36 Deansgate, Bolton BL1 1BL at 1400.

This group has learnt the basics of how to solve cryptic crosswords, is now learning about more challenging clues, and also completes two crosswords in each session.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: JANET

The group will meet on Friday 5th September at 1030 at the car park for Seven Acres, just off Thicketford Road. On Friday 19th September we will meet at 1030 in Waterstones coffee shop to share pictures.

DINING GROUP: CHRIS

The Dining Group is meeting on Thursday 11th September at The Ocean Palace Chinese Restaurant in Darwin (off the A666) .Post code BB3 2TT. The restaurant is not open at lunch time so we will take advantage of the light nights and the meal will be booked for 1800.This will enable us to access the Early Bird menu. Please let Chris know by Friday 5th September if you plan to attend.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP: EAMONN & JEANNE

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

This group will meet on Tuesday 9th September at 1400 in the Local History section, Bolton Central Library. We use the Council's free edition of Ancestry, pairing an experienced Ancestry user with a novice to help the novice uncover their own family history. New members welcome.

HISTORY GROUP: TONY

Thursday 18th September from 1030-1230 at The Central Library, opposite the aquarium in the basement. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.**

Topic - Napoleon, his rise to power.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION: WIN

Please contact Win for details.

LOOKING AT LIFE IN OTHER COUNTRIES: BRIAN

The next meeting is Monday 1st September at 1400 at the Hub.

General discussion on "what is a country?".

After Donald Trump's comments on Canada becoming the 51st state and Vladimir Putin's 2021 essay regarding Ukraine, it will be interesting to hear members' views on this topic.

MAH JONG: CHRIS

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th September from 1030-1200 at the Hub.

New players always welcome, no previous knowledge of games required.

Please contact Chris for more information.

MATHS GROUP: PAT

We meet on Friday 19th September at 1330 at the Hub. Our chosen topic is probability.

Remember, if you gamble, the odds are stacked against you. We shall be looking at some figures involved. I look forward to seeing you there. New members welcome.

The topics covered by the group over the past year include:-

Permutations and combinations; prime factors, HCF and LCM; fractions in algebra; area and volume; co-ordinates and symmetries; simultaneous equations; graphs in algebra; similar shapes and how trigonometry developed; percentages; series; trigonometry.

Please don't let the list daunt you. It is a lively, lovely group of interested people who enjoy the challenge and want to learn more of this fascinating subject. We always start each topic with the basics and aim for GCSE level, so come and give us a try. Liven up those brain cells!

MUSIC APPRECIATION: WIN

Please contact Win for details.

PHILOSOPHY: CAROLE

The group will meet on Tuesday 23rd September at 1400 at the Hub.

Carole will lead the session which will be on Religion, Humanism and Existentialism - the views of A.C. Grayling, Bernard Williams and Alex O'Connor.

The group will meet every 2 months from then on - the next meeting will be in November and Nick Tyldesley will lead the session.

POETRY FOR PLEASURE: EILEEN

The next meeting of the poetry group will be on Thursday 18th September from 1330-1515 at the Hub. The topic for the meeting is: Sun, Sea and Sky.

We choose, read and comment on poems we like or admire, enjoying and learning at the same time. If you have not attended our group before and would like to come, please ring Eileen for further information

PSYCHOLOGY: STEVE

On Tuesday 2nd September at 1400 at The Hub; we will be looking at Positive Thinking; can you improve your sense of well being by being more positive in your outlook?

As always in this group we are looking to understand where psychology can have a practical impact on our daily lives. Please come and join us.

QUIZ GROUP: MIKE

The next meeting will be on Friday 12th September at 1330 at the Hub when the Question Masters will be Chris and Duncan MacPherson. This group is now able to accept new members should anyone like to try their hand at this activity.

READING GROUP: ANNIE

The group will meet on Thursday **18th September** when we will discuss Julia: 1984 by Sandra Newman.

The meetings start at 1030 on Zoom and normally last about an hour. Our other books for the year are listed below. New members welcome, if you would like to join us, please contact Annie.

Date	Author	Title
16/10/2025	Pat Barker	The Voyage Home
20/11/2025	Kate Atkinson	Death At The Sign of The Rook
18/12/2026	Jessie Burton	The House of Fortune

RUMMIKUB and SCRABBLE: NELLIE and TONY

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th September from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players always welcome, no previous knowledge of games required.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE: PAUL

The first rehearsals of the new season will be on Fridays 5th and 19th September at 1030 in the Seminar Room at Claremont Church, St George's Road. We welcome new members in all voices (Alto, Bass, Soprano, Tenor) who want to enjoy singing with others - there are no auditions. Our repertoire is varied, leaning towards light traditional and folk. Claremont Church is an excellent central venue, on bus routes 125, 501 and 575 about a 5-minute ride from the Interchange. There is ample car parking at NCP Topp Way, a short walk from the church.

TABLE TENNIS: CHRISTINE

The group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month and the next meetings are on Fridays 12th and 26th September from 1030-1230 at Triangle Annex, New Church Road, Bolton, BL1 5QP. For Sat Nav use: BL1 5SH. Free car parking at Doffcocker Lodge behind the annexe. There are nearby bus stops on the 501 and 125 routes, if travelling by bus. You can come at any time during the meeting times. Table Tennis has proved to be a very enjoyable activity. Members play as much, or as little as they feel during the session. There is no pressure to play for the full 2 hours!!! The games help to strengthen muscles, balance and co-ordination - all things which are essential to lead a healthy life. Apart from the above, it is a very social activity, getting to know and mingle with others. New members welcome. Please contact Christine Hart if you are interested in joining this group.

TEXTILE ARTS: PAULINE

No meeting in September - the next session is Thursday 2nd October at 1030 at Bank Top URC. This is a very creative and friendly group where we explore various textile skills and decorative techniques such as embroidery, hand and machine stitching, fabric manipulation with the aim of making a decorative product using those skills. Most equipment and many materials are provided - so do come and join us.

TOPICAL SCIENCE: ROSEMARY

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th September at 1400 at the Hub.

Topic: What's New in Science over the Summer?

Also, if anyone has any news item that they would like to share, please bring it along.

No specialist knowledge needed - just an enthusiastic enquiring mind!

All are very welcome - just come along.

To contact any of the group leaders please email
u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk

Bolton U3A Monthly Meetings

The next meeting is on Friday **22nd August** at 1400 at St Andrew & St George United Reform Church, St George's Road, Bolton, BL1 2BS. Doors open at 1330 and the cost for u3a members is £2. Visitors for an entry fee of £3 are welcome to attend two talks and need to sign in and pay at the door. This month's talk is **Barrow to Baghdad**



When we hear the words *Barrow in Furness*, what comes to mind?
Submarines or hairy bikers?

When we hear the word *Baghdad*, what do we think of - Sinbad or Saddam?

Our August speaker is Philip Caine, who was born in Barrow, and at the age of 53 found himself working in Baghdad. The meeting runs from 1400 to 1500 with doors open at 1330. The cost is £2 for u3a members and £3 for visitors, who sign in and pay at the door. Do come and join us if you are able.

Carol Dean, Speaker secretary

SPEAKERS for 2025/26

Bolton U3A

Reg Charity 1140495

Newsletter published in August with details of activities in September 2025

26 th September 25	Blame it on the Beatles	John Winter
24 th October 2025	The Magic of the Musicals!	Marilyn Shalks
23rd January 2026	Piano recital: Andrew Wilde will play a short classical programme and talk about the pieces.	Andrew Wilde
27th February 2026	I wish my life were like a musical.	Allan Shalks
27th March 2026	The case of the missing body-live!	Tony Cunliffe
24th April 2026	One of your boys did it - The Kennedy Assassination	Frank Vigon
22nd May 2026	Flourishing in seniors: Why it matters	Presenters: Professor Jerome Carson, Professor Marcus Chiu, and Joanna Chen.
26th June 2026	Choir recital.	Singing for pleasure group
24th July 2026	Tales of a customs officer	Brian Topping
28th August 2026	'English Christmas Traditions'	Margaret Holbrook
25th September 26	Presentation about The Light Music Society - its archive and library.	Hilary Ashton (daughter of Lancashire composer, Ernest Tomlinson)
23rd October	The people who helped to shape me.	Mahmood Ahmed

BOLTON u3a COMMITTEE

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Committee Members		
Chair	Jeanne Kelly	chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Steve Brown	vicechair@boltonu3a.org.uk
Business Secretary	Carol Dean	secretary@boltonu3a.org.uk.
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Venues Coordinator	Maggy Simms	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Bolton U3A Meeting Venues

To help new members find their way around the myriad of locations used for group meetings the addresses of all the venues used by the Bolton u3a are given below.

VENUE	BRANCH GROUPS AND EVENTS
BANK TOP URC, ASHWORTH LANE, BOLTON, BL1 8RX	TEXTILE ARTS
BOLTON CENTRAL LIBRARY	FAMILY HISTORY HISTORY
BRADSHAW BOWLING CLUB, THE RIGBYS, BOLTON, BL2 3EU	CROWN GREEN BOWLS
CVS, THE BOLTON HUB, BOLD STREET, BOLTON, BL1 1LS	CLASSIC CIVILISATIONS INTERNATIONAL STUDIES LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION MAH JONG MATHS MUSIC APPRECIATION PHILOSOPHY POETRY FOR PLEASURE PSYCHOLOGY QUIZ GROUP RUMMIKUB SCRABBLE TOPICAL SCIENCE
CLAREMONT CHURCH, ST GEORGES ROAD, BOLTON, BL1 2BY	CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT QUIZ SINGING FOR PLEASURE
THE COFFEE SHOP, NEW HALL LANE, HEATON, BOLTON, BL1 5LW	HEATON COFFEE AND CHAT
THE GLOBE CAFÉ, 273 BLACKBURN ROAD, BOLTON, BL7 9SN	EGERTON COFFEE AND CHAT
THE HUB AT WESTHOUGHTON CENTRAL DRIVE, BOLTON BL5 3DS	WESTHOUGHTON COFFEE AND CHAT
HARWOOD METHODIST CHURCH LONGSIGHT LANE, BOLTON BL2 3JP	CHAIR BASED EXERCISE HARWOOD COFFEE AND CHAT
THE HIVE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AREA, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, MARKET PLACE SHOPPING CENTRE, BOLTON, BL1 2AL	ARTS AND CRAFTS
THE LIGHT, MARKET PLACE SHOPPING CENTRE, BOLTON, BL1 2AL	CINEMA GROUP

OLYMPUS RESTAURANT, 35-41 GREAT MOOR STREET, BOLTON, BL1 1SW	CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS 1 OLYMPUS COFFEE AND CHAT WELCOME MEETINGS
THE TRIANGLE ANNEXE, NEW CHURCH ROAD, BOLTON, BL1 5QP	TABLE TENNIS
URC OF ST ANDREW AND ST GEORGE, ST GEORGES ROAD, BOLTON, BL1 2BS	BRIDGE MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING
VARIOUS VENUES ANNOUNCED IN MONTHLY NEWSLETTER	BEE LINE TRAVEL DINING CLUB WALKING GROUPS
WATERSTONES' CAFE, 32-36 DEANS GATE, BOLTON, BL1 1BL	CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS 2 VARIOUS 'POP-UP' MEETINGS
ZOOM MEETINGS	ARCHAEOLOGY READING

Help us to stay informed

If you know of a member who has been ill, or is recently deceased, please inform the relevant group leader so that the information can be circulated appropriately. Please leave a phone number if you want a group leader to respond to a phone message.

Groups and activities

We are always happy to support new groups and activities.

E-mail: groupscordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk

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