



Bolton u3a Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Hello friends!

Firstly, I encourage you all to attend our AGM on Friday 28th November at 1400 at St Andrew & St George's UR Church. As ever at the AGM, we must be quorate so need to have at least 20% of the membership attending, ie. approx. 65 members. We do have some motions to discuss this year, and your views are important, so I hope to see you there. After the AGM there will be a short panto which I hope you will enjoy! Very little would have happened in our u3a this last year, without the time given voluntarily by the committee, our group leaders, meeters and greeters and everyone who does what they can to help. We are indebted to you all. Thank You.

A few tickets are still available for our u3a Christmas Afternoon Tea on Friday 5th December from 1230 'til 1500 at St Andrew & St George's UR Church. As well as food and drinks on arrival, there will be entertainment, the quiz, a raffle and plenty of fun. Our thanks must go to Carol Dean for organising us again this year. And please bring any raffle prizes you can spare on the day. Thanks again.

Finally, there are sure to be many changes to our interest groups' timetable in December, so please check the listings carefully so you won't be disappointed. If it's not too early, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas as you celebrate this December.

Til next time,

Learn, laugh, live!

Jeanne Kelly

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

BOLTON u3a AGM

Documents relating to the AGM to be held on 28th November are attached at the end of this newsletter.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Please send contributions to news@boltonu3a.org.uk or

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

My Wild Swim experience by Helen Yeldon

Many of you missed seeing Helen on the membership desk at the October monthly meeting - this is what she was doing!

Helen writes:

As you know our motto is Learn Laugh Live, so I thought I would share with you something I did that had me doing all three. I recently had a weekend in London with my friend Karen who I have known since secondary school and we stayed in a hotel in Hampstead.



I don't know if any of you have seen the film "Finding Your Feet" - it stars Celia Imrie, Imelda Staunton and Timothy Spall. It is very much in tune with U3A values in that it encourages us to get up, keep moving and do something different to keep the grey cells ticking over. When I watched the film, Celia Imrie was swimming in Hampstead Ponds. I said to myself "I really want to do that". When I found out we were staying near there, it was a no brainer. So we did it on a bright cold Saturday morning in October. No wet suits for us!!

We northerners are a hardy bunch. Yes it was cold, but I am so glad we did it.

What did I learn?... Once you get in the cold water, get straight back out again then get back in - it doesn't feel as cold. Tip taken from an experienced Wild Swimmer.

Did I laugh?... I certainly did.

Did I feel alive?... I cannot begin to tell how good I felt after I got out. It is so exhilarating.

Will I go wild swimming again? Absolutely.

Helen Yeldon
Membership Secretary

BOLTON U3a CHRISTMAS TEA



You are invited to a Christmas Afternoon Tea again this year.

On Friday 5th December 2025 at 12:30 – 3:00 pm Doors open 12:15

At St Andrew & St George's URC, St Georges Road, Bolton

There will be: Drinks on arrival Good Food (with vegetarian options on every table)
Entertainment A Quiz and Good Company

Tickets are £13 for members only. On sale after the AGM.

You can pay by cash or cheque made payable to Bolton U3A.

Or you can buy yours by BACS:

Account:	Bolton U3A
Sort Code:	30 91 01
Account:	01623946
Ref:	Xmas

Your ticket will be waiting for you on the door.

AN AFTERNOON WITH BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Members may be interested in this event at St Luke's Church.



Featuring music by
Haydn, Moscheles,
Horowitz and a
few surprises!



Sunday 30th November 2023 2pm
Tickets on the door £13,
Members of FBSO £11, Under 19s free
Pay at the door but please contact
07900 797230 to reserve your ticket

The Friends of Bolton Symphony Orchestra present

**AN AFTERNOON OF CHAMBER MUSIC WITH
MULLED WINE/SOFT DRINK AND MINCE PIES
PLAYED BY MEMBERS OF
BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.**

PROGRAMME INCLUDES MUSIC FOR STRING QUARTET. WOODWIND AND PIANO

St Luke's Church, Chorley Old Road,
Bolton BL1 3BE



HELP WITH IT SKILLS

Our recent membership questionnaire indicated that many of our members would like help with basic IT skills. This is something that Bolton council do well!

Of course, if you are struggling with IT skills the link below may not be helpful, but there is also a phone number:

This is the telephone number to ring: **01204 332853**

This is the link:

<https://www.boltondes.org.uk/downloads/file/35/guide-to-digital-support-in-bolton-nov-2023>

INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES IN **DECEMBER** 2025

ARCHAEOLOGY

MAGGY

The group is temporarily suspended.

ARTS AND CRAFT **Tuesday**

SERENA

The next meeting on Tuesday **9th December** at 1030 at the Hive Community Workshop Room, when we will be creating Christmas tree collage cards and 3D gift boxes. In addition it will be our Jacob's Join Christmas lunch and sing along.

Contact serenajohnson@sky.com if you would like to join us.

BRIDGE GROUP **Wednesday**

TONY

Meeting **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.

Please note that we will only be meeting on the **3rd** and **10th December** because 17th is the Christmas tea, and then the church is closed until the new year. First meeting in new year will be Wednesday 7th January

CANAL WALKS **Wednesday**

PAULINE and ALISON

No event in December as people may be busy with other seasonal activities.

CINEMA GROUP **Thursday**

CHRIS&DUNCAN

There will be no cinema group meeting in December because it is Christmas Day

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (GREECE AND ROME) **Thursday**

PAUL

The group will be meeting on Thursday **11th December** at 1030 at The Hub. As our contribution to the pantomime season, we will be reading some extracts from Aristophanes' comedy 'The Birds', thinking about its themes and looking at scenes from past productions.

COFFEE AND CHAT **Tuesday Thursday Friday**

DUNCAN

These drop-in events are held in 6 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 as normal on Tuesday **2nd December** from 1030.

We will be having our Christmas lunch on the following Tuesday, **9th December**.

Members of all the other coffee and chat groups are cordially invited to join us. If interested, please advise your respective group leader who will record your interest.

We need a £10 cash deposit to secure your place, paid to the group leader, by the middle of November please.

There will be no meeting on the fourth Tuesday of December because it is so close to Christmas and the Olympus will be doing Christmas lunches

Egerton at the Globe Café, Egerton. The meeting has been moved from the 2nd to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This is because the Olympus Christmas meal is on the second Tuesday. So we will meet on Tuesday **16th December** instead of the 9th and have something from the Globe menu (optional) and pop to the Thomas Egerton afterwards for a Christmas cheer drink (optional).

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

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

Westhoughton - no meeting in December.

Farnworth - at The Well Café, Farnworth Baptist church, Trafford Street, BL4 7PQ on Friday **19th December** from 1030 – you are all very welcome to come and join us. The cakes and lunches are delicious!

CROWN GREEN BOWLING

MICHAEL

There are no meetings now until the new season starts in April 2026.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS **Tuesday** **Friday**

EAMONN

Group One will ONLY meet on Friday **19th December** 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** December at 1400 at Waterstones café, Bolton. This group has learnt the basics of how to solve cryptic crosswords, is now learning about more challenging clues, and completes two crosswords in each session.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY **Friday**

JANET

Please contact Janet for details.

DINING GROUP **Thursday**

CHRIS

No meeting in December.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP **Tuesday**

EAMONN & JEANNE

This group will meet on Tuesday **9th December** 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 are very welcome and should bring all relevant certificates & information with them.

HISTORY GROUP **Thursday**

TONY

The next meeting will be on Thursday **18th December** at 1030 in the Central Library. Topic - A brief look at several events in history that occurred around the Christmas period. All members welcome.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION **Friday**

WIN

No meeting in December.

LOOKING AT LIFE IN OTHER COUNTRIES **Monday**

BRIAN

The next meeting is Monday **1st December** at 1400 at the Hub when there will be a presentation from Alan Tucker on Queensland.

MATHS GROUP **Friday**

PAT

We meet on Friday **19th December** at 1330 at the Hub. Our topic will be inequalities which we have not worked on before. It will require your algebra knowledge but I shall revise the basics needed. You will need a sharp pencil for some graph drawing but I will provide the graph paper. Hope to see you there, new members welcome.

MUSIC APPRECIATION **Monday**

WIN

The next meeting is on Monday **8th December** at 1030 at The Hub.
Topic: Adolescent Schubert and his musical output. Everyone welcome.

PHILOSOPHY **Tuesday**

CAROLE

No meeting in December.

POETRY FOR PLEASURE **Thursday**

EILEEN

The next meeting is Thursday **18th December** from 1330 - 1515 at the Hub, when our topic is 'Christmas giving, sharing, playing, caring'.
At our January meeting (Thursday 15th) we will be looking at poems on the topic of 'Aspects of Winter'. This gives us more time to enjoy choosing what we read aloud. If you have not attended our group before and would like to come, please email Eileen via publicity@boltonu3a.org.uk

PSYCHOLOGY **Tuesday**

STEVE

The group will meet on Tuesday **2nd December** at 1400 at The Hub. This month we will discuss: Should we bother with making New Year Resolutions?
Please come and join us.

QUIZ GROUP **Friday**

MIKE

By popular demand, there **will** be a Quiz Group meeting on Friday **12th December** at 1330 at the Hub when the Question Master will be Tony. New members welcome. Remember also that all of your QMs have combined to provide questions for the quiz which will be part of the entertainment at the U3A Christmas Tea Party on the previous Friday, 5th December, at St Andrew & St George's Church. So, if you want 2 quizzes this month, make sure you get your ticket for the Tea Party!

READING GROUP **Thursday**

ANNIE

The group will meet on Thursday **18th December** when we will discuss The House of Fortune by Jessie Burton. The meeting starts at 1030 on Zoom and lasts about an hour. New members welcome, if you would like to join us, please contact Annie.

RUMMIKUB, SCRABBLE & MAH JONG **Monday**

TONY and CHRIS

The next meeting will be on Monday **15th December** from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players welcome to join a lively session. No previous knowledge required. Please contact the leaders if you would like further information.

SERENDIPITY SESSIONS **Wednesday**

STEVE

Our next session is on Wednesday **3rd December** at 1400 at **Claremont Church**, St George's Road. In time for Christmas, our u3a member Veronica Walker, an expert on Charles Dickens, will be giving us an insight into his Christmas Carol. To inform seating layout and refreshment plans, would you please let Steve know if you plan to attend.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE **Friday**

PAUL

Rehearsals in **December** will be on Fridays **5th and 19th** 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 on bus routes 125, 501, 575 and 576 about a 5-minute ride from the Interchange. There is car parking at NCP Topp Way, a short walk from the church.

STRENGTH AND BALANCE **Monday**

JEANNE

Formerly called Chair-based exercise, 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, and 15th December** at 1430 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.

TABLE TENNIS **Friday**

CHRISTINE

The next meeting is on Friday **12th December** 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. The above session will be the last one before Christmas - we will start again on the 9th January, 2026.

It is almost the end of 2025, so think about New Year resolutions and what you would like to do regarding fitness, social interaction, meeting friends, co-ordination, etc. Top of your list it's got to be Table Tennis - a most wonderful way to have fun and laughs amongst like minded people. For Further information please contact Christine via publicity@boltonu3a.org.uk

TEXTILE ARTS **Thursday**

PAULINE

The next meeting is Thursday **4th December** at 1030 at Bank Top URC, BL1 8RX. We plan to explore ways of putting 3-D shape and texture into fabrics. This is a very friendly group where we explore and share various textile skills. Most equipment and many materials are provided - so do come and join us. You are most welcome to bring any textile project that you would like to work on, or join in with a group activity.

TOPICAL SCIENCE **Monday**

ROSEMARY

The next meeting will be on Monday **15th December** at 1400 at the Hub. Topics: Science in the news this Month - members are welcome to bring in any items of interest that they have found, and end of year miscellany! No specialist knowledge needed - just an enthusiastic enquiring mind! All are very welcome - just come along.

WALKING GROUP **Tuesday**

DAVID and LIZZIE

Please contact David or Lizzie via publicity@boltonu3a.org.uk for details.

Bolton U3A Monthly Meetings **Friday**

The next meeting is our AGM on Friday **28th November** at 1400 at St Andrew & St George United Reform Church, St George's Road, Bolton, BL1 2BS. Doors open at 1330 and the meeting is for members only. The agenda and other documents are at the end of this newsletter. Do come and join us if you are able. Carol Dean, Business secretary.

Speakers 2026

Please see next page

Date	Topic	Speaker
23/1/26	Piano recital: Andrew Wilde will play a short classical programme and talk about the pieces.	North West Music Trust speaker: Andrew Wilde
27/2/26	Music presentation: 'I wish my Life were like a Musical'. This very popular presentation is an imaginary musical with my own creative story, also including many musical interludes from lots of musicals - another feelgood entertaining talk.	Allan Shalks
27/3/26	This is about the Turin Shroud - fake, faith, or factual? Everyone becomes a detective! Tony assumes the role of Sherlock Holmes and invites the audience to become his Watsons. A fascinating investigation unfolds, exploring forensic science, the Bible, historical clues, and insights from experts. The talk concludes with a secret ballot. Is the Shroud authentic, a hoax, or something else?	Tony Cunliffe
24/4/26	One of your boys did it - Frank Vigon will be investigating, as only he can, the Kennedy assassination. Who fired the fatal bullet?	Frank Vigon
22/5/26	Flourishing in seniors: Why it matters. Findings of research in Bolton, in which some of our members participated, and its implications	Presenters: Professor Jerome Carson, Professor Marcus Chiu, and Joanna Chen.
26/6/26	Choir recital by Bolton u3a singing for pleasure group.	Singing for pleasure group
24/7/26	Tales of a customs officer. Brian Topping talks about his work with HM Customs and Excise at Heathrow Airport in the 70s and 80s.	Brian Topping

28/8/26	The people who helped to shape me. Mebs began his life in the UK as a shy 10-year-old boy from Bangladesh who didn't speak English. He became a liaison between the police and ethnic minorities and played his part in helping a greater understanding of each other. There were people in his life who made him the person he is.	Mahmood Ahmed
25/9/26	Presentation about The Light Music Society - its archive and library.	Hilary Ashton (daughter of Lancashire composer, Ernest Tomlinson)
23/10/26	English Christmas Traditions Take a fascinating look at the traditions and folklore of the Christmas season - up to Twelfth Night. Why do we bring live greenery into our homes and hang wreaths on the door? What is the significance of holly, ivy and mistletoe? We often think of the traditions of Christmas and associate them with the Victorians, but many of our traditions go back a lot further than that.	Margaret Holbrook

BOLTON u3a COMMITTEE

Committee Members		
Chair	Jeanne Kelly	chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk jeanne@jmkmarketing.co.uk
Vice Chair	Steve Brown	vicechair@boltonu3a.org.uk
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Venues Coordinator	Maggy Simms	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

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: groupscoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk

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