



Bolton u3a Newsletter

Chat from the Chair

Hello friends!

This time you have a BUMPER newsletter with all the details about your u3a groups running in April and May. Why? Because Pauline, your newsletter editor, is away for part of April and she's planning ahead so that you won't miss out on any of your favourite groups. Thank You Pauline.

Are you over 80 years old? Were you living during World War Two?



Do you remember being evacuated? Gas masks? The War ending?

If you say yes, yes, YES, then we would like to hear from you so we can create our own u3a archive of your memories. See the article below for more information.

Finally, I hope you will join me for our monthly meetings on Fridays 28th March, 25th April and 23rd May as Carol Dean has booked some very interesting speakers for you and it's always good to meet up and chat.

'Til next time, Learn, laugh, live! Jeanne

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

World War Two remembered

Are you over 80 years old? Were you alive during World War Two? Were you evacuated? Do you remember what your parents did? Land girls? Gas masks? The war ending? The celebrations? Rationing? If you answer YES to any of these questions, then please get in touch as we'd like to hear your memories of WW2 in the year we celebrate the 80th anniversary of it ending in 1945. Please email Jeanne chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

And if you know others who remember – u3a members or not – then please forward their details or ask them to contact Jeanne too. Thanks.

Read Easy Bolton

Imagine not being able to escape into a good book, read the instructions for your new appliance, identify the items on the shop shelf, read to your grandchildren, apply online for a grant or a job?

Well, it's estimated that up to 20,000 adults in Bolton may miss out on a full life because of an often-hidden disability... they struggle to read. There can be many reasons for this including missing out on schooling, having undiagnosed dyslexia or having managed well in a job that didn't require reading skill, but which no longer exists.

For decades local community education services worked to overcome this problem. However, funding for college provision which doesn't lead to a vocational qualification has reduced or dried up entirely. Read Easy UK began to work towards filling the gap in 2010 and now has over 90 groups working across the UK. Until last year Bolton didn't have one, but a small group of volunteers came together, and Read Easy Bolton was set up and is soon to launch with its first reader/reader coach pairings. Everyone involved is a volunteer. Training provided by the national body teaches volunteers to deliver one to one in a confidential setting for two half hour sessions a week. Funding for materials, books, essential travel expenses, publicity and legal safety checks is found by fund raising.

The group is looking for reader coaches to volunteer to take the opportunity to do an online training course and be matched with a reader. We are also visiting community groups and agencies to identify readers which, despite recognising the need, isn't straightforward because of the stigma attached to admitting the problem exists. If any of you want to have an informal chat on any aspect of the work, please get in touch with me to arrange a meeting or a chat with myself or another member of our small group.

Pat Dickson, Networker Read Easy Bolton, email: bodipublicity@readeasy.org.uk

From the archives

When the Saturday Ramblers group ceased to meet a couple of years ago the retiring group leader gave David Dean a bag to look after. As well as maps, hi-vis jackets and a first aid kit, it contains reports, with photographs, of all the walks. Here is what they said about the group's first walk:



'Our first walk was to the Heath Charnock area. We travelled by bus towards Chorley then walked through fields, farmland and across a golf course, stopping for coffee and cake at Limbrick, then on through some beautiful open countryside to the Yarrow Bridge pub for lunch. There were eleven walkers and the weather was hot and sunny.'

June 26th 2010

If this inspires anyone to step forward and revive the rambling group please get in touch with our group leaders' coordinator, [STEVE](#)

Would you like to try your hand at Flat Green Bowling?

Our u3a member, Paul Wilcocks, has arranged for his club to offer taster sessions to our members. You can have a session with a trained coach for 1-2 hours from 1300 on Monday 8th April or Tuesday 9th April.

The cost is £5, which includes loan of bowls and refreshments. You need to come with a pair of flat soled trainers/shoes. The club is on Gorses Road, off Bembridge Rd' Darcy Lever, BL2 1PG.

Please register your interest with Steve

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN APRIL & MAY 2025

If you would like further information about any of the groups below please email u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk adding the name of the group in the subject box. Thank you

ARCHAEOLOGY:

The group will meet as usual on 2nd Thursdays in April and May at 1400 on Zoom - the meeting link is sent out a few days before each meeting. New members welcome - plenty of room for the curious!

ARTS AND CRAFT: SERENA serenajohnson@sky.com

Please contact Serena for details of forthcoming meetings.

BEELINE TRAVEL

Because of ongoing health issues Michael has reluctantly had to give up the leadership of this group. This is a popular activity and we hope someone will come forward to take over the leadership. Please address any queries to Steve Brown steve492011@492011.hotmail.co.uk

BRIDGE GROUP: TONY SETTLE tony.settle@hotmail.com

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.

CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE JEANNE

chairman@boltonu3a.org.uk

Meetings in **April**: Monday 28th only (due to school holidays), and in **May**: 12th and 19th only (due to bank holidays) 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 meetings will be on Thursday 24th **April**, and Thursday 22nd **May** 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. Our meeting in May will be on Details of the film chosen and time to meet will be emailed to members the weekend before.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION (GREECE AND ROME): PAUL

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th **April** at 1030 at The Hub. This month's topic will be 'Our Sea'. The Mediterranean - the sea in the midst of the earth - and the ancient civilisations of Africa, Asia and Europe that evolved on its shores.

The **May** meeting will be on Thursday 8th May at 1030 at The Hub. The topic will be 'The World of Odysseus'. What can we discover about the society that gave birth to the Iliad and the Odyssey, its men and women, families and communities, morals and values?

CLUELESS AT CLAREMONT: STEVE

The next meetings will be on Wednesday 30th **April** and Wednesday 28th **May** at 1400 at Claremont Church, St George's Road.

This is the second branch quiz group, open to all members, including existing members of Mike's group. Please come long for some light hearted fun with a competitive edge. Look forward to seeing you for more fiendish fun!

Those planning to attend are asked to let Steve know in order to inform refreshment needs. Please email steve492011@hotmail.co.uk

COFFEE AND CHAT: DUNCAN MACPHERSON

These meetings are held in 4 different venues across Bolton and are an excellent way to meet and chat with other members in a friendly and informal setting.

Olympus restaurant on Tuesdays 1st and 15th **April**, and 6th and 20th **May** from 1030. Everyone welcome.

Egerton at the Globe Café on Tuesday 8th **April** and 13th **May** from 1030.

Some members stay for an optional early lunch/brunch.

Heaton at The Coffee Shop, New Hall Lane, Heaton on Tuesday 8th **April**, and 13th **May** from 1030 onwards.

Harwood at the cafe at Harwood Methodist Church on Thursdays 3rd **April**, and 1st **May** from 1030. Everyone welcome, there is a big car park behind the church.

CROWN GREEN BOWLING GROUP: MICHAEL

The 2025 Season starts on Monday 7th April at 1400 at Bradshaw Bowling Club Green and will meet there every Monday afternoon throughout the Season.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS: EAMONN

Group One will meet on Fridays 4th and 18th **April**, and 16th and 30th **May** 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 1st and 15th **April**, and 20th **May** 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 the following dates:

Friday 4th **April** at 1030 at the Doffcocker Car Park. If wet, we will go for coffee in The Triangle and hope the rain stops.

Friday 18th **April**: we will not meet as it is Good Friday and people have other plans.

Friday 2nd **May**: meet at 1030 just inside The Market Place, whatever the weather.

Friday 16th **May**: meet at 1030 in Waterstones coffee shop, Bolton.

DINING GROUP: CHRIS

The Dining Group is meeting on Thursday 10th **April** at 1300 at The Rivington (formerly El Torro) on Chorley Old Road, Horwich. It has a car park and is on the 125 bus route. Please let Chris Druck know by Friday 4th April if you plan to attend. There will be no Dining group lunch in **May**.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP: EAMONN & JEANNE

The next meetings are on Tuesdays 8th **April** and 13th **May** from 1400-1600 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 SETTLE tony.settle@hotmail.com

Thursday 17th **April** from 1030-1230 at The Hub. Topic - Catherine de Medici- Saint or Sinner. Was she a clever and brilliant politician or a scheming and power hungry woman, resulting in her being referred to as The Serpent Queen.

Thursday 15th **May** from 1030-1230 at The Hub. Topic - The Knights Templar part 2. A look at the events and people involved in the downfall of this military order.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION: WIN

The next meetings will be on:

Friday 25th **April** at 1030 at the Hub.

The topic will be 'Titillating the Taste Buds,' - the language of the marketing and advertising of food.

Friday 23rd **May** at 1030 at the Hub. The topic is: 'Tempting the Taste Buds,' - Cook-book language and the literature of food. Join us if you fancy it - no need to phone, just turn up.

LOOKING AT LIFE IN OTHER COUNTRIES (INTERNATIONAL STUDIES): BRIAN

We have decided to amend the name of the group to International Studies/Looking at Life in Other Countries

The next meeting is Monday 7th **April** at 1400 at the Hub.

Topic: Talk about Israel and the current situation in Gaza Israel from Martin Patrick
No meeting in **May** as it is a bank holiday.

MAH JONG: CHRIS

No meeting in **April** as it is Easter Monday.

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th **May** from 1030-1200 at the Hub.

New players and beginners always welcome. Please contact Chris for more information.

MATHS GROUP: PAT

No meeting in **April** as that is Good Friday.

We shall meet on Friday 16th **May** at 1330 at the Hub.

The topic will mainly be similar shapes and how trigonometry developed. I do hope you can come.

MINDFULNESS: ANNIE

The Mindfulness Group has decided that it's reached its natural end now and will no longer continue to meet. This group grew out of the pandemic, and there are now many online Mindfulness groups, including several on IGO. We're all moving on into the post-pandemic world!

MUSIC APPRECIATION: WIN.

Monday 14th **April** at 1030 at the Hub.

Continuing the study of Elgar, Elgar leaves school and endeavours to establish himself as a composer. Music; The Enigma Variations.

Monday 12th **May** at 1030 at the Hub.

Elgar marries and leaves Worcester for London.

The group is open to new members, and does not need any prior knowledge of music or about music. It is simply an opportunity to sit and listen to the interesting details of the life of a genius, and all the great composers are that, and to hear some of the wonderful works they produced. No need to phone, there is always room for a new person.

NORDIC WALKING:

The group is currently on hold; hopefully further details will be available soon.

PHILOSOPHY: CAROLE

The group will meet on Tuesday 22nd **April** at 1400 at the Hub.

The topic will be 'Literature: What makes a book 'Great'?'. Carole will lead the group but members can tell the group which books/poems they think are 'great' and why.

The following meeting will be on Tuesday 27th **May** at 1400 at the Hub. The topic will be decided later.

POETRY FOR PLEASURE: EILEEN

The next meetings of the poetry group will be on:

Thursday 17th **April**. The topic for the meeting is: Springtime and New Beginnings,

Thursday 15th **May**. The topic is: People.

We meet at The Hub from 1330 to 1515.

Our group has experienced a surge in attendees and, as there is a limit to the numbers who can attend, I have had to start a waiting list. If you are interested in joining us, please email Eileen for further information.

PSYCHOLOGY: STEVE

Tuesday 1st April at 1400 at The Hub when we will discuss Crowd behaviour.

Tuesday 6th May at 1400 at The Hub when we will discuss nature or nurture. I hope you can join us

QUIZ GROUP: MIKE

The next meetings are:

Friday 11th **April** at 1330 at the Hub. The Question Masters will be Chris & Duncan.

Friday 9th **May** at 1330 at the Hub. The Question Masters will be Patsy & Paul. This group is now able to accept new members.

READING GROUP: ANNIE

The group will meet on Thursdays 17th **April** and 15th **May** at 1030 on Zoom – the meeting normally lasts about an hour. Our books for the 2 meetings are detailed below along with the other books for the year. New members welcome, if you would like to join us, please contact Annie.

If you would like further information about any of the groups below please email u3abolton@hotmail.co.uk adding the name of the group in the subject box. Thank you

Date	Author	Title
17/04/2025	Ann Napolitano	Hello Beautiful
15/05/2025	Clive Myrie	Everything is Everything: A Memoir of Love, Hate & Hope
19/06/2025	Jennie Godfrey	The List of Suspicious Things
17/07/2025	Ta-Nehisi Coates	The Water Dancer
21/08/2025	Rory Stewart	The Places In Between
18/09/2025	Sandra Newman	Julia: 1984
16/10/2025	Pat Barker	The Voyage Home
20/11/2025	Kate Atkinson	Death At The Sign of The Rook
18/12/2025	Jessie Burton	The House of Fortune

RUMMIKUB: NELLIE TONY

No meeting in **April** as it is Easter Monday.

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th **May** from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players always welcome, no previous knowledge of games required.

SCRABBLE: NELLIE TONY

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th **May** from 1030-1200 at the Hub. New players always welcome,

SINGING FOR PLEASURE: PAUL

The group will gather on Friday 4th **April** at 1030 in the Seminar Room at Claremont Church, St George's Road under our Musical Director, Win Conway.

There will not be a meeting on 18th April, as that is the date of Good Friday.

There will be three meetings in **May** - Fridays 2nd, 16th and 30th May, all at 1030 in the Seminar Room at Claremont Church under our Musical Director, Win Conway. We welcome new members in all voices (Alto, Bass, Soprano, Tenor) who want to enjoy singing with others. 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.

It is a good gentle exercise and very enjoyable amongst like minded people. It doesn't matter if you've never played before just come and give it a try. You can play as much, or as little during the session, taking a break whenever it suits you.

The next meetings are on Fridays 11th and 25th **April**, 9th and 23rd **May** 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. New members welcome. Please contact Christine Hart if you are interested in joining this group - leave a message, or text, if no answer.

TEXTILE ARTS (Formerly PATCHWORK AND QUILTING): PAULINE

The next meetings are on Thursday 3rd **April** and Thursday 1st **May** at 1030 at Bank Top URC, Ashworth Lane, Bolton, BL1 8RX.

If you are interested in any textile art that involves needles and stitches - sewing, knitting, embroidery, crochet, soft toy making - then we have it covered.

Members are working on a range of different projects and enjoy chatting and learning about the different techniques and skills others are working on. Bring your own project or join in with a group activity. Do come and join us for a creative and fun session!

TOPICAL SCIENCE: ROSEMARY

There will not be a meeting in **April** as it would fall on Easter Monday.

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th **May** at 1400 at the Hub.

Topics: To include - Recent Science in the News. Critical Materials, including Rare Earths and other Important Minerals.

Science in the news this month - do feel free to bring along any items that No specialist knowledge needed - just an enthusiastic enquiring mind!

All are very welcome - just come along!

TRIPS AND OUTINGS: JULIE BEAMAN There are no trips planned at the moment.

Bolton U3A Monthly Meetings

Please support them if you can. They are held from 1400-1600 on the 4th Friday of every month, (except December), at St Andrew & St George United Reform Church, St George's Road, Bolton, BL1 2BS. Visitors, for an entry fee of £3, are welcome to attend twice.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 28th March** at 1400. Frank Vigon gave us a wonderful talk last year about the '60s and he's coming back to tell us about "The strange birth of Television". This is some of what Frank says about it:



Lord Reith will be spinning in his grave,.... if ever there was a more unpredictable and organic growth of a major form of accidental social structural engineering. This lecture traces the incredible development of the little box in the corner to its existence as one of the fundamental shapers of our modern AI existence. Radio

and television were truly a mystery to their own creators, growing exponentially from an object of information to a beacon of mass light entertainment. Producers and technicians, "winging" it as they expanded from one daily hour of programming to a round-the-clock multi-channel offering. We trace the age of ball gowned continuity announcers to an age of television advertising and panel games!

Take nothing for granted....." Normal Service will be resumed as soon as possible!" Well, I'm old enough to remember the large piece of furniture with a miniscule screen, do you?

Carol Dean, Speaker secretary

SPEAKERS for 2025

25 th April 2025	History above your head - origins and oddities of English Inn signs	Michael Astrop
23 rd May 2025	Wakes Weeks and Holidays in Blackpool	Professor Robert Snape and Sandra Nichol
27 th June 2025	Singing for pleasure choir.	Paul Dyson. Win Conway (musical dir.)
25 th July 2025	My Career with Lancashire Constabulary	Mahmood (Mebs) Ahmed
22 August 2025	Barrow to Baghdad	Philip Caine
26 th September 2025	Blame it on the Beatles	John Winter
24 th October 2025	The Magic of the Musicals!	Marilyn Shalks

Committee Members		
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Venues Coordinator	Maggy Simms	venuescoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk

Bolton U3A Meeting Venues

To help new - and existing - 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	PATCHWORK AND QUILTING
BOLTON CENTRAL LIBRARY	FAMILY 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 MUSIC APPRECIATION MATHS PSYCHOLOGY RUMMIKUB TOPICAL SCIENCE	HISTORY MAH JONG PHILOSOPHY QUIZ GROUP SCRABBLE
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	
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 DEANSGATE, 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: groupscoordinator@boltonu3a.org.uk Visit our website:

www.boltonu3a.org.uk

Newsletter items

Please send contributions to news@boltonu3a.org.uk

Deadline for inclusion in the next newsletter is **Wednesday 14th May.**

Visit our website: www.boltonu3a.org.uk