



## Newsletter – January 2026

### *A message from your Chair,*

Our New Years' Eve tradition:

As a child I always liked New Years' Eve. I got to stay up late! We had to go to bed for a few hours first and then my mum would wake us up about 10.30pm. We would get ready and go round to my grandparents house, where our aunties, uncles and cousins would too. My Nana always made a meat and potato pie with a lovely thick pie crust, in a big brown earthenware dish. The house was cosy and warm, with a big fire in the grate and the lovely smell of baking. Just before midnight my Dad and Gangan went out of the back door, carrying a piece of coal and a loaf of bread. On the stroke of midnight, they knocked on the front door, my Nana would open the door and welcome them, bringing the New Year into the home, with their tokens of coal to keep us warm and bread to keep us fed in the next year. Then we would all tuck into the first meal of the year, with the people we love, all together. We would get home about 1.30am, tired, but happy. Content with full bellies and feeling loved by our big family.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone, I hope you too have happy memories of New years that have passed by, and positive thoughts for the year to come.

Love Shirley x



learn,  
laugh,  
live

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Your membership is due for renewal on 1st January 2026. It will run from January to 31st December 2026. The cost of renewal remains the same as last year, £15.00 (plus £4.00 if you want to subscribe to the Third Age Magazine)

You can make payments by :

- BACS – directly through your bank account to our account
- Lytham St Annes University of the Third Age, Account Number 83829563 – sort code 30-98-97 –Lloyds Bank
- Our website, using PAYPAL
- CHEQUE – Made out to Lytham St Annes u3a
- DEBIT CARD – at our monthly meeting
- CASH – at our monthly meeting

Please use your membership number or surname for reference.

## **SPANISH GROUP**

Feliz Navidad y prospero ano y felicidad  
We held our Christmas party at Hope Street Park where we meet regularly each week. We enjoyed a few games, played guess the Christmas song (with choral accompaniment!) and sang Feliz Navidad. Honestly, we sounded better after a few glasses of the lovely sangria, wine or fizz and a mince pie or two. I'm sure people passing by in the park thought they were hearing St Annes choir of Angels!



## **CROWN GREEN BOWLING**

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all our bowlers! Not long now until the new season starts with the greens opening at the end of March. At the New Members meeting last year, a number expressed an interest in joining the group and, indeed, some new applications were completed.

Unlike many other groups, we do not meet on a regular basis but arrangements are made for training newbies via the Fylde Bowling Academy who will be running two courses this coming spring. I have already registered those who have expressed a wish to join but applications need to be made, through me, sooner rather than later as the courses soon get filled up!

The courses are free, with all equipment provided and extend for six weeks, following which members can join one of the local bowling clubs.

Colin Bond (Group Leader) [colbond75@sky.com](mailto:colbond75@sky.com)

## **WALKING GROUP**

Despite the promise of wind, rain and bitter cold, 15 of us turned up for the December walk and Christmas meal. Fortunately, everyone heeded the recommendation to wear good walking boots as we squelched and paddled our way round Marton Mere and Stanley Park. As we well know, weather forecasts are always wrong and we are clearly a very righteous group as any bad weather had long cleared up. The sun shone on us as we made our way round the top of the Mere, admiring the owl's nesting box along the way, then along the back of the zoo (sadly no lions in view this time) then through Salisbury Wood into Stanley Park. Back into Lawson's Showground and we were just five minutes away from the finishing line before the first raindrops fell. Needless to say we were somewhat damp as we headed into the Mere Park for a very welcome Christmas dinner. Not that our spirits were dampened in any way and a good time was had by all.



Happy New Year to you all and I look forward to seeing you in 2026.  
Linda

*This month we have two write-ups from the walking group as the following one came in too late for the last newsletter.*

Eleven u3a members departed from Mytton Fold Golf Club at Langho, Near Blackburn just off the A59. The Golf Club course is on former farmland between Blackburn and Clitheroe. The course is set into the rolling hillside with stunning views across the Ribble Valley, opened in 1994 by Kenny Dalglish, when he was manager of Blackburn Rovers.

The walk was 4.6 miles with 400ft of ascent. The day was cold with a sunny blue sky following overnight frost. We started with a moderate climb up on a public footpath through the Golf course crossing Whalley Old Road and to a minor road. Another short climb took us to a great viewpoint overlooking Dean Clough Reservoir. The Reservoir was built in 1869 to supply water for the mills of Great Harwood. It is now part of the water supply network for the Blackburn area. We continued all the way around the Reservoir, descending down to Whittle Hall and back to the Golf Club. Lunch was at the Bay Horse in Osbaldeston. [*photo over the page*]



## ***DISCORDS GUITAR GROUP***

As the Discords guitar group enters its second year, we are looking forward to playing some exciting new music in 2026. If you are interested in learning in a friendly environment, our beginner group runs from 9.15–10.15 every Thursday. If you already have some experience then our Improver group runs from 10.30–12.00 also on Thursday. You do not have to read music and you don't have to sing. For more information, contact group leader Shaun on 07469 895802.

## ***BRIDGE***

The Bridge Group will convene again at The District Club, St Annes, on Thursday the 8th January at 1.45 after a Christmas break. Marjorie will take over as Leader from Marion who has looked after us all so well.

New members more than welcome. A partner is not necessary but an understanding of ACOL is required.

The meetings are very informal and friendly with tea and biscuits in the break.

Happy New Year to all u3a members and may 2026 be a healthy one.

***Marjorie Short***

## **LUNCH GROUP**

Wednesday, 11 February at 12.30

Lytham Wetherspoons (The Station Hotel) Station Road, Lytham FY8 5H

Contact: [linda.mary.adams@hotmail.com](mailto:linda.mary.adams@hotmail.com)

## **PAINTING & DRAWING**

One of our group, Margaret, recently went to Japan on holiday and we asked her for some photos we could use in the next meeting. She kindly obliged and this is one of the results done by Ellie. She even included the mobile phone and wristwatch! Our next suggestion is a Christmas card theme.

If you would like to join us please email me, Allan, at [allanlesley1@gmail.com](mailto:allanlesley1@gmail.com)



## **POETRY**

Ten troubadours celebrated the poetic form in December and indeed the theme was Celebrations. Once again the array of talent was astounding. Darryl wrote in the style of John Hegley. Alan amazed us with his skilful use of rhyme and rhythm, celebrating subjects as diverse as the 4 seasons, steam trains-and pies! Margaret considered the hidden agendas behind a couple's celebrations as well as a poignant treatise on life stages. Linda made us chuckle with her poems on Santa being on the naughty list and the style of Pam Ayres. Mel's verses ran deep with an emotive portrayal of a homeless boy at Christmas and the challenges of rhyme. Joy celebrated the magic of the season with her own poem and read published works on snow and dragons. Carol chose pieces which celebrated life- in particular Wendy Cope's poem about an orange. Jacky celebrated Qatar where her family lives and reflected on the world since that important star over the manger. Julian treated us to acrostic poetry which sparkled with alliteration- see below. Neil wowed us with his explorations of celebratory vocabulary, the gremlins in life and made us hoot at Grenfell's Nativity. We enjoyed festive nibbles, glorious home - made cake and our mutual love of poetry.

Next month's meeting is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2-4pm at the Well Centre. £3 contribution. The theme is Resolutions- for open and personal treatment and consideration.

**Jacky Ramage**

### **COME TO MY CELEBRATIONS**

Calmly and capably you connect the called.  
Eagerly they embrace and engage your eloquent proposal.  
Lively hours and laughter offered.  
Enchantment you effusively promise,  
Bubbles to flow and beguile those not so brave,  
Ravishing fare and treats to make all replete.  
Affable atmosphere making all amiable - and approachable.  
Tender thoughts to abound,  
Idyllic and inventive setting will inspire.  
Optimistically I say "an original experience",  
Novel and nonpareil.  
Scrupulously arranged to stun - to sate.

Julian Ridley

## **DISCUSSION GROUP**

Monday, 23 February at 2pm.

YMCA: Cafe ONE, St Albans Road, FY8 1XD

Topic to be decided at January group.

Contact; [linda.mary.adams@hotmail.com](mailto:linda.mary.adams@hotmail.com)

## **WINE APPRECIATION**

The Wine Appreciation Group had a fabulous evening in December with the wines being selected and presented by group members. We started with a Champagne for £10 presented by Bob and Eirwen and finished with a delicious dessert wine from Bernadette – with white, red and an orange wine in the middle. We had a quiz with prizes and a jolly evening was had by all.



## SPEAKER PROGRAMME 2026

Our Speaker Meetings are open to all Members and are held on the second Friday of each month (except August) at St. Anne's United Reform Church Hall, St George's Road, St Anne's, Lancashire, FY8 2AE. Members gather from 10am for coffee and chat with friends, old and new and the opportunity to find out about the different interest and social groups that are available. At 10:30 we spend a few minutes on general u3a news before sitting back and enjoying a talk or entertainment that usually ends by 12 noon.

Our 2026 speaker programme is as follows:

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| January 9    | Lytham Hall – Lancashire's Finest Georgian House; Peter Skinner          |
| February 13  | A-Z of Old St Annes; David Hoyle   |
| March 13     | Titanic: the disaster and its aftermath; Graham Whalan                   |
| April 10     | The Winter Gardens; Andrew Mazzei  |
| May 8        | Lyrical Allsorts – Songs & stories; Joy and Kevin Siddall                |
| June 12      | Living with 7 Women – the Father of the Walton Sextuplets                |
| July 10      | My Life at Granada TV; Judy A Popley                                     |
| September 11 | The Assassination of John Lennon; Peter Mellor                           |
| October 9    | Photos Tell Stories – the stories behind famous photographs; Jackie Mafi |
| November 13  | Wives, Workers & Widows of the Great War; Jennifer Ray                   |
| December 11  | Festive Music; Yvonne Pinder   |

## CONTACT INFORMATION

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
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| Northwest u3a website: | <a href="https://northwestregion.u3asite.uk">https://northwestregion.u3asite.uk</a>        |
| National u3a website:  | <a href="http://www.u3a.org.uk">www.u3a.org.uk</a>   |
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