

TACKLER



Hyndburn U3A Newsletter - Issue 130 July 2026

Barrow to Baghdad

Our last speaker was Philip Caine who related his life story from a teenager starting out in the hotel industry to over thirty five years' experience, operating projects across 3 continents, within the Oil & Gas Industry, providing support in facilities & project management, in remote and hazardous locations. He entertained us with his cooking skills on an oil rig in the North Sea and later his dealings with the Russian Mafia! Philip's future was badly affected when he invested in a hotel shortly before the banking system collapsed and he lost £250,000. In order to recover from this blow and pay back debts he took on a job in Baghdad at the end of the Iraq War in 2003. This was a challenging, hazardous and demanding job which provided facilities for over 30,000 troops in 9 separate locations. This major project lasted almost 7 years and enabled Philip to recover from financial disaster. On his retirement Philip began writing and put all his experiences and knowledge (along with his sense of humour) into his first novel "Picnic in Iraq" which tells a fictitious story of a group of close friends who travel the length of Iraq in search of a treasure of unimaginable wealth.

Monthly Meeting July 10th

At Trinity 2.00pm

Our Speaker is
Brian Groom
His subject is :-

These Isles Story
of Ireland
Scotland & Wales

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Family History Group	2 Spanish Uke3A 2.00 pm	3 Creative Writing
6	7 Ringing Strings French Patchwork Quilting	8	9 Spanish Uke3A 2.00 pm	10 Monthly Meeting
13	14 Ringing Strings	15	16 Spanish Uke3A 2.00 pm	17 Book Club
20	21 Ringing Strings Film Night French Patchwork Quilting	22 Let's Do Lunch	23 Spanish Uke3A 2.00 pm	24
27	28 Ringing Strings	29	30 Spanish Uke3A 2.00 pm	31



Courses Timetable JULY 2026

Group News

Patchwork Quilting

The quilting and sewing group meet on 7th & 21st of July at Enfield cricket club.



will

The group members are getting on with the challenge Debbie gave us of creating 12" block to whatever design we fancy, either one to our own pattern or to an established pattern. It will be interesting to see what designs we come up with.



French Conversation Group

The summer season affected our numbers this month but nevertheless we had two interesting and entertaining meetings.

At our first, we were asked to talk about something amazing or surprising. This produced a wide variety of subjects - an amazing variety in fact!

For our second meeting, in tribute to the architect, Gaudi, who died 100 years ago this month, our theme was "Buildings". We concluded with a light-hearted quiz on famous buildings of the world.

In July our meetings will be on the 7th and 21st.

Intermediate Spanish

Our Spanish group continue to meet every Thursday, In May our main topic was ' the weather ' including finding out about weather systems in Spain and Central America.



Our new topic is ' Talking about History ' , Telling our life stories ' . We are looking forward to meeting socially.

Book Club

Thanks to everyone who came to the June meeting. As usual, the books reviewed generated much friendly discussion. Join us, if you can, at our next meeting on Friday 17th July at Great Harwood Golf Club 2pm. Contact the coordinator Katherine Bennett, 07866028246 if you'd like to know more.



Film Night

The next film night is on Tuesday 21st July at 7.00 p.m. at Bank Mill House
Open to all u3a Members.



Our last film "What We Did On Our Holiday" had us laughing out loud! The child actors really seemed to enjoy their roles!

The next film has yet to be decided!

Uke3A

We've had a more restful month singing and playing through our songbook. Each week we learn a new song. We now have over 200, so we are never bored!



Ringling Strings Ukulele Group.



We've had really good turnouts for our regular Tuesday morning sessions - even though last week one person forgot to get up !

Some of our new songs have been really good and some haven't. So.....practice, practice, practice !

We meet at Churchfield house, Gt. Harwood.

Third Age Scribblers

On Friday 3rd July at Julia's your imagination is allowed to fly free - you have been chosen to have first go on a recently invented Time Machine !

Forwards or backwards in time, whichever you choose. What sights, what sounds ... what everything will you discover.

Exciting or what ?

"Let's do Lunch Group"

It's a long time since we were at the Aspinall Arms for our monthly luncheon group, and we were reminded how nice it was at our June luncheon. The setting is beautiful and the good weather added to it. The food was good with plenty to choose from and the service was very quick. Thank you Jim and Ann for arranging this for us.

It will come as no surprise that July's lunch (my choice) will be at the Calfs Head in Worston on Wednesday 22nd of July. I shall look forward to seeing everyone then.

U3A Family History Group

The Family History group will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 2-4pm at Great Harwood Library.

If you are interested please email jean.ainsworth@sky.com or put your name down at the next monthly meeting.

Architectural and Industrial

Heritage

A group of 20 Hyndburn U3A members visited the Amazon Warehouse near Bolton. After security checks, donning HiViz waistcoats and radio headphones, we followed our guide into the mega warehouse which is the size of 28 football pitches.

There were hundreds of tall yellow shelf towers, full of entirely random items, tracked by the main computer, being moved around by robots which looked like automated lawnmowers.

Once the correct items are picked for the customer, miles of conveyor belts take goods to the correct sacks for delivery worldwide.

Addresses are blown onto the packages by a puff of air, again fully automated.

To see it all in action was fascinating if rather mind-blowing and was enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, Waddow Hall which was to be our next trip has cancelled all tours for 2026 so we can no longer visit. If anyone has ANY IDEAS FOR GROUP VISITS, I am happy to contact places and to try to organise -Buildings, History/Heritage or Industry past and present all welcome. Please let Angela know by email.

Do you want to learn something new?

Have you an idea for a new group?

The Committee are always looking for new ideas and input from our members. If you have any suggestions and want to help please inform any member of the Committee.

Members subscriptions.

This year's subscription of £10 is now overdue. Any member not renewing by the end of July will be removed from the members list.

If people do not attend the monthly meeting they can pay the subs to their group leader or renew by paying cash at the monthly meeting or cheque (made payable to Hyndburn U3A) or BACS.

The Bank details for BACS are:-

Account Name: Hyndburn U3A

Sort Code: 77-29-18 Account No: 40361160

Executive Committee of Hyndburn U3A.

Dave Roberts— Chair

Sue Roberts -Treasurer

Anne Haworth- Minutes Secretary

Chris Powell— Secretary

Sheila Taylor.— Social Secretary

Jean Ainsworth—Membership Secretary



Starts at
7.30 pm

To book
tickets

[Click Here](#)

Existing Group Co-ordinators

Book Group	Katherine Bennett	0786 602 8246
French Conversation	Kay Saddington	07960383018
Intermediate Spanish	Mary Wells	01254 888658
Let's do Lunch	Lynne McCrie	01254 605262
Quilting	Denise McLean	07855 699039
Creative Writing	Christine Cockett	01254 885949
Uke3a Ukulele	Frank Saddington	07729 185679
Ringin Strings Ukulele	David Holden/ Val Airey	01254 889357 / 01254 887259
Architectural and Industrial Heritage	Angela Oxley	07970 860926
Family history Group	Jean Ainsworth	jean.ainsworth@sky.com