

## Welcome to the June /July Newsletter



I hope everyone is enjoying the recent spell of sunny weather.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our last coffee morning where we listened to a fascinating talk about the history of Christie hospital.

Welcome to the new members who have recently joined us. If you have any questions please do contact us - we are here to help you get the best from all the fantastic activities we offer.

In previous newsletters committee members have been introducing themselves so you can "get to know us". This month it's my turn!

I have lived in the Heatons for over 30 years. Throughout my career I worked across Social Care and Health managing services in Manchester and Stockport.

I was lucky to have a "portfolio career" working on a number of national and sometimes international programmes and projects. At the end of my career I moved into academia working at both Manchester University and MMU.

I love travelling and have visited over 50 countries so far.

I have one daughter who works locally and 2 fabulous grandchildren that keep me on my toes.

Fun facts - I once sang with Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, served Johnny Mathis, the Three Degrees and Bruce Forsyth at the Last Drop village where I worked as a teenager and was on the 175th team to beat the Eggheads - The Stockport Hatters.

Have a great summer and I hope to see many of you at our next coffee morning.

**Jude**

## BITS AND PIECES FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the June & July 2026 edition of the Newsletter.

Can I remind you that if you want anything in the Newsletter on a continual basis then please let me know each bi-month. Thank you.

If you want anything putting in the next Newsletter (August/September 2026) which comes out on Friday 31 July please get the copy to me by Wednesday 29 July.

I (we) all look forward to hearing from you.

Do you know where the saying  
'pot calling the kettle black'  
comes from?

NO . . . . . well I will tell you. . .

"The pot calling the kettle black" originates from 17th-century European kitchens, where both iron pots and kettles were blackened by soot from open fires.

It refers to hypocritical criticism, where one blames another for a fault they both share.

The earliest recording is from a 1620 translation of Don Quixote.

# YOUR COMMITTEE



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Chair**



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Vice Chair**



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Newsletter Editor**



**Kathy  
Committee Member**



**Deanna  
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**Peter  
Committee Member**



**Diana  
Committee Member**



**Paul  
Committee Member**





**The Coffee Morning** takes place on the **third Monday of each month.**

Please note - **ENTRY AFTER 10.00AM**

Meeting with announcements, etc, starts at 10.30am.

Speaker starts at around 10.45am.

Meeting ends approximately 12.00noon.

***Here are the speakers for the next few months:***

15<sup>th</sup> June - We will go on a Musical Meander around Britain.

20<sup>th</sup> July - A speaker from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

17<sup>th</sup> August - A speaker from Embassy; a project which supports homeless people to turn their lives around.



### **The Mindfulness and Meditation Group**

*will be meeting on Tuesday 2nd June in the Patio Room of the United Church at 2 pm.*

*The subject will be 'Making Ourselves Happier'.*

# WILDLIFE & GARDENING GROUP

Programme for outings  
ALL FROM HEATON MOOR  
UNITED CHURCH

## WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

Tattenhall Hall (Gardens only)

Travel by coach.

Cost - £33

Leave at 0930.



## TUESDAY 25 AUGUST

2 Ashcroft Cottages – Private Garden Visit

Travel by cars.

Cost £6

Refreshments – Buy your own.

PLEASE BOOK FOR THESE OUTINGS AT  
THE NEXT COFFE MORNING.

## SUGGESTED VISITS TO TAKE ON YOUR OWN:

### SATURDAY, 13th JUNE

ELIZABETH GASKELL'S GARDEN  
84 PLYMOUTH GROVE, MANCHESTER  
M13 9LW - OPEN 11.00-4.00  
ADMISSION £5 TEA, COFFEE & CAKE  
BUS 197 STOPS RIGHT OUTSIDE



### SUNDAY 14th JUNE

DIDSBURY VILLAGE GARDENS  
OPEN 12.00 - 5.00. SIX OPEN GARDENS  
ADMISSION £7 TO SEE ALL GARDENS -  
TICKETS FROM ANY OF THE GARDENS.  
HOME-MADE TEAS AT 3 PINE ROAD  
GARDENS:-  
68 BROOKLAWN DRIVE M20 3GZ,  
3 THE DRIVE M20 6HZ  
1 OSBORNE STREET M20 2QZ,  
40 PARRS WOOD AVENUE M20 5ND  
3 PINE ROAD M20 6UY,  
38 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE M20 6AS

**Please contact Jill for more information.**



# A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO



# PETER WILLIAMS



Many will know that Peter has recently stepped down as convener of the Science Group. I feel this should not take place without putting on record our appreciation of Peter's efforts and skill in creating a fine legacy with a host of good, memorable and informative talks. Much of this is due to Peter's powers of persuasion as I can personally bear witness. He also gave a number of impressive talks of his own.



I am sure we are all aware that u3a doesn't just happen. It depends on a number of people who are prepared to give their time and effort while not looking for any personal reward. Peter has always been prominent in this respect, not only in the various offices he has undertaken but also in his many kind acts behind the scenes.



thanks

Peter Lloyd

Gracias



# MIDLERS WALKING GROUP

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month for a walk of 4-5 miles.

We meet in the car park of the United Church by 9.30 where we arrange car sharing. Passengers pay 10p per mile to the driver as a contribution towards petrol.



Walking boots and waterproof clothes are required and we generally take a picnic lunch unless notified otherwise.

The next few walk dates are:

- ✚ 16 June
- ✚ 21 July
- ✚ 18 August
- ✚ 15 September



The longer **Middlers Plus** walks will be on the first Tuesday of the month and the next one will be on 2 June up and around White Nancy in Bollington.

Please contact Moyra for further information or if you would like to be included in the email distribution list.

## HALLE OPUS CONCERTS AT THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

There is an Opus Group which is not a u3a group but comprises of u3a members and friends and get discounted tickets for the Winter Season of Opus concerts which are approximately once a month from October to May.



We have a coach from the Heaton's United Church to go to the Thursday evening concerts and the cost is shared by those using it. I can also book tickets to get the discount for the Sunday series of concerts when you travel independently. The dates and programmes can be found on the Halle website.

If you would like to go to the Opus concerts or know anyone who may be interested in going, please email

Margaret  
Opus Group Leader



## ARCHITECTURE

There will be no architecture sessions in July and August.

In June we will meet as usual and look back over the past few months. There might even be a quiz just to get your little grey cells jumping about!



## NEWS FROM THE DRAMA GROUP

**The drama group has another production in the pipeline, which we hope you will enjoy.**

**It is a story of three wealthy sisters, about their life during World War II, and the dramatic consequences for them in later years. It is based on true facts about wartime life.**

**When money was tight during wartime, how did the sisters become so wealthy? How did they come to pay the price?**

**The play is called “Annie 1,2,3”. It will be staged at the Heaton Mersey Community Centre on Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm – complete with afternoon tea (cake and sandwiches) included.**

**Tickets at £10 will be on sale at the next coffee morning. (16.6.26)**

**Book early to avoid disappointment.**

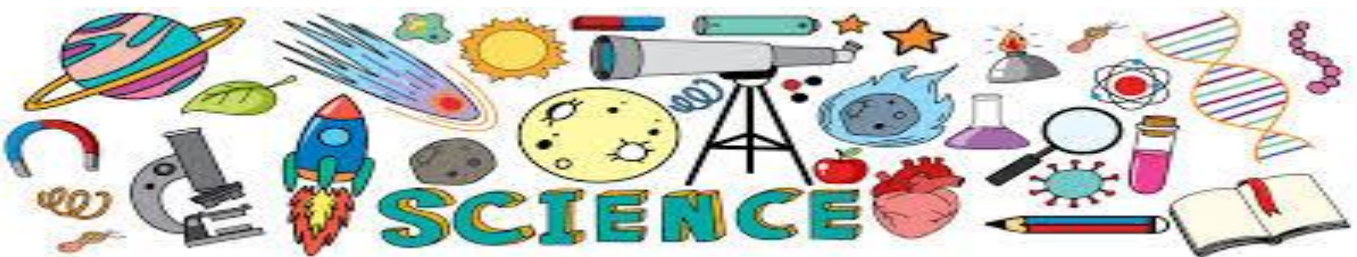
Margaret



The History Group meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 2pm in the Coffee Lounge at the United Church. We look at a 'bit' of history, have coffee and then discuss the 'bit' of history that has brought us all together.

The next meeting is on **Monday 22 June** and our 'bit' of history is **T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia)**. Come along and find out more about this enigmatic man.

In **July** the session is about **Universal Suffrage** and there is NO meeting in August. We will let you know what is happening in the autumn as soon as.



The next speaker on 22<sup>nd</sup> June is a special video presentation of "The Science of Laughter" - should be good for a laugh!

There are no sessions after this until September and as soon as the autumn programme is set, we will let you know.

# Heatons and Reddish u3a Photography Competition 2026.



We're running a photography competition looking for the photo of the year from amongst our members.



The theme this year is Reflections.

The photo can be taken on a camera or mobile phone. Send in one photograph taken in 2026 via email to John. The closing date is midnight on 30th November 2026.

Voting on the shortlist will be by show of hands at the Christmas coffee morning.

The winning photograph will be displayed on the photography group website and there will be a small prize. Please make sure you have the permission of any people in the photograph before you send it in. Good luck.



# Creative Writing 1

## The Phone call by Marion

Hello? Hello-o? Doris speaking, who's that?

Sorry I can't hear you - hang on a minute, I'll just turn the telly down - don't hang up will you - just got to find the remote. Now where did I put it?

*Long pause*

Sorry to have kept you - I just couldn't find it - but I've got it now, it slipped down the cushions on my chair.

Now, how can I help you?

You're Frank? Don't think I know any Franks.

What's that? Oh dear, I'm sorry I still can't hear you properly - I really should put my hearing aids in first thing, I'm afraid I'm getting a bit forgetful Frank. Now, where did I put them??

*Pause*

Hello - are you still there Frank? Oh that's good. I can hear you better now. You won't believe where I had left them? No not down the cushions, no not by my bed, - no or by the kettle. Good guessing though. They were in the fridge next to the milk. Ha, ha, ha

Oh I'm so sorry to have kept you hanging around. Whatever am I thinking??

Are you ok?

Well that's good, I'm sorry I do love a good natter, don't get to speak to many people these days. What did you call about Frank?

Oh, so you're not Frank. You are calling from my Bank! Ha ha

It's very urgent? Oh dear. It must be, I can't remember the bank ever calling me before. It used to be so different a few years ago when I could just call into our local bank. There was such a lovely cashier there, Linda I think her name was, she was ever so helpful. Do you know her?

No I don't suppose you do dear, they must have shut that branch at least 2 years ago. Well If you do bump into her, give her my best will you?

Did you say it was urgent? - ooooh. 'Very urgent'. Why, what's happened?

You think my bank account has been hacked? Well that doesn't sound good. How rude.

You just have to confirm some details? Ok.

Yes, that's right my name is Mrs Doris Dixon. Yes, I do live at 13 Green Lane Heaton Moor.

Well fancy you knowing that! Can I confirm that my bank account number is 02336794?

Well, I'm not sure that I can, I'm getting ever so forgetful these days.

Just wait a bit while I find my cheque book and card. Ok, I won't be long.

*Pause*

Hello Frank, are you still there? It took me a long time to find them.

Oh you tease, no they were was not in the fridge, I keep them in a very secure place.

No, not under my mattress, they were in my special tea caddy - it's got a secret compartment you see.

Okay - right here it is. What number did you say? Yes, that's right 02336794.

Did I make a Car Tax payment of £195 on 14th February?

Well, it's funny you should mention that, yes, I did. In fact, I can't forget it - it got me into quite a tiz-woz.

They told me that I had to pay it immediately otherwise I would be fined a lot of money or have to go to court. Well, I didn't want that, not with having to try to live off my pension.

My family were very cross with me about that though!

Why? well I haven't got a car any more - only got a mobility scooter.

Well, I thought that was quite funny, but they were really angry and told me that I should leave all my finances to them. I didn't appreciate that I tell you, it was an easy mistake to make at my age. You would think to listen to them that I was going batty

Oh that's kind of you to say that dear. But what has that payment got to do with you at the bank Frank?

What! - it was a fraudulent payment and that's how my bank account has been hacked

Have they taken any money out?

£967. Nine hundred and sixty seven pounds!!!! That's awful, ooh I've come over all unnecessary!

Oh Frank, what a good lad you are letting me know. What on earth should I do now? What will my family say??

You will help me sort it out. It's no problem? Oh, that's so kind. But not being rude Frank, how do I know you are really from the bank?

OK. I've got that. I will put the phone down now and ring back on the bank's telephone number and ask for your manager Mr Robert Reeves.

*Pause*

Hello? Yes this is Doris Dixon. Is that Robert?

Sorry about the delay calling you back, my son called in quickly to see if I was alright, and I didn't dare tell him that I had been hacked. He would have blamed me for being stupid.

Ohh, that's really wonderful. I'm getting in quite a state here and I'm all in my own now.

Oh thank you for being so kind and understanding.

Yes - Frank explained everything. And told me how important it is for me to get it sorted quickly.

What! Another £400 has now been taken!!!

That's awful, (crying), Oh I'm all of a do dah. Whatever shall I do? - Ok good idea

*Pause*

Yes Robert, I've had a good swig of brandy, that's really helped settle my nerves.

Right,- I'm listening. You are going to put a block on my card and account so they can't steal any more money. Excellent that sounds like a really good plan

Yes, I agree, putting it all into one secure new account with you sounds like a very sensible solution- the sooner the better.

You will need my cheque book and card as soon as possible? But how can I do that? My mobility scooter has a flat tyre and there is no one who could bring me all the way into Stockport to see you at the Bank Robert? Perhaps I could ring my son, though he's at work and doesn't like being disturbed and ask him to take me in?

What - I don't need to bother him:- you will send a courier round to collect my bank card, so you can do it for me.

Oh you wonderful man. I think you are an angel in disguise.

I just need to give you my PIN number? Yes I can remember that -it's my birthday 15th June 1940 - so 15640

Oh no don't thank me, it's just such a relief to know that my savings will all be in your safe hands.

He will be with me in about 10 minutes?

OK, thank you so, so much my dear, dear Mr Robert.

*Later.*

Hello son, I was waiting for your call. How did you and your Fraud Squad get on?

Oh well done - you caught them all and closed down their boiler room?

You don't have to thank me - I was just following all the guidelines you gave me.

Yes, I'm glad I kept them on the phone long enough for you to track their call; though I have to admit that I had a hard job not bursting out in laughter as I played poor old dithery Doris

I'm glad that the fake bank card with its implanted tracking device meant you were able to track them down without problem. You reckon they should get 4-6 years in gaol?

Well, that's good news - I hope that will teach Frank and Bank Robbie a lesson

Good thing they were in Birmingham not Nigeria.

You know, your grandfather would have been really proud of you, - we Dixons may have moved away from Dock Green, but we are still fighting the baddies and protecting the vulnerable as well as ever.

Well done us.

What am I doing next?

Oh I'm giving a talk to my local U3A group about online safety and fighting bank fraud.

## CREATIVE WRITING 2

### A Ghost Story with Truthful Beginning and Imagined Consequences

By Karen

There is an unusual grave in a small plot alongside the Didsbury Road near the Griffin Pub. Isaac Thorniley and his wife Hannah Thorniley were interred there at his request. It is separated from the footpath by iron railings. It is thought the plot was part of the garden of Grundy Hill House (also known as Foxglove House) and dates back to 1792 when Hannah died and was interred there. Isaac was interred there in 1804. The nearby St John's Church was not built until 1846

Isaac never imagined that the tranquil plot he chose for both his beloved wife and himself would one day be next to a public house and a busy thoroughfare used daily by noisy motorised traffic. The noise eventually woke him up. He turned in his grave every day grumbling at the impropriety of the daily assault on his peace.

His wife never indicated that she was upset by the situation and slept on unmoved.

Isaac grew more and more irritated as the traffic became noisier and even caused the earth to shake. He decided, much against his placid nature, that he had to do something to stop this bedlam. He concentrated hard to free his spirit out of the grave into the world above and discovered, much to his delight he could actually do this.

Not so delightful was the change to the garden and his farm which was now covered with tarmac and many dwellings. The quantity, speed and size of the horseless vehicles amazed him and he was quite frightened by the excessively noisy two-wheel metal horses which persons rode astride. He wondered if real horses were now extinct.

He discovered that as a spirit he had no form but could move freely and unseen. It was a very different world from his but when he floated into the Griffin Pub he was reminded of his visits to the ale house though the clothes the drinkers wore were very odd. The women all looked indecent. He was thoroughly shocked to see legs unashamedly on display.

Sadly, having no physical presence he realised he could not stop the relentless noise that disturbed his rest. He did discover however that if he hovered immediately in front of people's faces for a few seconds they would blink and shiver just as if they had seen a ghost. Punishing the lewd behaviour of the young females was quite exhilarating. Hearing someone say, 'Ooh, I just felt like someone walked over my grave' made him very pleased.

This daily exercise cheered him up and helped him to become inured to this noisy new generation and their noisy horseless carriages when he returned to his grave to sleep. He was also satisfied only an earthquake could dislodge him from his resting place in spite of the racket. Fortunately, he had never heard of nuclear bombs.

St Paul's Heaton Moor Presents

# The Nightingale Singers

A musical staff with a treble clef and several notes, positioned behind the title text.

A charity concert raising funds for the upkeep  
and restoration of St Paul's Church

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00pm at St  
Paul's Church, Heaton Moor**



Performing hits from the Musicals plus  
uplifting traditional music to welcome  
the summer. You can expect to hear:  
**TONIGHT** from **WEST SIDE STORY**,  
**SUMMERTIME** from **PORGY AND BESS**  
and **THE GREEN LEAVES OF SUMMER** plus  
much more!

**\*Prosecco/wine and other  
refreshments available\***

**Free event - donations welcome towards  
the upkeep/restoration of St Paul's Church  
and the cost of a permanent ramp into  
church.**

Please book your tickets on the link below:

<http://bit.ly/3PwPyD2>

Or contact Anne Pinkerton:

[stjohnsandstpaulsa@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsandstpaulsa@gmail.com)



**Let's get quizzical. . . . .**

## **A LOCAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ**

<b>1</b>	<b>What are residents of Stockport known as?</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is the nick name of Stockport FC?</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Which 2 rivers meet in Stockport to form the River Mersey?</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Which iconic footballer, born in Stockport in 1909, played for Manchester City and England?</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>In which century did Stockport receive its market charter?</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>From which area of Stockport did Fred Perry come from?</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>What was the name of the studios where 10cc recorded?</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>What is the name of the oldest building in Stockport?</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Where the Hind's Head pub is now there was once a nightclub. What was the name of the nightclub?</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Which 19<sup>th</sup> century philosopher wrote in 1844 that Stockport was "renowned as one of the duskiest, smokiest holes" in the whole of the industrial area?</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>In which year was the Stockport air disaster?</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>How high is the Stockport viaduct?</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>In what year did the Plaza open?</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Which Rugby Union club played at Edgeley Park from 2002 to 2012?</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Which 2 continental towns is Stockport twinned with?</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Did you know that on 13 June 1963 the Beatles played a gig in Stockport? What was the name of the venue?</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>What is the name of the historic pub in Stockport, rumoured to be haunted by a ghost named Charlie?</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>How many arches does the Stockport Viaduct have?</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>What is the name of the family brewery that has been brewing in Stockport since 1838?</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>In 1852 Heaton Chapel &amp; Heaton Moor train station was opened. Which railway company opened it?</b>

## **ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA QUIZ**

<b>1</b>	Venus	<b>11</b>	Alaska
<b>2</b>	The Sargasso Sea	<b>12</b>	The penguin
<b>3</b>	An aglet	<b>13</b>	Orange
<b>4</b>	Fish (specifically duck-fish)	<b>14</b>	Sweden (over 220,000)
<b>5</b>	Hot water (Mpemba effect)	<b>15</b>	Jericho
<b>6</b>	Nepal	<b>16</b>	AB-
<b>7</b>	A flamboyance	<b>17</b>	Tunisia
<b>8</b>	Pink	<b>18</b>	Black, blue or purple
<b>9</b>	The skin	<b>19</b>	Berry Gordy in 1959
<b>10</b>	Bermuda	<b>20</b>	The Goliath frog