HEATONS AND REDDISH



AND



2026

NEWSLETTER

News Letter

October & November 2026

u3a Heatons & Reddish

Registered Charity No: 1037772

heatons-reddish.u3asite.uk

HEATONS AND REDDISH EDITION

Hello and welcome to the latest Heatons and Reddish u3a Newsletter.

As a relatively new member of your committee, it is my turn to introduce myself. I am Paul and I retired a little over two years ago and joined the u3a shortly afterwards. With a passion for science and technology, I was drawn immediately to the Science group. I am now one of the co-leaders of that group and have also been known to step up and give a talk on occasion. I was also elected to the committee as an ordinary member last February.

I have lived in the Heatons for the last 30 plus years but am originally from Hull in East Yorkshire. I came to Manchester to study chemistry at UMIST and ended up staying. I have been offered jobs in many locations in the interim, America, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Hemel Hempstead… and would have happily considered most of them but have always ended up being based in Manchester.

After completing my degree and doctorate, I worked for a time as an analytical chemist with a university start-up, using advanced instrumentation to examine a wide range of materials including computer discs, razor blades, carbon fibres and parts of the Lockerbie bomb.

I then changed to work in the scientific instrument industry – the ones who manufacture the equipment I had been using, initially as demo chemist but later in sales and marketing. These roles took me all over the globe, travelling frequently, often 60% or more of the time in over 25 different countries and I have built up a wonderful array of world-wide friendships. I have also been lucky enough to work closely with hundreds of renowned scientists including at least one Nobel-prize winner.



My better half is a lecturer at Salford University and my daughter has just started her second year at Queens University Belfast studying Biological Sciences. We all like travel and cookery and, we are all qualified scuba divers and love it when we can combine our passions, cooking foreign cuisine or diving in exotic locations.

Paul



BITS AND PIECES FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the October & November 2026 edition of the Newsletter.

If you want anything putting in the next Newsletter (December 2026) which comes out on Friday 27 November please get the copy to me by Wednesday 25 November.

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

Here is something a bit different for you. . . . . .

Back in August some friends joined my husband and I for a holiday to the Isles of Scilly. (Fabulous place).

We went by train from London to Penzance before getting the boat over to the islands. The train journey was long (5.5 hours). Apart from drinking the buffet dry we wondered what other interesting antics we could get up to! The answer . . .cards! Well Crib or Cribbage to be exact and it made me wonder where an odd game like that came from. So here goes. . . . .

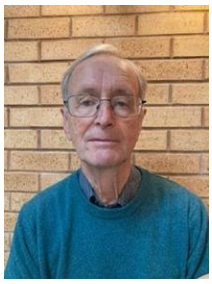
According to John Aubrey, cribbage was created by the English poet Sir John Suckling in the early 17th century as a derivation of the game 'noddy'. Noddy apparently was not a good game for gambling on (in the 17th century gambling was huge and they would bet on anything) so while Noddy has become a historical, rarely-played game and has disappeared, crib has survived virtually unchanged as one of the most popular games in the English-speaking world.

The earliest rules were published in England in 1662. The continuing popularity of cribbage is due in some part to the influence of the novelist Charles Dickens, who depicted the game in his novel The Old Curiosity Shop.

Anyone fancy a game!?



YOUR COMMITTEE

 **Jude** **Chair**	 **Colin** **Vice Chair**	 **Sue** **Treasurer**
 **Virginia** **Secretary**	 **Theresa** **Membership Secretary**	 **Jenny** **Groups Co-ordinator**
 **Barbara** **Minutes**	 **Mary** **Newsletter Editor**	 **Kathy** **Committee Member**
 **Deanna** **Committee Member**	 **Peter** **Committee Member**	 **Diana** **Committee Member**
u3a Heatons & Reddish	 **Paul** **Committee Member**	u3a Heatons & Reddish

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't Forget. November and December is the time to renew your membership for 2027. The subscription fee remains at £18 for the year plus £4 if you wish to have the national magazine u3a Matters delivered to you 5 times a year. Final date for renewal is 31st January, 2027.

Please collect your renewal form at the November or December coffee morning if you can. Payment can be taken at the same time, or you can pay by BACS if you prefer. If you are not able to attend a coffee morning a renewal reminder will be sent to you via email during December.

You'll be pleased to know that our membership is growing year on year.

A testament to our interest groups and the commitment of our group leaders and committee.



YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU

We will be electing a new committee at the next AGM in February and there will be a few vacancies due to committee members having "served their time". We are always looking for new members with fresh ideas, ideally from the younger end of the age range, and any paid-up member is eligible to stand for election.

If this is something that would interest you and you feel you could make a contribution, please speak to Jude or any other member of the committee to get a better idea as to what is involved. Any degree of commitment is more than matched by the rewarding feeling of getting involved and helping to move the u3a forward.

Nomination forms will be available shortly and need to be completed, with a proposer and seconder, by 31 December 2026.



The Coffee Mornings take place on the third Monday of each month.

Please note - ENTRY AFTER 10.00AM



Meeting with announcements, etc, start at 10.30am.

Speaker starts at around 10.45am.

Meeting ends approximately 12.00noon.

Here are the speakers for the next few months:

19th October - Roger will talk about 'My Life in Broadcasting'. Roger is a television journalist, newsreader and presenter currently working as the main presenter for BBC North West Tonight.

16th November - Hazel will tell us about the work of Age UK.

21st December - It's Christmas – mince pies – panto – and all things seasonal (mistletoe!)



The History group meet on the 4th Monday of the month in the coffee lounge at the United Church. We start at 2pm and have a talk on a particular topic for an hour or so then it's tea and biscuits time with lots of discussion about the talk. Come along – it's wonderful what you learn. Here are the talks for the next few months:

28 September	William the Conqueror	Verena
26 October	The Mongols	Bernice
23 November	Isambard Kingdom Brunel	Mary

MIDDLERS 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.

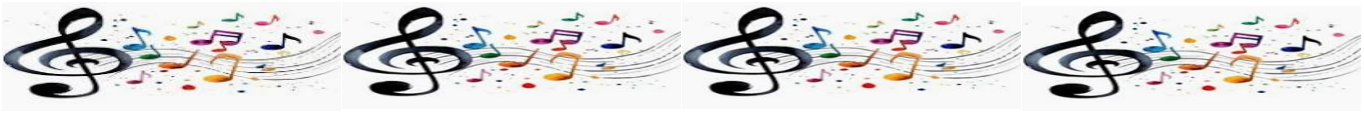
Walking boots and waterproof clothes are required and we generally take a picnic lunch unless notified otherwise.

The dates of the walks for the next few months are:

- 20 October
- 1 December - Christmas walk and meal!

The longer and more strenuous Middlers Plus walks have now finished for 2026. They will recommence in May 2027.

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



Music Appreciation



Hello, Music Appreciation meets on the first Thursday morning at 10am in the coffee lounge at the United church.



Please note that there is no meeting in January

It would also be nice and helpful if we could get more members to come forward with more programmes of music for us all to enjoy. As they say 'whatever rocks your boat' when it comes to the genre of music.

Helen

Due to the demand for Pickleball I have now included Friday as a U3a session in addition to Wednesdays. We only had a few non U3a members and they have now moved on.



As said, Pickleball is proving so popular we have now extended sessions to Friday evenings. You can play Wednesday or Friday or both. For those who have not played before you may have to wait a while before we can organise a beginners session but please do not hesitate to contact Lauren through the Group enquiries. It is important that you have played a racquet sport in the past : tennis, table tennis or badminton. Sessions run from 4.45pm - 5.45pm both evenings. The cost will vary between £3.00 and £3.50 per session depending on the numbers.

LAUREN

Our first Open Mic session fired off with performances of poetry, a short story, reading an extract from a book, piano playing and finally, a contribution from our vice chair, Colin, who played his unique version of Delilah on the banjelele (something many of us had never seen before) to send us all our way with a bang.



Part way through we enjoyed refreshments of tea, coffee, savouries and sweets.

You can turn up on the day, but things will run more smoothly if I put together an order of play beforehand, so please let me know if you intend to come where possible.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 21st October and doors open at 1.45pm for a 2pm prompt start in the Coffee Lounge.

Hilary

Enjoy the pictures of Joan & Karen on refreshments; Colin, our vice chair, leading us in a singalong to Delilah; The first 'Open Mic' Group wondering what on earth to expect.









Hi All

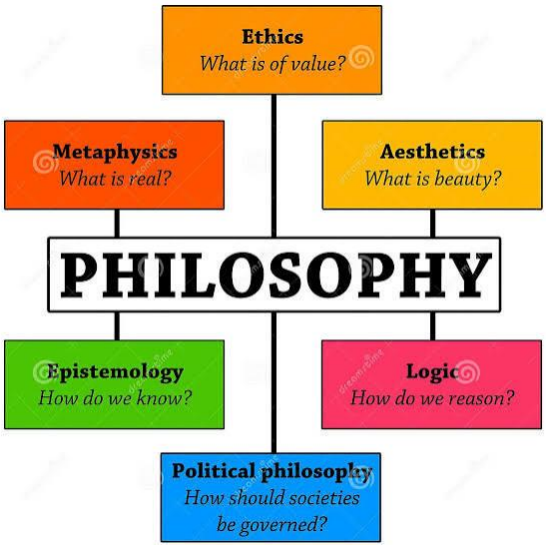
Hopefully we are not quite finished with summer and we can start back on our exploration of architecture in the warmth.

We meet on the second Monday of the month, 10am as usual at the United Church on Stanley Road, Heaton Moor.

This year we are going to look at Sacred Buildings, with examples from ancient Egypt, medieval Christian Europe, Muslim Middle East and Hindu India. To see how various cultures give expression to the sacred, and create arguably some of the world's greatest architecture.

Tea and biscuits as required.

Cheers...Clyde



We meet on the 1st Monday of the month and the next meeting is on 5 October at 2.30pm

We have changed our venue and it is now in The Elizabethan in Heaton Moor.

Our topic for discussion on 5th -

'Is Privacy an Outmoded Concept'.

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.








THE MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION GROUP

Change of venue, we are now meeting at St Paul's Schoolroom on the first Tuesday of the month at 2 pm.
There will be an additional meeting in October for a mindful walk with, hopefully, lovely Autumnal colours to look at. Date to be announced.



WILDLIFE AND GARDENING GROUP

Our next outing is to Parvey Lodge in Sutton nr Macclesfield on Tuesday, 13th October.

We will travel in cars (sharing) – please add your name to the list at the next Coffee Morning (21st September) or contact either Margaret or Jill to book. Please say if you are willing to drive.

Leave United Church at 10.00 a.m.

Cost is £10 per person to include Tea/coffee and cake.

Parvey Lodge is a beautiful privately owned 3 acre garden with different areas to explore. There is a formal garden with many types of plants and plenty of wildlife including deer.

In November there will be a talk by Sharon about the work of the National Garden Scheme and also about some of the gardens included in that scheme.

This will take place in the Coffee Lounge at United Church on Tuesday, 24th November.

Please book at the October Coffee Morning.

LINE DANCING

Line dancing normally meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 2 – 3pm, St Paul's Church Hall.

However, Sue, our instructor will be on holiday on 27th October (half terms week for those with grandchild duties!). Hence, the date for the next two months are:

13th October

10 November

24th November

Please make sure your friends know.

We are popular at the moment and currently have a short waiting list.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the group.

Anne



&



Do come along to Scrabble or Chess, on each first and third Thursday of the month, 2 - 4 pm in the coffee lounge upstairs at the United Church.
Chess players also meet on the 5th Thursday (if there is one) but at Gordon's home.

Next two meetings are Thursday 1st and Thursday 15th October.

Contact June for Scrabble or Gordon if you're interested in Chess"

Thank you
June

ANSWERS TO THE COCKNEY RHYMING SLANG QUIZ

1	Rosie	=	Rosie Lea	=	Tea
2	Dog	=	And Bone	=	Phone
3	Trouble	=	And Strife	=	Wife
4	Porky	=	Porky Pies	=	Lies
5	Plates	=	Plates of Meat	=	Feet
6	Ruby	=	Ruby Murray	=	Curry
7	Adam	=	And Eve	=	Believe
8	Mince	=	Mince Pies	=	Eyes
9	Whistle	=	And Flute	=	Suit
10	Titfer	=	Titfer Tat	=	Hat
11	Hank	=	Hark Marvin	=	Starvin'
12	China	=	China Plate	=	Mate
13	Butcher's	=	Butcher's Hook	=	Look
14	George	=	George Raft	=	Draft
15	Barney	=	Barney Rubble	=	Trouble
16	Scooby	=	Scooby Doo	=	Clue
17	Barnet	=	Barnet Fair	=	Hair
18	Daisy	=	Daisy Roots	=	Boots
19	Dustbin	=	Dustbin Lid	=	Kid
20	Elephant's	=	Elephant's Trunk	=	Drunk





QUIZ ON CARTOONS AND COMICS

1	Known as the Dark Knight, which caped crusader is the alter ego of Bruce Wayne?
2	During WWII which comic strip did Winston Churchill describe as ‘Britain’s secret weapon’?
3	What is the name of Peppa Pig's little brother?
4	What was the first name of Captain Pugwash?
5	Who is the creator of Wallace and Gromit and Shaun the Sheep?
6	What colour are Mickey Mouse’s shoes?
7	Which sixties animated television series featured the 'varmints' Muskie Muskrat and Moley Mole?
8	Which fictional DC comics city is best known as the home of Superman?
9	Name the animated French skunk cartoon character created by Warner Brothers in 1945?
10	Which blue-coloured cat is T.C.'s right-hand man in Top Cat?
11	Which cartoon character was honoured by the Dalai Lama?
12	Who was the cartoonist whose satire appeared in Punch, Private Eye and the Sunday Times?
13	Clark Kent is better known as which costumed crimefighter?
14	What British animated cartoon series was a spin-off from Danger Mouse?
15	Who created the comic strip Peanuts?
16	Which iconic British comic character, first appearing in The Topper in 1953, is known for always wearing her hair in two pigtails tied with ribbons?
17	What cartoon character has vital statistics of 19-19-19?
18	Which long-running British comic, famous for characters like Dennis the Menace and Gnasher, published its first issue in 1938?
19	In which comic did Korky the Cat appear on the front page for more than 40 years?
20	Who was the producer of the Tom and Jerry Cartoons until 1956?

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