

OUTINGS GROUP
CLIFFE CASTLE AND SKIPTON Wednesday 30 April 2025

Cliffe Castle was originally built in the 1880's as the home of Victorian millionaire and textile manufacturer, Henry Isaac Butterfield and was a show piece of international art and French decoration. In the 1950's the castle was bought by Sir Bracewell Smith who turned the gardens into a grand public park and remodelled the castle into a free museum. You can see the sparkling Victorian rooms overflowing with paintings, furniture and art of every style. There are also rooms dedicated to nature, archaeology and stained glass. In recent years, Cliffe Castle has had a glow-up inside and outside with Victorian features in the park reinstated and the breathtaking stained glass Butterfield window and the Grand Staircase restored! In the afternoon, we have a short visit to Skipton, the Gateway to the Dales.

£25 per person includes travel by 49-seater coach, driver's gratuity, tea/coffee and cake on arrival and a guided tour of the museum in two small groups.

Burnley Bus Station depart 0900, Padiham Town Hall depart 0920

Contacts: Howard and Nancy Mitchell and Anne Green

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are due in April but to ease congestion we will be happy to accept item at the March monthly meeting. We ask that payment is by Card, Cheque or Bank Transfer. Cheque made out to Burnley & District u3a. Fees remain unchanged at £20 per individual, £38 for two people living at the same address.

Just a reminder that you can make an extra contribution if you are a taxpayer by putting a cross in the box on the enrollment form for Gift Aid. It wont cost you anything but we will be able to claim £5 from HM Government, which will make a great deal of difference to our finances.

A.G.M.

The 18th Annual General Meeting of Burnley & District u3a will take place at 2.00p.m. on 24th April, 2025 in the Unity Centre, Nazareth Unitarian Chapel, Padiham, BB12 8JH.

Nomination forms for the posts of Secretary and Committee members will be available at the meetings on 27th February and 27th March or from the Secretary. Anyone interested in joining the Committee is welcome to attend their meeting at 12.00 on 27th February in the Hameldon Room or, alternatively, speak to any member of the Committee for more information.

Quiz Question

In the original Roman calendar in which position was March?

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

February 27th	Frank Vignon "Frida Kahlo"
March 27th	Barry Humpries " Stories behind the Beatles Songs"

Monthly Open Meetings are held at the Nazareth Unitarian Chapel, Padiham, BB12 8JH at 2:30 pm on the 4th Thursday in the month (except December) Visitors welcome at a charge of £2

Burnley and District

Newsletter

u3a
learn, laugh, live

February 2025 Issue 195

Chair
Maria Chattle

Vice Chair
Barry Greenwood

Secretary
Margaret Bushby

Treasurer
Alan Nicholls

Membership Secretary
Peter Hartley

Groups Co-ordinator
Elizabeth Platt

Speaker Secretary
Jim Wallace

Minutes Secretary
Freda Whittle

Reception
Sandra Clarkson

Newsletter Editor
Alan Nicholls

Website Administrator
David Hunt

Group Tea Rota

February
Exercise & Coffee
Groups
March
Folk Dancing



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I know it hasn't felt like it, but we are fast approaching Spring. The official dates for the Northern Hemisphere are 20th March to 21st June, so we're nearly there! Apparently, February has been a very exciting time for stargazers with seven planets in alignment and a Snow Moon on 12th February. Unfortunately, for most of the month, our skies have been very cloudy but, at

times, Jupiter, Venus and Mars have been prominent. I have seen lots of fantastic photos of the planets that people have taken, but none taken locally! On the odd day when we have seen the yellow ball in the sky it has seemed quite spring-like and it has been lovely to see snowdrops and crocus blossoming. I remember a time when my garden looked bright and colourful at this time of year, but that was before Bob (the dog), who has flattened most low growing plants. So I can only reminisce!

Having said that about the weather, we did manage to visit the seaside a couple of times during this time. A visit to Formby Point is always very popular with Bob. There is a massive beach with lots of room to have a good run. We also visited Saltburn recently but, unfortunately, the cliff railway was not operating, so we had to walk down the hundreds of steps (slight exaggeration) and back up. We went with our daughter and son-in-law, who have 2 dogs, and met up with a couple of their friends, who were looking after 2 dogs. So there we were 6 humans and 5 crazy dogs. A lovely time was had by all.

At the last monthly meeting I mentioned that our committee meetings are open to anyone who would like to come along, and said our next meeting would be on the 4th March. This has now been changed and will take place at 12.00 on 27th February, just before our monthly meeting.

Continuing my diet theme from last month, I recently saw this quote in a magazine:-

"Be grateful that no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit."

I call that looking on the bright side!

Maria

March Newsletter Deadline is Friday 28th February 2025
12:00 noon * Please note short deadline *

The Book Group: Will meet in the Hameldon Room at the Padiham Unitarian Church on **Monday March 17th from 10am to noon** to discuss The Beginnings of Spring by Penelope Fitzgerald. No meeting in April (Easter Monday). The book for May is Rites of Spring by Anders de la Motte.

Marilyn Jones
Sonia Rawlinson

Exercise for Wellbeing Group: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in the Unitarian Chapel. Everybody welcome. For further information contact Sonia or Maureen.

Sonia Rawlinson
Maureen Brown

The Coffee Group: will meet at **11:00-12:00 March 13th** at the Bistro Prairie sports village Windermere Ave Burnley
Just to remind members , we will not meet if there is snow

Freda Whittle

English Folk Dancing Meet in Higham Village at **2.00pm** on **6th and 20th March**. Everyone welcome.

Eric Bushby

The French Conversation Group: meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Please note that this Group is currently full. For further information contact Rhoda Gouldsbrough.

Rhoda
Gouldsbrough

Intermediate German Group: we are back to the usual **2nd and 4th Tuesday** in **March** at the Burnley Library.

Laura Carter

Handbell Ringing Group: will meet on **Wednesdays, 5th and 19th March** at St. Leonard's Church, Padiham between **2.00pm - 3.30pm**. Please contact Valerie Widdas for any information.

Valerie Widdas

History Including Local History: will meet on **March 6th 2025 10.30 to 12.00** in the Hameldon Room Unitarian Church Padiham. Give a brief talk on any "Old Place Names "you know of from any place or area. (This is replacing January's cancelled meeting), further details ring Enid

Enid Thorp

Indoor Bowls: meets every **1st and 3rd Thursday** of each month at the Methodist Church, Padiham Rd, Burnley. **10:00 am to 12 noon**. £3 session. Currently fully subscribed. Please ring re waiting list.

Ian Fletcher

Indoor Bowls II: will meet every **1st and 3rd Thursday at 1pm** the Methodist Church,Padiham Road,Burnley

Jim Wallace

Knitting and Crochet Group meet **Monday 10th March**, which will be a general session with members working on their own projects. On **Monday 24th March** we will have a more technical session on Working with Circular Needles. For this meeting you will need a circular needle at least 60cm long and size 4mm with some DK yarn. Both meetings will be in the Hameldon Room at the Padiham Unitarian Church, **10am to midday**.

Melinda Jackson

Computer Group: will meet every **2nd Thursday 2pm - 4pm** for beginners and experts, provides some training, and some discussion. It's at my house, for the members' copy, contact "webmaster" on the u3a contact page.

Dave Hunt

Ukulele Group: meets on the **1st and 3rd Friday** of each month 10:00am at Padiham rd Methodist Church, Ightenhill, Burnley.

Jeff Salisbury.

Philosophy Group: The next meeting of the philosophy group will be **Tuesday 25th March at 10am** .Venue details Jim Wallace

Jim Wallace

Photography Group: 2:00pm start on the second Friday each month. Meet at the Unity Centre, Padiham.

Peter Hartley
Stuart Chattle

Thursday 14th March: Subject for February – 'Night'

Quiz Group: The Quiz Group will meet on **Monday 17th March** from **2-4pm** at Padiham Road Methodist Church.

Ann Bullas

Scrabble Group: meets alternate Wednesday afternoons, **5th and 19th March, 1.30-3.30 pm** at Pike Hill Library, Burnley. New members are always welcome, whether beginners or more experienced players. For further information contact Christine Potter.

Christine Potter

Singing Group: will meet on **Monday 3rd March 11:00 - 12:30** in the Hameldon room, Unitarian Church.

Ann Bullas
Pamela Hopcroft

Spanish Beginners Group: will meet on the **second and fourth Mondays of March on the 10th and 24th** at Padiham Road Methodist Church between **2pm and 4pm**. Newcomers welcome.

Jean Atherton

Intermediate Spanish Group: will meet on **Fridays, 7th and 28th March** from **10.00am until midday**. Please note the change of date from the normal second Friday in the month. This group is currently full. For any further information, please contact Gil Beeke

Gil Beeke

Craft Group will meet on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month from **10am -12 noon** in the Hameldon room at Padiham Unitarian Church. For further information, please contact either Julie or Elizabeth.

Julie Sharpley
Elizabeth Platt

Painting for Pleasure: Meets at Padiham Road Methodist Church on **Mondays 3rd and 17th March, 10am to 12noon**.

Jean Philips
Margaret Simpson

Walking Group:10:30am start on the first (longer walk) and third (shorter walk) Friday each month.

Peter Hartley

Friday 7th March: Ightenhill figure of 8 : Start from Ightenhill Park Lane, BB12 0LJ. Leaders Margaret & Ian Fletcher

Friday 21st March: Irwell Vale : Start from E Lancs Railway car park BL0 0QG (off Hardsough Lane, Ewood Bridge). Leader Peter Hartley