

Outings Group

Visit one of the finest Victorian Gothic Municipal Buildings in the Country

ROCHDALE'S SPLENDID TOWN HALL followed by a visit to BURY MARKET!

The Grade 1 listed building is a symbol of the Rochdale's industrial standing in the textiles trade. According to Historic England, its ornate stylings are rivalled only by the Palace of Westminster. Join us and admire its breath-taking opulent interior which was restored to its former glory in 2021.

Wednesday 25 February 2026

Burnley Bus Station 0900, Padiham Town Hall 0920; due back around 1700/1715

£39 per person includes travel by 49-seater coach, driver's gratuity, tea/coffee.

On arrival,
a guided tour of the Town Hall followed by a Buffet Lunch with tea/coffee.
Please see our leaflet for more information.

All payments are non-refundable but "name changes" may be possible if seats are resold.

Contacts: Anne Green, Howard & Nancy Mitchell

Peter Hughes

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Peter Hughes is to be held at St.Peter's Church, Burnley at 11.00am on Tuesday the 3rd February, 2026. This will be followed by lunch at Burnley R.U.F.C. Members are invited to attend but if intending to do so would you please let Margaret Bushby know so that Sue can organise refreshments.

Quiz Question

On 12th February 1554 who was beheaded at the Tower of London?

Forthcoming Meetings

January 22nd	Norman Harris	"Gasping for breath in the Himalayas"
February 26th	Nikki Parmenter	"Travels in Textiles"

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

January 2026 Issue 206

Chair
Maria Chattle

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Barry Greenwood

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Margaret Bushby

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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

January
Singing

February

Both

Spanish Groups

March

Folk Dancing



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year everyone. I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful year ahead. I hope you have recovered from the whirlwind of the festivities. I was thinking of how the dynamics of family Christmas get-togethers change as our children grow up, marry and have children of their own. Nowadays, it seems so difficult getting everyone together in one place. We

did manage to see everyone, but not all at the same time. Also, the magic of Father Christmas suddenly disappears. This year our two youngest grandchildren had the "Father Christmas talk" and admitted that they no longer believed. I was quite happy to carry on with the ritual, but it was not to be. Anyway, the shops are now full of Valentine Day offerings and, frighteningly, two of our three grandsons are in the market to shop for these items. How did this happen?

I hope you are all looking forward to getting back to attending your groups. I have been looking at places that the Outings Group has planned to visit and they all sound brilliant.

At a recent lunch outing with the Photography Group, conversation naturally got round to diets and foods that are good for you. We discussed how dark chocolate and red wine are beneficial, but much to my horror, it turns out that it doesn't follow that the more you have of these lovely foods, the more you benefit!

Just a quick reminder that we will be having our AGM in March, which is not far off, and we will need someone to volunteer for the post of Chair. My two-year stint ends in March, not because I no longer want to carry on, but because the u3a constitution dictates how long the Chair can serve.

Maria

**February Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday 18th February 2026 12:00 noon**

Book Group: Will meet in the Hameldon Room at the Padiham Unitarian Church on **Monday 16th February** from **10am to noon**. The book for discussion is The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco. Our choice for March is Salmon Fishing in the Yemen by Paul Torday. Our theme for 2026 is debut novels

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 12th February** at the Bistro Prairie sports village Windermere Ave Burnley

Sonia Rawlinson

English Folk Dancing: will meet on the **5th and 19th February** at **2.00pm** in Higham Village Hall. Everyone welcome

Eric Bushby

The French Conversation Group: meets on the **first and third Thursdays** of the month. For further information contact Rhoda Gouldsbrough.

Rhoda Gouldsbrough

Intermediate German Group: This group is now full and at the moment we are not taking new members. We meet on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday** of the month in the reference room at Burnley Library **1 to 3pm**.

Laura Carter

Handbell Ringing Group: The Handbell Ringing group will meet at St. Leonard's church, Padiham on Wednesdays, **4th and 18th February between 2.00pm and 3.30pm**. For more information please contact Valerie Widdas

Valerie Widdas

History including Local History: Next Meeting is Thursday **5th February 2026** in the Hameldon Room Unitarian Church Padiham. **10.30 to 12.00**. Talk by Denise North "History of the Red Cross"

Enid Thorp

Indoor Bowls: Meets **1st and 3rd Thursday** of each month at the Methodist Church, Padiham Rd, Burnley, **10.00 am to 12 Noon**. There are a couple of spaces available, please ring Ian for details.

Ian Fletcher

Knitting and Crochet Group: The **February** meetings will be on Mondays **9th and 23rd** of the month at **10am-Midday** in the Hameldon Room of the Padiham Unitarian Church. Both sessions will be general meetings where members work on their own projects, with the addition of trying out patterns for Easter chicks (including those with space for a chocolate egg).

Melinda Jackson

Computer Group: Will meet every 2nd Thursday of each month 2pm-4pm for beginners and experts. Bring any problems along. It's at my house use my contact number or contact 'webmaster' on the u3a contact page.

Dave Hunt

The Lunch Bunch: February lunch is booked at Finsley Gate Wharf, Burnley on Friday **27th Feb**. Arrival **12 for 12.30pm**

Anne

Ukulele Group: meets on the **1st and 3rd Friday** of each month. **10:00am** at Padiham Rd Methodist Church, Ightenhill, Burnley. For December meeting arrangements please contact Jeff Salisbury.

Jeff Salisbury

Philosophy Group: The next meeting will be **Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 10am** Unitarian Chapel.

Jim Wallace

Photography Group: **2:00pm** start on the second Friday each month Meet at the Unity Centre, Padiham BB12 8JH.
Friday 13th February : Subject for this month: Movement

Peter Hartley
Stuart Chattle

Quiz Group: will meet on **Monday 16th February** from **2-4pm** at Padiham Road Methodist Church

Ann Bullas

Scrabble Group: meets alternate Wednesday afternoons, **4th and 18th February, 1.30-3.30pm**, at Pike Hill Library. 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 2nd February 11.00 to 12.30** in the Hameldon Room at Padiham Unitarian Church

Ann Bullas
Pamela Hopcroft

Spanish Beginners Group: will meet on the **2nd and 4th Mondays** on **9th and 23rd February** between **2pm and 4pm** at Padiham Road Methodist Church on Bassett Street. Newcomers welcome.

Jean Atherton

Intermediate Spanish Group: will meet on Fridays, **13th and 24th February from 10.00am until midday**. For more 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

Julie Sharpley
Elizabeth Platt

Painting for Pleasure: meets at **10am to 12noon** on the first and third Mondays of the month at Padiham Road Methodist Church BB12 8AD. **February dates are 2nd & 16th**. Please contact Margaret or Jean if you are interested.

Jean Philips
Margaret Simpson

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

Peter Hartley

Friday 6th February: Start from Queen St Mill BB10 2HX
Leaders Margaret & Eric Bushby

Friday 20th February: Start from Thornton Arms car park, Brownside Rd BB10 3JS

Leaders Suzanne Dawes and Julie Sparks