

Outings Group

SPEKE HALL

Wednesday 7 October 2026

A rare Tudor-framed manor house with a Victorian personality. It is home to a Priest Hole, Gothic Revival Furniture and William Morris wallpaper. We also visit a popular Dobbies Garden Centre!

Burnley dep 0900; Padiham 0920; Speke Hall dep 1600 due back around 1730/1800

£34 includes travel by 49-seater coach, driver's gratuity and admission to the Speke Hall and its extensive grounds. (National Trust Members must produce their membership cards £18)

All payments are "Non-refundable" but name changes may be possible subject to availability. Bank transfers may be made if you cannot attend the u3a Open Meeting to Burnley & District u3a Account No 52972960 Sort code 30 99 50 but please text Anne or Howard to check availability.

Outings are open to all members of u3a!

Summer School 2027 Request for Tutors

The 2026 North West Regional Summer School takes place next week at Manchester Metropolitan University and we are now starting to plan for 2027.

We are currently seeking people willing to share their specialist subject with fellow u3a members.

If you are interested in getting involved or want further information, please contact chair@nwru3a.org.uk.

Free Wills Month

Free Wills Month in October, brings together a group of well-respected charities to offer members of the public aged 55 and over the opportunity to have their simple Wills written or updated free of charge by using solicitors in selected locations across the UK. Find out more using this link <https://freewillsmoonh.org.uk/>

Quiz Question

Who played Cleopatra in the 1964 comedy film Carry On Cleo?

Forthcoming Meetings

September 24th	Graham Kemp	"A Royal Romp"
October 22nd	Steve Welsh	"Life as a Roman Legionary"
November 26th	Steve Ragnall	"To Hell in a Handcart or Heaven In A Basket"

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

September 2026 Issue 214

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Group Tea Rota

September
History
October
Indoor Bowls
November
Knitting



Hello Everybody,
Remember the heat waves? How we complained that it was too hot. A few weeks of grey and dampness might have changed our minds. Think of the grass though, short and yellow, dare you put a hose pipe on it? Not banned but not very

P.C. If you left it alone it came back to life in no time once the rain came. Many years ago we went onto a water meter. We anticipated that over ten years we would save a considerable amount of money by not paying through ratable value, so we invested in three large water barrels. Why pay for garden water through the meter when we could get it free? A wonderful solution this year. My bedding plants have been enormous with buckets of free rainwater each evening plus large amounts of soluble plant food.

By September 11th the front tubs were starting to look a little tired but the plants were still large and colourful. I was suddenly aware of a strange sight, a very odd looking flying creature about a little less than 2 inches in size. it hovered with four wings flapping furiously. (I later learnt that the wings beat between 70 and 85 times per second) The front wings were grey and the back wings orange and had a sort of humming sound as they moved. There was a great long pointed thing sticking out at the front which looked like it might give you a terrible sting but as it hovered this long thing went deep into the flower head. In fact this is called a proboscis and sucks up nectar. After research I think it was probably a Hummingbird Hawk moth. It thrives in Spain and North Africa and has migrated here, in the summer months, to the south of England for many years. It seems that some colonies have overwintered there. No doubt our unusually hot weather has tempted it further north. Have you ever seen one ? When it is seeking nectar it looks just like a small Hummingbird. I took a video of it and will try to put it on our website. Best Wishes



Terry Ferguson

October Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday 14th October 2026 12:00 noon

<u>Book Group:</u> Will meet in the Hameldon Room at the Padiham Unitarian Church on Monday 19th October from 10am to noon . The book for discussion is A Study in Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle. Our book for November is Guilty by Definition by Susie Dent. New members welcome.	Marilyn Jones Linda Sims
<u>Exercise for Wellbeing Group:</u> Meet at the Unitarian Chapel 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10.30am. October meetings on the 6th and 20th .	Sonia Rawlinson Maureen Brown
<u>Coffee Morning:</u> Meet on the second Thursday of the month at 11 am at the Prairie, Windermere Road. Next meeting October 8th . Just come and join us.	Sonia Rawlinson
<u>English Folk Dancing:</u> Only one meeting this month; 15th October at 2.00pm in Higham Village Hall Everyone welcome, no partner needed.	Eric Bushby
<u>The French Conversation Group:</u> meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Mooch Cafe, Burnley Road, Padiham, at 1.45 . For further information contact Rhoda Gouldsbrough.	Rhoda Gouldsbrough
<u>Intermediate German Group:</u> meets in the reference room of Burnley library on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month from 1 -3pm . For more information please text me on the mobile number given.	Laura Carter
<u>Handbell Ringing Group:</u> will meet on Wednesdays, 7th and 21st October at St. Luke's Church, Padiham between 2.00pm and 3.30pm . For any further information please contact Valerie Widdas.	Valerie Widdas
<u>History including Local History:</u> Thursday October 1st in the Hameldon Room Unitarian Church Padiham 10.30 to 12.00 a talk by Rod Wilshaw " Victorian Planning in Padiham". further details ring Enid 787523. (please note history group turn for teas /coffees at the September Monthly Meeting help required if you can thanks).	Enid Thorp
<u>Indoor Bowls:</u> Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Methodist Church, Padiham Rd, Burnley, 10.00 am to 12 Noon .	Ian Fletcher
<u>Knitting and Crochet Group:</u> October meetings will take place from 10am to midday on Mondays 12th and 26th in the Hameldon Room of the Unity Centre in the Padiham Unitarian Church. The 12th October meeting will be one where members work on their own projects. On 26th October we shall work on methods of making good necklines and front bands on knitted garments.	Melinda Jackson
<u>Computer Group:</u> No meetings planned but Dave will provide one -to-one assistance for anyone having technical problems.	Dave Hunt

<u>Ukulele Group:</u> meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. 10:00am at Padiham Rd Methodist Church, Ightenhill, Burnley.	Jeff Salisbury
<u>Philosophy Group:</u> The next meeting will be Tuesday 13th October at 10am Unitarian Chapel.	Jim Wallace
<u>Photography Group:</u> 2:00pm start on the second Friday each month Meet at the Unity Centre, Padiham BB12 8JH. Friday 9th October : Skipton photos	Peter Hartley Stuart Chattle
<u>Quiz Group:</u> will meet on Monday 19th October , from 2-4pm at Padiham Road Methodist Church.Our Group has sufficient members at the moment. Sorry for any disappointment.	Ann Bullas
<u>Scrabble Group:</u> meets alternate Wednesday afternoons, 14th & 28th October 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
<u>Singing Group:</u> Just to clarify, we are not a choir, we sing Karaoke style but we need more Singers to continue! No meeting in October.	Ann Bullas Bob Marks
<u>Spanish Beginners Group:</u> There will be only one meeting of the Beginner's Spanish Group in October on Monday 12th October between 2pm and 4pm at Padiham Road Methodist Church. Newcomers are welcome.	Jean Atherton
<u>Intermediate Spanish Group:</u> will meet on Fridays, 9th and 23rd October from 10.00am til midday . For more information please contact Gil Beeke.	Gil Beeke
<u>Craft Group:</u> 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
<u>Painting for Pleasure:</u> meet on the first & third Mondays of the month , on the 5th and 19th October 10am to Noon at Padiham Road Methodist Church BB12 8AD . We are a self-help group and willing to share ideas. Please contact Margaret or Jean if you are interested.	Jean Philips Margaret Simpson
<u>Walking Group:</u> 10:30am start on the first (longer walk) and third (shorter walk) Friday each month.	Peter Hartley
Friday 2nd Oct: Earby - Start from Earby Recreation Ground, Hilltop Lane BB18 6PX W3W///magazines.green.massing Leaders: Margaret & Ian Fletcher	
Friday 16th Oct: Jonas Moore walk- Start from Higham Hall Rd BB12 9EU W3W///laying.sang.friend Leaders: Eric & Margaret Bushby	