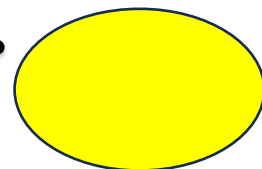


u3aNorthwich Newsletter

MAY 2026

<https://northwich.u3asite.uk>



Monthly Meeting – April 2026

'Cartoons and how to draw them'

The speaker was Les Pickford, a cartoon artist. Les began by explaining where the term 'cartoon' originated. In 14th century Italy, painters worked for the most part with the church. They would initially make a drawing on paper, the lines would be pinpricked, placed on the wall and dabbed all over with charcoal. This would produce the overall design on the wall and the Italian for a piece of paper is 'carta', hence cartoon! In 1834, the Houses of Parliament burned down and when rebuilt, the Victorians decided to depict scenes from history. Artists drew their ideas and the magazine Punch made fun of the whole concept and produced spoof cartoons of the drawings and the word became part of English usage.

The first cartoon that Les drew was 'Sid'. There followed a very funny story about Sid with lots of drawings and this is how he explained what was important in the drawing of cartoons.

Observation is one of the most significant aspects of this art. Les cited 'Giles' as one of his favourite cartoonists who was a master of observation and who drew extremely accurate poses. Using authentic experience and making it recognisable in order to tell stories is key, although there are times when these experiences are embellished. Examples being the use of a mortar board to illustrate a teacher, when actually, very few teachers have ever taught in a mortar board, Vikings in horned helmets when Vikings didn't wear them and Sherlock Holmes in a deerstalker when it's nowhere in the books.

Stereotyping and adding props are also parts of cartoon art, like the Frenchman with a string of onions around his neck or, the burglar with a mask and a swag bag or, the angelic vicar with his hands together and a halo.

Exaggerated expression was next on Les' list. The whites of the eyes are crucial as is the pucker of the cheeks and eyebrows can show so many different expressions.

Movement is also important, for example, a man jumping off a wall to the ground. The cartoonist would use whizz and echo lines and impact marks to show movement.

More comical, illustrated stories followed and the afternoon culminated in a step-by-step masterclass. The audience all drew a cartoon of a man who had just stepped barefoot on to a tack!

This was a highly entertaining presentation both visually and aurally with very funny stories, anecdotes and wonderful cartoons and it was enjoyed by all!

The next meeting

The next meeting is on 20th May at 2pm when Peter Hyde will tell us all about the 'Mountain Rescue'. Peter joined Oldham Mountain rescue in 1964. He has served as team leader, chairman, treasurer, secretary and president. He will talk about the service, and his many missions.

Please note, this meeting will be at a different venue than usual. The venue is

**Message on behalf of u3a
festival - fringe event (take part
from home).**

If you aren't able to attend *u3a Festival 26*, there will be a *u3a Festival Fringe*. This is an online events programme specifically curated to complement the festival activities.

The events will take place in the lead up to, and following on from, the festival in York on 1-3 July, making a full two weeks of learning and fun. The programme will feature online workshops and talks from Festival speakers with highlights including *How to watercolour*, *The role of women in ancient Egypt*, and *The role of wind energy in the UK's electricity system*. More information on how to take part will come in future u3a newsletters.



The Singing for Pleasure group has met twice at the Methodist Hall, Hartford. Colin and David have provided the guitar accompaniment.

Copyright laws are problematic. The photocopying and distribution of song sheets is illegal without the appropriate licences. Colin has provided a list of songs to play and sing. Some members down-loaded the lyrics and printed copies for themselves which is not illegal. Some shared smartphones but without total success because of the lack of wi-fi. However, many of the songs took members back to teenage years and words were remembered!

Krys Kowalska has done so much to get the group off the ground without a musical background. It is a pity that singing together is subject to rules and regulations when it gives such pleasure to the participants.

Undaunted the group will meet again on 16rd May at 1.30 pm and it welcomes new members – singers and musicians.



Registered Charity No 1159091

invite applications for the 2026 Residential Summer School

**Tues 11th August – Friday
14th August**

**At Manchester Metropolitan
University, M15 6GX**

The Metropolitan University is located in the centre of Manchester and less than 20 minutes' walk from Oxford Road Railway Station. The campus has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. There will be a quiz on the first evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening. Speakers will also attend on the second and third evening.

Full Board Residential Delegate: £430. (+£15 car parking charge if applicable;)

We include full board for 3 nights, including dinner on 11th August, breakfast, lunch and dinner on 12th August, breakfast, lunch and Gala Dinner on 13th August, and breakfast on 14th August.

Also, tea and coffee refreshments on each day.

Non-Residential Day Delegate: £215 (+£15 car parking charge if applicable)

This includes lunches, teas and coffees, excludes breakfast daily and dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday but does include the Gala Dinner on 13th August.

Accommodation is available nearby in the Manchester city centre.

An Application form (available online at [north west region.u3asite.uk](http://northwest.region.u3asite.uk)) must be completed by post or email. Payment can be either by bank transfer (North West Region of u3as, Lloyds Bank sort code 30-90-16, account 00197002 quoting name and post code) or by cheque (payable to North West Region of u3as)

£100 DEPOSIT (£50 non residents) PAYABLE UPON APPLICATION;

BALANCE BY 11 MAY 2026

Queries should be directed to Alan Hough or Neill Stewart at

alanhough1949@gmail.com; neillstewart.uk@icloud.com

Post to 8 Salwick Close, Wigan, Gtr Manchester. WN3 6RE

The 8 courses on offer are:-

Archaeology Explorers

Making sense of everyday Mathematics

An introduction to Geology

Photography - Beyond the Snapshot

Art challenges - the history of colour

The UK and USA Political Scenes

Operatunity – opera appreciation

Intermediary Ukulele

**Full course synopses available
separately (and on north west site).**