

# u3a Longridge Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter that gives you a voice and keeps you up to date with the latest news and views

## A Night of Fitness, Fun and Friendship

Please come and join us on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> October from 6pm - 9pm in the Civic Hall, Longridge for an evening of folk and country dancing. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced dancer, everyone is welcome to join us for fitness, fun and friendship. We will dance a wide range of dances from the long tradition of English folk dances and modern country dances which will be chosen specifically for our evening. The dance will be led by a very experienced caller, Izzie, who will guide us through each dance beforehand. And then 'call' out the instructions to recorded music. You don't have to remember every step, but you will find your brain gently exercises as well as your body. Bring a willingness to join in and to have fun - and a pair of sensible shoes! Come for a great night with good company, and a hotpot supper! Remember - Please let us know if you have any allergies or dietary requirements by Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Chris Aveyard**

## Inside this Issue

- The Ceilidh
- Bring Me Sunshine
- A Fond Farewell
- Meet the New Committee
- Fun, Friendship and Adventure - New Groups
- Bus Pass Explorers
- Remembrance - We Will Remember Them
- Stories From Longridge British Legion Club
- A Poem - Success
- Just for Fun
- Step Back To The Past
- Alphabet Survival Guide
- Monthly Meetings
- Committee Members
- Contact Us

## TICKETS - TICKETS - TICKETS

Available at the monthly meeting  
or from your Group Convenor

## Longridge u3a Ceilidh

This event will take place on  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
from 6.00pm to 9.00pm  
at the Civic Hall  
on Calder Avenue, Longridge

The cost is £10 per person and includes a hotpot supper. The bar will be open for alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

## TICKETS - TICKETS - TICKETS

Gather round friends, come one and come all,  
To the Ceilidh this month, in the Grand Civic Hall.  
The fiddles are tuned, and the drummers prepare,  
United in spirit, a celebration to share.

A dance from the past, from the great days of old,  
Traditions preserved; each story retold.  
In time to the tune of each lively reel,  
The rhythm of dancing, a joy we can feel.

As the pipes strike a note, the rhythm takes hold,  
With a skip and a hop, our hearts young and bold.  
Families and friends will converge on this night,  
The energy soars as we dance in delight.

So let music resound, and laughter ring true,  
For a Ceilidh's a place where friendships renew.  
As the notes gently fade and the dancers depart,  
This magical time will live on in our heart.

Created by AI

## Bring Me Sunshine

As we bid farewell to our retiring chair, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sally for her unwavering commitment and dedication. Over the past three years, and indeed since the founding of Longridge u3a, Sally has been an incredible source of inspiration, tireless energy, and infectious enthusiasm. Her exemplary leadership has been nothing short of remarkable.

Sally, your unwavering support and guidance have not gone unnoticed. You have been a role model to us all, offering valuable assistance to Trustees and Committee Members, taking on the role of Group Convenor and actively participating in various groups. Your consistent presence at the monthly market, passionately promoting our organization and encouraging new members to join, is a testament to your love and devotion to Longridge u3a.

While we bid farewell to you as our chair, we are grateful that you will continue to be an integral part of our community. Your wealth of knowledge and experience will remain invaluable as we move forward.

Sally, thank you for being the sunshine that has brightened all our lives. We look forward to many more years of shared laughter, growth, and camaraderie.



## Meet the New Team

We say hello to Barbara Griffiths, Joy Marsden, Anne Howarth, Andrew Seed, Reg Draper, David Metcalfe, Pat Gardner, Margaret Martin, Bev Keating, Eleanor Hick. (Monica Draper, Amanda Lawrenson and Rob & Hazel Kemp, not pictured).

If you are interested in joining our team, speak to one of our committee members or why not join us at a committee meeting.



## A Fond Farewell

We also say a fond farewell to some of our other committee members who have completed three years. Thank you to Elaine Green, Vice Chair. Thank you to Monica Draper, Treasurer and thank you to Jenny Doran and Joyce Westwell, Membership Secretaries. We all know you have done an amazing job and without you we would not be where we are today. Your invaluable contributions will be sadly missed but happily, we will continue to see you around! **Thank You!**

## Our Future

While we may not possess a crystal ball or have the power to see into the future, we can confidently predict that our extraordinary organisation, Longridge u3a, is destined for continued growth and prosperity. The foundation of our success lies in the dedication and commitment of our members, who work harmoniously to create a vibrant and thriving community, embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Everyone plays a vital role in shaping our collective future, from the moment you join our organisation, your presence and participation are integral to our growth. We are fortunate to have Reg Draper and Eleanor Hick at the helm, our new Chair and Vice Chair, guiding and inspiring us along the way. Together we form an exceptional team towards a bright and promising future.

## Fun, Friendship and Adventure

Get ready for exciting times ahead! As many of you know, there are several new groups being created, as part of our 10-year anniversary celebrations, allowing more opportunities for fun, friendship and adventure. It is going to be interesting to see where this journey takes us in the months ahead with some groups already up and running and others still in the making - but watch this space! The response from our members has been phenomenal and it's been heartwarming to see the level of excitement generated with many individuals stepping up to volunteer their time and energy to help plan and organise events. This willingness and enthusiasm to contribute and make a difference is what truly sets us apart. - **thank you!**

Those already started include, Guitar, German, Bus Pass Explorers, Pickleball and Crochet,

Those about ready to begin are, Theatre Visits, Garden Visits, Cycling, Flower Arranging, Social History and Art Appreciation.

A complete programme of all the groups, giving days, times and venues, (where appropriate) will be included with the Christmas card this December. However, you can find out more about joining one of these new groups at the next monthly meeting, contact the Groups Coordinator or check out the website. <https://u3asites.org.uk/longridge/welcome> - It's not too late to join the adventure!

### Bus Pass Explorers

The inaugural trip of the Bus Pass Explorers Group took place on the beautifully warm and sunny morning of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

A small but intrepid band of eight explorers boarded the number 5 bus to Clitheroe. A wonderful trip through green and lush countryside, at some speed, and the bus soon arrived in Clitheroe. We picked Clitheroe because it was a relatively short journey and it was market day - ideal for a first venture.

The band dispersed to various places including the market, the hardware shop, Byrnes wonderful wine shop and various other shops and cafes.



Most of the group returned for the ride home a couple of hours later, with a couple staying on longer in Clitheroe.

All agreed that it had been a lovely morning and an excellent first trip.

Since then, we have met and agreed an initial programme of destinations to take us through to the end of the year.

August - Morecambe

September - Lytham

October - Skipton

November - Garstang

December - Blackburn

All members are expected to take a turn in organizing and will choose the day and date of their trip.

So, we are up and running and buzzing about - or should that be bussing??

**Eleanor Hick - Convenor**

## We will Remember Them

We find ourselves in the midst of another 'Season of Remembrance'. Each year, as generation follows generation, we set aside time to remember those fallen in conflicts. In Longridge, the highpoints of the Season of Remembrance are a formal Act of Remembrance, focussed upon the local War Memorial, a short parade, followed by a church service.

As a child growing up in Longridge in the 1950s and 60s, in a condition of childish ignorance, and without experience of warfare, Remembrance Day mostly meant the torture of being kitted out in Sunday best, and then being dragged to a church full of very important grim old men marching, and stamping while carrying flags.

Perhaps it wasn't All Bad. There was a bit when a man played a bugle in church. That was okay. The hymns were not bad, either, because everyone likes a good shout.

Your writer is old enough to remember the First World War generation as people active in the community, well before age wearied them, and the years condemned. They were the soldiers who came home, the aunts unmarried (for the lack of men) they were the widows, they were the damaged. They were members of one's family.

Perhaps paradoxically to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century mind, the first acts of Remembrance were aimed at the living. Those suffering 'in the now' were not going to be forgotten.

It would have been the same motto:

**We Will Remember Them.**

### The British Legion ('Royal British Legion' from 29th May 1971)

Remembrance of the dead was not the main aim of the British Legion.

#### Remembrance of the Living

For all its apparent synonymity with Remembrance, the British Legion was founded to benefit war survivors, including ex-servicemen's families.

Poppies are now associated with the war dead, but they were sold initially in order to raise money for charitable work amongst the living. They still are.

#### Origins

A significant driver for an association of ex-servicemen and their families was the post WW1 stumbling of the British economy.

Many former servicemen were in distress, as were their families. Just like war, the distress affected all ranks and stations. From its foundation, the British Legion was to operate without distinctions of rank. Indeed, it was to be without distinctions of any kind, be the differences those of religion, denomination, ethnic origin, or service rank. The ideal is exemplified by the historical fact that two of the prime movers in the foundation of the British Legion were Field Marshal The Earl Haig (then a hero), together with Lance Bombardier Tom Lister.

One must try not to be naïve. Of course there were differences between members. Britain was, in most spheres, both class-ridden and deferential. It was inevitable such differences projected themselves into affairs, just as they do now. However, the classless ideal was present. It was a start.

There were many other ex-service organisations, and charities, set up in the aftermath of conflict the goals of which prevented the damaged from being forgotten. Some such associations have been wound-up (Pathfinders). Others have changed so much their founders would not recognise them. Queen Mary was a strong supporter of many charities but was particularly active in setting up the huge Star and Garter Home for disabled ex-servicemen, at the top of Richmond Hill, in London. The home has closed, with ongoing charitable activities moved quite out of London. They've moved house but are still an active charity.

A little story about one Royal's attitude to ordinary service people came to me from a friend whose WW11 soldier father, together with his mate, had been walking along a hot Norfolk road, when a huge car came up behind them. To their surprise, the car stopped, and a voice asked if they'd like a lift. They accepted, got in ... and found themselves in the company of the formidable Queen Mary.

That happened at a time Marshall Zhukov demoted to the ranks (and almost certain death) any Russian officer found riding alone in a car, passing ordinary soldiers who were walking.

Queen Mary did not need telling! She knew of the sacrifices made by ordinary soldiers.

George V and Queen Mary saw WW1 from a different position than ordinary service folk, but, from the highest to the lowest, the WW1 generation Remembered Them, the living and dead.

## Longridge British Legion

The WW1 generation founded Longridge branch of the British Legion. They eventually built a clubhouse of brick, now demolished, which stood next to the later British Legion building shown in photos within this paper.

The Longridge Legion was very much for the support of the living.

I recall sitting in my Granny's house. She was a widow, and proud Life Member of the British Legion. She always wore her Life Member's badge on her cardigan.

Her husband had come from Gloucestershire to Thornley to work as a gamekeeper, for Lord Derby. He had been in the Glorious Glosters, seeing action in the Salonika theatre, the Dardanelles, and Ypres. He died of leukaemia in the 1940s. Times were hard.

There was a loud rumbling at the back of the house. Granny said,  
"That'll be t' Legion."

Longridge British Legion had sent her several bags of coal. It happened a few times a year, and Granny was far from the only member to benefit. That was in the 1960s. The British Legion gave practical help to members of the war generations. Perhaps the charitable work just faded away with Longridge's WW1 generation? One cannot say anything for certain, except that it stopped.

However, the principal formal involvement of the British Legion with the community became Remembrance, not charity work. Members of the British Legion used to make up a large contingent at services of Remembrance.

Longridge still remembers, with an annual Act of Remembrance at the town Cenotaph, next to the old railway station. A parade to church follows. It is led by dignitaries, clergy, with serving, ex-service, and youth organisations following.

A church service follows

... and still there are bugle and hymns.

### **We Will Remember Them.**

The principal British Act of Remembrance takes place amongst national leaders and figureheads at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Most people know the Cenotaph was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869–1944). Worldwide, other nations' Cenotaphs follow Lutyens' simple, but formal monument. It is meant for the remembrance of all the fallen, regardless of religion, denomination, ethnic origin, or rank.

Perhaps it is less well known that the Act of Remembrance had designers, too. The principal composer was The Lord Curzon of Kedleston (1859-1925), who was a member of the Cabinet during WW1, and at the time of the first Service at the Cenotaph.

The first Service of Remembrance at the Whitehall Cenotaph took place on 19th July 1919. The first Armistice Day fell on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919.

The King brought in the 2 minutes silence in time for Armistice Day 1919. The King said, *"All locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."*

Whitehall shares the same Order of Service as towns and villages all over the British Isles, and the wider world.

George V didn't want anyone who took part in the terrible war missed out from the first parade. He knew bus drivers were killed, as they drove men to the front. Bus drivers were not invited to the first parade. The King was not happy!

Look at the back of the official part of the Remembrance Day parade. There, you will see a London bus driver, marching in his or her uniform.

The [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) stated in 2009 that 526,816 British and Commonwealth [Great War soldiers](#) have no known grave, but are named on various memorials, and of those, 338,955 have never been buried at all, while 187,861 do have graves but have not been identified.

The Act of Remembrance provides a focus for our thoughts and emotions.

It is how we all remember The Fallen, who gave their tomorrow for our today.

Low or high, young or old, what or whoever they were ....

### **We Will Remember Them.**

## Stories from Longridge British Legion Club

### The former Longridge British Legion Clubhouse, in dilapidation during 2024

Until early in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the Longridge branch of the Royal British Legion had an active club, which was a focus of the social lives of many local people throughout the year. There were bars, dances, clubs, prominent amongst the latter was the bowling club. The Bowling President's Day was an important event of the social life of many Longridge people.

The camera faces across the once Holy of Holies, the Bowling Green.



The now abandoned green was the site of competitions over some 80 years, or three generations. It was 'Heaven help' any non-player who erred and strayed onto the green. I recall a couple of fellahs running across the bowling green, in an attempt to catch the bar still open. They were in time, but all we watchers shook our heads. Sure enough, the sinners emerged from the clubhouse, looking crestfallen ... and freshly banned.

On Saturdays, the club bar closed at 4pm. Pubs closed at 3. Menfolk members left the pubs and migrated to the Legion where they bought-in several pints, and hid them on the shelves under domino tables.

The idea was to store a supply of ale sufficient to tide them over until the first pub opened.

The activities of Longridge branch of the Royal British Legion seemed to fade away at about the time the last of the two World Wars generations who built, and ran it, died away.

### The former 'Legion' from Towneley Road

The wooden 'weatherboarding' architecture is very unusual for the area. A present-day critic might say it is 'Out of Keeping' with the more traditional brick and stone architecture of the Longridge Conservation Area. That might be correct, now, but such a statement might reflect a misunderstanding the mindset of decision makers who chose the design in the 1960s, arguably the heyday of the club's prosperity.

The 1960s Committee were of the generations who had experienced WW1, economic depression, WW11, followed by post war rationing, and austerity.

They were generations who wanted to look forward. They craved 'the modern'. It is astonishing to recall that they took their families for trips to Motorway service stations, the modernity of which made people of the 1960s gasp in awe. Now, we cry out in despair, at the thought of Motorway services!

From whence to Longridge came the idea that 'wooden means modern', as opposed to 'wooden means shed'?



Here is what might be a Good Guess. In the 1960s, cars were still comparatively rare, and almost everyone had travelled to nearby Preston on the bus. Near the bus stations there was a shop called 'Swedish Modern', which sold furniture which almost everyone had seen, and agreed was the ultimate expression of modernity. 'Swedish Modern' sold wooden furniture of superb design. Was that Swedish furniture the inspiration for the modernist architectural preferences of the Committee of the 'Legion' in the 1960s? They are no longer around to ask, but I don't think the guess will be wide of the mark.

**Philip Smith**

## Success

Success is speaking words of praise,  
In cheering other people's ways,  
In doing the best you can,  
With every task and every plan,  
It's silence when your speech would hurt,  
Politeness when your neighbour's curt,  
It's deafness when the scandal flows,  
And sympathy with others' woes,  
It's loyalty when duty calls,  
It's courage when disaster falls,  
It's patience when the hours are long,  
It's found in laughter and in song,  
It's in the silent times of prayer,  
In happiness and despair,  
In all of life and nothing less,  
We find the things with all success.

**Leisa-maria Murphy**

## Just For Fun

**Try your hand at anagrams**  
**These are all street names in Longridge**

Fear Tarn Locale  
The Dial Owner  
Velvety Rain  
Race Twirled Fast  
A Diver Slid Re  
Long Brown Ant  
Advanced Soledger  
Diverging Hack  
Outrearmed Bet  
Neutral Vehicles

**Answers on the last page**

**Do you have a quiz or puzzle that could feature in our newsletter. If so, please send to, [publicity4longridgeu3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicity4longridgeu3a@gmail.com)**



## Step Back to the Past

### J Myerscough - Teas and Refreshments

This photo came up on a Facebook page a while ago and I'm sure some of you who have lived in Longridge for many years will know something about this shop - part of our local history.

Who can tell us about this shop?

Who was the person on the doorstep?

Where was it?

Approximately what year would this be?

What else did they sell?

Did you every use it?

Do you know what the shop is now?

**Send any information you have to:**  
**[publicity4longridgeu3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicity4longridgeu3a@gmail.com)**

## Alphabet Survival Guide

# ABC

**V** - Vehicles. Never buy a black or a white car or you will always be cleaning it. Also, never buy a new car as you will throw money away as soon as you drive off the forecourt. That is why I've always bought second-hand car, normally metallic grey.

*From Phillip Scales.*

**R** - Relationships. Never lose yourself in a relationship. They should always be about give and take where everyone wants the best for each other and where kindness and generosity of spirit is present.  
*Annon.*

Send your survival guide to:

[publicity4longridgeu3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicity4longridgeu3a@gmail.com) or drop it off at the next monthly meeting.

## Monthly Meetings

These are held at the Civic Hall on Calder Ave in Longridge on the first Tuesday of the month, starting at 1.30pm. Please invite friends and neighbours to join, especially if they are new to the area. There will always be a friendly welcome.



### Speakers for the next three months

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** - Norman Harris talks about Sailing the Atlantic with the Jubilee Trust.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Christmas Party with the Singspiration Community Choir. 

**January 7<sup>th</sup>** - Simon Hemingway the manager of the Longridge branch of the YMCA, talks about its origins and activities.



### Christmas Meal

**This year the Christmas Meal will be held on:**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at The Golf Club**

**Tickets will be available from the next Monthly Meetings in October, November and December.**

## Just For Fun Solutions

Fear Tarn Locale - **Forty Acre Lane**  
The Dial Owner - **Dilworth Lane**  
Velvety Rain - **Parlick Avenue**  
Race Twirled Fast - **St Wilfred's Terrace**  
A Diver Slid Re - **Risedale Drive**

Long Brown Ant - **Langton Brow**  
Advanved Soledger - **Dovedale Gardens**  
Diverging Hack - **Hacking Drive**  
Outrearmed Bet - **Buttermere Road**  
Neutral Vehicles - **Hill Crest Avenue**

## Longridge u3a Trustees and Committee Members

<b>Chairman:</b>	Reg Draper
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Eleanor Hick
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Margaret Martin
<b>Secretary:</b>	Anne Haworth
<b>Group Co-ordinators:</b>	Andrew Seed / Rob Kemp
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Bev Keating
<b>Speakers' Secretaries:</b>	Amanda Lawrenson / Joy Marsden
<b>Webmasters:</b>	David Metcalfe / Hazel Kemp
<b>Publicity / Newsletter</b>	Pat Gardner / Barbara Griffiths
<b>Venue Coordinator:</b>	Monica Draper

The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 1.00pm at the Heritage Centre, next to the Station Café on Berry Lane.

## Contact Us:

**Email:**

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