



**10am, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Elm Bank M30 9BA**  
**Speaker: Joan Hughes on Guide dogs:**  
**raising life changers for VIPs**

Last month's meeting



**Happy New Year!**

There was a HUGE turnout for the December Christmas Social! Lovely to see you all. There aren't many photos as Brian couldn't get around between the tables to take many.

David Roughley entertained us with a musical trip down memory lane. We travelled from Fred and Ginger via Elvis to Little Richard, with some Sunday afternoon radio comedies thrown in – perfect for the season.

The triumphant quiz team was The Also Rans who shared a box of Ferrero Rocher. There were various raffle prizes and the quilt (separate raffle) was won by Anita Baishnab, a member of the Tuesday Quilting group (ticket number 71)

The Quilt Raffle raised £162 and the Craft Stall, in October, raised £162, so that's **£322 to Smile Train** <https://www.smiletrain.org.uk/> Well done everyone! Especially the Quilters for organising it all.

The tombola raised £50 which the Quilting groups will use to hire guest speakers.

**Membership: a big thank you to everyone who has already renewed for 2024.**

**If you haven't yet renewed, please get your payment to Andy Scutt by BACS or cheque in the post, or you can pay by card at the January meeting.**

### **Planning your social calendar**

Janet Ball will be announcing two trips - a weekend away in April and a day trip in July. Come along to the January Social Morning to hear all about them. Names and payments will be taken at the end of the meeting, so don't forget your cheque books.

Janet will also be taking bookings for the Annual lunch on 1<sup>st</sup> March at Worsley Court House. Booking forms will be available.

**Judith Gibson will be collecting your used stamps at the meeting.**

## Update from groups

The [evening book group](#) - new for 2024 - made a great start with 9 of us turning up to Eccles library, plus another two people who were unable to come along that evening also signed up!

The group will work slightly differently to the day-time groups as we are working in conjunction with Salford Libraries. We will be choosing our books from the fantastic choice of over 100 books available to book groups across the borough which means we don't have to buy any of the books ourselves. In addition, we are extremely lucky to have Sara, an award-winning independent publisher, as one of the group ([saraband.net](http://saraband.net)) who will be bringing along some of her own publications to future meetings.

We spent an enjoyable first meeting going through the spreadsheet provided by the library and excitedly choosing our books for the following twelve months.

The group will meet again on Monday 12th February to discuss our first book, 'Us' by David Nicholls, and thereafter will meet every second Monday of the month at 7pm at Eccles library.

*Report from Convenor, Rita Lewin*

[Tai Chi 2](#) - new for 2024 - is now underway, following on from [Tai Chi 1](#) on a Thursday morning at Holy Angels, Irlams o' th' Height. There are 15 members, some of whom have a little experience, some being complete novices, and all are starting by learning basic moves that they will build into a full programme.

*Report from Convenor, George Waterhouse*

The [Thursday Quilters](#) new for 2024 have met for the first time and are busy working on a project which will also serve as a sampler for those who are new to quilting.

The [Tuesday Quilters](#) are deciding on which patterns they will be using for their quilts this year, using the cutting machine we purchased last year.



There are now ten members in each group (our maximum)\*\*

*Report from Convenor,  
Irene Waterhouse*

**\*\*Do you have a craft/skill you would like to share with others?\*\***

Sewing, card or jewellery-making,  
cross stitch, crocheting

... there must be such a lot of talent  
among our members.

If you'd like to 'craft and chat' in good  
company, we can put you in touch

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The [Poetry](#) group had a wide range of themes among this month's choices, all written by that prolific poet, Anon: see one below.

The programme for the next six months has been posted on the website; the choice for February is anything by Robert or Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

### The Dying Airman (Anon)

A handsome young airman lay dying,  
And as on the tarmac he lay,  
To the mechanics who round him  
came sighing  
These last dying words he did say:

"Take the cylinders out of my kidneys,  
Take the connecting-rod out of my brain  
Take the cam-shaft out of my backbone  
And assemble the engine again"

*Convenor, Alan Corbett.*



The [Paint and Sketch](#) group's Portrait Drawing course **new for 2024** has attracted new members to the group, with 15 attending the first meeting.

There's a mix of beginners and more experienced members. We're looking forward to seeing your work.

*Contact Brian Pearson (course leader)  
or Sue Jones, Convenor*



On Tuesday 9th January, eight members of the [Exploring Greater Manchester](#) group visited Manchester Cathedral where we enjoyed a very interesting tour given by one of the guides. We will now be able to interpret the meanings of the stain glass windows, identify where the floor can be raised for worship services and locate the carved beehive - well, hopefully!

The cathedral is certainly easy to visit by public transport with members travelling by train, tram and bus.

*Report from Sheila Thomas  
Photo from Ros Shorten  
Convenor: Judith Gibson*

The [Short Walks](#) group has new Convenors: many thanks to John Newton and Sylvia Moore for taking it on. May you have fine weather and many happy walks together in 2024.

The [Strollers](#) are staying close to home during the winter months and had a beautiful day for their first stroll of the year along the Bridgewater Canal, warming up afterwards with tea, coffee and hot chocolate.

Their short walks are planned around public transport and are a sociable way to spend a Saturday morning.

If you want a little gentle exercise, or if you just want the company and chat, you'd be very welcome to join.

*Convenor, Denise Dickens*



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