Mawdesley and Neighbouring Villages u3a

20th November 2026

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Where am I?

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French Conversation

Friday 27 November, MVH Lounge 10.00-11.30

Come and join us for a relaxed, sociable journey into the French language and the passionate development of French Cuisine.

We'll begin with about 30 minutes of practical French, using short video clips of French speakers chatting about everyday topics. These lively, authentic conversations will help us hear French as it is really spoken and pick up useful vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation in context.

We'll then try out what we have heard through easy-going conversation on similar everyday themes, helping us build confidence and get our French flowing.

For the rest of the session, we'll discover how France became a world leader in gastronomy through a presentation entitled:

The Evolution of French Cuisine: From Regional Cooking to Contemporary Gastronomy.

French cuisine is widely regarded as one of the world's most influential culinary traditions. We will see how it evolved over centuries from simple regional and country cooking into the elaborate tradition of haute cuisine, before being transformed by nouvelle cuisine and, more recently, contemporary gastronomy.

Along the way, we will see how each stage reflects changes in French society, economics, technology and ideas about what food should be.

Do come along for a warm, relaxed session as we explore the history of French cuisine, with plenty of opportunities to chat, share your experiences of French food and practise your French.

Personal note

In November, it will be more than seven years since I took on the challenge of Group Leader, French Conversation. It has been a real pleasure, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed presentations, offered support, and helped make the group so enjoyable over the years.

Next year, I will be 80, and with diminishing levels of energy, I have decided to step down at the end of November 2026. I am happy to announce that Ian Butterfield will step forward with new ideas and take on the challenge of Group Leader.
I will help Ian take on his new role, and I wish him well for the future.

Adrian Dean

07989 343503

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Matthew Bourne's CINDERELLA

We have 2 tickets left for Matthew Bourne's Cinderella on Thursday 26/11 for a matinee performance at the Lowry.

This production is a thrilling and evocative love story, set in London during the Second World War with the role of Cinderella performed by **Hannah Kremer or Katrina Lyndon**, alongside **Reece Causton** or **Rory Macleod** as Cinderella's heroic Pilot.

The music is well-known and this will put everyone in a positive festive spirit.

To get the tickets, please email Roger via the website Philharmonic group page.

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The Human Body - The Immune system

Stephen Doyle - Wednesday November 25th, 12:00–1:00. in the Annex.

Cost: £2 (No need to book - just turn up)

This session explores the remarkably sophisticated defence network that keeps us healthy every day: the human immune system. We will look past the technical jargon to uncover how white blood cells act as sentinels, how our bodies learn to recognize and remember past invaders, and why this complex system sometimes gets confused, causing autoimmune diseases. I hope we can demystify the biological forces working behind the scenes to protect us.

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Social Group Holiday 2027

On 2nd December (and not before) we will be taking bookings for our holiday.

5 days and 4 nights at the 4 star Marriott Durham Royal County

After repeated requests we are going back to Bishop Aukland to see the show "Kynren".
We will also take in Cragside House, the amazing NT house. Beamish, Britain's favourite open air museum, and a guided tour of the Bishops Palace at Bishop Auckland followed by a 3 course meal before arriving at Kynren to explore the VikingSettlement and then the 90 minute spectacular which is Kynren. On our way home we will call at Bowes Museum and lunch.

Cost for the above is £859 pp with single supplement £99

All details will be on the table on December 2nd when bookings will be taken.

Joan and Kay

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Photography Group Exhibition

The Annual Group Exhibition is next Wednesday 25th November in the Annexe. Over seventy photographs will be on display, covering a wide range of genres as well as the images chosen for the National u3aEye 'themes' over the last year. Members of the Group will be on hand to explain their work and answer any questions. All members welcome.

Many Thanks

David

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Prospero's Quiz No. 89
Middle of the Month - November

Next week we are celebrating Lancashire Day, so the end of the month quiz is a week early.

1. On which day in November do we celebrate Beaujolais Nouveau Day?

2. Which iconic landmark began to be torn down on November 9, 1989?

3. Who was the first U.S. President to live in the White House, moving in on November 1, 1800?

4. Which U.S. President made Thanksgiving a National November Holiday in 1863?

5. What is the traditional name for the full moon in November?

6. What Monarch was crowned King of England at the age of eight on November 6, 1429?

7. Which European country celebrates Independence Day on November 11, commemorating the restoration of independence in 1918?

8. Which naturalist published 'On the Origin of Species' on November 24th, 1859?

9. Which NASA mission launched on 14th November 1969, and became the second crewed mission to land on the moon?

10. On November 9, 1938, what anti semitic pogrom against Jewish people took place across Nazi Germany and Austria?

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Christmas Cards Reminder

Christmas Cards will be available over the next few weeks for Group Leaders wanting to send them to any host venues, coach companies etc.

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Where am I?

Answer: Hoghton Tower, where James 1 is reported to have 'knighted' the loin of beef.

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Answers to Quiz 89.

1. November 19.

2. Berlin Wall.

3. John Adams.

4. Abraham Lincoln.

5. Beaver Moon.

6. Henry VI.

7. Poland.

8. Charles Darwin.

9. Apollo 12.

10. Kristallnacht or the Night of Broken Glass.

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Events in our Neighbouring Villages but not u3a

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Tomorrow Evening

The newsletter is compiled and published by the press team.

Thank you to all members who have contributed to this publication

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This email was sent by Beacon on behalf of ray.waterhouse@btinternet.com