

KANUTA

Newsletter
November 2021

General Enquiries and Webmaster: info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Newsletter contributions: newsletter.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com

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From the Chair

Our activities are almost back to pre-March 2020 levels and many of us have had a third Covid vaccination. This is great news alongside the easing of restrictions and everything getting back to near normal. However, I would ask that all members remain cautious. Not all u3a members have had their third inoculation and Covid case rates are still very high, both locally and nationally. Group leaders and event organisers should remember that some members may still be hesitant about physically meeting people in crowded rooms or car sharing, and make allowances for this.

Over the last 18 months many of our activity groups stopped operating and the committee was concerned that many of them would not restart once restrictions were lifted. So we are all delighted that almost all our activity groups have restarted with impressive enthusiasm and we even have five proposed new activity groups (see News from the Groups on pages 5 and 6). Thanks very much to all the activity leaders for their work in restarting their groups. This is a good sign that we are a thriving u3a.

In this Kanuta we give formal notice of our AGM which will be held on Thursday 9th December at 1:45pm in Knutsford Methodist Church and followed by an entertaining talk by John Butler. In preparation for the AGM a summary of the Trustees Report, the accounts for the 2020/2021 financial year and a nomination form for members who wish to join the committee are included, starting on page 7. The accounts have been independently examined under an arrangement we have with Northwich u3a.

The committee have also decided that the subscription for the 2022/2023 year (starting in April 2022) will be £18. While I appreciate this is a big increase on the present subscription it is important to remember that the present rate of £10 was set at a time when the activities of our u3a were largely shut down due to Covid-19. During this last 18 months our reserves have been significantly reduced and the £18 subscription rate is required to provide a balanced budget for 2022/2023

Mark Barley

Members' Meetings

Knutsford Methodist Church
Second Thursday of every month starting at 1.45pm

Please note the new starting time for our Members' Meetings.

2021

November 11th **Philip Caine** will give a talk entitled '**Barrow to Baghdad and back**', giving a humorous account of his career which includes years in the hotel industry, the oil business, running companies in the middle east and finally becoming an author.

December 9th **AGM and a talk by John Butler** entitled '**Disgruntlement**'.
This is a change from the previously advertised Quiz. We've made the change due to the earlier finish time required by KMC

2022

January 13th **Catherine Barton and Faye Sherlock from Chester Zoo** will give a talk about the workings of the Zoo and about special projects they are involved with.

February 10th **Glynn Matthews** will give a talk entitled '**In the Frame**' which will cover aspects of art and photography.

Activity Groups, Outings and Members' Meetings – Covid measures

Members' Meetings have resumed in the Knutsford Methodist Church (KMC) and most Activity Groups, including those that meet indoors, have re-started. Outings have also resumed.

While venues such as KMC may have their own Covid requirements and Group Leaders will be deciding on requirements appropriate to their group, it is important to remember that our members must also take responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe and must not attend meetings, activities or outings if they show any signs of Covid symptoms which include:

- a headache
- a runny nose
- sneezing
- a sore throat
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste
- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

We all need to be aware of our own health and act responsibly if we notice any of the above symptoms.

THANK YOU to all those who responded to the Committee's recent request for offers of help.

We received several expressions of interest in serving on the Committee, a volunteer has offered to look into setting up a Facebook page for us and some people kindly offered to help serve teas at Members' Meetings.

Committee

There is a nomination form for election to the Committee attached to the Notice of the AGM included on page 7 of this edition of Kanuta.

Facebook

If you are interested in being involved with the Facebook page, please contact me.

Teas

We could really do with a few more offers to be on a rota to serve the teas; if we get enough people you won't be asked more than once a year... so please consider offering your assistance. If you feel you can do so please contact Wendy Brooks at wendyelizabethbrooks@gmail.com.

Sue Allan

Membership Secretary



Outings



Just a reminder!

Holiday in Alnwick, Northumberland

4 Nights / 5 Days

Sunday 12th – Thursday 16th June 2022

We have received a sufficient number of booking deposits for the Hotel to be prepared to reserve further rooms for us. These will be on sale in the New Year. In the meantime, do put the dates into your 2022 diary!

Highlights of the trip include:

Bowes Museum and Guided Tour

Howick Hall Gardens & Arboretum

Bamburgh Castle or Farne Islands Cruise

Newby Hall & Gardens with light lunch

Alnwick Castle & Gardens (optional, pre-bookable)

Lindisfarne & Holy Island (NT)

Amble & Craggside House & Gardens (NT)

We will stay at the 'White Swan' in the centre of Alnwick.

We are working with a long-established tour organiser, 'Simply Groups', which is based in the North of England and is well used to arranging holidays for the u3a. They won a major leisure and travel award in 2020.

Full details are on the website at knutsfordu3a.co.uk/activity-groups-visits/outings-and-visits, together with the dedicated Booking Form. A paper copy is available from Lynda on request.

If you have any questions or want further information, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Lynda Harris: 01565 621058 or Margaret Hinde: 01565 872643



Theatre and Music Trips



Booking Forms for Trips can be found at the end of Kanuta

STOP PRESS

NUTCRACKER!

Reimagined for the 21st century by Matthew Bourne

Thursday, 2nd December, 2.00 pm
The Lowry Theatre, Salford

Cost, including transport, £50.00
Coach departs Bus Station, 12.30 pm

There are two 'returns' available for this matinee performance.
If you are interested in these tickets, please phone Margaret Hinde to see if they are still available.
01565 872643.

New visit to Bridgewater Hall

HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'

Saturday, 4th December, 6.00 pm
The Lowry Theatre, Salford

Cost, including transport, £42.00
Coach departs Bus Station, 4.30 pm

Our last theatre visit before 'Lockdown' was to the Bridgewater Hall in March 2020. I am delighted that we can now return and I have reserved centre stalls for Handel's well-loved Christmas Oratorio, 'Messiah', on Saturday December 4th, performed, of course, by the Halle Choir and Orchestra, with four guest soloists. This should prove to be the uplifting evening that we all need!

Please note the performance starts at 6 pm, so the coach will **depart at 4.30 pm**.

Now on sale - at last!!

'LES MISERABLES'

Thursday, 7th April, 2022, 7.30 pm
The Lowry Theatre, Salford

Cost, including travel, £75.00
Coach departs Bus Station, 5.45 pm

This is Cameron Mackintosh's brilliant new staging of 'Les Miserables' which they are bringing to the Lowry on a national tour, after its London season.

"This reborn dream of a production looks and sounds fresher than ever" - The Telegraph.

Need I say more?

I have just 40 centre stalls seats (there are now no more available!). The committee kindly loaned us the money for me to buy them, at a well discounted price, when they first went on sale in March of this year. They would now cost £75 each, so you are getting 'free' coach travel!

I will only allocate these tickets on a 'first come, first served' basis, when I receive your cheque and a completed order form (plus s.a.e. if you want confirmation).

Please note, I will NOT be selling them at the November monthly meeting.

News from the Groups

Table Tennis

U3A Table Tennis continues to thrive and there are four new players. They are all improving and qualify as part of our 'youth' intake.

Gerard McCreesh (gerard.c.mccreesh@hotmail.com) is the group leader. He is also a volunteer at AgeUK where he PAT tests electrical equipment and prepares bikes for sale.

Old bikes and unwanted electrical equipment are accepted at AgeUK - no doorstep deliveries please.

Getting The Most From Your Digital Camera – report and proposal

The members of this group, in Five Easy Lessons, will have all they need to get the most from their digital cameras, whether that be the very latest multi-megapixel model or a modest compact of yesteryear.

- Understand the principles underlying the same five controls on a digital camera that were pretty much the only controls you had with a film camera (and you weren't afraid then, were you).
- Never again leave your camera on the automatic setting.
- Put aside pixel envy.
- Amaze your grandchildren with your knowledge and expertise.
- Sleep easier at night (not guaranteed).

Only two more Easy Lessons remain for the current group but, with enough interest, I would be happy to start a new group in 2022. To express interest, contact me at davenann@talktalk.net or 01925 755097. Testimonials available.

David Woolf

Classical Greek - Proposal

If "It's all Greek to me" applies to you, then this is the Group to join. Classical Greek and Greece is deeply embedded in the way we in the Western World think, speak, do politics, do science, do health....

We'll begin by looking at the language and reading (in English, you'll be pleased to hear) a seminal work of literature, and thereby dip into so much more of what happened 2,500 years ago and how it is still relevant.

Because I am not a Classicist (but if there is one in the Knutsford U3A do please contact me) the group will not be over-academic in nature. I hope too, that members will bring their own relevant interests to it so that the group will become truly participative.

With sufficient support the group will begin in January. Please contact me at davenann@talktalk.net or 01925 755097.

David Woolf

Weekend Walking Group - Proposal

A member has suggested that people may be interested in forming a weekend Walking Group to walk on Saturdays or Sundays. If this would be of interest to you please contact **Stuart Allan** (Groups Supporter) at sjallan@hotmail.co.uk.

Of course this Group would need a Leader before it could get up and running (or walking!)

Singing Group - Proposal

Arrangements are proceeding for this Group and we now have a member who has experience with instrumental and vocal groups and was involved with groups in the Knutsford area and can provide a keyboard, keyboard accompaniment and singing support

If you are interested in joining this group contact **Kath Scott** on kes2311@yahoo.com

Personal Development/Life Coaching Group – Proposal

Julie Brinnand has just moved into Knutsford and is keen to offer this new group to members who would like to explore how personal development can offer solutions to everyday problems and give them the confidence to make changes.

Julie is a qualified life coach and teacher and looks forward to welcoming members on this 'journey' together. She offers this teaser:

What do you see? **OPPORTUNITYISNOWHERE**

Come along to find out more!

“At any age, we find ourselves at a stage where we want to ‘bridge the gap’ between where we are now and where we’d like to be! We will focus on increasing self-awareness, looking at future life goals, personal challenges, and long-standing aspirations based on our experiences. We all have our own way of thinking and feeling along with our attitudes and ideas about life. We may behave in a way that confirms our beliefs and carry on like that. But we can become aware of the patterns we follow and change them by breaking old habits and replacing them with better ones. Keeping fit isn’t just for our bodies. Personal development enables us to check in and ask “How fit is our mind?” “How balanced is our mental health?” “How can we improve our lifestyles?” With confidence and self-esteem, we can manage stress and improve our communication skills. Most of all, we will have fun! Take this opportunity to engage with others to fulfil your potential and make the most of your lives”.

If you are interested to know more and join this group, please contact **Julie** directly - mobile 07971 464006, landline 01565 625782, juliebrinnand@gmail.com

NOTICE OF THE AGM

The 16th Annual General Meeting of Knutsford and District U3A will be held on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 1.45pm in the Knutsford Methodist Church.

All members are invited to attend the AGM which will be followed by an amusing talk by John Butler entitled 'Disgruntlement'. Refreshments will be available.

The AGM will include the Trustees' report and accounts together with the election of new Committee members.

Committee

To bring our Committee to full strength we welcome nominations for new members to join the Committee. Please use the form below or phone Mark Barley, Chair, on 0161 929 9438 if you would like to discuss the possibility of standing for the Committee. If you have already made contact with Mark to discuss serving on the Committee you don't need to fill this form in.

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Nominations for the election of Knutsford U3A Committee Members

I nominate who has agreed to stand for membership of the Committee.

or

I am willing to be nominated to stand for the Committee

Members nominated will need to be seconded before or at the AGM.

Please send nominations to Sue Allan, Secretary, by 25th November 2021 at the latest.

Email secretary.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com

Post 8 Bracken Way, Knutsford WA16 9BU

**A SUMMARY OF OUR TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021
CHARITY NUMBER: 1139427**

The full report has been uploaded to the Charity Commission website. This is a brief summary of that report.

This year from April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021 has been seriously impacted by the Corona virus pandemic with most activities seriously curtailed for most of the year.

Our membership at the end of March 2021 was 696, and an additional 37 Associate Members (those who are also members of other U3As). However we did not renew memberships within this time period so the membership hasn't changed significantly since March 2020.

At the beginning of this period the country was in lockdown due to the impact of Corona virus and all meetings and activities were put on hold. Some key decisions were taken by the committee in April by email and in May our committee met by Zoom for the first time. All subsequent committee meetings have been held virtually. All face-to-face monthly meetings, theatre and outing trips had to be cancelled and were not reinstated during this time period. In September 2020 we held our first monthly meeting for all the members with a speaker by Zoom and we continued with these meetings each month for the rest the year. We added in extra Zoom speaker events about two weeks after the monthly meetings, and have also been holding virtual coffee mornings to encourage members to be socially active.

We were not able to hold a face-to-face AGM this year and instead held it in November with the key decisions being voted on by members using email.

Outdoor interest groups returned to activity in the summer using risk assessments and modified procedures consistent with the government guidance at that time. However in December Cheshire moved into Tier 4 and all face-to-face outdoor activity was again suspended. Of 54 groups active before the first lockdown, the 8 outdoor groups were active over the summer and autumn; a further 20 indoor groups continued their activities using virtual methods (usually Zoom but also via email and phone calls) leaving 22 groups that remained suspended for this period.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for all their hard work during this very difficult year. Since April 2021 activities have largely resumed and some sort of normality has returned. We look forward to a bright future.

Mark Barley, Chair.
Knutsford & District u3a

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st March 2021

Knutsford & District University of the Third Age					
Income and Expenditure Account for Financial Year 2020/21					
	2020/21 Unrestricted Funds	2020/21. Restricted Funds		2020/21 TOTAL	2019/20. TOTAL
Income					
Subscriptions	143.00			143.00	9,649.00
Activity receipts		10,143.58		10,143.58	49,231.00
Sundry Cash Income	58.00	1,651.65		1,709.65	76.00
Total Income	201.00	11,795.23		11,996.23	58,956.00
Expenditure					
Activity Payment	0.00	9,754.67		9,754.67	30,812.00
Room Hire	50.00	140.39		190.39	11,285.00
U3A Suscriptions	2,559.00			2,559.00	2,468.00
U3A Beacon	121.33			121.33	
U3A Publications	1,685.74			1,685.74	1,576.00
Speakers Fees	370.00			370.00	756.00
Postage and stationery	572.30			572.30	821.00
Equipment	0.00			0.00	872.00
IT & Web	284.97	50.00		334.97	1,368.00
Travel	0.00			0.00	8,085.00
Accountancy	0.00			0.00	630.00
Misc inc Gifts	69.08			69.08	3,348.00
Sundry Cash Payments	0.00	1,984.60		1,984.60	336.00
Total Expenditure	5,712.42	11,929.66		17,642.08	62,357.00
Surplus / Deficit	(5,511.42)	(134.43)		(5,645.85)	(3,401.00)
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st March 2021					
	2020/21 Unrestricted Funds	2020/21. Restricted Funds		2020/21 TOTAL	2019/20. TOTAL
Monetary Assets					
Bank Current	£ 10,223.58	£ 4,614.23		£ 14,837.81	£ 20,277.00
Cash in Hand		£ 907.34		£ 907.34	£ 1,171.00
	£ 10,223.58	£ 5,521.57		£ 15,745.15	£ 21,448.00
Accumulated Funds					
Balance at 01/04/20	£ 15,735.00	£ 5,656.00		£ 21,391.00	£ 24,849.00
Surplus / Deficit	(5,511.42)	(134.43)		(5,645.85)	(3,401.00)
Balance at 31/03/21	£ 10,223.58	£ 5,521.57		£ 15,745.15	£ 21,448.00
Balance Error	0.00	0.00		0.00	

BOOKING FORMS FOR THEATRE & MUSIC TRIPS

PLEASE use a **separate booking form** and a **separate cheque** for each performance and send to:

Mrs Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR

- Write the name of the performance or outing on the back of your cheque
- Make your cheque payable to Knutsford and District U3A
- Send a stamped, addressed envelope if you want your reservation confirmed

You will be contacted if your booking was NOT successful.

For further information telephone 01565 872643 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

BOOKING FORM – THEATRE or MUSIC TRIP		
I/We would like to book place/s for the following event and enclose a cheque for £		
Event:		
Date &time:		
Name and Address <u>with postcode</u>		
Phone number <small>for track and trace</small>	e-mail	Phone number <small>In case of emergency on the day</small>
<small>Send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford and District U3A to Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR</small>		

BOOKING FORM – THEATRE or MUSIC TRIP		
I/We would like to book place/s for the following event and enclose a cheque for £		
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Name and Address <u>with postcode</u>		
Phone number <small>for track and trace</small>	e-mail	Phone number <small>In case of emergency on the day</small>
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