

# KANUTA

Newsletter  
June 2022

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## From the Chair

It is good to be back to normal with face-to-face meetings after a difficult two years. As Covid and the Omicron variant fade into the background please remember that infection rates, though declining, are still quite high and some members may still have concerns about close contact including hugging, shaking hands or car sharing.

The Outings and Theatre group has produced an excellent programme for summer and autumn. Their committee is now looking for new members (see below). If you would like to help in this valued activity, please contact Margaret Hinde or Lynda Harris for more information.

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. Please encourage friends who haven't yet renewed to do so if they are still potentially interested in our activities.

We now have a large range of activity groups and we continue to welcome ideas for new ones. In this Kanuta you can read reports from two very active groups, the Family & Social History group and the Railway Interest group. There is also a proposed group on how to get the best from your digital camera. A number of groups are looking for more members, so if you see an activity group below, or on our website, that interests you, do contact the group leader to find out more.

In this Kanuta we give formal notification of our AGM which will be held on Thursday 14th July. After the business part of the meeting we have a talk from Lisa Collas, Cheshire East Council, on the subject of Recycling. As part of our preparations for our AGM a summary of our Trustees' report is included in this Kanuta along with a nomination form for the Committee (we have one vacancy at present).

Finally, I would like to thank all those members who help in the organisation of our u3a. In addition to the main Committee this includes the Speakers' and Outings/Theatre/Music Committees, all group leaders and several other individuals that provide key support. Thanks to all of you for your hard work which keeps our u3a running smoothly.

Very best wishes

**Mark Barley**

# NOTICE OF THE AGM

**The 17th Annual General Meeting of Knutsford and District U3A will be held on Thursday 14th July 2022 at 2.15pm in the Knutsford Methodist Church.**

All members are invited to attend the AGM which will be followed by a talk on 'Recycling' by Lisa Collas from Cheshire East Council. Refreshments will be available.

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

A copy of the Trustees Report is included in this edition of Kanuta (see page 11).

## **Committee**

To bring our Committee to full strength we welcome nominations for new members to join the Committee. Please use the form on page 12 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.

# Members' Meetings

Knutsford Methodist Church  
Second Thursday of every month starting at 2.15pm

- 9<sup>th</sup> June**      **George Lane, Manchester Airport Chaplain**, will give a talk on 'The Life and Times of an Airport Chaplain'.
- 14<sup>th</sup> July**      **AGM – followed by speaker Lisa Collas, Cheshire East Council**, who will give a talk about recycling – what waste goes where, tips on reducing single use plastic and reducing food waste.
- 8<sup>th</sup> September**      **Groups Showcase event** and social
- 13th October**      **Claire Hart** will give a talk entitled '**Inherited Metabolic Disorders in the UK – history, diagnosis, newborn screening and treatment**'.  
Claire gave us a talk on Zoom during lockdown which was very interesting so we've asked her back to speak to us in person.  
The talk will cover the following: inherited metabolic disorders are genetically inherited conditions that impair the ability to make or break down a variety of chemical compounds within our cells, with clinical consequences. There are hundreds of different disorders, some so rare they only affect a few people in the whole world while some are common enough to warrant screening all newborn babies for them. This talk is about the history of the discovery of these disorders, why and how we can test or screen for them and how some can be treated.
- 10th November**      **Julia Marwood** will give a talk on '**Adolphe Valette: the Manchester Impressionist**' who was an inspiration to L S Lowry. The talk will explore the life and work of an artist whose fine work and inspirational teaching are finally receiving the recognition they deserve.
- 8<sup>th</sup> December**      **Norman Harris** – topic to be decided.



## A Date for your Diary



Hoghton Tower, Preston  
Wednesday 24th August

Guided tour of Hoghton Tower and a buffet lunch. Full details to follow



# Outings



## **WOLLERTON OLD HALL and HODNET HALL**

**Monday 4th July**

**Cost £42 includes morning coffee, entrance to two gardens, sandwich lunch and travel.**

**Coach departs 9.15 am.**

A visit has been arranged to these two lovely gardens. After coffee on arrival, we will spend the morning at Wollerton, a modern, formal 4 acre garden set around a 16th century hall (not open). The garden has won many prestigious awards. The garden rooms are richly planted with perennials and bursting with design ideas. I have been several times and am more than happy to go again - it is a treat!

We will then take a very short drive to Hodnet Hall, where we will have lunch in their half-timbered garden restaurant. The gardens provide a good contrast to Wollerton, being more spacious with 60 acres of grounds and parklands, lakeside walks, formal gardens with colourful displays and an interesting kitchen garden. The Heber-Percy family have maintained the gardens for over 300 years and, again, have won many awards.

To reserve a place, please complete the dedicated booking form on page 9.

## **THE SECRET BUNKER at Nantwich and DORFOLD HALL near Nantwich**

**Wednesday 27 July 2022**

**Cost £38 includes morning coffee and biscuits, entrance to two properties,  
tea & cake in the afternoon and travel**

**NOT included: Lunch– Bring your own Picnic**

**Coach departs 9.00 am, arriving back at approximately 5.00 pm.**

It is intended that we arrive at The Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker at Nantwich at approximately 9.45 / 10 a.m. and will have our coffee and biscuits prior to the trip around the Bunker.

We will leave the Bunker at approximately 12.30 p.m. to travel the short distance to Dorfold Hall.

Dorfold Hall is a magnificent brick and stone gabled Jacobean House originally built in 1616 and is surrounded by enchanting gardens and woodlands making it a breath-taking country house to visit.

**Please be aware that the Hall has many stairs and the garden only has a few paths.**

On arriving at Dorfold Hall we will have time in which to have a picnic in the beautiful grounds. The tour will be split into two groups with one group taking a guided tour of the Hall at 1 p.m. whilst the other group has a self-guided tour of the grounds. At approximately 2.15 p.m. the groups will change over and the second tour will commence and the first group will enjoy their self-guided tour of the grounds.

At 3.15 / 3.30 p.m. both groups will enjoy tea and cake in the events space, The Tack, prior to leaving Dorfold Hall at about 4 p.m. to return to Knutsford.

To reserve a place, please complete the dedicated booking form on page 10.



# Theatre and Music Trips



## CAN YOU HELP OUR TRIP ORGANISERS?

You will probably have noticed from Mark Barley's introductory letter that our small committee, which organises all of the group visits (Outings, Theatres and Music), is looking for some help. We have lost some members and badly need some new ideas and assistance. Lynda and Margaret are both carrying on so there will be plenty of help available. We also have regular meetings to share ideas and to discuss possible visits for the programme.

It is an enjoyable task and not particularly time consuming and, indeed, works well if partners or two friends work together to arrange a visit. If there are enough of us you will only have to arrange one or possibly two outings and/or theatres a year.

If you are at all interested in helping or want more information do leave a message for us on the u3a email address – [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk) or phone Lynda (01565 621058) or Margaret (01565 872643).

We look forward to hearing from you.

## News from the Groups

### **Writing for Pleasure – seeking additional members**

Since 2009 the Writing for Pleasure group has met monthly on the third Wednesday morning in members' homes. We write short stories on a stimulating topic and then share them, in a friendly and unthreatening atmosphere.

Find your writing voice and hear the efforts of others, when a single subject brings forth such different tales! There may be some praise, but no criticism and often much laughter! We currently have room for 2 more members – why not have a go?

If you are at all interested please phone me, **Michael Goldman**, for a chat on 01565 651717

### **Climate Change – seeking additional members**

The group is continuing to meet at the Town Hall and the next session is on Monday June 20th 2-4.30 pm.

Tim Donnelly started the group, for which we are very grateful, but feels unable to continue on health grounds. Two previous members are hoping to increase the attendance as it is such an important issue.

## News from the Groups

### Family & Social History group - Report

**The Knutsford Workhouse**, an open meeting talk by Jenny Collis of Knutsford Heritage Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

This was initially going to be a 'closed' meeting for members of Ku3a's Family & Social History group. Mary Gracie is one of our group members as well as being very active at the Heritage Centre, so she suggested Jenny as a suitable speaker for a future group meeting. I mentioned the forthcoming Knutsford Workhouse event to various people who thought that it could have great appeal to the wider Ku3a membership. It would be wasted on just the Family & Social History group! Stuart Allan agreed to circulate an invitation to all members, and the result was that 53 people attended, nearly 40 of whom were outside our activity group's membership. What a lovely surprise, especially for a Friday the thirteenth.

The talk itself? It was informative, entertaining, so well researched and illustrated, beautifully explained, so stimulating to all and for those locals in the audience, a nostalgic treat. It wasn't just the central subject, the Workhouse itself, but the way that Jenny wrapped it into historical, social and cultural context. Its origins, evolution and transition into the NHS and Social Care, and sadly its successor's regression due to cost cutting and the wielding of over-centralised power, insensitive to the continuing needs of the local community.

Those last comments aren't Jenny's words, just my own. So many people in the audience had memories of the maternity hospital on the site – how many were born there, and had children there! If this talk comes round again, by popular demand, do not miss it. Thank you so much Jenny for the talk, and to Mary Gracie for teeing it up.

**Roger Brown**, Family & Social History Group leader

### Railways Interest Group – Report

Visit to John Ryan's Model Railway – March 2022

For the second time this year our group was simply bowled over by the impact of visiting a model railway system that almost beggars description. For some of us, the LNER theme was the cherry on the icing on the cake.

We were thrilled to see a terminus station with seven platforms, clearly Kings Cross but masquerading under another name; not only was it busy, but we were treated to its night-time persona as well, to demonstrate the quality of illumination, down to the signalling and firebox glow of the locomotives. Even I've only seen eleven 'streaks' in one day - until now!

The detail? Well, the sound effects actually included the haunting A4 triple chime! A very nice touch, John Ryan being a Doncaster man, a former Doncaster Rovers chairman, a noted railway author and a perfectionist. We had the privilege of spending two hours being transported back in time, wrapped in nostalgia.

Simply brilliant.

Our thanks to John Ryan who created it and let us witness it, and to Robert Watson for organising this magic experience.

**Roger Brown**

## News from the Groups

### Getting the Most From Your Digital Camera – Proposal

The meetings arranged for Spring were rescheduled once, then again and finally cancelled because of health issues. So now that Spring has given way to Summer, the time is even riper.

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).

Testimonials available.

To express interest, contact me at [davenann@talktalk.net](mailto:davenann@talktalk.net) or 01925 755097.

**David Woolf**

## Ukraine and u3a

The following announcement has been sent to all group leaders recently. The committee are confident that everyone will understand and empathise with its intentions

“Knutsford & District u3a committee welcomes families from Ukraine. In line with advice we have received from the National u3a we have decided to waive membership fees for anyone from Ukraine who wishes to join our u3a this year.

It will be up to Group Leaders to decide whether to charge Ukrainian members attending their activity, where a group’s members pay for their share of room hire, for example.

Kind regards  
Knutsford & District u3a Committee”

## A New Project: Knutsford u3a “Hidden talents presentation”

The u3a Committee is pleased to report that we will be starting a new project in The Autumn entitled: The Knutsford u3a “Hidden talents presentation.” Each session will comprise two educational and entertaining lecture/presentations. The first a by a local u3a volunteer based on an area of his or her lifetime experience or interest. The second, a lecture, joint presentation, demonstration, entertainment or concert presented by one of our Activity Groups. Each presentation will be for twenty to thirty minutes followed by audience questions or comment. The session will be followed by tea and refreshments. Our intention is to engender friendship and to entertain, educate and stimulate.

We have approached the Group leaders and have already received interest from the Singing, Jammin’, Recorder, Piano and Geology Groups. We have over 700 members in our u3a, a good number of whom will have had interesting experiences in their lives or will have worked in occupations that would entertain and/or educate others so we will be asking for volunteers!

We intend for the presentations to be held in the Methodist Church at 2.15 pm. The first session will be held in October or November this year, date and time to be finalised. Tony Axon will give a lecture entitled “How flexible endoscopy revolutionised the treatment of Gastrointestinal diseases” and Mike Regan (on behalf of the Geology Group) will present on “Natural Resources For The Electric Future.”

## u3a PodCast

How many of you now listen to the plethora of podcasts now on line? Perhaps, like me, you switched off the box and tuned in to old steam radio during lockdown. The good news is that u3a members, including Nick Bailey (formerly a Classic FM presenter) and others, from around the country, thought this medium would be ideal for spreading the u3a message and sharing UK wide activities and ideas. From its early beginnings our Radio Podcast team can now be heard via various platforms including YouTube and Spotify and broadcasts on the 17th of each month.

It would be good if Knutsford could feature (we have used Tatton Farm) as well as other unusual and entertaining groups (the quirkiest the better!) around Cheshire and the NW. So, please listen in and hear what we do. We record either via Zoom or meet me locally and record a short phone chat. For further details please contact me, **Val Dawson** at [dawsonval55@gmail.com](mailto:dawsonval55@gmail.com)



## BOOKING FORMS

PLEASE use a **separate booking form** and a **separate cheque** for each outing

- Write the name of the 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
- Send your form and cheque **to the organiser as noted for each event**

Unless you send an SAE, you will only be contacted if your booking was NOT successful.

For further information contact the organiser (details on the appropriate booking form)

<b>BOOKING FORM – WOLLERTON AND HODNET GARDENS – Organised by Margaret Hinde</b>		
<p><i>Please note for insurance purposes, people attending this outing should be members of the u3a.</i></p> <p>I/We would like to book ..... place/s at £42.00 each and enclose a cheque for £ .....</p> <p><b>Event:</b> Wollerton and Hodnet Gardens, including morning coffee and sandwich lunch</p> <p><b>Date &amp; time:</b> Monday 4th July 2022, 9:15 am</p>		
<p><b>Name and Address <u>with postcode</u> of all attending</b></p>          		
<p>Phone number for track and trace</p>	<p>e-mail</p>	<p>Phone number In case of emergency on the day</p>
<p>Please give details of any food allergies relevant to our lunch</p>          		
<p>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      Telephone 01565 872643</p>		

**BOOKING FORM – THE SECRET BUNKER AND DORFOLD HALL – Organised by Irene Hardy**

*Please note for insurance purposes, people attending this outing should be members of the u3a.*

I/We would like to book ..... place/s at £38.00 each and enclose a cheque for £ .....

**Event:** The Secret Bunker and Dorfold Hall including morning coffee and afternoon tea

**Date & time:** Wednesday 27th July 2022, 9:00 am

**Name and Address with postcode of all attending**

Phone number  
for track and trace

e-mail

Phone number  
In case of emergency on the day

Send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford and District u3a to  
Irene Hardy, Holly Bush Farm, Pickmere Lane, Tabley WA16 0HP Telephone 01565 633348

## A SUMMARY OF OUR TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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

This year from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 has seen our u3a bounce back from the effects of the global pandemic, with long-running groups restarting and new groups forming.

Our membership at the end of March 2022 was 692, with an additional 41 Associate Members (those who are also members of other u3as).

At the beginning of this period our activities were constrained due to the impact of Coronavirus with no indoor meetings. Committee meetings (meetings of the trustees) and Membership meetings were successfully conducted online using Zoom. Many outdoor groups were meeting as normal while following the appropriate government advice. We had a stand outside the Knutsford Methodist Church for u3a publicity day (2<sup>nd</sup> June). Our first organised outing was to the new RHS Bridgewater in early July, which was so popular that it was followed by two further visits to the same location. Highly successful outings also were made to Adlington Hall and Chatsworth House. There were also several trips to cultural events including to see an Alan Ayckbourn play in September, and in December, the Nutcracker and Handel's Messiah.

The Committee agreed guidance for the restarting of indoor groups on 27<sup>th</sup> July. In September our activities moved decisively towards normality with the restarting of indoor activities including our first face-to-face members' meeting and a group leaders' coffee morning. We also held a group "showcase" event in early September which provided group leaders with an opportunity to advertise their activities to a wider audience to attract new members. Our October committee meeting was the first to be held face-to-face. This sense of getting back to normality continued until January when rising rates of the new Omicron variant caused indoor groups to suspend their activities and the January members' meeting and Committee meeting to return to Zoom. Fortunately, this interruption was brief and by the end of this period our u3a was fully open, albeit with a lot of testing and some disruption as members had to self-isolate at short notice if they had a positive Covid test result.

Unlike the previous year we were able to hold a face-to-face AGM this year in December. During this time period we recruited four new members to the Committee who were duly elected at the AGM. We now have a Committee of 11 with one vacancy.

A significant achievement was our first membership renewal drive (in April 2021) using the software system Beacon which is designed to streamline the administration of our u3a and reduce the workload on Committee members.

By the end of the period, we had 52 active groups including some new additions such as a Singing group and a Railways Interest Group

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for all their hard work during this turbulent year. Since April 2022 our activities have continued as normal and we hope for no further interruptions. We look forward to a bright future.

Mark Barley, Chair.  
Knutsford & District u3a

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> July at the very latest.

Email [secretary.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com)

Post 8 Bracken Way, Knutsford WA16 9BU