

KANUTA

Newsletter
November 2022

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From the Chair

The clocks have just gone back and the weather is cooler and has a very autumnal feel. It's a good time to consider new interests and perhaps joining some new activity groups. As you will see in this Kanuta we have speakers arranged for our member's meetings all the way through to March. Also you will have seen the email about on-line learning organised by the Third Age Trust; our umbrella organisation. If you haven't already done so I would urge you to use the links either in the email or go to u3a.org.uk, then click the Learn tab to see what is available. They have talks across a very diverse range of subjects. I have been following the geology talks given by Martin Eales of Sutton u3a ever since they started during lockdown and I'm looking forward to part 1 of the Geology of Oil & Gas in a couple of days (part 2 will be in December).

Many thanks to all of you who turned up for our first Hidden Talents talks. There was almost a full house in the Knutsford Methodist Church to hear two fascinating and contrasting talks on endoscopy and resources for the energy transition (see below). Thanks to Tony Axon for organising these talks and to him and Mike Regan for their presentations. Please consider whether you could give a talk about your past experiences that would interest your fellow u3a members.

We have received some complaints about our charge of £1 for tea/coffee and biscuits at our monthly meetings in Knutsford Methodist Church. The Committee have previously discussed this issue and decided to keep the charge as it helps to cover the cost of the hire of the room. However we respect members' views and it will be on the agenda for our November committee meeting. In the meantime, if you feel strongly about this subject, please email me at chair@knutsfordu3a.co.uk with your views or discuss the issue with another member of the Committee.

Very best wishes

Mark Barley

Members' Meetings

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

- 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.
- 8th December** **Norman Harris** will give a talk entitled '**Atlantic to Pacific – The story of the Panama Canal**'.
- 2023**
- 12th January** **Andy Keaven** from Cheshire Police will give a talk covering the 6 main areas of Cybercrime that are reported to them, such as text, email, social media, remote access, on-line dating and on-line shopping.
- 9th February** **Ed Glinert**, Manchester tour guide, will give a talk entitled '**10 Manchester inventions that shook the world**'. We have had Ed to speak to us before, he is an excellent speaker with a range of really interesting talks.
- 9th March** **Brian Healey** will give a talk entitled '**Glitz & Glamour in the Golden Age of the Transatlantic Liner**'. The Battle for the Blue Riband dominated Atlantic travel for many decades and the rivalry between the major shipping lines to build the the biggest and best leviathans of ocean travel was intense. Ships such as French Line's Ile de France and Hapag Lloyd's Emperor rapidly became not just floating works of art but ships of state with stunning décor to match. Brian will tell us how they were adapted to match changing tastes; from the elegance of the French chateau and the heaviness of the Dutch renaissance to the dazzling sophistication of what became known as "streamline moderne" and will show rare archive photographs of interiors from iconic ships such as the original Mauretania to the magnificent, but short lived Normandie.

The Third Age Trust - our umbrella organisation.

By now you will have received an email about on-line learning which Robert Watson has sent out giving details of various on-line learning opportunities you can take up if you are interested. This information came originally from an email from the Third Age Trust; our u3a is one of many which come under this organisation.

If you look at the Third Age Trust website at www.u3a.org.uk you will find a wealth of information about various activities and about the national u3a movement. You can also sign up to receive their interesting monthly newsletter and it will give you an idea of how the u3a operates nationally and may give you ideas about things that could be taken forward in our own u3a.



Hidden Talents



'Hidden Talents' – new series of talks

The first of our 'Hidden Talents' talks, which are arranged by one of our newer Committee members, Tony Axon, took place on Thursday 27th October. Tony talked about the development of endoscopy since he started as a junior doctor. Mike Regan followed on with a talk about the different type of elements and minerals we will need for the new technologies we will require for supplying energy. Both talks were really interesting and very well received. As both speakers could have spoken for much longer we've decided to have just one speaker for our next meeting.

Our next **'Hidden Talents'** talk will be on **Thursday 23rd February** and will be given by one of our members, John Miller, who has worked for the BBC in a variety of roles. His talk will be entitled **'A Life at the Beeb'** which will cover the majority of the nearly 30 years he spent as a member of BBC staff.

Do you have a hidden talent?

You are one of over six hundred members of the Knutsford u3a, many of whom have had exciting and challenging lives. During your life, you will have enjoyed educational experiences and adventures through your occupation, hobbies, travel, sports, and holidays that might well interest our members. If so, here is the opportunity for you to entertain, amuse and educate, your u3a friends by re-living some of your interests, activities, personal contacts, contributions and the adventures that have made you who you are.

According to u3a regulations, *we are not allowed to remunerate our own members* for contributing to our meetings (unlike the 'guest speakers' invited for our regular members' meetings) so volunteer 'Hidden Talents' lecturers will be providing their contribution gratis in support of our 'self-help' ethos.

Those members (or activity groups) who would like to contribute by delivering a 'Hidden Talents' presentation please email me giving a brief description of your intended contribution and a few details about yourself.

Tony Axon

info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk



Theatre and Music Trips



A DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

At The Bridgewater Hall

Sunday afternoon, December 11th, 3.00 pm
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Cost, including travel £45 each
Coach departs the bus station 1.45 pm

'Christmas is coming!' - so join us for a Sunday afternoon concert at the Bridgewater Hall to start your celebrations.

The concert has a decidedly Dickensian atmosphere, with performers in Victorian costumes, giving us a selection of readings from Dickens' '**A Christmas Carol**'. We will enjoy soloists singing the best of Victorian carols, such as, among others, 'The Sussex Carol'; 'In the Bleak Midwinter'; 'Joy to the World' and, of course, 'Silent Night'. There will also be a selection of popular 'Carols for All', all supported by a concert brass band.

Please reserve your tickets AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. There are only a few left and The Bridgewater Hall will only hold my selection until November 12th, after which unsold tickets have to be returned. Also a Sunday afternoon concert is always popular, so you might want to ensure you have a ticket!

To reserve a place, use the **dedicated booking form** on page 7 of Kanuta.

'BETTY!' - A Sort of Musical

By Maxine Peake and Seiriol Davies. Directed by Sarah Frankcom

Wednesday, January 4th, 7.30 pm
Royal Exchange theatre, Manchester

Cost, including travel £49 each
Coach departs the bus station 6.00 pm

This is the Christmas production at the Royal Exchange. For the past ten years at least we have been to all such productions and have always thoroughly enjoyed the quality of them. Also as usual, I have booked tickets in January rather than December, when you might be less busy!

This year, it is an entirely new play – 'sort of musical!' – written by the talented Maxine Peake, who also stars as Betty Boothroyd, the first female speaker of the House of Commons. I can't tell you any more than that, except that I suspect it is not going to be a particularly serious study of this extraordinary woman!

Only a few tickets left! To reserve a place, use the **dedicated booking form** on page 7 of Kanuta.

News from the Groups

Classical Greek

The Group has held seven meetings during which we have dipped into the language but mainly been reading and studying Homer's Iliad – arguably the first great work of western literature; it was originally transmitted orally until finally being written down in the mid-sixth century BCE. We have read this 15,000 line poem in Richmond Lattimore's translation and we have discussed the text, its historical and cultural contexts and the archaeological evidence for the war of which Homer describes a brief episode in its tenth year.

In our upcoming meeting on 8th November we will conclude our review of the influence that The Iliad has exerted during its 2,500 year history on the decorative arts, literature, cinema and much else besides.

We will then turn our attention to Oedipus – who murdered his father and married his mother – in Sophocles's plays set in the city of Thebes. Complex you think? So did Freud.

This Group is not just for those with an enquiring mind who wish to be intellectually stretched. But it helps.

David Woolf (Group Coordinator)

Recorder Group

The Recorder group meets on the Wednesday of every other week at 61 Boothfields, Knutsford at 2pm. New players are very welcome: you need enthusiasm, a descant (or other) recorder and a music stand if possible.

We play a variety of music and are hoping to get a programme together to perform for other U3A members next year.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 16th.

Carol Goodwin 07811570463 info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

Climate Change

The Climate Change Group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 2.15 at the town hall.

Frank King

Formation of a new 5k Walking Group

Following an email regarding the formation of a new 5k walking group to replace the 2 5k groups that have stopped operating, over 50 members have responded expressing interest.

A meeting to discuss arrangements for the way forward and to try to form 1 or 2 new groups is to be held on 18th November at 2.30 in Room 5 in the Knutsford Methodist Church. Access is via the rear entrance to the church and pressing the button marked 'Room 5'.

If you are interested you are welcome to attend.

Stuart Allan

Obituary - Tim Donnelly **(10 December 1937 - 7 October 2022)**

Tim was a familiar figure at u3a meetings until recent times, when ill health prevented him from joining in many activities he had previously enjoyed.

He joined u3a at the inaugural meeting in 2005 and made a significant contribution. He has been a member of the Committee and Honorary Treasurer. He was a member of the Outings Committee and ran a memorable holiday to the Hebrides, as well as a number of day trips.

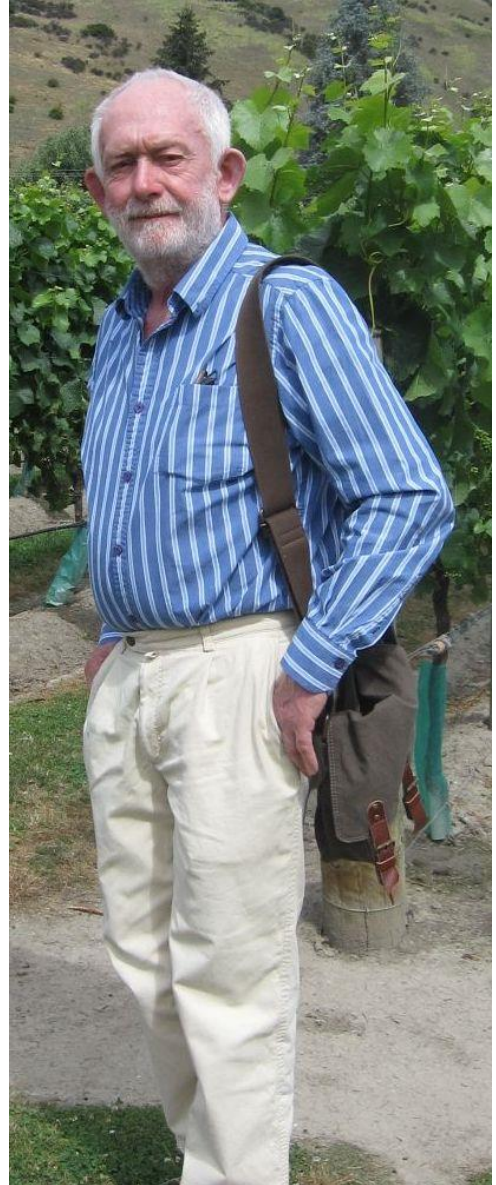
Tim was an active participant in Walking Group 1, Wine Group 1, Architecture, Art Group 1. He surprised members of the latter group when he appeared as Grayson Perry when we were studying 20th Century British Art. Recently, he started the Climate Change Discussion Group.

Tim enjoyed participating in the joint venture with Knutsford Academy "Old School" involving Seniors spending time talking to students on a one-to-one basis. He was always interested and interesting to young students.

Tim was born in Wilmslow and spent his early years in Oxfordshire, returning to Manchester to work for Jute Industries after National Service. Eventually he settled in Knutsford and spent the last 22 years living in Garden Road with his beloved partner Margaret Cole. They shared many interests, including the theatre and gardening on their allotment. He was a loving father and grandfather and an enthusiastic supporter of Manchester City.

The large number of people attending his funeral on 28 October reflected his diversity of interests and the high regard in which he was held by so many people in Knutsford and beyond.

Margaret Joscelyne



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 booking form)

BOOKING FORM – A Dickensian Christmas Concert – Organised by Margaret Hinde		
<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 £45.00 each and enclose a cheque for £</p> <p>Event: A Dickensian Christmas Concert , Bridgewater Hall, Manchester Date & time: Sunday afternoon 11th December 2022, 3:00 pm</p>		
Name and Address <u>with postcode</u> of all attending		
Phone number	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 Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR Telephone 01565 872643		

BOOKING FORM – ‘BETTY!’ - A Sort of Musical – Organised by Margaret Hinde		
<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 £49.00 each and enclose a cheque for £</p> <p>Event: ‘BETTY!’ - A Sort of Musical, Royal Exchange theatre, Manchester Date & time: Wednesday 4th January 2023, 7:30 pm</p>		
Name and Address <u>with postcode</u> of all attending		
Phone number	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 Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR Telephone 01565 872643		