

# KANUTA

Newsletter  
February 2023

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## From the Chair

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. Now that we are in the depths of winter your u3a has the perfect solution to mid-winter blues: raise your spirits by joining a new activity group or signing up for a trip to the theatre or further afield to Slovenia and Zagreb (see below).

We have a full programme of member's meetings starting with Ed Glinert giving a talk on Manchester inventions on February 9th. This will be followed on March 9th by Brian Healey who will give a talk about the golden age of the transatlantic liner. On Thursday 23rd February we have our second Hidden Talents talk by John Miller, who will tell us about his life as a BBC network producer based in Manchester. There will be further Hidden Talents talks in March and April. All these talks are held in Knutsford Methodist Church and start at 2:15pm. If you are attending, please aim to be seated in the church by 2pm so we can make a prompt start at 2:15pm.

Several new activity groups have recently started and in some cases replaced groups that have ceased to function. At one point we were down to three walking groups (groups 1-3) which all catered to members who wanted to walk at least 5 miles. We have had great interest in 5 Km (3 mile) walks and two new walking groups (4 & 5) providing walks of this length have now been set up. Please look out for emails from your u3a (usually sent out by the Beacon system) asking if you are interested in joining new activities. For instance, you will be hearing shortly about a proposed new fitness group led by a personal trainer.

In the last Kanuta I asked for feedback on our policy of charging £1 for teas and coffees after a member's meeting as we have had some complaints about this policy. I am pleased to say that the committee received no further complaints so it has decided to continue with the charge as it helps towards covering the cost of renting the church for our monthly meetings. However, as you may have noticed, we do waive the charge twice a year: at our AGM (this year in July); and at the December meeting as it is the last meeting before Christmas.

Finally, the technical team is still looking for additional members, to help with cover for the meetings in Knutsford Methodist Church. This is an important role essential to our continuing use of the church so please help out if you can.

Best wishes

**Mark Barley**

# Members' Meetings

Knutsford Methodist Church

Second Thursday of every month starting at 2.15pm prompt

Please aim to be seated by 2.00pm

9<sup>th</sup> 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.

9<sup>th</sup> 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 biggest and best leviathans of ocean travel was intense. Ships such as French Line's Ile de France and Hapag Lloyd's Imperator 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.

13<sup>th</sup> April

MP Esther McVey will give a general talk on the traditions of the Houses of Parliament, people she has met and how she got into politics.

11<sup>th</sup> May

Peter Ashburner (formerly of Marshalls Auctioneers) will give a talk – topic to be decided.

8<sup>th</sup> June

Ray Jackson from Lower Moss Wood will be the speaker.

## KNUTSFORD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB SENIOR CITIZENS VARIETY SHOW

KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023 : 2pm – 4.30pm

FEATURING:

### The SILHOUETTE BAND

with 60's songs and music

PLUS Old Time Music Hall Acts.....and the Lions SKETCH

**FREE TICKETS** available from 3<sup>rd</sup> January at:  
JONTY'S FRUIT & VEG, KNUTSFORD MARKET HALL, KNUTSFORD.  
KNUTSFORD OLDE SWEET SHOPPE, 119 KING STREET, KNUTSFORD.

Web : [www.knutsfordlions.org.uk](http://www.knutsfordlions.org.uk)

email: [knutsford.lions@gmail.com](mailto:knutsford.lions@gmail.com)



Knutsford & District Lions Club (CIO)  
Registered Charity 1198210





# Outings



## **Holiday in Slovenia & Zagreb** **7 Nights / 8 Days Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**From £1749pp for two sharing. Single Supplement: £249 pp.**

**Deposit: £350 pp (non-refundable/non-transferable)**

Highlights of the eight day programme can be found below and details of the full itinerary are on the website at [knutsfordu3a.co.uk/proposed-holiday-in-slovenia/](https://knutsfordu3a.co.uk/proposed-holiday-in-slovenia/), together with the dedicated Booking Form from Simply Groups. If you have any questions or require a paper copy of these details please contact Lynda Harris (01565 621058) or email her c/o [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk).

Details will also be available at the Members' Meeting on 9th February.



Lake Bled



Postojna Cave

### **Highlights**

Introductory Tour of Bled & Bled Castle  
Lake Bohinj Cruise + Alpine Dairy Museum  
Ljubljana Walking Tour & Castle + Funicular  
Vina Kras Wine Cellar Tour, Wine Tasting + Snacks  
Piran Walking Tour  
Coastal Town of Portoroz  
Zagreb Walking Tour

Pletna Boat Cruise + Lake Bled Church  
Radovljica + Lectar Museum of Gingerbread  
Traditional Slovenian Evening with dinner  
Lipica Stud Farm Classical Riding School Show  
Fonda Fish Farm + Wine & Snacks  
Underground Train Tour of Postojna Cave



Zagreb



Lake Bohinj



# Theatre and Music Trips



## CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

By Tennessee Williams

**Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, 7:30 pm**  
**The Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester**

**Cost, including travel, £45.00**  
**Coach departs the bus station 6 pm**

The Pulitzer Prize winning classic, 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' is a turbulent and brutal comic drama - one of Tennessee Williams' best. It takes place during one evening's family gathering in the hot and steamy Mississippi delta. The family have gathered for a farewell to 'Big Daddy', who, although he does not know it, is terminally ill. A lot of memories and revelations which had been hidden come to the surface between father and son.

I'm sorry I can't promise Paul Newman, or even Elizabeth Taylor, but I'm sure the Exchange will give us an evening of strong drama. In spite of their absence!

There are only a few tickets remaining and they will be available until Friday February 17th. I will have them on sale at the Members' Meeting in February but to be sure of your tickets, use the **booking form** on the back page of Kanuta or call me on 01565 872643.

**Margaret Hinde**



## Dates for your Diary



**Monday 20th March**

Visit to the **JCB factory** including a guided tour and a buffet lunch.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Visit to **Cromford Mill** and well dressing at Ashford in the Water.

Full details of both outings to follow in due course.



# Hidden Talents



The talks are in Knutsford Methodist Church starting at **2.15pm prompt**. Please aim to be seated by 2.00 pm

On **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** our speaker will be one of our members, **John Miller**, who was a member of BBC staff for nearly 30 years, the majority of that time in television production. He began his BBC career in sound radio operations and after his time in TV production moved on to producing exhibitions, shows and live events, initially as the BBC's corporate exhibitions manager and later as a freelance for mainly BBC-related companies. More recently he's produced a number of patient information films for the NHS. But those are stories for another day . . . !

In this talk John is going to concentrate on his years of producing TV programmes, as a BBC network television producer based in Manchester.

On **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March** we will welcome **Professor Andrew Hughes** who, until his recent retirement, was chairman of experimental cancer at the well-known Christie Hospital, part of Manchester University. His team has revolutionised the identification of new cancer treatments.

He began his pioneering work in 2006 at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre developing a "liquid biopsy" - a simple blood sample in which tiny cancer particles from an individual's cancer could be identified! His work led to the first blood tests ever used by the NHS to diagnose lung cancer in 2016.

Their "personalised medicine" test is now available to cancer patients across the NHS through seven national testing centres. It underpins the "rare cancers" treatment programme led by the Christie and announced on "North West Tonight" in January 2023.



# Call for Volunteers



## Technical Team

The main task of the technical team is to provide both sound and visual aids at the monthly Members' Meetings and at the 'Hidden Talents' meetings. We do this by using the permanently installed user-friendly equipment at Knutsford Methodist Church.

On occasions we also help activity groups to use the Knutsford u3a audio / visual equipment at their meetings.

In both cases, the equipment used requires practical rather than deep technical skills. Ideally members of the team should have a good basic knowledge of Windows-based computers. Our experience is that learning to use the equipment is best done by watching others use it and then reversing the roles.

We need several more members to give cover for holidays etc. Will you join us or do you know someone who may be interested??

For more information please contact **Tony Roberts** or **Robert Watson** by email: [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk) or by phone: Tony 07803 615916 Robert 07711 030557



# CyberCrime - Members' Meeting Revisited



Following on from his excellent talk on CyberCrime at our Members' Meeting in January, DC Andy Kevan has offered these useful highlights.

Look at this site to help you understand your social media settings: [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

There is a lot of information on the site and, although it is primarily aimed at helping parents keep their children safe online, there are handy guides to setting controls on social media that any of us might adopt.

Forward all suspicious text message to 7726

Forward all suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

To check to see if your data has been involved in a data breach, go to [haveibeenpwned.com](http://haveibeenpwned.com) (copy and paste the red text into your browser) and enter your email address.

Always use three random words as part of your password – for instance FebruaryKanutaPink

Use this free password checker to see if your password is any good!

<https://www.security.org/how-secure-is-my-password>

The password checker shows how long it would take an automated computer search to discover your password. According to the checker, it would take a computer about 6 trillion years to crack the password mentioned above.

# News from the Groups

## Walking Group 3

The group walks on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Our walks are approximately 5 miles (sometimes they include slopes and stiles) and nearly always culminate in a pub lunch. Well-behaved dogs are welcome although they sometimes have to stay in the car if the pub does not allow them inside.



On January 19th we did a 5 mile walk from The Stanley Arms through Carey Park and Marbury Park with a coffee stop in Marbury. The snowy weather did not hold us back and it was lovely to see the sun shining through the trees which were silhouetted against the bright blue sky.

If you wish to be put on the mailing list for this group please contact me c/o [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk) or phone 07773 022373.

**Sue Allan**

## Walking Group 4

This recently-formed walking group has 17 members and meets in the mornings of the first and third Fridays of each month. New members are welcome - just call or drop me a line c/o [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

**Allan Jones** (01565633435)

## Walking Group 5

This walking group has only had one meeting so far so we've not really got an agenda however we are meeting in the mornings of the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Our plan is to do three miles - preferably without stiles - a gentle walk on reasonably flat terrain.

All welcome - just call or drop me a line c/o [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

**Anne Rogers** (01565633994)

## Music Appreciation Group

The Music Appreciation Group welcomes new members. If you would enjoy a relaxing hour and a half listening to music, why not give us a go?

During 2023, we will meet on the third Monday of each month (apart from August and December) in Room 5 at the Methodist Church, from 1.45 – 3.15 p.m.

We listen to a variety of music - mainly classical, but also to jazz; and occasionally other genres such as folk, blues and pop make guest appearances. Most meetings are based on a presentation, but we also listen to Members' Choices on an agreed theme, for example, film music or a season of the year. Presentations may focus on: a type of instrument such as the harp or plucked strings; musical eras such as Mediaeval, Renaissance and Baroque, or styles such as Latin American Classical Music and Jazz. Themes such as Dance Music, Royalty (at the time of the Jubilee), Songs and Ballads, Birds and many others appear.

Please contact me on 01477 533076 if you are interested in joining.

**Tessa Gurney**

# News from the Groups

## Family and Social History Group

At the January meeting of the group there was a discussion about the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752 which resulted in the loss of 11 days in September 1752 and the shift of New Year's Day from March 25<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> 1753. The Group was mostly concerned with the effect on Parish Registers but Roger Brown has expanded on the topic and hopes the wider u3a will find it interesting.

## New Year's Day and the Tax Man

### 1<sup>st</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> April

Why does His Majesty's Revenue and Customs start our Tax Year on 6th April? Has it been selected as a random date just to amuse and confuse? Why doesn't the Tax Year start on, say, 1st January, which would seem much more logical?

The answer lies in the importance of Lady Day to our ancestors. The roots of Lady Day are religious, a Christian name for an older date in the calendar. 25<sup>th</sup> March is Lady Day and, for a while, was also New Year's Day, being the traditional day for hiring farm labourers for the planting and harvesting seasons ahead. Lady Day is another name for the Christian Feast of the Annunciation, which marks the day the Angel Gabriel revealed to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to Jesus Christ. It is nine months before Christmas Day.

Lady Day was actually New Year's Day in England and Wales from 1155 until 1752 when the Julian Calendar was in use. Then in 1752 England and Wales adopted the Gregorian Calendar, which recalculated the solar year following a papal bull decreed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Over the centuries the Julian Calendar had fallen out of step with the relationship between the sun and Earth, a more precise measure was needed to enable scientific calculations to be accurate. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century science, or natural philosophy as it had been known, was in the ascendant. In Britain, pressure from The Royal Society gave impetus to grasping this awkward nettle.

Eleven days were lost during the change-over of calendars, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1752 was followed by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September, **there was no 3<sup>rd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 1752!** It was reported that some people weren't very happy about losing eleven days from their allotted three score years and ten.

From 1753 until 1800, although Lady Day remained as 25th March, the tax year began on 5th April (calculated by "restoring" the "stolen" 11 days to complete a 365-day cycle since the start of the previous tax year). As 6th April is the start of the modern tax year there is still one day's gap to account for.

In 1800 there was a skipped leap day, no 29th February, which meant that the start of the tax year then moved to 6th April.

Lady Day is the first of the four traditional quarter days, when tenancies begin and rents become payable, the day on which year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers in England and nearby lands (although there were regional variations) were agreed. But perhaps more on that next time...

**Roger Brown**



# Booking Forms for Theatre & Music Trips

*Please note that for insurance purposes, people attending events should be members of the u3a*

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 only be contacted if your booking was NOT successful.

For further information telephone 01565 872643 or email Margaret c/o [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto: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> of all those 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		