

KANUTA

**Newsletter
September
2023**

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Newsletter contributions: newsletter.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com

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From the Chair

Hi all, at the August meeting of the Knutsford u3a Committee I was elected as Chair, taking over from Mark Barley who will continue on the Committee and take on the role of Secretary. I would like to thank him for leading us so well over the past 3 years, which included the difficult Covid period, and for taking on his new role. Details of Committee Members and their roles are given in this Edition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes our u3a work, including all the Committee members, Group Leaders, the technical team who support Members' Meetings, members of the Speakers' and Outings Committees who work hard to provide interesting and varied speakers and outings, Terry who produces Kanuta, Tony who is the brains behind our website, volunteers who serve refreshments and anyone else who plays a part in ensuring that our u3a remains the vibrant organisation we want it to be.

At this point I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Fran Lowe who sadly died in June after a short illness. Fran had been an active member of the Speakers' Committee for several years. Her input was extremely valuable and her willingness to help and good humour will be sadly missed.

We need every member to participate in what we do from taking an active part in whatever groups interest you to becoming a bit more involved in the behind the scenes running of the organisation. I know the Speakers' Committee, the technical team and the refreshment team could all do with some extra help. If you can get involved in this way it will, I am sure, enhance your enjoyment of your membership of Knutsford u3a, you'll get to know more people and get a better idea of what goes on behind the scenes. If you want any more information please contact me for a discussion.

On September 14th, in place of our usual Members' Meeting, we will be holding a Showcase event in the Methodist Church. A selection of Group Leaders will be there to advertise their Group's activities and tea & coffee will be served in the Hall as usual. It is a great opportunity for members, particularly new members, to come along and see what we do, talk to Group Leaders or Committee Members and catch up with their friends. If you have any friends or neighbours who you think might like to join our u3a please bring them along, this meeting is open to all.

Finally, I hope you have all had a really good Summer (despite the recent disappointing weather!) and are keen to carry on with your u3a activities and take up new ones

Sue Allan

Knutsford u3a Committee members 2023/2024

Name	Role	Email address
Sue Allan	Chair	chair@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Adrian Long	Treasurer	treasurer@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Mark Barley	Secretary	secretary@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Stuart Allan	Groups Supporter	groups.supporter@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Roger Brown	Publicity	via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Irene Hardy	Events Co-ordinator	via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Robert Watson	Vice Chair, Beacon Administrator & Technical Team Leader	beaconadmin@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Helen Smith	Membership Secretary & Accessibility Officer	membership@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Wendy Brooks	Refreshments Rota Co-ordinator	via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Georgina Blackburn	Welcome Co-ordinator	via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Anthony Axon	Speakers Committee Chair	via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

Showcase Event

Knutsford Methodist Church
Thursday 14th September starting at 2.15pm

As in previous years we are holding our Showcase event where our Activity Groups will have stands within the Knutsford Methodist Church to present their activities to members of the public and also to give our own members particularly those who have recently joined an opportunity to see the wide range that is available to them. Also Activity Group Leaders and Committee members will be present and be pleased to talk to people who may have questions. If you have any friends, relatives or neighbours who may be interested in joining our u3a please invite them along.

Members' Meetings

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

14th September **Groups Showcase event** and social – see separate notice above.

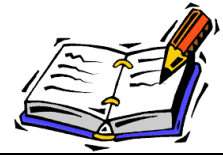
12th October **Howard Barlow** – photographer and photojournalist – will share his stories of photographing lots of famous people, especially music stars of the 60s and 70s and famous politicians together with 'street' photos of life in places such as Salford in the 1960s.

9th November **David Mitchell**, Town Crier of Chester, will give a talk entitled 'The Word on the Street: A History of the Town Crier and the Bellman'

14th December **Nigel Linge**, Professor of Telecommunications at Salford University, will talk on 'The Internet of Things'



Dates for your Diary



2023

Friday 17th November **Manchester Museum and Peoples' Museum**

Friday 1st December **Christmas Lunch** at The Clink Restaurant in Styal

2024

Saturday 13th January **'Brief Encounter'** a matinée at the Royal Exchange Theatre
A musical version of this romantic story. Tickets will be available in September



Your Kanuta



Kanuta is published 5 times a year, usually at the beginning of February, April, June, September and November

If you have an article you'd like to share with your fellow u3a members – preferably related to the u3a and its activities – please submit it to newsletter.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com before 23rd of the preceding month.

Rod Howgate

17 September 1937 - 21 August 2023

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Rod Howgate on Monday 21st August. Rod joined Knutsford u3a in 2008 (member 97) and was a very active member over many years.

A group of potential walkers were delighted when, in the early years of his membership, Rod agreed to lead a new group. This was Walking Group 2 which still going strong. He led many memorable walks throughout Cheshire and Derbyshire. Rod and Tessa celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2011 by leading the group on a walk from Ashford in the Water to Monsal Head and back, 50 years to the day of their wedding in Sheffield. He also organised three long distance walks. This required much planning as the walks were linear and took place over several days.

He could be found treading the boards in the days when Eileen Stanton produced Pantomimes: Red Hot Sindes, Maria Martin and the Red Barn!

One of his great claims to fame was the Big Showcase at the Curzon, which he put on in September 2012 after 6 months of planning, ably assisted by Sue Hopkin. Several groups demonstrated their activities, and the whole town was invited. Many new members were recruited.

One-time joint vice Chairman of Knutsford u3a, he was Chair of the Speakers Committee for a while and remained as an adviser until recent times. His considerable range of contacts enabled him to recruit several prestigious speakers for our Members Meetings.

The success of the present u3a is built on foundations laid in no small part by Rod Howgate, a warm, likeable, gregarious man who will be much missed.

Margaret Joscelyne, Carole English and Lynda Harris



Theatre and Music Trips



Eblana String Trio

Friday, 3rd November, 2023, 2:15 pm
Knutsford Methodist Church

Cost, including refreshments £12.00

We welcome the Eblana String Trio to Knutsford for another Afternoon Concert at the Methodist Church. The centrepiece of the programme will be Mozart's monumental Divertimento in E flat for String Trio, considered to be one of the greatest achievements in chamber music. Alongside this the trio will perform Gerald Finzi's evocative Prelude and Fugue for String Trio.

Since its formation in 2006, the Eblana String Trio has been performing regularly for music societies and festivals throughout the UK and beyond, winning praise from audiences and critics alike. They have given acclaimed performances at major venues and on the Radio.

The members of the trio are visiting tutors in Chamber Music at Birmingham Conservatoire. Jonathan Martindale is Associate Leader of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: he is the son of members of Knutsford U3A. They have a website at <http://www.eblanastringtrio.com/>

The cost of £12 includes a cup of tea and the opportunity to meet the musicians. Tickets for the concert will be on sale at the September Showcase event and the October Member's Meeting. You can also use the booking form at the end of Kanuta or online.

For more information, contact info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

Margaret Joscelyne

Romeo and Juliet

Thursday, 9th November, 2023, 7:30 pm
Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

Cost, including travel, £48.00
Coach departs the bus station 6 pm prompt

I hope this will make for an exciting evening! This is a fiery retelling of Shakespeare's tragic love story set in modern day Manchester. As described by the theatre :-

'This contemporary version of Romeo & Juliet is a love letter to Manchester, a celebration of youth, love and aspiration. A vision of hope in troubled times'

'No matter how tragic it is, this love story still has immense hope in its heart'

Well, it worked for West Side Story, so hopefully it will work for The Exchange!

There are still a few tickets remaining. They will be on sale at the Showcase event on Thursday September 14th which will be your last opportunity to make a booking. To be sure of your tickets, use the booking form towards the end of Kanuta or call me on 01565 872643.

Margaret Hinde



Theatre and Music Trips



Life of Pi

Thursday, 14th December, 2023, 7:30 pm
The Lowry Theatre, Salford

Cost, including travel, £47.00
Coach departs the bus station 6 pm prompt

This five star hit show is based on the best-selling book by Yann Martel. After winning five Olivier awards, conquering the West End and Broadway, this production comes to the Lowry on its first ever UK tour. Jaw dropping visuals and world class puppetry combine to make a breath taking theatrical event.

You may recall the story: After an epic storm in the Pacific, Pi is stranded on a life boat with four other survivors – a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a Royal Bengal Tiger! It is an epic story of endurance and hope.



'Everything about this production is amazing' - The Observer

'The puppetry is out of this world' - Mail on Sunday

Tickets will be on sale at the Showcase event on Thursday September 14th but you may prefer to use the booking form towards the end of Kanuta or call me on 01565 872643.

Margaret Hinde



Outings



Holiday in Norfolk

4 Nights / 5 Days, based in Norwich
Monday 13th – Friday 17th May 2024

The Outings Committee are very pleased to be able to offer a holiday in Norfolk to you!

Very briefly the itinerary will include:

- Guided walking tour of Stamford, Lincolnshire, one of the finest Georgian stone towns in the country, on Day 1, en route to Norwich.
- Visit to Royal Sandringham House, Museum & Gardens.
- A 1.5 hours cruise in the Norfolk Broads, in a double deck paddle boat.
- Visit to Blickling Hall & Estate (NT).
- Full day in Norwich, including tour of the medieval cathedral and free time.
- Visit to the Sainsbury Visual Arts Centre, one of the most prominent university art galleries in Britain.
- Visit to the International Bomber Command Centre, Lincolnshire (on our journey home).
- Final dinner at the Assembly House in the centre of Norwich.

We will be staying at the Best Western George Hotel in Norwich, a picturesque and convenient place to stay. We will be assisted in organising this by Simply Groups, the company involved with running our Slovenia and Northumberland holidays.

The cost of the holiday includes all luxury coach travel from Knutsford, 4 nights bed and breakfast, 4 dinners and 1 lunch. We have reserved rooms for 34 people; 10 twin/double rooms, 7 specific singles (no supplement) and 9 sole occupancy rooms (supplement applies).

Price with minimum 30+ passengers - £779pp

Price with minimum 25 passengers - £799 pp

Single supplement - £79 for the 4 nights

We will have a lot more detail, (and booking forms) available at the Showcase event on Thursday, September 14th but we thought you might like to know 'up front' what will be available.

Margaret Hinde

Since October 2009 our u3a has had the opportunity of engaging with of a programme of outings organised by the Outings Committee and there have been eight or nine to choose from during the year. Our current committee comprising of myself, Margaret Hinde, Irene Hardy, Jane Smallwood, Marian Goddard and Hazel Snowden have continued to try and find a variety of interesting places to visit.

We enjoy organising these outings and are delighted with our members' enthusiasm for them and their immaculate time keeping. Still to come this year are a trip to the Manchester Museum and Peoples' Museum on 17th November and a Christmas Lunch at The Clink Restaurant in Styal on 1st December. Full details will be available at the Showcase event. Three members of the Outings Committee will be there to answer questions or the take details of any suggestions you may have for future outings.

Lynda Harris

News from the Groups

Singing Group

The Singing Group currently has about 20 regular members and we are keen to recruit more! We cover a variety of light music styles including folk, pop and songs from the shows. Our aim is to make singing accessible and enjoyable for everyone regardless of previous experience. So though some members have music-reading skills, this is not necessary in order to take part and enjoy the sessions.

We meet once a fortnight on Tuesday afternoon from 2pm - 3:30pm in Room 5 at KMC (Knutsford Methodist Church). The charge is £2 per session on a pay-as-you-go basis. We recommence on Tuesday 19th September and further information will be available at the Showcase event on Thursday 14th September.

Kath Scott

Cryptic Crosswords Group

This new group has been operating successfully for about 3 months on a fortnightly basis in the Knutsford Town Council offices on Toft Road. Brian Wreford, who is leading the group, has over 40 years' experience in solving Cryptic Crosswords. The summer session has been completed which has been well received by both 'beginners' and 'improvers' (i.e. those with some experience).

The autumn/winter session is being planned, taking account of input from group members. There may also be a Taster Session in early October, if there is sufficient interest. In the meantime, a group member has offered a short puzzle. Can you find the Cheshire Towns and Villages from the following cryptic clues:

1. Need a change of plasma to get here (6)
2. One hears that it's where the ship's captain performs (5,6)
3. Drunk returns with new soft centre (9)
4. Mix paste, churn and arrive here (10)
5. Here a goods vehicle is parked in a ginnel (8)
6. Calendar Girls return despatch (6)
7. Beachcomber bachelor conceals this location (10)
8. Sounds it could possibly be "Three Men in a Boat" (5)
9. Jogged in an enclosure (7)
10. This plant, robust as it is, is hidden here (8)
11. Santa's little helper is found in notes (8)
12. Not sensible but on reflection it is there (6)
13. Sunbathe in no hurry (7)

If you are interested in cryptic crosswords, Brian will be present at the Showcase event on the 14th September and will be pleased to discuss them with you... he will also have the answers to the puzzle!

Fitness Group

There are vacancies for the Fitness Group which meets between 3 and 4 on a Tuesday afternoon. The exercises, using your own body weight, bands and dumb bells, are varied and only challenging if you want them to be. Gaynor the Trainer leads the group. She is qualified and always stresses that you do what is possible and comfortable for you. The aim of the sessions is to keep us moving while gaining strength and flexibility. I will be at the Showcase event if you want further information.

Lynda Harris

Group Report

Architecture Group

The Glories of Manchester Architecture



You may well have heard of Waterhouse (Alfred Waterhouse - Manchester Town Hall and the Refuge Assurance Building) but it's less likely that you're familiar with the other 'W' architects who left a legacy in Manchester - Walters, Worthington and Wood. So for a very wet ninety minutes in July eighteen hardy souls braved the elements (somehow quite appropriate for Manchester) to join Ed Glinert in a walking tour of some of Manchester's finest and not so fine buildings. We were to discover more about these 'W' architects as well as others who left their mark on the city. Ed Glinert runs 'New Manchester Walks' and you may recall that he presented an excellent talk, '10 Manchester Inventions That Shook the World' to our monthly meeting in February. Ed is pretty convinced from his own research that Rolls didn't first meet Royce at the Midland Hotel despite the plaque at the hotel but that's another story.

Starting our walk at midday from the steps of the Midland Hotel in St Peter's Square it soon became very clear why the area was unusually busy with young people in robes and mortar boards - the Midland Hotel was the location for registration for Manchester Metropolitan University's graduation ceremony at Bridgewater Hall, but more of that building later. I'm sure at least one of our group said 'Oh to be 21 again!'

Central Manchester is dominated by 19th century architects who were inspired to re-create the traditional styles of Europe - Greek, Gothic, Italianate and Baroque. First stop on Mount Street behind the Central Library was the 'Friends Meeting House' (Richard Lane, 1830 and Grade 2 Listed) - based upon a classical Greek temple - its simplicity accorded with the unostentatious character of the Quaker movement. Purposely raised above street level and approached by wide steps this was a design device used to allow the classical proportions of the building to be better appreciated - it is one of the few pre-Victorian buildings remaining in central Manchester.

Around the corner in Albert Square is Manchester's famous Neo Gothic revival Town Hall (Alfred Waterhouse, 1877 and Grade 1 Listed) which bears a remarkable resemblance to Ypres Cloth Hall (originally constructed in 1304 and renovated between 1933 and 1967) in Belgium. It is currently shrouded in tarpaulin after a major facelift and is due to re-open in 2024. However far less attention is paid to the superb 'Memorial Hall' on the corner of Albert Square and Southmill Street. It is pure Venetian Gothic revival (Thomas Worthington, 1866 and Grade 2* Listed).

Next we discovered another 'W' architect - The 'Free Trade Hall' (Edward Walters, 1856 and Grade 2*

Group Report

Listed) on Peter Street is classic Palazzo style based upon the 19th and 20th century palaces built by wealthy families of the Italian Renaissance. Home to the Halle Orchestra from 1858 to 1996, the building, now a Radisson hotel, is probably more famous not only for being the site of the Peterloo Massacre in 1819 but also for that day in May 1966 when Bob Dylan plugged in an electric guitar and betrayed his acoustic guitar folk fans leading to the most famous heckle in musical history of 'Judas'.

Walters was also responsible for some stunning textile warehouses on Charlotte Street in the Palazzo style. The design principle was to have larger windows on the first floor to let more light into the main showrooms and smaller windows at the top to protect more delicate goods. Walter's Frazer House sits on the corner of Portland Street and Charlotte Street (1856 and Grade 2 Listed) but is now dominated by Manchester architects Leach Rhodes Walker's Manchester One (formerly Portland Towers) to the rear which at 250 feet tall was one of the first high rise buildings built in the 1960s in the UK.

Further forays along Mosley Street revealed another gem, 'The Portico Library' (Thomas Harrison, 1806 and Grade 2 * Listed) in the Greek revival style - well worth a visit but on another day. Elizabeth Gaskell was a member.

Arguably the greatest of all the 'W' Architects in Ed Glinert's opinion is the virtually unknown Edgar Wood (1860 - 1935) who was a modernist master, so feared by the Manchester architectural establishment (for whom he was too avant garde) that they relegated him to the suburbs. His buildings can be found in Middleton, Rochdale, Oldham and Hale rather than the city centre. He pioneered several architectural styles - art nouveau, vernacular revival, Arts and Crafts and art deco. He was the most advanced English architect of his generation so although Ed spoke in glowing terms clearly another trip is needed by the group to explore The Edgar Wood Society and his buildings.

Ed clearly favours classical architecture but there are two more 'W' architects, Hugh Wilson and Lewis Womersley who designed the Arndale Centre (1976-79) but for some reason they don't feature in the tour!

Moving quickly on to see some more structures that don't make Ed's classification of 'Manchester glories', we were taken through 'Library Walk', the glass structure between the Central Library and Town Hall extension (both Grade 2* Listed). Designed by Simpson Haugh (Ian Simpson - more of him soon) it was once described as 'the elegance of a piece of chewing gum stuck between the teeth'! It took a Public Inquiry in 2015 to permit the closing of this former public right of way between 10pm and 6am. Maybe its only merit is its interior which is decorated with Manchester bees and cotton flower floor mosaics, eighteen of which have their centres engraved with the name of a Peterloo massacre victim. Speaking of Ian Simpson, Ed wasn't too impressed with his Beetham Tower also.

So as our legs got wearier and our brains tried to cope with an overload of amazing facts (and we were getting hungry) we finished our tour outside Bridgewater Hall (Renton Howard Wood Levin, 1966) which seemed quite appropriate as all the graduates assembled there for their ceremony. Again, Ed didn't see this building as a glory externally but its design was strongly governed by interior and acoustic considerations (Arup) and a little known fact is that it floats free of the ground on 280 giant springs to protect performances from exterior noise and vibration - a clever unseen design feature.

Despite the rain, everyone agreed that the tour had been both entertaining and informative with lots of quirky unknown facts imparted to the group - the message was clear - 'Look Up' when walking through Manchester and appreciate some of the wondrous buildings.

Trevor Hosking

There were many more photographs taken on this outing. You can find them all on the website at

<https://knutsfordu3a.co.uk/activity-groups-visits/photo-archive/architecture-group-visit-to-manchester-2023/>

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)

BOOKING FORM – Eblana String Trio		Organised by Margaret Hinde
<p>Event: Eblana String Trio at Knutsford Methodist Church Date & time: Friday 3rd November, 2023, 14:15 I/We would like to book place/s at £12.00 each and enclose a cheque for £.....made payable to Knutsford and District u3a</p>		
<p>Names of all attending</p>		
Phone number	e-mail	
<p>Send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford and District u3a to Margaret Hinde, 1, Warford Hall Drive, a Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR Telephone 01565 872643</p>		

BOOKING FORM – Romeo and Juliet		Organised by Margaret Hinde
<p>Event: Romeo and Juliet at The Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester Date & time: Thursday 9th November, 2023, 18:00</p> <p>I/We would like to book place/s at £48.00 each and enclose a cheque for £made payable to Knutsford and District u3a</p>		
Name and Address of all attending with postcode		
Phone number	e-mail	Phone number <small>In case of emergency on the day</small>
<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 – Life of Pi		Organised by Margaret Hinde
<p>Event: Life of Pi at The Lowry Theatre, Salford Date & time: Thursday 14th December, 2023, 18:00</p> <p>I/We would like to book place/s at £47.00 each and enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Knutsford and District u3a</p>		
Names of all attending		
Phone number	e-mail	Phone number <small>In case of emergency on the day</small>
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