

# KANUTA

Newsletter  
November 2024

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## From the Chair

Hi all, November is here again and the (rather disappointing) summer has given way to autumn. Hopefully you are enjoying the resumption of your u3a activities or maybe you've continued with them through the summer. Either way I'm sure you find your participation in our u3a activities stimulating and entertaining.

I'd like to thank those Group Leaders who took tables at the Showcase event early in September. The event was successful and very well attended. We certainly had some good publicity for it in the Knutsford Guardian thanks to Committee member Roger Brown's efforts. I'd just like to remind Group Leaders that, if they want any more information about their Groups added to our website or any changes made to existing information they need to contact Tony Roberts, our much valued Webmaster, via [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk).

I'd also like to welcome the many new members who have joined over the past few months. I hope you're enjoying your membership of Knutsford u3a. If you have any comments you'd like to make or any ideas for new groups please use the 'info' email address given above to let us have them. We'll be holding a coffee morning for new members on 12th November so that we can welcome them officially and give them an opportunity to meet Committee members and Group Leaders.

Sadly, over the past few weeks, two valued members who have both contributed to the life of our u3a have passed away:

**Veronica Gordon** had been a Committee member for many years, taking on the role of Membership Secretary for several years until standing down in 2021. Veronica also supported the formation of new groups and ran her own Poetry group for many years. Her contribution to the life of our u3a was invaluable. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

**Kath Scott** led our Singing Group for the last few years. She was an enthusiastic instigator and leader of this Group and will be sadly missed. Our condolences also go to her family and friends.

You will see in this edition that we are in need of volunteers to help in the overall running of our u3a. Help is required at Members' Meetings and we are also looking for a volunteer to run the Activity Groups accounts. Both roles are, of course, important but our Treasurer, Adrian Long, is finding the whole Treasurer role far too demanding of his time so we are hoping to split the role and that someone will volunteer to take over the Activity Groups account. If you have relevant experience please consider helping out in this way.

**Sue Allen, Chair**



## Call for Volunteers

Your u3a needs your help



The Committee is seeking an **Activity Groups Treasurer** in order to reduce the workload of the current treasurer. The role involves keeping track of the finances of all the u3a Groups whose activities require them to collect money in and pay it out. The Activity Groups Treasurer will need to identify all income from each Group each month from the bank statement, PayPal and SumUp accounts, allocate it to the correct group on an existing spreadsheet, ensuring the bank is balanced each month. He/she will also need to receive, scan and forward any invoices received from Group Leaders to the Treasurer (Adrian Long) for payment, obviously accounting for this from the specific Group's account. A final P&L will need to be constructed with a supporting file of all transactions for amalgamation into the Knutsford & District u3a Year End accounts. If you would like more information about this interesting challenge, please contact Adrian Long who will explain and demonstrate the current system. He can be contacted through [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

We only have a limited number of members who can help set up and take down at our monthly Members' Meetings. The tasks involved are not onerous but we need people to do them each time we have a Speaker, they include setting up the projectors and sound system and making sure the Speakers' slides work correctly. I am sure we must have quite a few members to whom this would not prove to be too difficult and training would be given. If enough people volunteer it would only involve each person 2 or 3 times per year. If you would like more information please contact Tony Roberts on [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk).

**Remember** Our u3a is run on a self-help basis and we need more people to be prepared to volunteer for these and other roles which will come up in the future as Committee members retire having done their stint. I would urge you to consider contacting me or any other member of the Committee for further information about what we do and to sit in on a Committee meeting so that you can see what is involved in running your valuable organisation.

Sue Allan



### Committee Member Profile - Georgina Blackburn

I was born in Wakefield, Yorkshire. My first profession was in the aircraft industry. I married my late husband Kenneth in 1965 and had our 3 wonderful children. In 1992 I returned to work in as a Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths – such an interesting profession. I became a widow in 2002 and moved to live in Knutsford to be near my son, John, in Cheshire in 2006. I didn't know anyone here so joined the u3a, one of the best places for meeting new people. I became an active leader of many groups – Walking, Wine, Bridge, to name but a few. I was then co-opted onto the Committee, and elevated to Tea Lady when we held Members' Meetings in St Vincent's Church Hall. Our Members' Meetings moved to the Methodist Church as our numbers increased. Although I was still very involved at this time I took a break from the Committee to take up Grandma duties.

In 2021 I heard on the grapevine that the Committee were looking for new members so I volunteered to get involved and give some more of my time to our wonderful Knutsford u3a. I am now the Meet & Greet lady at Members' Meetings as well as being involved in making decisions for our u3a.

I would urge you to consider joining our Committee (they are a great group of people!) or to get involved in supporting our u3a in other ways: running/helping to run a new or existing group or volunteering to help at Members' Meetings. It's a great way to meet new people – no age limit, we need more willing helpers!

# Members' Meetings

Knutsford Methodist Church  
Second Thursday of every month starting at 2.15pm  
Please aim to be seated by 2.00pm

- 14<sup>th</sup> November** **Joanna M Williams** will speak on "The Great Miss Lydia Becker - Suffragist, Scientist and trailblazer." Fifty years before women were enfranchised, a legal loophole allowed a thousand women to vote in the General election of 1868. This surprising event occurred due to the feisty and single-minded dedication of Lydia Becker, the acknowledged but unofficial leader of the Women's suffrage movement in the later 19th century.
- 12<sup>th</sup> December** **Nicky Patterson** will speak on "Air Traffic control". Nicky has been an Air Traffic Controller for the last 25 years. She works at Manchester Airport providing Tower and Approach radar services to arriving and departing aircraft. Her talk will explain what goes on behind the scenes and how they move over 2.5 million aircraft through UK air space each year!
- 9<sup>th</sup> January** **Norman Harris** will talk about travelling "America Coast to Coast by Harley-Davidson".
- 13<sup>th</sup> February** We welcome back **Ed Glinert** who will talk about "The Secret History of Manchester".
- 13<sup>th</sup> March** **Brian Healey** will describe "The lost mansions of New York".



## Hidden Talents



Knutsford Methodist Church at 2.15pm prompt  
Please aim to be seated by 2.00pm.

### Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 The Man in the White Suit

**Peter Sharratt**, one of our members from the BBC, will tell us how Martin Bell OBE was elected MP for Tatton in 1997 and put our town of Knutsford on the political map. Peter filmed the campaign for the BBC and later made a shortened 17-minute version of it that he will show us. He thinks that some of our audience may well have been involved in the campaign and will be interested to discuss it after his introduction and the film itself has been shown

### Thursday January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025 From Shire Horses to Jet Engines

**Alan Ingram** will tell us the story behind the invention of the jet engine in a non-technical way. Starting with the propeller, their work led to the blood, sweat and tears of the scientists working on it. The only engines that proved successful resulted from pushing the boundaries of science and overcoming a myriad of teething problems that required vast fortunes to be spent. Their eventual success can only be described as a modern miracle.

### Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 Climbing Mount McKinley in Alaska

Our very own treasurer **Adrian Long** will describe his epic trip.



# Theatre and Music Trips



## Come From Away

A Musical by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

**Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2025, 8:00 pm**  
**The Lowry Theatre, Salford**

**Cost, including travel     £65.00**  
**Coach departs 6:30 pm prompt**

Recently, I have had several requests to take a coach trip to 'Come From Away', a new musical which will have a six week run over Christmas at The Lowry. Their comments have been that it is 'so enjoyable'; 'a real feel good evening' and 'well worth a visit'. What better recommendation could there be? So, for our Christmas theatre visit this year, I have booked, as usual, for the first week in January. Hopefully, a cheerful way to start the New Year?

'Come From Away' is based on the true story of 38 plane loads of traumatised passengers, who were grounded on the small Canadian island of Newfoundland after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, and were subsequently welcomed into the home of this small community.

It is a joyous story, told with soaring music, which has won four Olivier awards and had good national reviews. The Guardian called it 'powerful and profoundly amusing'.

To reserve tickets for this production please book via our [On-line Tickets](#) page or send your cheque, made out to Knutsford U3A, to Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR, together with a completed booking form (see page 13)

Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the Members' meeting on Thursday, November 14th.

**Margaret Hinde**



## Outings



### **Holiday in Hampshire & Winchester** **5 days / 4 Nights Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**From £849pp for two sharing. Single Supplement: £99 pp**  
**Deposit: £150 pp (non-refundable/non-transferable)**  
**Balance due in full by the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

#### **What's included**

Return Executive Coach Travel, 4 nights half board at the 3\* Chilworth Manor Hotel, excursion package.

Highlights of the five day programme can be found below and details of the full itinerary are on the website at [knutsfordu3a.co.uk/activity-groups-visits/outings-and-visits/](http://knutsfordu3a.co.uk/activity-groups-visits/outings-and-visits/), together with the dedicated Booking Form from Simply Groups.

If you have any questions or require a paper copy of these details please contact Margaret Hinde (01565 872643) or Lynda Harris (01565 621058) or email c/o [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk).

Details will also be available at the Members' Meeting on 14th November.

#### **Highlights**

- Brockworth Court & Gardens + Light Lunch
- Salisbury Cathedral
- Arundells Guided Tour
- Mottisfont (NT)
- Historic Dockyard Portsmouth (+ Mary Rose)
- Winchester Great Hall
- Winchester Cathedral
- The Hospital of St Cross Guided Tour
- Bombay Sapphire Discovery Experience Tour
- Sudeley Castle + 2-course Lunch



Great Hall Round Table



Mottisfont NT



Mary Rose



Hospital of St Cross

**Margaret Hinde**

## News from the Groups

### Italian Group

A new term started successfully in September, with 7 members continuing to learn Italian and 3 new beginners starting a new class.

However, we are now searching for a u3a member who speaks Italian and would be prepared to run the two classes in the new year as the u3a philosophy doesn't allow us to continue with a paid tutor.

If you feel you can help with a fortnightly class from January then contact me on 07761 304885 or via [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

**Jane Lloyd-Green**

### Recorder Group

The membership has increased and all standards are welcome. The main thing is enthusiasm!

We meet every other Wednesday afternoon at 61 Boothfields from 2.15 for an hour or so.

We hope to play at Christmas to a group who will appreciate our efforts.

**Carol Godwin**

### Bowling Group 2

The group are continuing to meet on the first Friday of the month at the Railway Inn in Mobberley – but only for a chat/drink/snack. Here they are after their last bowling session of the summer.



**Paul Buttrick**

## News from the Groups

### Tai Chi Group

Do you want to do a gentle, low-impact exercise that can help maintain strength, mobility, flexibility, concentration and balance? Then Tai Chi is the perfect activity for you. Tai Chi is suitable for you whatever your level of fitness and you will leave each session with a feeling of calm and inner peace.

We hold two Tai Chi hour long classes every Tuesday at the Knutsford Sports Club on Mereheath Lane. They are structured to ensure students get the maximum benefit from the class.

New students are welcome to the beginners class at 1.30 pm.

Then for anyone who has learnt cheng man ching's short form (or part of it) the intermediate class at 2.30 pm is for you.

The sessions are run by a Senior Instructor Member of the Tai Chi Union with many years of experience.

We would love to see you. Please let the Group Co-ordinator know if you would like to come by phoning me on 07801 310399 or dropping me an email via [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

**Philip Smith**

### Cryptic Crosswords Group

The group, which is now running its Autumn Series of meetings, warmly welcomes new members – particularly those who are new to cryptic crosswords and who might like to explore moving on from general knowledge crosswords to cryptics. The (free) Beginners' section of the group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 2 to 3 pm in The Heath Room, Town Council Offices, Toft Road. Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

For those who are already familiar with cryptics there is a friendly, informal Improvers section (also free), which meets on the same Tuesdays but earlier in the day - from 11 am to 12 noon at the same venue. This section would also be ideal for crossword fans of yesteryear looking for a "refresher" course.

Would any members who wish to attend any of these meetings kindly contact me on 07785 925825 or via [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

**Brian Wreford**

### Family History Group

We are changing our meeting schedule. From November our meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, 10:45 to 11:45 in Knutsford Methodist Church, Meeting Room 5. Doors open at 10.30, carriages at 12 noon. There is an entrance fee of £2.

The first date in the new schedule will be Tuesday 19th November

If you are a Knutsford & District u3a member, you are very welcome to join us. Please remember to bring £2 for the session, if you do join us.

**Roger Brown**

## News from the Groups

### Walking Group 1

Perfect walking conditions on Monday 14 October; still, dry and the sun poked through the clouds on the odd occasion. 8 walkers left the Mobberley Road lay-by at 9.30 in 2 cars and after parking at Ness Botanical Gardens (free parking), we set off and soon descended to the Dee Estuary to take the King Charles III National Coastal Path. Egrets were spotted on the marshes and a Kestrel hovering nearby.

There was something of interest for our Geology Group members present, when we walked through a sandstone cutting, excavated for the original railway. We took a little detour off The Wirral Way to look at the quirky Neston Fairy Wood, before continuing along the route back to Ness Gardens, where we all enjoyed lunch in the Botanics Cafe.

The route was 6.03 miles long, easy walking with a descent and climb of 314 feet.

We walk twice a month, on a Monday, then Wednesday alternately. Walks vary between 5 and 7 miles with the occasional pub lunch and walks of special interest. Please see our webpage on the Knutsford u3a website for the schedule.



You're welcome to contact me for further information about the group, either by phone on 07769 877293 or by email via [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

Perhaps you would like to lead a walk?

**Pat Lee**

### New Singing Group

For the last couple of years, we have had a very successful and fun Singing Group led by a highly competent musician who played piano/keyboard as well as leading the singing. Progressively, the experience was enhanced by introducing experienced guitarists to accompany the keyboard. Unfortunately, the leader had to retire, and we have not been able to find a replacement. However, the accompanying musicians, plus some others, have come up with a proposal to start a New Singing Group.

To trial how this might work, we are holding a **free taster session**

**on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Jubilee Hall from 2 - 3.30pm**

If you would like to sing well-known, popular songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s and other more modern musical favourites of your choosing with other singers and accompanying musicians, then just come along. Songbooks will be provided with words, and we shall have a short break midway through, so you might like to bring a drink. There is no requirement to be able to read music or have any previous singing experience. It will be a social singing group, not a choir, and aims to emphasize the "Live and Laugh" components of the u3a mantra.

If you have any questions, please contact David Lee by email via [info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk)

If you are interested but unable to attend this session, please let David know and you will be included in the distribution for future announcements.





## Outing Reports



### Trip to Buxton

Members of Knutsford u3a enjoyed a trip out to Buxton on 24<sup>th</sup> July. The event was organised by Margaret Hinde, but due to illness, Lynda Harris took the group out.

We met at the Knutsford bus station around 09:00 and arrived in Buxton about 10:30.

First stop was tea/coffee at the Pavilion Gardens. Then two guides joined us and we set off, in two separate groups, to do a history tour of Buxton. This proved very interesting and we learned about the healing Buxton water, even tasted some at the little fountain, near the Crescent.

We saw the statue of William Cavendish, the 5th Earl of Devonshire, the Octagon roof at the Pavilion, the ornate Bandstand in the Pavilion Gardens, and the bathing chair in the arcade. We also visited the Apothecary and saw a demonstration of pill making.

We also learned about The Old Hall hotel (where Mary Queen of Scots stayed) and The Palace hotel.

We enjoyed a spot of lunch in the eateries around the town and then went on to a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* at the Buxton Opera House.



It was a really full day, which everyone enjoyed. Thanks to Margaret for organising and to Lynda for leading us.

**Sandra Stonehill**

There are many more photos from this trip in the Archive [here](#), in the folder "Buxton - July 2024".



## Outing Reports



### National Memorial Arboretum, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire

On 8<sup>th</sup> August we had a splendid trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. Everything ran to time, our coach was very comfortable and our lady driver was very competent.

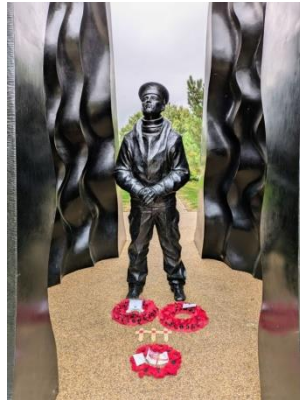
The National Memorial Arboretum was a real treat. The Land Train was an inspired addition to take us through the many areas, with a running commentary as well. What thought has gone into the planning of the site, right down to the minutest detail.

Later on, the inside galleries and the brief snapshot of life through an artistic impression were most interesting, we could probably have filled another hour or so taking it all in.

The café supplied us with lunch, as required, and a cuppa in the afternoon. The staff throughout the building were very helpful.

It was good to see the group of trainee Gurkhas learning about all the memorials, so smart and keen.

A memorable day indeed.



#### Sandra Stonehill

There are many more excellent photos from this trip in the Archive [here](#), in the folder "National Memorial Arboretum - August 2024".

## Beyond our u3a

### Would you know what to do in an emergency situation?

When should you call an ambulance?  
What can you do in the meantime?

### Find out at our free Heartstart class!

#### The 2.5 hour course covers:

- ♥ Dealing with heart attacks
- ♥ Unconscious patient
- ♥ Resuscitation (CPR)
- ♥ Choking
- ♥ Life threatening bleeds
- ♥ How to use Accessible External Defibrillators (AEDs)



Courses take place at Knutsford Methodist Church, rear entrance, on the first Thursday of the month, starting at 7pm

To reserve a place and for further information, visit our website at [kcfrt.org.uk](http://kcfrt.org.uk)



Knutsford Community Heartstart is managed by the Knutsford Community First Responders Trust. Registered charity no. 1119568

Beyond our u3a

# **Knutsford Lions Charity Concert**



Knutsford & District Lions Club (CIO)  
Registered Charity 1198210

## ***Silhouette***



**St John's Parish Church Knutsford**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



**A fabulous 60s /70s  
revival concert  
Tickets £17 in advance**



**In aid of East Cheshire Hospice @ Home & Knutsford Lions Charities**

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/knutsfordlions/event/silhouette>

**Doors open 6.45pm for 7.30pm - Unreserved seating - Bar - Prize Draw**

[www.knutsfordlions.org.uk](http://www.knutsfordlions.org.uk) email: [knutsford.lions@gmail.com](mailto:knutsford.lions@gmail.com) tele: 07770415630

## Booking Forms

Places on u3a trips and outings can only be booked for full or associate members of Knutsford u3a. If you need to bring a companion/carer to enable you to take part in a trip or visit please see our [Accessibility Policy](#).

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 – Come From Away</b>		<b>Organised by Margaret Hinde</b>
<b>Event:</b> Come From Away, The Lowry Theatre, Salford <b>Date &amp; time:</b> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2025, departing Knutsford Bus Station at 6.30 pm PROMPT I/We would like to book ..... place/s at £65.00 each and enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Knutsford and District u3a		
<b>Name and Address <u>with postcode</u> of all attending</b>		
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