

KANUTA

Newsletter
February 2025

General Enquiries and Webmaster: info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Newsletter contributions: newsletter.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com

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From the Chair

Hi everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season (although it seems a long time ago now!) and are looking forward to an interesting 2025.

In November we put out a plea for someone to volunteer to take on the role of Activity Groups Treasurer to ease the burden on our Treasurer. I am delighted to say that our plea was answered and Zoe Langmead has very kindly offered to take on this role. She will be working with Adrian until the end of the financial year at the end of March and from then on she will be dealing with all finances relating to our Activity Groups. If she hasn't already she will be making contact with Group Leaders who pay money into the Activities account as part of managing their Group's finances. Zoe has been co-opted onto the Committee and will become a Trustee of our u3a. On behalf of all our members and, particularly, the Committee I would like to thank Zoe for taking on this role.

The Committee is saying goodbye to one of our members, Helen Smith, who has resigned in order to spend more time on her music although she will continue to act as Membership Secretary until the end of the membership year (31st March). In addition to being Membership Secretary Helen was also our Accessibility Officer and she has also provided our Treasurer with invaluable assistance during her time on the Committee. On behalf of all our members and the Committee I would like to express thanks to Helen for all the hard work she has put into facilitating the running of our u3a over the past few years.

Obviously Helen's departure will leave us with a vacancy for a Membership Secretary. This is a vital role that needs to be undertaken by someone so if anyone would like to discuss what's involved please email me at chair@knutsfordu3a.co.uk and I will happily have a chat with you. Without volunteers to take on these vital roles we would not be able to run our u3a.

I'd also like to remind you that our u3a is part of the national Third Age Trust and that their website www.u3a.org.uk is well worth a look. There is a wealth of information there including how you can take part in on-line learning and workshops. The North West region of the Third Age Trust is also very active and details of the summer school they are running can be found further on in this edition. It can be very interesting to see what is going on in the wider u3a movement.

Sue Allen, Chair

Committee Member Profile



Mark Barley

I was born in Lincoln, but brought up in the south of England: Beds/Bucks and Essex. After a degree in Cambridge and eight years studying and working in North America, I moved in 1987 to the North West to join the chemicals company ICI at Runcorn, living initially in Chester. Later, after marrying Laura, we moved to Bowdon where we have lived ever since.

Our son David was born in 1997 and I left ICI in 2006 and took up a short-term research contract at Manchester University. In 2013 my contract came to an end and I thought I was taking early retirement. I had heard of the u3a movement and was keen to learn some geology, which I had enjoyed at school. At the time Knutsford had a very active geology group under Fred Owen's leadership and they met once a month on a Monday evening at the Angel so I joined Knutsford u3a despite it not being my closest u3a. I was also active in other groups; I remember doing walks with Rod Howgate.

I was still applying for research contracts with Manchester University and at the end of 2013 I was offered a four year contract which kept me employed up to 2017 when I did finally retire. However, I kept up with the u3a geology through all this time, eventually leading the group for a couple of years prior to 2020. At about the same time Colin Bowman suggested that I join the main u3a committee which I did. When Christine Jones (the chair of the committee at the time) was looking for someone to take over that role, I said I would consider it if I could be vice chair first. This was arranged and I ended up taking over the role of chair just after the start of the pandemic. Chairs are limited by the constitution to one term of three years, so when my term was up in 2023, I was fortunate to be able to do a job swap with Sue Allan so she is now chair and I'm secretary. Laura and I continue to greatly enjoy geology and wine group 1, and I'm active in a couple of walking groups and the family history group.

I will finish by asking that every member gets as involved with the u3a as they are able to. We are a volunteer led organisation so we need people to step forward and lead; whether it is within an activity group, or by joining the committee. I found that having a period as vice chair helped massively to prepare me for a role for which I had had no previous experience. Please give it a try!



Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 13th May

Visit to Chirk Castle, Wrexham

Thursday 23rd July

'The Midnight Bell', a Matthew Bourne ballet, at the Lowry

Thursday 14th August

Visit to Southport Flower Show

Members' Meetings

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

- 13th February** We welcome back **Ed Glinert** who will talk about **"The Secret History of Manchester"**. Ed has given us a number of presentations over the past few years. His excellent illustrated talks have always been very popular at our meetings. He is an award-winning tour guide and historian who was voted the "Best Walking City Operator" in the European Travel Awards. A journalist and author, he wrote the much acclaimed Manchester Compendium. His knowledge of the city is prolific. He will now open the door to some of its special secrets for us.
- 13th March** **Brian Healey** is another great speaker we have heard before. This time he will describe **"The lost mansions of New York"** in the so called "Gilded Age" prior to World War I. Huge fortunes were repeatedly lost and won as tycoons like Astor, Vanderbilt and Carnegie cashed in on the railway boom that swept across the American continent from their stronghold in New York and the famed Fifth Avenue. They built magnificent mansions and out of town "cottages" to rival the finest French chateaux and stately homes.
- 10th April** **Simon Michael "My life in crime!"** Simon is the author of a series of legal crime thrillers set in London in the 1960s and featuring his antihero barrister, Charles Holborne. He writes from personal experience having been a practising barrister for thirty-seven years working in the Old Bailey as well as other criminal courts.
- 8th May** **Marilyn Shalks** will entertain us with tales of **"Theatres of Manchester - their history and performers"** revealing some interesting facts and the artists connected to them.
- 12th June** **Peter Sykes** will describe his **"Life as a junior hospital doctor 50 years ago."** Peter is a retired surgeon and author, having written a number of novels and short stories based on his medical experiences.
- 10th July** **AGM** – Our AGM will be followed by **Peter Ashburner** from Marshalls Auctions who will give a talk entitled **"Flog it"** in which he will describe the life on an auctioneer.
- 11th September** Our annual Showcase and social meeting
- 9th October** **Rosie Lee, "The Reluctant Shepherdess"**, will entertain us with her story of how she left a successful career with Barclays Bank to take on the family farm in Winsford.
- 13th November** **Paul Blakey MBE** is the founder of "Street Angels" a project which has made a massive difference in over a hundred towns and cities across the UK and overseas. His talk is entitled **"Street Angels and beyond – help in the street."**
- 11th December** **Jean Finney** will present **"An interlude with Joyce Grenfell"** including the history of the great singer and actress, her career, songs and monologues.



Hidden Talents



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

Thursday March 27th 2025 Climbing Mount McKinley in Alaska
Our very own treasurer **Adrian Long** will describe his epic trip.



Theatre and Music Trips



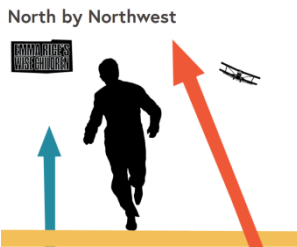
North By Northwest

Adapted for the stage from the Hitchcock film by Emma Rice

Wednesday, 30th April, 2025, 7:30 pm
HOME Arts Centre, Manchester

Cost, including travel **£22.00**
Coach departs 6:00 pm prompt

This may be a new venue for some of you! 'HOME' is a comparatively new Arts Centre, situated in Manchester City Centre, close to the Bridgewater Hall, which opened in 2015. It was formed through a merger of the Library Theatre, the Contact Theatre and Cornerhouse cinema, and was funded by Manchester City Council, amongst others. It houses 2 theatres, 5 cinema screens, a gallery space for exhibitions of contemporary art, a café bar and a restaurant. It has a very varied programme of performances.



'North by Northwest' has been adapted from the Hitchcock film by Emma Rice. Emma has been a successful director for many years. Following two years as Artistic Director of Shakespeare's 'Globe' she won the 'Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre Award' in 2019. With 'North by Northwest' she has turned the cinema thriller on its head and into a riotously funny stage production.

"With just six shape shifting performers, a fabulous 50's soundtrack, and a LOT OF HATS! - We are promised a night of glamour and romance." (HOME publicity)

How can you refuse at this price? I have been offered these greatly reduced prices because it is the first time I have made a group booking at Home.

To reserve tickets for this production please book via our [On-line Tickets](#) page or, by post, send your cheque together with a completed booking form (see page 17).

Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the Members' meeting on Thursday, February 13th.

Margaret Hinde



Outings



Tour of Bridgewater Hall – (and lunch)

Wednesday, 12th March, 2025

Coach departs the bus station

9.45 am

Cost, including transport and lunch

£34.00

The Bridgewater Hall, built 26 years ago as a 'state of the art' concert hall, is a building filled with hidden features and surprising facts. On this guided tour we will see many areas normally off limits to the public, and hear about the careful planning that makes the superb acoustics of the hall.



You will see how the whole 22,500 ton construction has no rigid contact with its foundations. Instead, the whole concrete structure is supported by earthquake-proof giant springs, which ensure no external vibrations mar the acoustics in the hall. I have been told the sight of these springs is unforgettable!

Hopefully, we will also learn about the amazing, enormous organ and hear much more about the design of the whole building.

The whole tour takes about an hour and a half and includes a climb beneath the building to explore the undercroft.

Following on from the tour we have a three minute walk around the outside of the hall to the Rain Bar pub.

Here we will have a simple sandwich lunch (though I have been promised chips!) with tea or coffee. Other drinks can be purchased from the bar.



Please note :-

- 1) The visit to the undercroft will entail climbing up and down two metal staircases.
- 2) There is **NO** morning coffee available before the tour. Please consider buying your own from Booths before we depart!

I only have 30 places available, so to book quickly please use our [On-line Tickets](#) page. Otherwise, to book by post, send your cheque together with a completed booking form (see page 18). Please remember to enclose a SAE if you want confirmation that you have a place on this tour.

Any remaining places will be on sale at the monthly U3A meeting on Thursday, February 13th.

Margaret Hinde



Outings



Visit to the Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield (in association with our Art Appreciation Group)

Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025

Coach departs the bus station

9.15 am

Cost including coach travel, entrance fees, gallery tours and coffee on arrival

£31.00

OR if you have a National Art Pass

£28.00

(N.B. This is not a National Trust card!)



The Hepworth Gallery is an award -winning art gallery, opened in 2011, overlooking the River Calder in Wakefield. Named after Barbara Hepworth, who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery has an impressive collection of work by Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, L.S Lowry, and Henry Moore amongst many other significant contemporary artists.

The Gallery also hosts important temporary exhibitions. Currently, this is 'Forbidden Territories' covering 100 years since the origin of Surrealism, one of the most influential artistic movements of the twentieth century.

Following coffee on arrival, our visit will include an introductory tour, after which you will have plenty of time to make your own tour of the galleries and to purchase your own lunch in the restaurant.

We would expect to leave about 3.30 pm for a return to Knutsford at about 5.00 pm.

To reserve places please book via our [On-line Tickets](#) page or, by post, send your cheque together with a completed booking form (see page 18).

Any remaining places will be on sale at the monthly U3A meeting on Thursday, February 13th.

Margaret Hinde



Outings



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

Only a few places left

From £849pp for two sharing. Single Supplement: £99 pp

Deposit: £150 pp (non-refundable/non-transferable)

Balance due in full by the 25th 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/, 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.

Details will also be available at the Members' Meeting on 13th February.

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



Margaret Hinde

News from the Groups

Deutsche Stunde Group

Unser Ausflug zu den Weihnachtsmärkten in Köln

Die Deutsche „Stunde-Gruppe“ verbrachte Ende November ein paar Tage in Köln, das für seine Weihnachtsmärkte und den Dom bekannt ist. An Der Ausflug war Adrian & Dot Long, Peter West, Tony and Catherine Harvey and Jude Halman.



Wir flogen am Dienstag, dem 28. November, von Manchester nach Köln und kamen um 18:30 Uhr in unserem Hotel an. Nachdem wir uns eine halbe Stunde frisch gemacht hatten, gingen wir in die Stadt, um etwas zu essen zu finden. Die meisten Restaurants waren voll, also gingen wir in ein kleines türkisches Restaurant, um Kebabs zu essen. Sie waren köstlich. Und dann gingen wir nach einem kleinen Trink ins Bett.



Am Morgen trafen wir uns zum Frühstück, um den Tag zu planen. Zuerst gingen wir zum Dom, er war wirklich wunderschön, ich habe noch nie ein so schmales und hohes Kirchenschiff gesehen. Der Bau des Doms begann im 14. Jahrhundert und dauerte 500 Jahre, bis er erst im 19. Jahrhundert fertiggestellt wurde. Wir hörten einen Gottesdienst und auch die Orgel, einfach atemberaubend und erstaunlich.



Dann besuchten wir die Weihnachtsmärkte. In Köln gibt es nicht weniger als fünf Märkte und einen kleinen „Road Train“, der einen um die Märkte herumfährt. Alles war gut, vor allem die Qualität. Wir haben Christbaumschmuck und Geschenke gekauft. In die Nähe des Weihnachtsmarktes gibt es ein Eisring, dort kann man Skaten und auch Curling spielen! Nach dem Mittagessen machten wir einen Spaziergang über die Brücke und am Abend fanden wir uns in einem netten italienischen Restaurant wo wir gut aßen und über den Tag sprachen.

Das Wetter während unserer gesamten Reise war sonnig mit blauem Himmel, kein Wind, alles war sehr angenehm.

Am nächsten Morgen wir nach dem Frühstück gingen in die Stadt zum Einkaufen. Während des Krieges wurde Köln fast vollständig bombardiert. Der Dom und nur wenige Gebäude blieben erhalten, sodass die meisten Gebäude heute neu sind. Die Stadt ist jedoch gut, die Geschäfte sind schön, alle Waren sind von guter Qualität und die Straßen sind voller Menschen, die Einkaufen machen. Während wir unterwegs waren, besuchten wir einen anderen Weihnachtsmarkt, um Würstchen zu essen und Glühwein zu trinken. Sehr lecker und schmeckt wirklich gut!

Viel zu schnell mussten wir wieder nach Hause zurückkommen. Das Taxi zum Hotel kam, um uns zum Flughafen zu bringen. Nach einem kurzen Flug waren wir nach einer schönen Reise wieder in Manchester. Alle haben die Reise sehr genossen und vielleicht kommen wir alle nächsten Jahre wieder.

Translation follows. If you would like to join our little group and learn German do email me via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk



Adrian Long

News from the Groups

German Conversation group

Our trip to the Christmas markets in Cologne

The German "Stünde group" spent a few days in Cologne at the end of November, which is famous for its Christmas markets and cathedral.

We flew from Manchester to Cologne on Tuesday 28th November and arrived at our hotel at 6:30pm. After freshening up for half an hour we went into town to find something to eat. Most of the restaurants were full so we went to a small Turkish restaurant to eat kebabs. They were delicious. And then we went to bed after a little drink.

In the morning, we met for breakfast to plan the day. First, we went to the cathedral, it was beautiful, I have never seen such a narrow and high nave. The construction of the cathedral started in the 14th century and took 500 years to complete until the 19th century. We heard a church service and the organ, just stunning and amazing.

Then we visited the Christmas markets. In Cologne there are no less than five markets and a small "road train" that takes you around the markets. Everything was good, especially the quality. We bought Christmas tree decorations and presents. Near the Christmas market there is an ice rink where you can skate and play curling!

After lunch we took a walk across the bridge and in the evening, we found ourselves in a nice Italian restaurant where we ate well and talked about the day.

The weather during our entire trip was sunny with blue skies, no wind, everything was very pleasant.

The next morning after breakfast we went into town to do some shopping. During the war Cologne was almost completely flattened. The cathedral and only a few buildings remained, so most of the buildings are new today. However, the city is good, the shops are nice, all the goods are of good quality and the streets are full of people shopping. While we were out and about, we visited another Christmas market to eat 'Wurst' and drink mulled wine. Very tasty and good.

Far too soon we had to go home again. The taxi to the hotel came to take us to the airport. After a short flight we were back in Manchester after a nice trip. Everyone enjoyed the trip very much and maybe we will all come back next year

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 play a wide variety of music and all you need is a recorder, music stand if possible and enthusiasm!

Some members played at Toft Cricket Club Lunch in December and we hope to return.

Please phone me on 07811 570463 for further details.

Carol Godwin

Chess Group

Last year a Chess Group was started but, for various reasons, it did not continue. We are keen to resurrect this Group and we now have a member who has volunteered to be the Group Leader.

If you would like to join this Group please let me know by dropping me a line at info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

Stuart Allan
Groups Supporter

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 classes every Tuesday at the Knutsford Sports Club on Mereheath Lane. Each class is an hour long.

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

Philip Smith

Cryptic Crosswords Group

We are a friendly, informal group, with various levels of experience and expertise.

The next Beginners session is on February 11th, 2pm - 3, then fortnightly, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. We meet in The Heath Room, Town Council Offices, Toft Road (opposite the Curzon Cinema). The Improvers/Refreshers series continues on February 11th, 11am - 12, then fortnightly, as above.

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

Brian Wreford

New Singing Group

Following the closure of the previous singing group, a small band of musicians got together to develop an idea for a replacement group. A taster session was held on Wednesday 13th November in the Jubilee Rooms to test out the concept of having singers led and accompanied by a band of instrumentalists. It was a very successful afternoon, and the Singing Group has continued to meet fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons ever since.

On 11th December we decided to have a Christmassy themed session with festive clothing and some delicious cakes and pastries to finish off the year (see photo). There have been two sessions in January and the next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February at 2pm in the Jubilee Rooms.



There are 35 singing members presently and we have produced our first songbook comprising 25 songs and are making good progress on completing a second songbook. Included in the 25 are popular songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s and songs from the musicals. We have well-balanced male and female sections and welcome new members to join us. There is no requirement to be able to read music or to have any singing competence but be prepared to have some fun joining others singing familiar tunes.

To know more, please contact me by email via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk or telephone 01565 634629.

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Alan Orme

News from the Groups

Railway Interest Group

The wide range of our members' interests has been reflected in our meetings over the last six months. We started the summer with a day out by train (of course!), along with our partners, to see Pete Waterman's award winning model of the West Coast Main Line at Chester Cathedral, followed by an excellent lunch and fellowship.

October saw a visit to the Statfold Barn Museum near Tamworth where the Warley Model Railway Club had organised an excellent show that was well supported by both the trade and public. The Statfold Museum is well worth a visit if you are over that way. It is the Narrow Gauge equivalent of the National Museum in York and has a focus on industrial locomotives and their manufacturers. They also have two live steam narrow gauge railways where they exercise their locos and you can ride both for as long as you like!

Here are a rare and unusual crane tank loco for use in small yards and a loco built for use in sugar plantations.



As the days grew darker we reverted to indoor meetings where we have had talks by members about the Midland and Great Northern Railway and about George Hudson, the Railway King.

The annual Christmas Quiz was as popular as ever. Who knew that plans had been developed to build an airport on top of Kings Cross Station? That was in 1931 when aircraft were considerably smaller than they are today.

We have also made contact with like-minded groups in Northwich, Altrincham and Stockport. There is great co-operation and mutual support between these groups. Our members are welcome to attend their lectures.

If you fancy something a little different please come and join us on the second Wednesday every month.

David Custerson

Friday Bowling Group

The Friday bowling group continue to meet during the winter at the Railway Inn at Mobberley for a drink and catch up.

It may not be possible to bowl but we are a very sociable lot!

Paul Buttrick



News from the Groups

[New] Fitness Group 2

To meet a demand from members a second Fitness Group (Fitness Group 2) has started.

It meets weekly on a Friday at the 1st Knutsford Scout Hut (Charlton Hall) on Moorside in Knutsford. It is run by Gaynor Smith, a fully-qualified trainer, who also teaches our other Fitness Group and is highly rated.

Sixteen people turned up for the first session and Gaynor put us through our paces for an hour of stretches and movement. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and most expected to feel the effects in their muscles and joints later.

If you would like to join the waiting list for this Group please let me know by dropping me a line at info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

Sue Leedham

Walking Group 1

Our last walk of 2024, on Monday 9 December was from Piccadilly Basin in Manchester City Centre.

There were 12 members, one dropping out due to illness. Tom, Sue and I arrived early by car and had no problem parking in the surface car park on Dale Street, opposite a Premier Inn. We took advantage of our early arrival to buy coffee inside the hotel at the breakfast bar, and were fortunate enough to be given Danish Pastries and Croissants free of charge, as the waiter said breakfast was coming to a close.

Others members came by Metro or train and once we were all assembled, passed through the Basin and marvelled at the size it had once been during its heyday. After learning about the history of the Basin, when it was used by The Rochdale Canal Company, we moved off over the bridge to join the towpath of the canal, where we stopped briefly to take a look at the 200 year-old, 8-storey Cotton Mills, now converted into apartments and businesses.

Crossing the three-way bridge, we entered New Islington Marina that had been constructed from the former local authority Cardroom Estate, which had been built in the 1970s, after the cotton slums had been cleared in the previous decade. By 2000 the Estate was a deprived place, losing its pubs, shops and eventually the local primary school. By 2006 the estate had been razed to the ground to make way for what is now a much sort-after location in the heart of the city, with two to four-bedroomed family homes with gardens, sitting alongside businesses, cafes, canal barges and narrow boats moored in the Marina.

Transferring to the Ashton Canal towpath, we walked by modern low-rise developments back into the city centre and made our way over to Granby Row, where we learnt about the much-loved Manchester-born soft drink, Vimto. Originally sold under the name Vim Tonic, as a health tonic, it was concocted by John Noel in 1908. then re-registered as a cordial in 1913. An oak monument was commissioned in 1992 to sit at the site of its creation, but weathered by years of wind and rain, it was restored in 2011.

A little further on, we stopped at the statue built in memory of Alan Mathison Turing, close to where he worked at The University of Manchester, following his work with the British Intelligence Service at Bletchley Park during WW11. He had lived his later years in Wilmslow.

Moving on, we admired the red brick Victorian warehouse buildings on our way to lunch at a local pub in Ancoats.

We had been lucky to have dry weather, even if it was a little chilly. An interesting short walk and reasonably priced food (for Manchester!) on the lunch menu. One to be repeated.

Pat Lee



Outing Reports



Visit to Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire

We had a splendid day out last November when 38 members travelled from Knutsford through a very snowy landscape to Chatsworth House. We experienced the Christmas Markets, the beautiful gardens, a d-i-y house tour, seeing the house transformed for Christmas, with huge Christmas trees in every room and garlands of Christmas decorations too. Mice were a recurrent theme, appearing everywhere.

Later the gardens were lit with colourful lights and a photo story appeared on the exterior of the house, it was a real treat.



Thanks to Irene for organising it all, everything ran very smoothly.

Sandra Stonehill

For more photos from this trip go to the online [Photo Archive](#) and look for "Chatsworth House - November 2024"

Halle Christmas Concert

Our outing on 15th December was expertly organised by Margaret Hinde. The coach arriving at Knutsford Bus Station, ahead of schedule, took us to the entrance of the Bridgewater Hall. Our seats in the stalls were just perfect, and the concert was really excellent. There was plenty of audience participation and the choirs were amazing, particularly the children's choir, who were so enthusiastic.



Many thanks to Margaret for her organisation and to the coach company and driver for getting us there.

Sandra Stonehill

Our Wider u3a

The NW region of the u3a is holding a photo competition. They're asking for people to send in photographs of their u3a groups in action. The link quoted in the flyer is editor.nwu3a@gmail.com

Please remember to ask permission from anyone who is in the photo.



Photo Competition

Learn — Laugh — Live

Shine a light and highlight what it means to be a u3a member.

Capture your group as it Learns, Laughs, Lives

Your chance to win a u3a cotton tote bag, a framed copy of your winning photograph, winners certificate and two u3a travel mugs. Runners up will receive a runner up certificate. Winning photos will feature in the u3a North West Region newsletter, website and social media.

u3a

North West Region

Closing date
Friday February 28th

Our two judges (Peter Read – u3a Subject Adviser for Photography, and Rachel Smith – Communications Manager at our u3a Office in London) will be picking a winner, as well as two runners up...

To enter is simple, just send your photograph, in jpeg or png format (you can forward by email straight from your smartphone) to editor.nwu3a@gmail.com with your name, the name of your u3a and also the activity being photographed. Only two entries maximum per person please.

Our ambition is to create our own photo library of our members enjoying being a part of their u3a. By entering you are agreeing that your photo can be used in u3a North West Region publications and social media to promote our u3a groups and activities

Registered Charity 1159091

North West Region of U3As



Registered Charity No: 1159091

invite applications for the 2025 Summer School

Residential Summer School Tues 12th August – Friday 15th August At Manchester Metropolitan University, M15 6GX

The Metropolitan University is located in the centre of Manchester and less than 20 minutes' walk from Oxford Road Railway Station. The campus has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. There will be a quiz on the first evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening. Speakers will also attend on the second and third evening.

Full Board Residential Delegate; £430. (+£10 car parking charge if applicable; +£25 field trips (2) surcharge for archaeology, and £15 field trip surcharge for British artists courses) We include full board for 3 nights, including dinner on 12th August, breakfast, lunch and dinner on 13th August, breakfast, lunch and gala dinner on 14th August, and breakfast on 15th August. Also, tea and coffee refreshments on each day.

Non-Residential Day Delegate: £215 (+parking and field trip surcharge if applicable) includes lunches, teas and coffees, excludes breakfast daily and dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday but does include the gala dinner on 14th August. Accommodation is available nearby in the Manchester city centre.

An Application form (**available online at north west region.u3asite.uk**) must be completed by post or email, Payment can be either by bank transfer (North West Region of U3A's, Lloyds Bank sort code 30-90-16, account 00197002 quoting name and post code) or by cheque (payable to North West Region of U3A's)

£100 DEPOSIT (£50 non residents) PAYABLE UPON APPLICATION; BALANCE BY 12 MAY 2025

*queries should be directed to Alan Hough or Neil Stevenson at
alanhough1949@gmail.com; neil.stevenson@beacon.u3a.org.uk*

Post to 8 Salwick Close, Wigan, Gtr Manchester. WN3 6RE

The 8 courses on offer are:-

Archaeology: "Magical Minerals and Twisted Yarns";

Introduction to Ancient Egypt;

Literature: "I have something to say" (Gaskell, Spring, Winterson)

Art Appreciation: "A Pot- Pourri"

Art challenges: "Significance of Colour"

Uzbekistan: Heart of the Silk Road

Folk Music

Intermediary Ukulele

Full course synopses available separately (and on north west site).

The two email addresses mentioned in the flyer are:

alanhough1949@gmail.com and neil.stevenson@beacon.u3a.org.uk

Beyond our u3a



KNUTSFORD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB **SENIOR CITIZENS VARIETY SHOW**



KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH
SATURDAY 8th February 2025 : 2pm – 4.30pm

KNUTSFORD BEATS - a fabulous local choir



More great entertainmentand the Lions sketch!

FREE TICKETS available from 6TH Jan at:

HEATHFIELD FRUIT & VEG, KNUTSFORD MARKET (TEMP), KNUTSFORD.
KNUTSFORD OLDE SWEET SHOPPE, 119 KING STREET, KNUTSFORD.
OR ANY LIONS MEMBER

Web : www.knutsfordlions.org.uk

email: knutsford.lions@gmail.com

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)

BOOKING FORM – North by Northwest		Organised by Margaret Hinde
<p>Event: North by Northwest, HOME Arts Centre, Manchester Date & time: Wednesday 30th April, 2025, departing Knutsford Bus Station at 6.00 pm PROMPT I/We would like to book place/s at £22.00 each and enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Knutsford and District u3a</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

