

KANUTA

**Newsletter
June 2025**

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Newsletter contributions: newsletter.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com

CONTENTS

Page 1

From the Chair

Page 2

Notice of the AGM

Page 3

Members' Meetings
Dates for your Diary

Pages 4-5

Theatre and Music
Trips

Pages 6 – 7

Outings & Visits

Page 8

Outing Report

Pages 9 - 11

News from the
Groups

Page 12

Beyond our u3a

Pages 13 - 14

Booking Forms

From the Chair

I hope you've all been enjoying the fantastic Spring and early Summer that we've been having. Of course, by the time you read this, the weather may have changed completely but we've had a good run and the gardens and fields certainly need the rain.

The 9-week grace period for renewals expires on 3rd June so, if you haven't renewed your membership, this is the last Kanuta you will receive. If you haven't renewed but still want to be a member of our u3a to be able to enjoy all the benefits of membership you can still renew by printing the renewal form which is available on our website, www.knutsfordu3a.co.uk, or by contacting me via membership@knutsfordu3a.co.uk.

If you do not renew your membership please be aware that you are no longer eligible to take part in any Group activities or to go on any theatre visits or outings.

The Committee are fortunate that two new recruits, Steve and Lucy Kitcher, have offered to join us. They were co-opted onto the Committee at the April Committee meeting and will stand for election at the AGM in July. I am very grateful for their offer of support to our u3a and am sure they will both make a valuable contribution to the smooth running of our organisation.

I'd like to draw your attention to the notice of our AGM on 10th July. It is important that members come along to hear the reports of 2024/5 and take part in the election of the Committee for the forthcoming year.

Earlier this week we held a very successful coffee morning for new members of Knutsford u3a. It was very nice to meet those who could attend. It was pointed out that many of our groups are currently full which is good in one way but not for anyone wanting to join one. If you find a Group that you'd like to join is full please contact the Group Leader to ask to be put on a waiting list or you can contact Stuart Allan or Steve Kitcher, our Groups Supporters via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk and they will put out an email to see if there is enough interest in starting another Group on the same subject.

Best wishes to you all.

**Sue Allan
Chair**

Notice of the AGM

**The 20th Annual General Meeting of Knutsford and District u3a will be held on
Thursday 10th July 2025 at 2.15pm in the Knutsford Methodist Church.**

All members are invited to attend the AGM which will be followed by a talk by Peter Ashburner from Marshalls Auctions entitled "Flog it" in which he will describe the life of an auctioneer. The AGM itself will include the Trustees' Report and Accounts together with the election of new Committee members. Refreshments will be available.

Committee

To bring our Committee to full strength we welcome nominations for new members to join the Committee. Please use the form below or phone Sue Allan, Chair, on 01565 632904 or 07773022373 if you would like to discuss the possibility of standing for the Committee or to ask for more information. If you have already made contact with Sue to discuss serving on the Committee you don't need to fill this form in.

Nomination for the election of Knutsford u3a Committee Members

I nominate..... who has agreed to stand for membership of the Committee.

or

I am willing to be nominated to stand for the Committee.....

Members nominated will need to be seconded before or at the AGM.

Please send nominations to Mark Barley, Secretary, by 1st July at the very latest.

Email secretary.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com

Post 10 Beechwood, Bowdon, Altrincham WA14 3DW

A Welcome for New Members

On Wednesday 21st May we held a coffee morning for new members at St Vincent's church hall. It was well attended by 45 of the newest members who had joined u3a in the last few months. A pair of new Committee members were introduced and there was a chance for all to ask questions about our u3a.

One new member was particular in her praise of our u3a:

"I recently joined Knutsford U3A via the website link. I have received such a warm welcome, initially receiving a welcome email from your chair, and quickly followed up with a second email with lots of useful information about the organisation and what is available. I was invited to the new members coffee morning and again found it a friendly, informative and enjoyable experience."

Another revealed that he had experience of the set-up at the Methodists' Church ... and may be co-opted on to the technical team! All in all, a successful morning.

Members' Meetings

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

- 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. He will give a light-hearted talk about his experiences as a resident junior House Officer in a city centre hospital fifty years ago.
- 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 of an auctioneer.
- 11th September** Our annual Showcase and social meeting.
- 9th October** **Rosie Lee, “The Reluctant Shepherdess”**, will entertain us with her story of the highs and lows of taking on the family farm in Winsford, and the transition from bank manager to farm manager and real-life shepherdess, conservationist and educator.



Dates for your Diary



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 23 rd October | 'Dancing at Lughnasa' by Brian Friel at the Royal Exchange, Manchester.
Coach leaving 6 pm. |
| Sunday 4 th December | Afternoon (3 pm) Halle Christmas Carol concert at The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. |
| Saturday 3 rd January | Matinee performance (2 pm) of 'Singing in the Rain' at The Royal Exchange, Manchester. |
| Thursday 22 nd January | Evening performance of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at the Lowry Theatre, Salford. |
- Tickets for all of the above will be on sale from August/September.



Theatre and Music Trips



BRIDGEWATER HALL

The Hallé's Opening Night concert
Elgar and Rachmaninov

Thursday 25th September, 7.30 pm
Bridgewater Hall

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

Elgar's Cello Concert and Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2



This has all the makings of a very enjoyable evening! Elgar's cello concerto, written in the aftermath of World War One, is one of his most celebrated and well-loved works. It is to be played by acclaimed cellist Truls Mork.

It will be followed by Rachmaninov's exuberant second Symphony which is equally well known. The concert will open with a powerful start - Shostakovich's Festive Overture, with its grandiose brass fanfare opening full of crashing cymbals.

The evening will be conducted by the charismatic new Principal Conductor of the Halle, Kahchun Wong (pictured above), opening his second year with the orchestra. He is a delight to watch and listen to.

Tickets can easily be reserved using our [On-line Tickets](#) page. They can also be reserved by sending me a completed booking form (see page 13) and cheque, or by calling me on 01565 872643. Any remaining tickets will also be on sale at the Members meeting, Thursday, June 12th.

Margaret Hinde



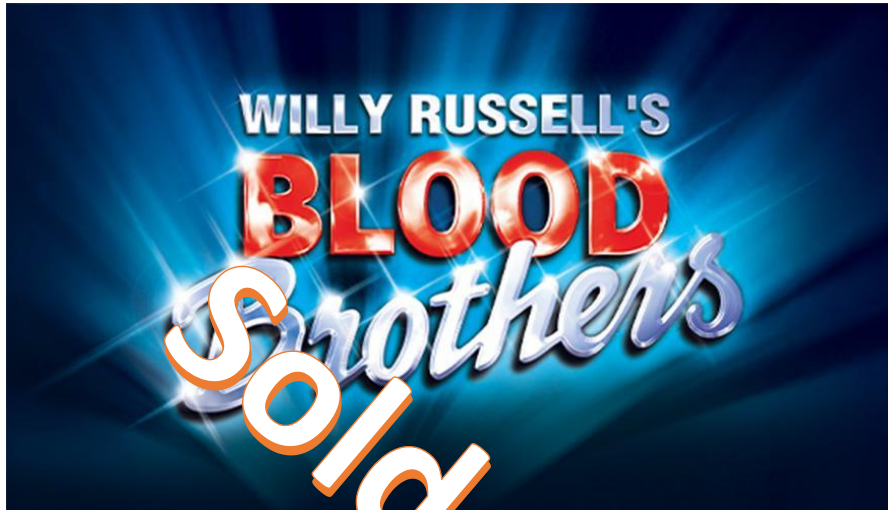
Theatre and Music Trips



BLOOD BROTHERS

Saturday October 4th, 2.30 pm
Theatre Clwyd , Mold

Cost, including travel, £47.00
Coach departs the bus station 11 am prompt



You may have been aware that we have not been to the lovely Theatre Clwyd for at least a couple of years – the reason being that it has been closed all that time for a complete redevelopment. Now with enlarged, new theatre spaces and splendid reception, lounge and catering facilities, it is reopening this Autumn (Incidentally, with the aim of being one of the first high-profile examples of a carbon-zero cultural venue in the UK).

'Blood Brothers' is their first major production that I thought we might enjoy. I have booked a Saturday matinee, October 4th, leaving Knutsford early enough to allow for a leisurely lunch and stroll around the new premises.

'Blood Brothers' probably needs little introduction. Written by Willy Russell, it tells the captivating and moving tale of two brothers, separated at birth, who grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again later with fateful consequences. It ran for more than 10,000 performances in the West End, one of only four musicals ever to achieve that milestone. It has 5-star reviews:

"Exhilarating – one of best musicals ever written" - Sunday Times

"The show belongs among the greats of British musical theatre" - The Telegraph

For your lunch, I would suggest either using the new first floor restaurant at the theatre, bookable on-line, or booking at Glasfryn, the nearby Brunning and Price pub, 01352 750500.

Margaret Hinde



Outings & Visits



JETTY MUSEUM and BLACKWELL HOUSE **Bowness-on-Windermere**

Wednesday 25th June 2025
Bowness-on-Windermere

Cost, including travel, £37.00
Coach departs the bus station 8:45 am prompt
Return to Knutsford 6 pm approximately

We travel to the Lake District to arrive at the Jetty Museum at 11am approx. for refreshments.

The Museum showcases Windermere's 200-year-old boating history through interactive displays, oral histories, and a fascinating collection of boats, gadgets, and curiosities brought to life.

At 11.30am a member of the boat building team will explain the restoration and conservation work. Then you can explore the exhibition galleries on a self-led basis. Half hour Heritage boat trips on Windermere are available – maximum 12 passengers per sailing (subject to availability and weather permitting). Book and pay on the day – £15 per person.

Lunch (in small groups and at your own cost) is available in the Jetty Museum café overlooking the lake. The arrangements at the Jetty Museum are flexible, so that you can adapt your visit to suit your interests.

At 2.15pm we travel the short distance to Blackwell, a Grade 1 Listed building, and one of the UK's finest examples of the Arts and Crafts Movement. It was designed by the acclaimed Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott as a holiday home for Manchester brewer, Sir Edward Holt and his family in 1901. The tour of the house is on a self-guided basis with information available. There is a small cafe in the house. We will depart Blackwell at 4pm for the return journey.

Accessibility: The Jetty Museum is on one level and fully accessible. Blackwell House has stair-free access via a lift, but some rooms are not accessible to wheelchair users.

Further information at www.lakelandarts.org.uk and www.visitcumbria.com.

Price includes transport and driver's gratuity, tea/coffee and traybake on arrival, and entry fees to the Jetty Museum and Blackwell.

Tickets can easily be reserved using our [On-line Tickets](#) page. They can also be reserved by sending me a completed booking form (see page 14) and cheque, or by calling me on 07733 360585. Any remaining tickets will also be on sale at the Members meeting, Thursday, June 12th.

Hazel Snowdon



Outings & Visits



GORTON MONASTERY AT CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 2nd December 2025
Gorton Monastery

Cost, including travel, £62.00
Coach departs the bus station 11 am prompt
Return to Knutsford 5 pm approximately



Our Christmas outing this year takes us back to the Gorton Monastery. This delightful and popular venue, which is rather special at Christmas, is offering an event to start the Christmas celebration – a festive lunch and a talk. This is an opportunity too good to miss.

We will arrive at the Monastery at 12 noon in time for mulled wine before the talk which starts at 12.30. The details of the talk are not yet finalised but, judging by past experience, it should be interesting. The lunch will follow at 1.15pm/1.30pm. It will be a 2-course Festive lunch (main and dessert) followed by tea, coffee and mince pies. Again the details of the menu have yet to be finalised but the word 'Festive' gives us some idea of what is included. I appreciate that this notification is very early but, to make a group booking it was necessary. Gorton Monastery is holding 40 places for us and these must be paid for by the end of August.

Information about Gorton Monastery can be found on the internet at www.themonastery.co.uk

Tickets can easily be reserved using our [On-line Tickets](#) page. They can also be reserved by sending me a completed booking form (see page 14) and cheque **by Wednesday, 20th August**, or by calling me on 01565 621058. Any remaining tickets will also be on sale at the Members meeting, Thursday, June 12th.

Lynda Harris



Outing Report



Barbara Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield

Early on the morning of 2nd April 33 of us travelled by coach from Knutsford Bus Station to see an exhibition of Surrealism at the Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield. Margaret Hinde organised the outing and was there, at the bus station, to check us off on her list.

We arrived in Wakefield in time for a DIY coffee/tea and biscuits before being split into two groups to enjoy the exhibition or the gallery tour. Our guide was very knowledgeable and we all learned what the Surrealism movement was all about.



A Separate tour introduced the lives and works of some of the artists who are represented in the permanent exhibitions, such as Barbara Hepworth, of course, and Elisabeth Frink, amongst others.

After lunch, in the restaurant or via a packed lunch, we had free time to wander in the Gallery Garden with its Spring blossoms and sculptures. We also took a walk across the road bridge which gave us views of the lovely weir and a very patient heron, who was fishing for his lunch.

Jude Halman and I made our way to the Chantry Chapel of St Mary, which sits on medieval foundations on Wakefield Bridge, and is a scheduled ancient monument & a Grade 1 Listed Building, dating back to the mid-14th century.

Thanks to Margaret for organising the outing and to our driver for getting us safely home, after long delays on various motorways.

Sandra Stonehill

For more photos from the gallery and of the weir, heron and chapel go here: [Photo Archive](#) and look for the folder "Hepworth Gallery – April 2025".

News from the Groups

Recorder Group

The Recorder Group meets every other week at 61 Boothfields WA168JY. We play a variety of music and play from time to time at gatherings of older people. Beginners welcome and you can always come to observe!

You need a recorder- descant for beginners - a music stand if possible but not essential, and most of all enthusiasm!

Ring 07811 570 463 for further details.

Carol Goodwin

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

Crown Green Bowling Group

One of the Crown Green Bowling Groups meet on Fridays at the Railway Inn - Mobberley, where they have a nice group coming along. There is also a Tuesday group which still has space – and it is very relaxed and social!

Paul Buttrick

Jazz Appreciation Group

The Inaugural Meeting of the new Jazz Appreciation Group is taking place on 3rd June 2-4pm in Room 5 of the Knutsford Methodist Church.

A steering committee consisting of John Townend, Steve Fern, Jon Cartmel and Helen Smith is to guide the Group and they have collectively a wide range of experience of the various aspects of Jazz.

A resume of what might be covered has been produced but ideas from members will be taken on board as the Group progresses. Please contact me via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk for more information.

Stuart Allan, Groups Supporter

News from the Groups

Cryptic Crossword Group

Two Cryptic Crossword Groups have been meeting every other Tuesday for the past two years under the enthusiastic guidance of Brian Wreford, who has over 40 years' experience of solving puzzles.

The Beginners have been learning the art / science of cryptic clues and the Improvers have been honing their skills. Much fun has been had, and a good measure of satisfaction when the answer to a particularly difficult clue has been revealed by successfully breaking down the components. The Beginners next meet on June 24th, in the Heath Room, Town Council Offices, 2—3pm. All welcome.

Solving clues is very good exercise for the brain, but the Improvers Group has gone one step further. We have moved on to devising our own clues, even setting whole puzzles, and in doing this we've involved Crossword Groups in other North West u3as. The Improvers are taking a summer break and next meet on August 1st at 11am at the same venue.

Back in early 2024 we developed an Inter-Group Crossword Quiz and took on the administration of it - establishing the ground rules, elaborating how it would work, engaging other groups and circulating the clues, answers and comments. The originator of the online quiz idea was one of our members, Jim Bottomley, who had devised it during Covid to encourage family contact. One of his themes was "Cheshire Towns and Villages" (see below).

In mid-June of 2024 the u3a North West Regional Committee circulated our idea of an Inter-Group Quiz and in July we issued a Taster Quiz that we had developed to gauge interest. To date five other u3as have taken up the regular challenge. Chester Crossword Group was the first on board as their leader, Vivian Downing, had done something similar during Covid. West Cheshire Rural, Hale, Wigan and Sale have also joined. Stockport and Cheadle & Gatley are currently thinking about it.

Each month a different u3a Group sets a list of about 15 clues on a topic of their own choice for the others to solve. Flowers and herbs, seaside towns, pantomimes and landmarks are some of the topics explored so far. 'Drinks' is one that proved particularly popular. Clues extend across the whole cryptic range - anagrams, cut and paste, hidden words, initial letters - and the rest. It's not competitive between Groups but more about developing our skills and sharing our love of crosswords. There's no grid to complete, just clues to solve.

Knutsford u3a is proud of having taken the lead in this and the Crossword Group is delighted to have forged links with other NW groups. Perhaps we could even go nationwide!

In the meantime, please find below a few clues from one of the early quizzes. If it sparks interest, do come along to our crossword meetings. Contact Brian Wreford on 07785 925 825 for further details.

Topic: Cheshire Towns and Villages

- 1) There's an unstable drab, wet, trough found in this Cheshire village? (5,8)
- 2) Beachcomber bachelor conceals this Cheshire location (10)
- 3) Where Santa's little helper is into a little music (8)
- 4) Reflect booty with added value for this Cheshire village (9)

{answers on page 13 }

Brian Wreford & Gill Ayres

News from the Groups

Railway Interest Group

In September this year the railway industry will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&D). Celebratory events are taking place throughout the year at Heritage Railways, Museums and Key Locations on the national network.

So, what is all the fuss about? Was the S&D the first railway? No! The first railway in England was possibly built in 1604 to carry coal from mines to waterways. The concept was adopted by numerous mining enterprises, particularly in the North East. The loaded trains mostly ran downhill using gravity and the empty trucks were hauled back up to the pit by horses, or latterly hauled up by ropes driven by a stationery steam engine.

OK, so it was the first railway to use self-propelled steam locos! Er, no! This was being done by the Middleton Railway near Leeds since 1812.

Right, understood! So, if the above were built for moving coal and minerals it must have been the first passenger railway. Sorry, wrong again! There had been unofficial carriage of passengers on the industrial lines since the 18th century. The first railway authorised by parliament to carry passengers was the Swansea and Mumbles Railway of 1807, but this was horse drawn.

First railway to haul passengers by steam, perchance? No way! Richard Trevithick did that in 1804. Not even the first regular steam worked passenger service; that was the Canterbury & Whitstable Railway in 1830. The S&D was still using horses to haul passenger trains until 1833.

What the S&D did achieve was to bring together the accumulated knowledge of the previous 200 years to show that railways could operate efficiently and reliably (sort of) over longer distances than had previously been attempted. It had steel rails, steam locos, regular services and public access. In fact, it established the basis for railways as we know them today.

In KU3A RIG our own contribution to the fanfare was a presentation by Peter Davidson about the design and development of S&D Locomotion number 1. Peter demonstrated that the learning and engineering development continued throughout the century. The locomotive that the company directors far-sightedly agreed to preserve in 1856 is far from being the original, but it does provide us with evidence and a tangible link to those early railways.

Dave Custerson

Beyond our u3a



A special stage production of **DAD'S ARMY**
in support of **KNUTSFORD LIONS** charities

At **KNUTSFORD LITTLE THEATRE**

Wednesday 2nd July at 7.30



Tickets - £12.50 available online from:

www.knutsfordlions.org.uk

www.ticketsource.co.uk/knutsfordlionsdadsarmy

WE WISH TO THANK KNUTSFORD LITTLE THEATRE
FOR GRANTING US THIS OPPORTUNITY AND
CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR CENTENARY

Email: Knutsford.lions@gmail.com

Tatton Garden Society



A society for people who
have a passion for plants and
visiting beautiful places

Annual membership is great value at just
£40 (single) or £62 (joint)

See over for details and membership benefits
or find out more at
www.tattongardensociety.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **FREE ENTRY** into Tatton Gardens
- **PRIVATE TOURS** of Tatton Gardens, including the Japanese Garden, by head gardener or a deputy
- **REDUCED ANNUAL CAR PASSES** for Tatton Park
- **10% DISCOUNT** on selected purchases at Tatton Park shops and courses
- **FREE LECTURES** from experts in horticulture, gardening and botanical subjects
- **ANNUAL PLANT SALE**
- **10% DISCOUNT** on plants and seeds at selected garden centres
- **ORGANISED VISITS** to gardens rarely open to the public; bespoke garden tours
- **ORGANISED ANNUAL HOLIDAY**
- **COMMUNITY** of like-minded people sharing common interests with a passion for trees, plants and horticulture.
- **FREE ENTRY** throughout the year to the Lovell Quinta Arboretum, Cheshire, owned and managed by Tatton Garden Society.
- **VOLUNTEERING** opportunities

Tatton Garden Society was originally founded in 1962 to promote science and research in horticulture for the benefit of the public. Today, we visit private gardens nationwide, attend lectures and enjoy all the community aspects of the society.

CONTACT US:

Tatton Garden Society, The Old Hay Barn, Mere Estate, Warrington Road, Knutsford WA16 0PY.
Email admin@tattongardensociety.org.uk

www.tattongardensociety.org.uk and www.lovellquintaarboretum.co.uk



tattongardensociety



tattongardensociety



Knutsford now has a **Banking Hub at Knutsford Methodist Church**, Princess Street (use the rear entrance, the Hub is in Room 1).

Customers of all major banks and building societies can access services whenever the hub is open. Specific Community Bankers are available on dedicated days:

Mon: Lloyds

Tue: Barclays

Wed: NatWest

Thu: HSBC

Fri: Santander

The Community Bankers may be unavailable during lunchtime as they take a well-deserved break.

For more details go to www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/knutsford-cheshire/

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 – Halle Concert at Bridgewater Hall		Organised by Margaret Hinde
<p><i>Please note for insurance purposes, people attending this outing should be members of the u3a.</i></p> <p>Event: ‘Halle Concert – Elgar and Rachmaninov’</p> <p>Date & time: Thursday, 25th September 2025, departing Knutsford Bus Station at 6 pm prompt</p> <p>I/We would like to book place/s at £45.00 each and enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Knutsford and District u3a</p>		
<p>Name and Address <u>with postcode</u> of all attending</p>		
Phone number	e-mail	Phone number In case of emergency on the day
<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>		

Answers to Cryptic Crossword clues:

Great Budworth
Comberbach
Chelford
Gawsworth

BOOKING FORM – The Jetty Museum and Blackwell House Organised by Hazel Snowden		
<p><i>Please note for insurance purposes, people attending this outing should be members of the u3a.</i></p> <p>Event: The Jetty Museum and Blackwell House</p> <p>Date & time: Wednesday 25th June 2025 departing Knutsford Bus Station at 8.45am</p> <p>I/We would like to book place/s at £37.00 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 <small>In case of emergency on the day</small>
Send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford and District u3a to Hazel Snowden, 27 Wheat Moss, Chelford, SK11 9SP		

BOOKING FORM – Gorton Monastery at Christmas 2025 Organised by Lynda Harris		
<p><i>Please note for insurance purposes, people attending this outing should be members of the u3a.</i></p> <p>Event: Gorton Monastery at Christmas 2025</p> <p>Date & time: Tuesday 2nd December 2025 departing Knutsford Bus Station at 11am</p> <p>I/We would like to book place/s at £62.00 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 <small>In case of emergency on the day</small>
Send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford and District u3a to Lynda Harris, 10 Lindop Close, Knutsford, WA16 8AY		