

KANUTA

Newsletter
September 2025

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

CONTENTS

Page 1

From the Chair

Page 2

Knutsford u3a
Committee
members
2025/2026

Showcase Event

Page 3

Members'
Meetings

Dates for your
Diary

Your Kanuta

Page 4

Theatre and
Music Trips

Page 6

Outings

Page 7

News from the
Groups

Page 10

Holiday Report

Page 11

Along Cheshire
Lines

Our u3a in Local
Events

Pages 12 – 14

Booking Forms

From the Chair

Hi members,

It was nice to see those of you who attended our AGM on 11th July. One Committee member, Marian Goddard, did not stand for re-election so I'd like to thank her for her contribution to the running of our u3a during her time as a Committee member. Our Committee is still at full strength and you can see a list of elected Committee members elsewhere in this edition. Thanks also go to Adrian Long for the Treasurer's report and presentation and to Tony Roberts for successfully running the new sound system at Knutsford Methodist Church. The new screens there are an impressive upgrade to their facilities and should improve the clarity of any slides that our speakers show. Our last two speakers haven't wanted to show slides to illustrate their talks but, hopefully, the brilliance of the new screens will enhance the talks the Speakers sub-committee have got lined up for later in the year.

I would like to point out that, if you book one of the many, varied visits or theatre trips, you should make a note of the date of the booking, the time you should be at the bus station and the phone number of the trip organiser. If you book on-line via our website you will get an email confirming your ticket purchase but you need to write the details on your calendar/diary. If you book by paper form and cheque please make a note of the visit details or keep a copy of your booking form, you will only hear from the trip organiser if you are too late to get a place on the trip. The trip organisers will not be sending out reminders but the details of all visits are available on our website www.knutsfordu3a.co.uk until after the visit has taken place so you can look there if you've mislaid the details.

I would also ask members to please let trip organisers know if they are unable to go on the trip as soon as they can. There may be a waiting list for the trip in which case you will be put in touch with someone on it. However, if you have to cancel at the last minute, it is only courteous to let the trip organiser know you won't be attending so that they aren't trying to contact you on the morning of the trip, keeping everyone on the bus waiting to leave.

I hope you've all been enjoying the warm weather and that you continue to have a lovely summer. We'll be celebrating the 20th anniversary of Knutsford u3a at the Showcase meeting on 11th September. We are lucky enough to still have some of the original members who were in at the beginning of our organisation so I would like to thank them for all their valuable input over the years. They have helped Knutsford u3a to thrive in the way it has and, hopefully, will continue to do so. I do hope you will come along and meet some of our Group Leaders and enjoy the refreshments.

Sue Allan, Chair

Knutsford u3a Committee members 2025/2026

Name	Role	Email address
Sue Allan	Chair	chair@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Adrian Long	Joint Treasurer	treasurer.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com
Zoe Langmead	Activities Treasurer & Joint Treasurer	activities.treasurerku3a@gmail.com
Mark Barley	Secretary	secretary@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Stuart Allan	Joint 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
Lucy Kitcher	Membership Secretary	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
Steve Kitcher	Joint Groups Supporter	groups.supporter@knutsfordu3a.co.uk
Tony Roberts	Beacon Administrator & Webmaster	beaconadmin@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

Showcase Event

Knutsford Methodist Church
Thursday 11th 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 will 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

11th September Groups Showcase event and social – see separate notice above.

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.

13th November David Briggs, Chair of the Wilmslow Historical Society, will challenge the oft-heard phrase “There’s no History in Wilmslow” by describing Bronze Age burials, bog bodies, civil war murders, involvement in WW2, and links to modern music icons!

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.



Dates for your Diary



2026

Saturday 7th March

Matinee performance of Carlos Acosta’s ‘Don Quixote’ by Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Lowry. Tickets will be on sale in November



Your Kanuta



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

Submissions from members are welcomed. So, 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. Illustrations are also welcome BUT please do not submit them directly by email. Instead, send a note saying what illustrations you have and you will receive instructions for uploading them to the photo archive.



Theatre and Music Trips



HALLE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Sunday, 14th December, 3.00 pm
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Cost, including transport £38
Coach departs 1:30 pm prompt

A return visit, by popular request, to this truly delightful Christmas concert.

Music and carols performed by the full Halle Choir, the superb Halle Youth Choir, and the utterly delightful Children's Choir. I think all the fifty people who went last year thoroughly enjoyed it, and many of them were keen for me to book again!

Concert tickets can be reserved, quickly and easily, using our [On-line Tickets](#) page.

Alternatively, send your cheque, made out to Knutsford u3a, together with a booking form (see page 13), to Margaret Hinde, 1, Warford Hall Drive, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. Tel. 01565 872643

Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the Showcase meeting on Thursday, September 11th.

Margaret Hinde



SINGING IN THE RAIN

Saturday Matinee, 3rd January 2026, 2.30 pm
Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

Cost, including transport £56
Coach departs 1:00 pm prompt



'Singing in the Rain' is the Royal Exchange Christmas production for 2025/6, many of which we have enjoyed over the years. As usual for the Christmas show, I have booked a Saturday matinee performance for the first week in January, when you might be less busy!

The Exchange describes this as 'A Timeless Masterpiece – a fantastic, tapdancing extravaganza!' It tells the story of Hollywood as the radical move is made from silent movies to the 'talkies'. It is directed by Raz Shaw, who, amongst many other shows, directed 'The Producers' a few years ago, which we much enjoyed. Packed with iconic songs such as Make 'em laugh; Good Morning, Moses and, of course, the title song 'Singing in the Rain', it should prove an enjoyable afternoon.

Tickets can be reserved, quickly and easily, using our [On-line Tickets](#) page.

Alternatively, send your cheque, made out to Knutsford u3a, together with a booking form (see page 13), to Margaret Hinde, 1, Warford Hall Drive, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. Tel. 01565872643

Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the Showcase meeting on Thursday, September 11th.

Margaret Hinde



Theatre and Music Trips



'TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD'

Thursday, 22nd January 2026, 7.30 pm
The Lowry Theatre, Salford

Cost, including transport £52
Coach departs 6:00 pm prompt



This riveting, award-winning adaptation of the much-loved classic story, 'To Kill a Mockingbird', by Harper Lee became a sell-out sensation in both Broadway and the West End. Now this thrilling court room drama tours UK for the first time.

Set in 1930's Alabama, exploring themes of racial injustice, and childhood innocence, the story follows Atticus Finch, a lawyer defending a black man accused of raping a white woman. Atticus encourages kindness and empathy in his children, as he resolves to uncover the truth in a town that seems determined to hide it.

With five-star reviews from the major papers, it is described as 'powerful' 'uplifting' and 'deeply moving'.

Tickets can be reserved, quickly and easily, using our [On-line Tickets](#) page.

Alternatively, send your cheque, made out to Knutsford u3a, together with a booking form (see page 14), to Margaret Hinde, 1, Warford Hall Drive, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. Tel. 01565872643

Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the Showcase meeting on Thursday, September 11th.

Margaret Hinde



Outings



Rochdale Town Hall and Co-op Pioneers' Museum

Wednesday 15th October 2025

Cost including coach travel

£45.00

Coach departs the bus station

9.00 am

This visit will introduce two different examples of Rochdale's involvement in its industrial heritage.

The price includes:

- All travel and tips
- Welcome tea or coffee
- Tours of the Town Hall and Co-op Museum
- Lunch of sandwiches and cake.



Rochdale Town Hall was designed by William Crossland and opened in 1871. It is a grade one listed building symbolising the town's rich industrial standing in the textile trade. According to Historic England the building's ornate stylings are rivalled only by the Palace of Westminster. Since our last visit in 2016 the Town Hall has undergone a painstaking and labour-intensive three year major restoration costing £20 million and it only reopened in 2024. Our tour will highlight much of this renovation work as well as the impressive New Town Square outside the Town Hall.

However, we will start our visit to Rochdale back in 1844 when food and drink contained very questionable additions in order to increase profits. In Toad Land the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society opened their first little store selling pure unadulterated food for fair prices and honest weights and measures. This was the birth of the Co-op movement which is still going strong today. You will see the layout of the original shop, hear about the Pioneers and view the museum's exhibits.



In both venues we will be divided into two groups because of restrictions of space and both will provide our refreshments: tea or coffee in the co-op and lunch in the Town Hall.

Tickets can be reserved, quickly and easily, using our [On-line Tickets](#) page.

Alternatively, send your cheque, made out to Knutsford u3a, together with a booking form (see page 12), to Lynda Harris, 10 Lindop Close, Knutsford, WA16 8AY, Tel 01565 621058

Lynda Harris

GORTON MONASTERY AT CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Cost including coach travel

£62.00

Coach departs the bus station

11.00 am

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 a festive lunch and a talk to start the Christmas celebrations.

Lynda Harris

Sold Out

News from the Groups

Recorder Group

It's never too late to start playing a musical instrument as some u3a members have discovered! If you learn 3 notes you can come to play at venues who are happy for us to visit.

You need a descant recorder, a stand if possible, and most important is enthusiasm.

If you are interested, please phone 07811570463 or email me via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

We meet at 61 Boothfields WA168JY at 2.15 every other Wednesday afternoon.

Carol Godwin

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

Railway Interest Group

Our summer trip with family and friends was to a "Behind The Scenes" tour at East Lancashire Railway. We were also joined by several other u3a members.



David Custerson

News from the Groups

Cryptic Crosswords Group

Beginners' Taster Session **September 16th** 11am – 12 noon
Heath Room, Town Council Offices, Toft Road (opposite Curzon Cinema).

Are you one of the many members who have pleasure in solving General Knowledge crossword puzzles? If so, you will have noticed there is often a Cryptic puzzle alongside.....rather mysterious and totally inscrutable. You may have had a go occasionally, and had your suspicions confirmed.

HOWEVER, THERE IS A PROVEN WAY TO TACKLE CRYPTICS, UNRAVEL THE TRUE MEANING AND SOLVE THEM. AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BRAIN OF BRITAIN!

Along the way you will keep your mind exercised, learn new words and expressions, and obtain pleasure and satisfaction from matching the Setter's twists and turns. So why not come to our Taster Session on the 16th and see whether Cryptics are for you? You may never look back.....

(Or visit our stand at the September 11th Showcase Event).

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Beginners 2-3pm. Improvers 11am-12.

Would any members who wish to attend any of these meetings kindly contact me by phone on 07785 925825 or 01925 756134 or via info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk

Brian Wreford

Singing Group

Summer is nearly over, and it will soon be time to restart the Singing Group to cheer us through the Winter months. We will be adopting the very successful format that we ran last year with the singers being accompanied by a five-piece band. The band members have been working hard over the summer months to develop our repertoire further and will be introducing many new familiar songs this coming term.

We shall continue to meet on a fortnightly basis in the Jubilee Hall from 14:00 to 15:30. We will retain the charge of £2 per session. Our first session this term will be **Wednesday 10th September**

Last year our membership comprised a good balance of male and female singers. So, if anyone would be interested in joining us, please contact Alan Orme (01565 634629) for further information or simply turn up on the day ...you will be most welcome.

(Existing members will receive an email reminder nearer the day)

David Lee

Walking Group 4

Walking Group 4 are contemplating a new venture.... as new tenants of The Swan with Two Nicks.

Sadly, current funds (being precisely zero) do not permit more than a pipe dream.

The group are keen to point out that the photo was taken BEFORE the walk, not after.

Allan Jones



News from the Groups

Architecture Group

A group visit was arranged to Tabley House on 15th July and a fascinating insight into not only into the architecture but also to the stories of the de Leycester and Leicester families was provided by our guide, the Head of the Trustees.



The original house (Tabley Old Hall) was built on an island in Nether Tabley Mere in circa 1380 but it is now an abandoned Grade 2 Star Listed ruin. Sir Peter Byrne Leicester commissioned the esteemed architect, John Carr of York, to design a replacement house in a new location on the estate. He is best known for Harewood House and Buxton Crescent and much of his work was in the Palladian style. Tabley house is Grade One Listed and is regarded as the finest 18th century Palladian house in Cheshire. It is symmetrical and constructed in brick with stone dressings together with a large sandstone portico on the southern elevation.

Due to fairly inclement weather, our tour was confined to the interior of the house however our guide was thoroughly entertaining and educational. The elegant interiors contain a unique collection of paintings by artists such as Turner and Reynolds.

Adjacent to Tabley House is St. Peter's Church which unfortunately wasn't open on our visit. It was originally built adjacent to Tabley Old Hall on the island in Nether Tabley Mere in 1675-1678 however, due to its foundations being undermined by brine mining, it was moved to its present location adjacent to Tabley House in 1927. It is also Grade One Listed.



Trevor Hosking

Quiz Group



The plans for a regular Quiz are progressing well. The response to the questionnaire gave a good indication of the way forward.

We now have a venue – The Function Room at The Angel in King Street and the first Quiz will be on a Wednesday afternoon in October, between 2pm and 5pm.

There will be 8 teams of 6 and some teams will be created on the night to accommodate singles or couples. Everyone will be welcome to a relaxed, social event where you can test your knowledge and learn some new facts.

I will be at our Showcase on Thursday 11 September with all the final details.

Lynda Harris



Holiday Report



Holiday in Hampshire & Winchester

In June members of the Knutsford u3a went on holiday to Hampshire.

On the outward trip we visited Brockworth Court on the way to our hotel, Chilworth Manor.



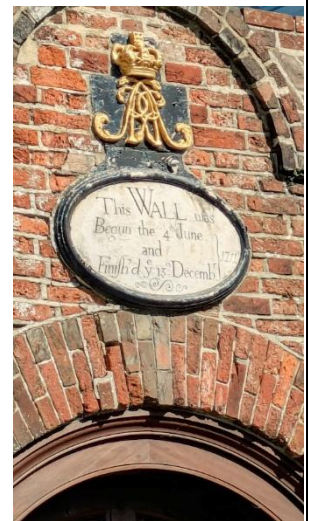
Subsequent days saw us at Salisbury, Arundells & Mottisfont and Portsmouth where we saw a selection of famous ships. There was a trip to Winchester with the Great Hall and later to Bombay Sapphire for a distillery tour and tasting.



On our homeward journey we visited Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe.



It was a memorable week with good company; expertly organised by Margaret & assisted by Irene & Jane. Our thanks go to them all.



There are many more excellent photos from this trip in the Archive [here](#). Just look for the folder "Hampshire Holiday - June 2025".

Sandra Stonehill



Along Cheshire Lines



This is the first of an occasional series which will seek to highlight some little-known facts about the companies, the people, the history and events taking place on our local railways in Cheshire.

In the 1850s and 1860s the country was served by a huge number of local, independent railways. This inevitably led to consolidation as the larger companies sought to increase their profits by eliminating competition and the shareholders of smaller companies were pleased to emerge with profits from selling their investments.

The North West, and particularly Lancashire, was dominated by the London & North Western Railway. Other companies such as the Midland Railway, the Great Northern and Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway were eager to have a slice of the action in the North West. They therefore joined together to establish the Cheshire Lines Committee (CLC) in 1865, with directors being drawn from each of the three partner companies.

The Cheshire Midland Railway running from Altrincham to Northwich had opened for traffic in 1862 and can be considered to be the original section of what became the Cheshire Lines Committee after the passing of the Cheshire Lines Transfer Act in 1865. This grouped together six independent railways, including the Cheshire Midland. The Cheshire Lines Act of 1867 authorised the railway to operate as a fully independent concern.

Watch out for Along Cheshire Lines #2 which will continue the story.

David Custerson



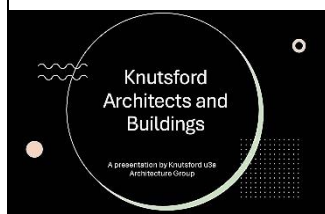
Our u3a in Local Events



Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days is an annual celebration of England's history and culture that allows visitors free access to heritage sites not normally open to the public and also tours and presentations.

The national theme in 2025 is architecture so Knutsford Town Council has invited Knutsford u3a to participate in a number of events being organised between 18th and 21st September.



Knutsford u3a architecture group will be presenting a talk, 'Knutsford Buildings and Architects', on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th September in the Jubilee Hall, Stanley Road from 2.30 - 3.30pm.

This will be a presentation by three members featuring not only architects who have been represented in Knutsford and its environs such as Waterhouse, Baillie Scott and Carr but also how the use of buildings in Knutsford has changed.

Details and free tickets available via the link below.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/submission-event/knutsford-architects-and-buildings.html>

Trevor Hosking
u3a Architecture Group

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 – Rochdale Town Hall and Co-op Museum		Organised by Lynda Harris
Event: Rochdale Town Hall and Co-op Pioneers' Museum Date & time: Wednesday 15th October 2025, departing Knutsford Bus Station at 9.00 am prompt I/We would like to book place/s at £45.00 each and enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Knutsford and District u3a		
Name and Address <u>with postcode</u> of all attending Any special dietary requirements or allergies for EACH person 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 Lynda Harris, 10 Lindop Close, Knutsford, WA16 8AY		
		Telephone 01565 621058

BOOKING FORM – Halle Christmas Carol Concert		Organised by Margaret Hinde
<p>Event: 'Halle Christmas Carol Concert'</p> <p>Date & time: Sunday, 14th December 2025, departing Knutsford Bus Station at 1.30 pm prompt</p> <p>I/We would like to book place/s at £38.00 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 <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 – Singing in the Rain		Organised by Margaret Hinde
<p>Event: 'Singing in the Rain'</p> <p>Date & time: Saturday Matinee, 3rd January 2026, departing Knutsford Bus Station at 1.00 pm prompt</p> <p>I/We would like to book place/s at £56.00 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 <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, a Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR Telephone 01565 872643</p>		

