

Hale u3a Open Day - Friday 10th May

On Friday, **10th May 2024** we are holding an **Open Day** in St Peters Rooms, 134 Cecil Road, Hale, WA15 9NU 10.30–2.30pm

Put the date in your diary.

What a **fantastic** u3a we are! It's time to beat our drum, and show the public the breadth and depth of our offer – Groups! Meetings! Outings! Holidays!

It's an opportunity for your friends and family to see all the good things we do! As well as showcasing all our Groups, there will be entertainment from our ukelele bands, singing group and folk dancers. Topped off with tea, coffee and BISCUITS!



Help us to publicise this event by

- inviting those who might enjoy what we do
- putting the event onto your social media, Facebook, next door hub, etc
- Volunteering to put up posters for us and helping on the day

If you can help or suggest other publicity, please email openday@haleu3a.co.uk

If you are posting on social media here are 2 links to images you can use

- [This is the main poster for the event.](#)
- A more general poster "[Hale u3a in a nutshell](#)"

Please let us know via openday@haleu3a.co.uk where you have posted our event so that we know what areas we have covered and what is left to do.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal is due on the 1st April and is £12 for the year. If you have not yet renewed your membership then details of how to pay are in your renewal email. If you are paying at the next monthly meeting on 3rd April, we will still accept cash but cheques are the preferred option.

We have a new Website – [Have a look at it here](#)

The underlying software is WordPress but the National u3a have made a huge effort to make it easy for all u3as to adopt the new standard software. The main difference with the old website is that it is far easier to accompany text with pictures.

If you look then you will see that our “Welcome” page has a scrolling display of our “U3a in Action”. We have taken the pictures from previous Newsletters. It’s a good display but possibly too many pictures of people smiling to the camera. What we would also like are pictures of people doing things. Examples could be Hale u3a members playing a sport or reading a text book in a language group. One restriction that you can see on the website is that the pictures must work “long and thin”. Please also make sure that your fellow u3a members are happy with you taking a photo and sending it to us for the website.



Public Facebook Page – [Have a look at it here](#)

We setup a Facebook Page during Covid. Recently Nick and I have put up a few pictures there. If you have been on a u3a event that you have enjoyed and taken a few pictures then why not share them here. It’s a really good way to share photos and show what our u3a gets up to. As above your subjects need to be happy with this and you do need a Facebook account. So, if you have any photos then contact newsletter@haleu3a.co.uk and we will give you access to post them.

Please can you help us run our systems?

Can help us keep our membership informed with the newsletter, help promote our u3a with the website or manage our member database if so, then please get in touch. The more people who can share the work the better.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the “Marquee Room” of Bowdon Rugby Club, Clay Lane, Timperley, WA15 7AF. We start at 2pm (doors open from 1.15pm). Please have your Membership Card and £1 admission to hand. Refreshments will be served by the Rugby Club staff at about 3.15pm, and you are welcome to stay for a chat in the room or in the Bar.

3rd April

"The Theatres of Manchester, their history and the amazing performers that appeared there". A humorous illustrated chat from Marilyn Shalks who, among many other things, is a volunteer for the Manchester Archives+ collections and is very enthusiastic about everything that she does.

1st May

"Ten thousand years of bling" An illustrated talk from John Wallace about the surprising and fascinating long history of Alderley Edge, with just a little bit of bling!

Chris has booked speakers for the rest of the year. [These have been put on our website here](#). Go to this page and scroll down to events to see them.

THEATRE VISITS

7:30pm
Thursday 4th
April

All the tickets that I obtained for **Treasure Island** at the Altrincham Garrick have been sold. You are welcome to join the party but please contact the theatre to get your own ticket and look for us in the Foyer before the production.

DAYS OUT

16th April
20th June
24th July

Lyme Park and Afternoon tea on a canal boat - fully booked
Guided Tour and lunch at **Shrewsbury Prison Museum**. BOOKING NOT YET OPEN
Port Meirion. BOOKING NOT YET OPEN

HOLIDAYS

11th May 2024
4th July 2024
1st – 9th Sept
2024

Jersey This holiday is currently fully booked. Waiting list only
Fred Olsen cruise to the Scottish Islands. Departure Date: 04 July 2024 – 8 nights. All our allocation of cabins for the Scottish cruise have now been taken. Any further requests will depend on future availability of cabins and the prices may not be the same.
Holiday by rail to Normandy. This is now open for reservation of places, and a limited number are still available. If you are interested then please read the full information set out by David and use the email address in his email to contact him.

March Monthly Meeting

The DNA of Musicals with Kevin and Joy Siddall

The British Musical- What's In Its DNA? The answer to that question, it turns out, is quite a bit from the American musical but with added British grit. Joy and Kevin Siddall entertained the monthly meeting with their excellent renditions of songs from the last 140 years of musical theatre. Starting with the very British Gilbert & Sullivan in the 1880s, they moved on with songs from "Oklahoma" to explain the huge influence of Rogers and Hammerstein in the 1940s and 50s. We then got to what they described as the first great British musical, Lionel Bart's "Oliver", followed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's many successes. The duo finished their very enjoyable and informative show with Willy Russell's "Blood Brothers" where the grit I mentioned earlier came to the fore.



Joy and Kevin perform a song from The Mikado

Days Out - Jewish Museum Trip – 20th & 21st February



The Days Out group enjoyed an interesting and informative day out at the Jewish Museum in Cheetham Hill. We were given a talk about the history of the site and a guided tour of the former Spanish and Portuguese synagogue before spending time exploring the audio-visual exhibits detailing the histories of many of the Jewish people who settled in Manchester. We were also treated to a delicious vegan lunch of soup and a bagel.

[Steph Gayner](#)

Hale u3a Holiday in Glasgow.

Hale u3a visited the sites in Glasgow that featured Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his place in the Art Nouveau movement at the turn of the 20th Century. What made the experience even better was a Coach driver who loved Glasgow and gave us a great introduction to the city. There was plenty of time around the visits to relax and chat to our fellow u3a'ers. The whole trip was really good fun.



[There are pictures of the holiday on Facebook.](#) As you can see, we fitted a lot in to the five days. We visited the Kelvingrove Museum, Hill House (Helensburgh), Loch Lomond, The Willow Tea Rooms, Glasgow cathedral, Mackintosh House, The Hunterian Museum and The Art Lover's House. Phew! We certainly had a lot to discuss in the evenings.

GROUPS

Board Games

We are a small group, by necessity as most games are not suitable for over 6 players. We meet on Thursday afternoons whenever the leader, Elizabeth, is in the country, at one of our houses. We play from 1.30 to 3-4pm depending on people's schedules and try to play a wide variety of types of games, please see the photo for some of them played recently. We are looking for a couple more people to join our group. If you are interested email <mailto:boardgaming@haleu3a.co.uk>

[Elizabeth Haddock](#)



Antiques and collectables

We are a group of amateur and interested U3A members who like collecting antiques and items of interest at charity shops, car boot sales and auctions. We choose a theme for our monthly meetings and bring along items we have acquired over the years, pass them around and discuss them and their origins. We are a very friendly and sociable group and more members would be made very welcome.



For more details contact me Dorothy via antiques@haleu3a.co.uk
Dorothy Siddall

Heritage Pubs

Just an update for this group after the first few meetings.



I feel we've had some fairly successful outings and the group are a friendly gang of men and women who share similar ideas for group activity. We have been to the Vine at Dunham and the Old Roebuck in Altrincham –and next month's trip is a visit to the Boars Head in Stockport's old market square.

Although we are a group of just less than a dozen we do not want to get too big because of the size of some of the old pubs we visit.

However, we may have room for one or two more members. All we require of our group is that they are U3a members who are interested in traditional pubs and prepared to join in our discussions and coordinate a visit to one sometime during the year. Anyone interested in joining should email Steve Kay at heritage.pubs@haleu3a.co.uk

Scrabble Group

The newly formed Scrabble Group has met on two occasions in March, having decided to meet on the second Friday and fourth Monday each month. Each of the meetings was attended by six members.

The Friday meeting took place at the Tesco store in Altrincham, while the Monday meeting was at the Gardeners Arms in Timperley. Members indicated that they enjoyed playing on both occasions.

Since not all members are able to play on both dates, the group is open to additional members joining.



Beginners and improvers are welcome and members are provided with a list of two-letter words, from AA (volcanic rock) to ZO (a Tibetan breed of cattle), which are useful to know when playing the game. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Ian on scrabble@haleu3a.co.uk

Cycling Group A

Battling with the cold easterly wind 6 members nevertheless enjoyed a 30-mile ride on 8th March. We met at Seamons Bridge and "The Swan with 2 Nicks".

Having turned towards Knutsford on Budworth Road, we headed to the Penny Farthing Café (now called the Courtyard Coffee House). A great place for refreshments (with various calorie counts!). After fixing an unfortunate puncture, we returned home via Tatton Park and Ashley.

[Bob Royle](#)



Beer Appreciation

The February meeting of the group was a visit to the hostelrys of Chorlton, organised by Doug, one of the group members.

We travelled by tram and bus and visited some great pubs with some really tasty beer. Starting at the Beer House we then walked to the Sedge Lynn, a Wetherspoons pub when some of the group had a cheap lunch. We popped into the Trevor Arms which wasn't very appealing in atmosphere or ales and then so went straight to the Horse and Jockey,

We found this to be the completely opposite with excellent beer and very good quality food. The Beech Arms followed and the Fell Bar for the final call before heading back.

Except some could only get as far as the Brook at Brooklands station before thirst overcoming them again and having to stop for a last drink of the day.

[Elizabeth Haddock](#)



Birdwatching

On our recent Hale u3a birdwatching group trip to Chelford we did our best to maintain morale in waterlogged conditions and then the onset of rain.

Geoff Little



Anyone Fancy a u3a T-Shirt

We are ordering u3a T-Shirts for those taking part in the 10K Event in September. Would anyone else like one – They are a snip at £5 each. If you are interested then please get in touch with David (chairman@haleu3a.co.uk) as he is sending in a single order so that there is only one postage and packing cost. Please tell him what size you require (s,m,l,xl,2xl).

	Chest	Back Length
Small	34/36"	27"
Medium	38/40"	29"
Large	42/44"	30"
XL	46/48"	30.15"
2XL	50/52"	31.1"

National u3a

Third Age Matters (TAM) Magazine

We have been able to send in our current membership list for the Third Age Matters Magazine. If you joined recently but before early March then you should receive your magazine at the next distribution.

I hear that there are plans to rename it **u3a Matters**.

Once you have finished reading the Magazine then why not take it to your local doctors or dentists and ask at reception if they would like to offer the magazine for anyone who is waiting for their appointment.

Things that You Might Be Interested In (TYMBII)

Pottery Sessions

You will already have received an invitation to try your hand at pottery but in case you missed it. Moss Studio are offering Pottery Lessons to u3a Members at a discount. [The poster advertising their classes is here](#). The classes are available to book on the website now – <https://www.moss-studio.com/u3a-classes>

Southport Flower Show – Discount arranged by Southport u3a

[Here is the letter that we received recently from Southport u3a giving more information about the Southport Flower show.](#)

Southport Flower Show are offering all u3a Members £10 off gate tickets if they buy before 31st July and use the promo code 'u3a' when purchasing an any day ticket on line £19 instead of £29 plus free coach parking.

www.southportflowershow.co.uk.



Membership Update

New members we welcome this month are: Alan Foster, Alex Smith & Keith Barlow.

We have received the sad news of the death of Raymond Starkey. We have also received the sad news of the death of Barbara Shaw. She was a member of the French, Reading 1 & Spanish intermediate 2 groups.

With best wishes from the committee

Arlene, Anita, David, Paul, Ginny, Eileen, Neil, Tricia, Joyce and Hugh

Newsletter: Nick, and Neil