



Hale & District Newsletter May 2024

u3a Festival 24

The u3a movement is holding its first ever festival this summer.

For 3 days from 18 – 20 July in the beautiful city of York members will be running a wide variety of activities – talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops. It's all based around the exhibition centre at the University of York and day tickets or full festival tickets are available. Booking and more details here – u3a.org.uk/events/festival-2024



Download the full festival programme [here](#). Places on some activities are unrestricted but others – such as craft activities – must be booked ahead. A small sample of the many activities:-

Sport and Exercise: *Pickleball, Walking Cricket, Walking Football, Dance Exercise, Walking Netball, Yoga, Croquet, Petanque, Tai Chi*

Learning: *AI for Beginners, Egyptology, The 19th Century, Brushstrokes of History, Astronomy, Plato – Is He Relevant, History of Medicine, Environment and Climate Change.*

Crafts: *Sew on the Go, Gardening and Wildlife with the RHS, Slow Stitching, Jewellery Making.*

Arts: *Doodle Art, Painting for Beginners, Portrait Class, Poetry Greats, Life Drawing, Play Reading,*

Music: *Guitar Workshop, Juke Box Jury, Music Entertainment, Country Dancing.*

Wellbeing: *Hypnotherapy, Mindfulness & Meditation, Awake Asleep & Dreams*

Fun: *Quiz, Fun with Maths, Board Games, Card Games, Walks.*

and More...

Hale & District u3a A.G.M. The annual general meeting takes place on Wednesday 5th June at Bowdon Rugby Club. You will have received an email notification of this including a form for nomination of officers and the executive committee. You can also use the form to propose a resolution or item for discussion at the AGM.

The positions of Treasurer and Secretary will become vacant after the statutory three years, but Eileen Keddie and Ginny Murray are both willing to serve a second term if elected. Three members, Anita Franks, Arlene Moss and Nick Steer have been co-opted onto the committee to fill the new positions of Group Co-ordinator, New Members Liaison and Newsletter & Publicity. These posts will also be voted on at the AGM.



u3a
Hale & District

learn
laugh,
live

No longer in full-time employment?
Hale u3a – your other family!
Take up new activities or revive an old one.
Join 870 like-minded people who have similar
interests and share your enthusiasm

Open Day for new and potential members
St Peters Rooms, 134 Cecil Road, Hale, WA15 9NU
May 10th 2024 1030–1430
more information ...<https://hale.u3asite.uk>
E: membership@haleu3a.co.uk

u3a.org.uk

Hale u3a Open Day

Do you have friends who are not yet u3a members? There will be an Open Day at St Peters Assembly Rooms on May 10th from 10.30 to 2.30 where people can find out what the u3a does and join up. Group representatives will be on hand with information and to answer questions.

If you are already a member but haven't joined any groups the Open Day is a good opportunity to find out what the groups can offer and perhaps arrange to visit a group for a trial session.



Ukulele 3 performing at our Open Day in 2022

Arlene Moss our New Members Liason Officer, has done an email survey of the 116 members who joined in 2023. A good number replied and there were many positive comments :-

“Other members and organisers very welcoming”

“Impressed and delighted by the organisation and effort put in by people”

“Steam train and meal were amazing”

“Wished she had joined years ago”

There were some gripes:- difficult to get on trips; prefer a different style of learning; scheduling clashes, and some who haven't participated fully yet. Let us know what you think.

Membership Renewal

Membership fees should have been paid by now. We're sorry but anyone who has not paid by the end of May will have their membership lapsed and they will no longer be able to take part in group activities.

Contact Membership Secretary Joyce Thorley at membership@haleu3a.co.uk if you wish to pay. Details of payment methods were in your renewal email.

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.

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!

5th June - **Annual General Meeting**

3rd July - **"The History of Jazz Piano"** - From Blues to Ragtime to Boogie to Stride to Bee Bop, Avant Garde and beyond. Its roots and its constant evolution. How jazz musicians were influenced by other genres of music, and, in turn, inspired classical musicians. Roger Browne returns with his keyboard and live music to give us another great afternoon.



Help wanted. Our monthly meetings are enjoyed by many. If you are a regular attendee please consider volunteering to help keep the show running. Currently we need more people to man the check-in desk. It's a simple job – collect the £1 admission and check people off on the members list. You would need to be at the Rugby Club by 1.15pm on meeting days. Please contact [Paul Luton](#) if this is something you could do.

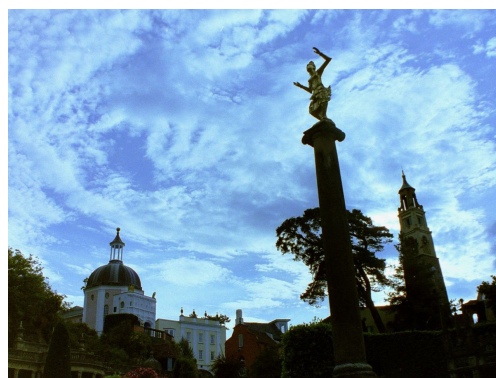
DAYS OUT

20th June **Shrewsbury Prison Museum** – A guided tour of Shrewsbury Prison which was decommissioned in 2013 and is now a "Dark" tourist attraction. You will see the Victorian Cells, the exercise yards, the execution room and more. Travel is by coach to Shrewsbury (approx 2 Hrs) and there will be a sandwich lunch in the cafe followed by a little time to explore the town.

Still some places left

24th July **Portmeirion.** Booking opens soon. Clough Williams-Ellis's Italianate folly village near Porthmadog, North Wales

Contact: daysouthale@haleu3a.co.uk



Could you help with outings? If you regularly go on outings perhaps you could step up and organise just one day out. You would have help and you would not be committed to doing more.

Think about it – if you don't volunteer the outings won't happen.

Please reply to chairman@haleu3a.co.uk

HOLIDAYS

- 4th July - **Fred Olsen cruise to the Scottish Islands. – 8 nights**
Taking in some of Scotland's wildest and most scenic island landscapes including Orkney, Shetland, Skye, Iona and Mull. The cruise is now fully booked.
- 15th August - **Edinburgh Tattoo – 3 nights** Bed and Breakfast at The Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling. On day 2 travel to Edinburgh for the iconic Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo featuring Military Bands and display teams from across the globe. Day 3 takes the scenic road to Loch Fyne and Inverary for a visit to Inverary Castle and the living museum Inverary Jail. This holiday is now fully booked. daysouthale@haleu3a.co.uk
- 1st September - **Normandy** A 9-day holiday to France, travelling by rail and based in Rouen. Almost fully booked, but we may still be able to accommodate a further small number until we're advised that the hotel needs to know the final numbers. If interested, please contact [David Peters](#) in the first instance.
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SOCIAL EVENTS

- 13th June - **Jazz with Afternoon Tea** 1.30pm to 4.00pm at Timperley Methodist Church. Tickets £20. See your direct email to book.
- 28th June - **International Evening – Turkey** at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Wicker Lane. Mezze will be served followed by dessert and a demonstration of belly dancing. More details to follow.
- 13th July - **The Decades – 40's and 50's Night** at Holy Angels Catholic Church Dinner and Music provided by a DJ. Look out for more details.

Do you have an idea for a social event? Bring it to the social committee and they can help you make it happen.

Chairperson for the Social Committee

We need a volunteer to chair the social committee. This person would have a co-ordinating role and would not be expected to organise all of the events. We hope that different people will step forward to run events so that the responsibility doesn't all fall on one person

GROUPS

French Conversation Group 2

This group now has a vacancy. If anyone is interested, please send an e-mail to the Group contact, [David Peters](#).

Our conversation is based on pre-agreed subjects, or articles in French circulated prior to meetings. We also read aloud and translate the articles and discuss grammatical points. Song lyrics, films, and word games are also used to provide variety.

From the description of the group's activity, you'll see that it is not suitable for beginners, and a reasonable command of spoken French is really needed for full enjoyment!

Local History Group

At a recent meeting of the Local History Group, member David Miller gave a presentation on the Dunham Prisoner of War Camp. David is a bit of an expert on local history and has written many books on the area. [Patricia Flanagan](#)



Bridgewater Hall's Community Members Scheme



Hale u3a has been accepted into the Bridgewater Hall's Community Members Scheme. This allows members to book free tickets to performances from the International Concert Series, BBC Philharmonic, and Manchester Mid-Day Concerts Society.

To book your tickets, please follow this link where you'll see a full schedule of all the events you can book free tickets for - [Community Members Scheme](#)

When you click on an event to book, please enter the promo code in the box on the top-right of the screen. **Please find the code in the Newsletter email you have received.** Please do NOT abuse this generous scheme by giving the code to non-members or trying to book non-members using the code. Otherwise our membership may be withdrawn

Please make sure to inform the Box office staff of any access requirements when you book (e.g. wheelchair space) by ringing 0161 907 9000.

You can also book tickets over the phone by ringing the Box Office, and quoting the promo code.

Gill Russell has sent us details of this North-West Regional u3a event -

The Big Sing

**Saturday 15th June 2024,
10.15 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.
at The Quaker Meeting House, School Lane,
Liverpool.**

**Led by Fredrik Holm, music specialist and
Members of the North West Regional Team.**

PROGRAMME

10:15	Refreshments and registration
10:55	Welcome and introduction
11:00– 12.15	First practice session
12.15 – 1.15	Lunch – bring your own or use the local cafes
1.15 – 2.15	Second practice session 2.15 – 2.45 Comfort break
2.45 – 3.30	The Big Sing – putting together everything you have learned



A previous Big Sing. Picture: Reading u3a

The venue is accessible and there is a lift to all floors. Parking is limited but there is a public car park nearby and the venue is within walking distance of Lime Street and Central Stations.

Cost for the event: £15.00 including refreshments.

This event is for u3a members only. Guests are not permitted.

For more details and how to book follow the link - u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events

or contact Gill Russell: mob: 07710531876 u3anwrchair@gmail.com

IN BRIEF

Southport Flower Show - Change to booking code. Anyone wishing to take advantage of the £10 discount on tickets for Southport Flower Show mentioned in last month's newsletter should note that the booking code is now **u3a** www.southportflowershow.co.uk .

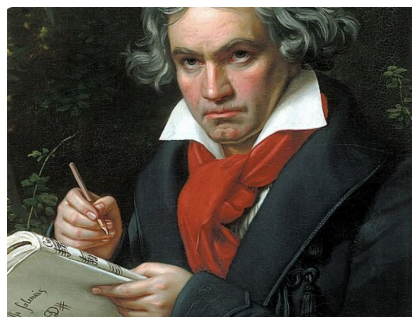
u3a Matters Magazine. When you have finished reading the magazine consider donating your copy to your dentist, hairdresser, gym – anywhere with a waiting room! It's great publicity for the u3a.

Anyone else for the Altrincham 10K 20 members have so far signed up but more are welcome. We are walking, not running and setting off 30 minutes before the race starts so that we clear the course while the road closures are still in place. Discounted earlybird entry for £24 is still available [here](#) . For more details and a route map go to www.altrincham10k.com/event/

We are ordering u3a T-shirts in the next week, at the special price of £5. So if you would like a t-shirt, please send your order and size to chairman@haleu3a.co.uk

National u3a Learning Events in May Free online events and courses over Zoom.

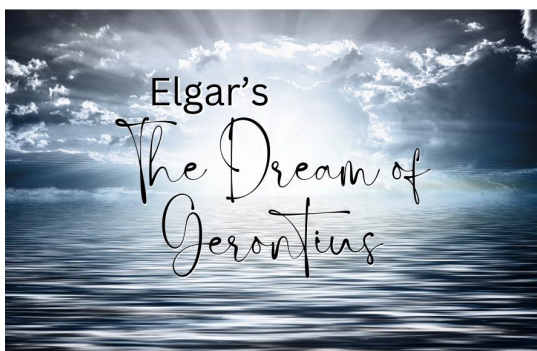
3 rd May	Osteoporosis and Bone Health. The work of the Royal Osteoporosis Society
7 th May	110 Years of Aviation History in Hertfordshire
8 th May	Laughter Yoga with Judith
9 th May	The Harlem Renaissance movement
13 th May	Exploring World Faiths: Religious Mysticism
14 th May	Turner's Timeless Treasures
15 th May	Antibiotics – discovery, mechanisms, and future issues
21 st May	Mastering Online Safety: Expert Tips for You and Others from Ability Net
23 rd May	Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners: 6 session course
23 rd May	Deafness and beyond: the tribulation and triumph of Ludwig van Beethoven



[National u3a Online Learning Events Homepage](#)

THINGS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

Altrincham Choral Society - Elgar's Dream of Gerontius



**ALTRINCHAM
CHORAL SOCIETY**

with Sale Choral Society

Conducted by Steven Roberts
With the Manchester Philharmonia
Andrew Greenan – Angel of the Agony
Adrienne Murray – Angel
Christopher Turner – Gerontius

Tickets £18 (£3 under 18s/students) booking fee £1
available via altrinchamchoral.co.uk
Saturday 13th July 2024 7.30pm
Royal Northern College of Music

Hale Fest - Food, Drink & Music

Hale Civic Society are holding their 2nd street festival from 11am to 7pm on Sunday 5th May. Ashley Rd, Hale will be closed to traffic from 10am for the event and diversions will be in place.

Entrance fee is £3 in cash at one of the four entrances to the event. No advance booking required.



Altrincham Football Club Community Sports

offers a wide range of sporting activities for you to choose from including Pilates, Yoga, Senior Exercise and Walking Football

Click on [Clubs and Activities](#) to find the full range and a weekly schedule



MEMBERS

New members we welcome this month are: Johanna Anderson, Patricia Atkinson, Carol Beaumont, Suzanne Briggs, Barbara Cheded, Ewan Drake, Candy Fallon, Patricia Fitzpatrick, Christopher Foan, Colette Foan, Beryl Foster, Iain James, Debbie Lanch, Judith Lingard, Joanne Lunn, Jerome McCann, Claire McEwen, Maria Murphy, Uma Sridharan, Anne Strain, Susan Strzelecki, Maureen Surgey, Carol Timperley, Graham Tunstall, June Whale, Janet Williams, Andrew Wright and Barbara Spark.

With best wishes from the committee David, Paul, Ginny, Eileen, Neil, Anita, Arlene, Tricia, Joyce, Nick and Hugh.

Newsletter: [Nick and Neil](#)