



Hale & District Newsletter April 2026

Our First Nightclub Night

Hip Hip 2 Rays and Rod Taylor entertained 87 members at Ringway Golf Club.



The 2 Rays saxophone based opening set was jazz influenced. They play a mixture of styles and their second set was more pop and rock & roll which got everyone onto the dance floor. During the interval food was served which met with much approval. Our own Rod Taylor then shared anecdotes of working with some of the great names in comedy and music.

This was our first attempt at such an event and it was an enjoyable evening. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback. Some lessons were learnt which we can use in future. Look out for another Nightclub Night later in the year.



[Hale u3a Open Day](#)

Monday 27th April 2.00pm – 4.30pm at St Peters Assembly Rooms, Cecil Rd, Hale, WA15 9NU

Open to all. **Please invite anyone you know who may benefit from joining u3a to come along and find out about us.** Group leaders will be on hand to answer questions about the many activities on offer, and some of our music groups will provide entertainment.



MEMBER OF THE MONTH – Chris Mason



Many of you will know Chris Mason as the face behind our Monthly Meetings. For over nine years, Chris has researched, planned and arranged our monthly speakers, giving us an incredible range of different topics to enjoy. She has ensured that we have been entertained, informed and stimulated and we are grateful for her hard work.

But Chris has also been involved in many other aspects of u3a activities since she joined us years ago.

Chris was born and lived her early life in the coal mining area of South Yorkshire, leaving Mexborough Grammar School to take a Maths degree in Manchester. She then completed her teaching qualification year in Leeds, and her first post was at Wakefield Girls' High School. Her husband, Rob, got a job in Stretford, so they came west and settled in Timperley where they had their family, two girls. A part-time vacancy arose at Altrincham Girls Grammar School to teach Maths. Chris soon became full time

and deputy head of the department before her retirement.

Chris and Rob were looking for a worthwhile way to fill their retirement when they saw a poster advertising the u3a. From then on, they became actively involved. At this stage there were only a few groups up and running, so Chris became one of the founder members of the first ukulele group, started the Natural History group, joined Family History and Science and later took over the role of organising our monthly speakers. She has enjoyed doing this important job but recognises that her choices may not always reflect those of all members and it is time for some fresh ideas.

Although dealing with a number of health conditions, Chris continues to be a firm believer in keeping as fit as possible, principally through yoga and weight training. Her other hobbies include embroidery, tapestry, gardening and music. Bird watching is another favourite hobby which she enjoys with her husband.

Chris is a splendid advert for the u3a. She has made numerous new friends, she enjoys learning and being active and involved. She believes it is a privilege to be part of this organisation and reckons that joining the u3a was one of the best choices she and Rob made all those years ago. Chris' enthusiasm and obvious pleasure in all she does reflects her attitude to life in general. Thank you, Chris.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the "Marquee Room", Bowdon Rugby Club, Clay Lane, Timperley, WA15 7AF on the first Wednesday of the month. We start at 2pm (doors open from 1.15pm). Please have your Membership Card 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 April **Air Traffic Control** Nicky Patterson has been an air traffic controller for 28 years and has been at Manchester since 2008. She will explain about ATC in the UK, and how Manchester gets planes safely in and out.

6th May **These Isles: A History** The future of these isles is in flux again, as it has been for millennia. Brian Groom will tell the story of the Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans along with their culture, language and passions.

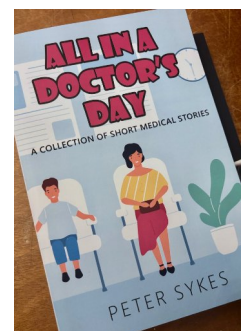
A Real Life "Doctor In The House" – Life as a Junior Doctor 50 years ago



At the March Meeting, surgeon and well-known speaker, Peter Sykes, gave us a humorous talk about his early days as a 'houseman' at Manchester Royal Infirmary and later at Park Hospital (Trafford General). A doctor's training at the time involved studying anatomy (hard) and physiology (easier) for a long time without ever seeing a patient. After 5 years he qualified and had to do all sorts of medical tasks from the basic taking of blood to delivering babies – "slippery little things".

Things were done differently then and there were no specialist casualty doctors. Everyone had to take a turn. Junior doctors worked extremely long hours.

After a full working day they could then be on call throughout the night, with responsibility for up to 50 patients, for a total of 36 hours. This all changed with the EU Working Time Directive in the 1990s but Peter regretted the loss of continuity of care for patients. These days you are looked after by constantly changing teams.



There were many amusing episodes working under a formidable consultant reminiscent of James Robertson Justice in the "Doctor in the House" film. A sweepstake was organised to alleviate the boredom of this consultant's ward rounds based on the number of suppositories he would prescribe (and administer). A Scottish football fan who was proud of his physique liked to show off the Celtic tattoo across his chest. Little did he realise that while under anaesthetic his tattoo had been changed with magic marker to read Celtic – 0, Rangers – 2.

Peter's stories can be found at www.medicaltales.org. Proceeds from his talks and royalties from his books go to support East Cheshire Hospice in Macclesfield.

[WANTED - MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER ORGANISER](#)

Do you have the skills to find and book interesting speakers for our Monthly Meetings? You may never have done this before but Chris Mason, who has been our booker for a number of years, has plenty of information to help you get started and would also be available for advice.

HOLIDAYS

- 28th May 2026 **Fairy Castles and Old Towns of the Baltic** A 12-night cruise sailing from Newcastle and calling at 6 ports and 5 countries – Skagen in Denmark, Tallin and Saaremaa in Estonia, Riga in Latvia, Klaipeda in Lithuania and Gdansk in Poland. holidays@haleu3a
- 13th Sept 2026 **Portsmouth** A 5-night holiday based at the 4* Holiday Inn on Portsmouth's sea front. Visits to Nelson's flagship Victory, the Mary Rose museum, Chichester, Arundel Castle, the D-Day Story Museum and more. Please contact Sue Power for availability holidays@haleu3a
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DAYS OUT

21st April



National Memorial Arboretum – A Few Places Left

We will travel by coach to Alrewas in Staffordshire to visit the National Memorial Arboretum. We have already visited this incredible place several times and there is always something new to see. This is the place where the nation remembers all those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

We hope to be there for the 11am Act of Remembrance in the chapel. This will be followed by a 50-minute guided tour round the site on the Land Train and a two-course lunch in the private dining room. The time after lunch is for you to explore at your leisure.

The cost of the day is £45 which covers the cost of the coach, land train and lunch but does not include gratuities which will be collected on the day. This

is the first of our events to use the new booking system which we told you about in the January Newsletter. In order to book you will need a credit card or debit card and your u3a membership number. If you are booking for other people as well as yourself, you will need their membership numbers and email addresses. To book, click on this [Pay for Trip](#) link. Full instructions can be found in the direct email you have received about this trip.

TALKS

Science For All The u3a Science For All group has a very varied programme of speakers. Although it is a members' group, it is open to guests each month. We meet at Hale Barns Unitarian Chapel Hall on Hale Road (opposite Asda) from 1.30 to 3pm. Cost is £2 to cover the cost of the venue and a gift for the speaker.

If you would like to attend any talk, please email Elizabeth at [Science For All](#) one week before the meeting to secure a place.

Please note change of date for the April and May Meetings. The May meeting is a week later because of the May Bank Holiday.

13th April

"From the madness of King George to 'One Health' – Adventures in Life Sciences" by Linda Magee.

11th May

"The Science of Sleep" by Gill Magowan

THEATRE VISITS

25th October

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat –Altrincham Garrick
Join us in a world of vibrant colour, unforgettable music and thrilling storytelling. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice.

Please email Hazel Dowell for tickets. Once our allocation is full you can still book at the Garrick box office and obtain a discount using Hazel's discount card. Tickets £20 per person. theatrevisits@haleu3a.co.uk

[Membership Renewal](#)

Many thanks to those of you who have already paid your renewal fee for the coming year. This is just a reminder to those of you who have not already done so, that your membership runs out on 31st March.

Details of how to pay are in the renewal email sent out on 22nd Feb 2026. Cost for the year is now only £10.00. If possible please pay by BACs.

If you wish to pay at the monthly meeting on 1st April cash or cheques only are acceptable. Any queries please contact Joyce – membership@haleu3a.co.uk

[Social Events Sub-Committee](#) [Come and join us!](#)

There was no response to last month's appeal for volunteers to the Social Committee. Please think about whether **you** could help. New members with new ideas are required to ensure our u3a provides social occasions for everyone to enjoy.

[For further details and to see what you part you can play, please contact Carol Beaumont, Chair at \[socialcommchair@haleu3a.co.uk\]\(mailto:socialcommchair@haleu3a.co.uk\) or any member of the Social Committee.](#)

[Advance Notice of the Hale and District u3a AGM](#)

Our AGM will be held on June 3rd 2026 in place of our monthly meeting.

Members will receive information next week regarding vacancies on committee and the methods for voting. You have the opportunity to nominate members for these positions and to propose items to be added to the agenda." Ginny Murray secretary@haleu3a.co.uk

[Coffee Morning at The Pavilion](#)

17th April 10am – 12pm The Pavilion, by the Bowling Green, Hale Village.

Following on from the successful coffee morning held in December we are running another. Tea, coffee and cake will be served.

So if you would like to come along for a chat and to meet new people this is the place. To ensure I am able to accommodate everyone could you please email if you are intending to join me .

Arlene Moss justjoined@haleu3a.co.uk

[New Members Meeting Held at Altrincham Football Club](#)

On 26th March over 50 recently-joined members attended our latest New Members Afternoon Tea. This was a chance for them to find out about our various groups and possibly join some.

Chairman, David Zucker, welcomed everyone and listed all the benefits of being a u3a member. He also appealed for new members to volunteer for various vacant roles within Hale u3a. Nick Steer spoke about the newsletter and encouraged people to send in articles and photographs (with the subjects permission of course). He also invited new members to join the Hale u3a Members Facebook group.

A selection of Group Leaders and Committee Members, who between them represented many of our groups, were on hand to explain what their groups do and to answer questions.

Tea and coffee was served and there were plentiful cakes which helped make it a social event as well as an informative one.

There will be another opportunity to ask about and possibly join groups at the Open Day on 27th April (see page 1 for details).

GROUPS

New Groups and Opportunities

These new groups need your support. **Walking Football** has 13 interested members but needs more; it is open to both men and women. The proposed **Reading Group 3** has opened a waiting list but needs more members to get started. **Antiques and Collectables** already has members but needs an organiser. Anyone for **Pool**? A new group suggested by Mark Hope.

Italian for Beginners Paul and Priscilla Appelbe both speak reasonable Italian and are prepared to help start a new beginners group. Please get in touch if you would like to join.

Dog Walkers Walking Group Alex Crawford would like to lead this proposed group. Let us know if you and your dog would like to join.

Modern Greek Conversation Ana Whardell is interested in sharing the group leader role for this proposed group. Would anyone like to join her? We have other members who would like to join if someone could help.

Please contact Groups Coordinator Anita Franks [HERE](#) if any of the above interest you.

Cycling Group



The annual lunch for the cycling group and partners happened again at Domus, at the end of February and was really enjoyed by the 18 participants.

On the following Friday, Neil lead a group of 6 up some challenging climbs to the Lily and Rose café in Alderley Edge. A new route and new find for refreshments, and a must in the future. The morning rain just stopped in time for the start from Ashley and we covered 30 miles or so.

Bob Royle



Walking Group 1 Behind Bars in Lymm



On the best day of the year so far, Walking Group One enjoyed a sunlit saunter from the Barn Owl pub through Spud Wood to the Bridgewater Canal and into Lymm. Our usual half-way sweet stop at the Dam was captured by Anne though we were not happy to be imprisoned for the duration! On circling Lymm Dam we enjoyed the daffodils and remaining snowdrops along with a fleeting glance of a Goldcrest, Britain's smallest bird. The route, after a little urban walking, took us back east across fields yet to be planted (potatoes or wheat in recent years) and behind the High School back to the pub for our pre-ordered meal. Despite a brief rebellion after the Dam when half the group insisted on what I can only call a Vitamin D stop for 5 minutes as they soaked up the sun's rays whilst sitting on a convenient bench, all coped well with the 8km (5ml in old money) walk!

Ged Lee



To see the pictures in this newsletter at full size and in high resolution please follow this link:-
[April Newsletter Pictures](#)

New Groups Successfully Started

The **Canasta Evening Group** is now up and running on alternate Thursdays from 7pm to 9pm. **Dance Circle** led by Catherine Windridge is now running at the Unitarian Church from 1.30pm – 3.30pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Beer Appreciation visit Macclesfield



A bright sunny day welcomed 11 members to Macclesfield as arranged by Vince 2. Starting at the Waters Green Tavern a few yards from the railway station we found a selection of 4 "light" cask beers but no dark ones.

A walk through the centre of the town then took us to The Society Rooms, a former vicarage and now a busy Weatherspoons pub with 9 beers and unusually, a queuing system which worked well. Red Willow was not yet open so we moved next door to Fountain, the Bollington Brewery owned bar, with 5 cask beers and a large keg beer range where food was available.

Returning to the Red Willow, now open, there were 4 cask beers from this local Macclesfield brewery and some kegs. Muckers was a very cosy "proper" bar run by the former landlord of the Jolly Sailor where he had a deservedly good reputation for the quality of his beers. Here there were 4 beers, again including a local brewer, Storm.

Finally up a short but steep hill to The Castle, a superb multi-room unspoilt pub with welcoming wood fires and 3 cask beers to end an excellent day out.

Keith Egerton

French Conversation 3 Has Vacancies

The group currently has three vacancies. We meet online because it is more flexible when one or more of us is away from home. Members share an interest in France & its culture and have either lived there or travelled there extensively. The standard is equivalent to A' level so it is not suitable for beginners.

The group normally meets between 1500 & 1630 on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month on Zoom, although this may be varied subject to members' availability. We also share information on a WhatsApp group. We set an agenda for each meeting, in which all members can participate. This normally involves some advance preparation. Activities can include the translation of short pieces about contemporary French life, giving short presentations in French about a set topic & answering questions, doing a quiz & discussing issues relating to short videos on YouTube about France. There is no formal teaching but points of grammar & vocabulary that arise are discussed & resolved. While we try to do as much in French as possible, we necessarily lapse into English on occasion.

frenchcov3@haleu3a.co.uk

Rosemary Lucas

Walking Group 3

We were blessed with exceptionally good weather for the first Group 3 walk of 2026. Tom Fallon led 10 of us from Pym's Chair car park to Shining Tor, at 559m the highest point in Cheshire.

Pictured are Steve, Andrew, Paul, Jackie, Ged, Jerry, Ian, Nick, Tom and Richard.



u3a Local Trader – Don't Forget To Use Your u3a Card For 10% Off at these retailers

Let us know if there are other local businesses you would like to see join the scheme and we will get in touch with them

CHRIS WALKER PLANTS, Thorley Lane, Timperley
ALTRINCHAM IT, 12 Regent Rd, Altrincham
RANDALLS JEWELLERS, 14 Regent Rd Altrincham
GREENHOUSE, 41-43 Oxford Rd, Altrincham
HALE BARNs GARAGE, 359 Hale Rd Hale Barns
THE PAVILION, Bowling Green, Hale Village
THE ZIP YARD, 14 Lloyd St Altrincham
ROOMS BROTHERS, 45 Oxford Rd, Altrincham

Plant nursery, Garden supplies
Computers, Printers, Ink Supplies
Jewellers, Watches, Services
Vegetarian Food
Car Repairs & Maintenance
Cafe, Eaterie, Room Hire
Clothing Repairs and Alterations
Home Technology, TV Aerials

THINGS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

[The Alma Singers - Entente Cordiale](#)

Saturday April 25th at The Avenue Methodist Church, Sale, M33 4PL

2.30pm Donation £8 Refreshments at the end.

Contact Ginny Murray secretary@haleu3a.co.uk

[Crown Green Bowling Taster Session](#)

u3a member Anne Perrett writes:

I am Secretary of Hale & Hermitage Bowling Club, opposite the cemetery on Hale Road. It is a thriving Bowling Club with a very good green.

We are holding an Open Taster Day on Sunday 19th April at 2pm and wondering whether we can interest any u3a members, those already in the bowling group and others. It is an ideal sport for older people, providing healthy exercise, a sense of competition and friendship, and the sub is only £25 p.a. ! Please contact Anne Perrett if interested. Email: anneperrett@icloud.com

[No Trams On The Altrincham Line Over The Easter Weekend](#)

From Friday 3 to Monday 6 April, tram improvement works will take place at Deansgate-Castlefield and Trafford Bar.

During this time, the following changes will be in place across the network:

- No trams will operate on the Eccles, Trafford Centre and Altrincham lines
- Services operating on the East Didsbury/Manchester Airport lines will terminate at Firswood.
- Services operating on the Rochdale line will terminate at Exchange Square.
- Other tram service changes include: Bury – Ashton-under-Lyne, Bury/Victoria – Etihad Campus.

Replacement buses will operate between the affected stops.

Tram services will resume as normal from start of service on Tuesday 7 April. Mike Battman

[Plant Sale in Aid of the National Garden Scheme's Health Charities](#)

u3a Members Gill and Chris Turner will be selling perennial plants on

April 11th and April 18th from 10am to 2pm
8a Warwick Drive, Hale WA15 9EA

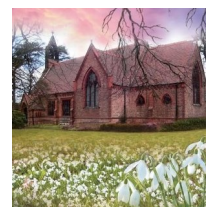
Proceeds will support charities such as Marie Curie, Macmillan, Parkinson's etc.



[St. Elizabeth's Church, Ashley Concert Series 2026](#)

Saturday 18th April 12pm Northerly Winds Quartet

St. Elizabeth's Concert Series is pleased to welcome Northerly Winds, a dynamic wind quintet that has performed to widespread acclaim since its formation. Comprising of premier freelance musicians from across the North West, the ensemble's members bring a wealth of experience from prestigious orchestras, including the Halle, BBC Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. Join us for a wonderful celebration of wind music!



Everyone is welcome. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.
There will be a retiring collection.

Kay Smith

Bravura Choir present Spirit of the Sea

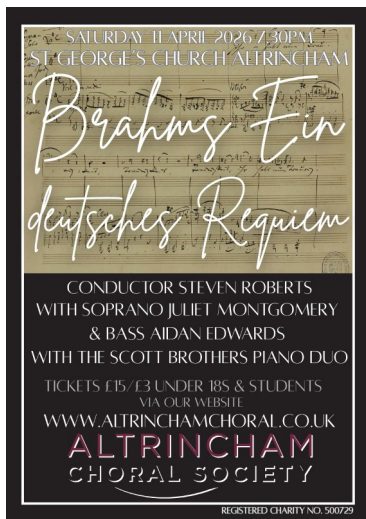


An award winning choir
Musical director –Daphne Sumbler

Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm
Ashton on Mersey URC, Whitefield Rd, Sale, M33 6NZ
Tickets available on the door. Admission £8 Children under 10 free
Includes light refreshments during the interval.

All proceeds to Ronald McDonald House, Manchester

Altrincham Choral Society – Brahms German Requiem



Saturday 11th April 7.30pm
St George's Church, Altrincham

Brahms – Ein Deutsches Requiem

Conductor – Steven Roberts
Soprano – Juliet Montgomery, Bass – Aidan Edwards
with the acclaimed Scott Brothers Piano Duo

Tickets are £15 and £3 for students and under 18's. Available from Choir members or www.altrinchamchoral.co.uk
As on previous occasions we anticipate being able to provide car parking at St George's Primary School and Altrincham Methodist Church.

Voices of Manchester by Duncan Battman

If you missed the premiere of u3a member Duncan's new play "Voices of Manchester" which sold out at Altrincham Garrick Studio in November there is another chance to see it at Stockport Garrick's Theatre Downstairs in May.

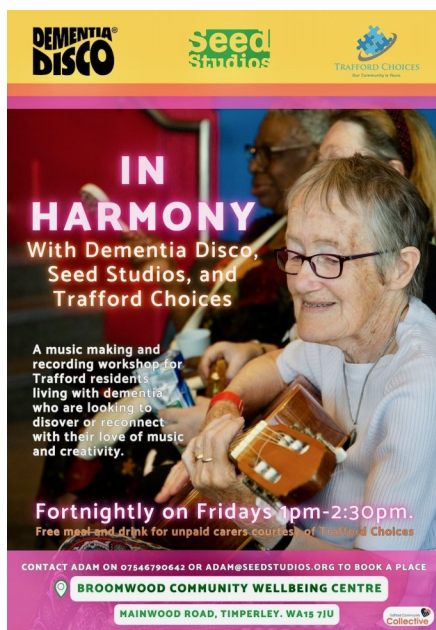
Reviewers said, "An evocative love letter to Manchester and its people" Six stories are interwoven using the settings of a tram travelling through Timperley, Sale and Stretford and a city centre pub. "Much fun is had with multi-generational references to landmarks, pubs, clubs and events past and present." Duncan was commended for giving his characters a distinct Mancunian sensibility without ever resorting to the banal platitudes that so often come with writing about the city.

28th - 29th May 7.30pm Stockport Garrick Downstairs, Exchange St, Stockport, SK3 0EJ

Book online at stockportgarrick.co.uk

Email: box_office@stockportgarrick.co.uk

In Harmony - Music Making and Recording for those Living With Dementia.



Seed Studios in partnership with Dementia Disco are offering free supported music making and recording sessions for Trafford residents living with Dementia at Broomwood Community Wellbeing Centre, Mainwood Rd, Timperley, WA15 7JU

Participants can attend up to five 1.5 hour sessions to practice, develop and record their chosen music and we can share any recorded music via mp3. The project concludes with a celebratory music event including performances of what participants have achieved.

Free meal and drink for unpaid carers courtesy of Trafford Choices

Fortnightly on Fridays 1pm – 2.30pm until the end of June.

To join or get more information please contact Adam Skeritt
Tel: 07546790642 or email: adam@seedstudios.org

MEMBERS

New members we welcome this month are: Ian Senior, Linda Delahoyde, Christine Navin, Paul Gallagher, Charles Gannon, Peter Woolf, John Hitchin

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

Newsletter: Nick and Nesta

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