



Hale & District Newsletter
June 2026

Volunteers Urgently Needed



Everything you enjoy about being a u3a member happens because someone has volunteered to organise it. We have been lucky to have members who have taken up these roles and made Hale u3a so vibrant and with such a great variety of activities to enjoy. These organisers are a very small minority of our over 1150 members and some of them have been doing it for a long time. No one can carry on in these roles forever, and we shouldn't expect them to. In certain positions there are rules in our constitution which prohibit the same people staying in place for more than 3 years. **Without new people coming forward things could stop happening.**

With our AGM approaching, now is an excellent time to come forward. Full support will be given to help you get started in any role. We need: **Chairman, Web and IT Manager, Social Committee Treasurer, Monthly Meeting Speaker Organiser, Social Events Organisers, Outings Support, Outings Coach Leader, Groups Co-ordinator.**

[PLEASE VOTE: Attend Our AGM On June 3rd or Vote By Email Now](#)

So far only a small portion of the membership have returned their votes by email. You can of course vote at the meeting, but it is vitally important that enough people take part. If we do not have a quorum, then the elections cannot take place and the business of the meeting cannot be approved. Casting your vote now will ensure that we have a quorum. [Please either attend the meeting or VOTE NOW by email](#). The voting form was emailed to you on 11th May.

We have candidates for the positions of Vice Chair and Treasurer. They are unopposed but still need to be elected by the membership.

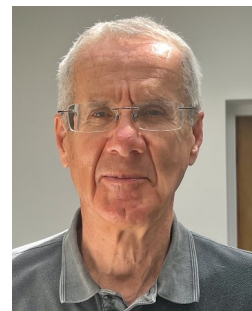
Mark Hope is standing for the position of Treasurer



Mark is a long-standing Hale resident and a Chartered Accountant by professional training. Between 1998 and 2024 he ran two medical-related businesses before retiring. He is currently a Board Trustee of a local charity and Treasurer of a local junior cricket league. He joined u3a in 2025 and is an active member of the Cycling Group.

Mark Hope (left)

Frank Atkinson (right)



Frank Atkinson is standing for the position of Vice Chair.

Frank was originally from Newcastle but has lived in Hale for more than 35 years. He is a retired Chartered Accountant, married to Tricia, with 4 daughters and 4 grandchildren. He is a member of the Beer Appreciation Group.

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.

3rd June **Hale & District u3a Annual General Meeting** Following the important business of the meeting there will be a social event with music. There will be a demonstration by the Line Dancing Group. Tea, coffee and delicious cakes will be served.

1st July **The Magic of the Musicals** Our favourite archivist, Marilyn Shalks, returns to extend our knowledge of Manchester Theatres and their many successes.

5th August **"The Julie Andrews Story"** A welcome return of the wonderful singer, Nicola Mills, and her unique combination of song and narrative.



If you are a regular attendee at the Monthly Meetings could you volunteer to man the reception desk on a rotational basis? Please email Janet Boot janetdboot@gmail.com if you can help.

HOLIDAYS

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.

23rd May 2027

Ireland A 6-night holiday based at the Hodson Bay Hotel on the shores of Lough Rea near Athlone. The holiday takes in beautiful scenery, Irish history, boat trips on the waterways and loughs of the Shannon, a visit to Galway and some time to explore Dublin.



Please contact Sue Power for availability holidays@haleu3a

DAYS OUT

17th June

Wentworth Woodhouse, South Yorkshire



Once the biggest and grandest stately home in England, built by the Fitzwilliam family with riches gained by coal mining, and reduced to a state of dereliction after the nationalisation of the coal industry, it is now being lovingly restored by a preservation group supported by the National Trust.

A guided tour will tell the fascinating story of the house, followed by a buffet lunch (optional) and then a chance to roam the gardens and grounds.

Now fully booked, waiting list only.

COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE PAVILION

Our popular coffee mornings at The Pavilion in Hale, where members are encouraged to meet new people, continue this month. The next date is:

Tuesday 23rd June from 10am to 12pm

Please let me know if you wish to attend as numbers are limited to 50 people.

Contact Arlene justjoined@haleu3a.co.uk



THEATRE VISITS

26th September

Macbeth Shakespeare Northern Playhouse, Prescot

Matinee 2pm



Opened in 2022 in Prescot, just north of Liverpool, the Northern Playhouse is a theatre-in-the-round similar in design to The Globe in London, though with the significant difference that it is fully covered – a wise acknowledgment of northern climate.

This is the first visit arranged by Hale u3a, with an experimental 8 tickets to test popularity as the nature of the venue means there may be **accessibility and comfort issues** for some. There are **20 steps** up to the PIT and seating is on **wooden benches**. The tickets booked for this

trip have a wooden back rail for additional support, but it is recommended to take a cushion. Tickets cost £26 per person plus transport. All 8 places are currently booked, but any returns will be offered back to the group, and if the visit is a success, future trips may offer more places.

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.

1st June

“UK-Med, A Frontline Medical Charity” Holly Smith will talk about the work she does with the charity responding to emergencies overseas.

6th July

“Herbal Medicine – Past Present & Future” by Caroline Daniel, herbalist.

Local History Group We meet at Altrincham Town Hall on Monday mornings at 11:00. If you would like to attend, please email Patricia Flanagan at localhistory@haleu3a.co.uk to join the group and to secure a place as seats are limited.

GROUPS

[New Groups and Opportunities](#)

These new groups need your support:

Reading Group 3 (Fiction and Non Fiction) has now been set up, led by Caroline Simpson.

Reading Group 4 (Non Fiction) is another new group. Please contact Sally Booker at sallydbkr@gmail.com if you would like to join.

Pool? A new group suggested by Mark Hope. Get in touch if you would like to join.

Dog Walkers Walking Group Led by Alex Crawford, the group has now had a set up meeting with 4 members. They would like more to join them. Let us know if you and your dog are interested.

Canasta Evening Group are now meeting on alternate Thursdays from 7pm – 9pm. Eleanor Reeves is group leader and she would like 1 or 2 additional members.

Modern Greek Conversation would like more members.

Walking Football has 13 interested members but needs more. It is open to both men and women.

Bonsai Is anyone interested in starting a Bonsai Tree Group?

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

Circle Dance

The next Circle Dance get together is on Thurs June 4th 1.30pm to 3.30pm at the Altrincham Unitarian Church Schoolhouse. The first session is free, and then it is £5 which will reduce when the numbers enable us to cover the cost of the room. We look forward to sharing our enjoyment of dance with you.

The Circle is an ancient and universal symbol of wholeness and unity, and dancing is one of the most ancient ways in which people celebrate community and togetherness. "Dancers are the athletes of God" – Albert Einstein !

Contact Catherine Windridge at catherine.windridge8@gmail.com

Cycling Group



The group on the move near Antrobus, Cheshire

The Cycling Group are taking advantage of the Spring weather to ride most Fridays at the moment.

On the first day of May we started as a group of 9 but suffered one puncture sadly. Through quiet lanes we reached the Riverside Organic Farm near to Davenham, and after good chat, food and drinks we returned via Pickmere. The maximum distance for some of our members was 42 miles.

On May 8th Neil lead a group of 9 of us to Antrobus for a refreshing break and on to Comberbach, Marbury Park, Pickmere and home via the old Chester Road to Ashley.

This was some 34 miles. Bob Royle



Relaxing at Riverside Organic Farm

MOTO SUPPER GROUP

Anita Franks has proposed a monthly supper group for members on their own.

If you are interested in dining out for a Friday supper, once a month, with other members who are on their own, please contact Anita. groupscoordinator@haleu3a.co.uk

Beer Appreciation on the Trans Pennine Express



The Beer lovers hit Huddersfield this month, starting with the **Kings Head** (part of the original Grade 1 station building). The large bar offered a welcoming 12 real ales of which the group sampled 4, all excellent. During the photo-shoot, courtesy of the bar manager, one (unnamed!) group member tested his strength by upturning a cast iron table; after sincere apologies – to both manager and listed tiled floor – the group moved on to the station’s **Head of Steam** bar. This (a Cameron’s venture apparently) offered 2 entrances: **Keg** (and be damned) or **Cask** (and heaven awaits). Naturally, no discussion was needed to enter the correct door. About 7 cask ales were on offer plus a non-cask premium range of Belgian and other beers. The Pie and a Pint offer proved popular with everyone, though 3 lucky members got their meal in 10 mins while

an unlucky 4 had to wait rather longer.

Sustained (eventually) by good beer & pies, the group joined the Trans Pennine Express train back west, stopping at Marsden. Here, ominous clouds finally took revenge on the group for venturing over the border, and it was a damp bunch that headed downhill to the congenial atmosphere of the **Riverhead Brewery Tap** to sample the excellent local Riverhead brews. A quick rain check convinced the group to stay for another drink as TPE conveniently extended its timetable to a half-hourly service.

Another train hop brought the group to the **Stalybridge Buffet Bar**, a Victorian bar with another warm welcome and 9 cask beers, most of them different from just over a week ago. The ales were varied and again were in excellent condition. Gentle live music wafting from the rear “Ladies” room was a nice touch. Thirsts nicely quenched, the merry band arrived back at Piccadilly at around 6pm. Neil Micklethwait



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

[u3a Local Trader - Recommend a Local Business You Would Like To Join Our Scheme](#)

Please would u3a members let me know if they have had good service from a supplier, which would be beneficial to other members? We will seek out a 10% discount! We have at present no discounts in Timperley or further! Ewan Smith Suggestions to newsletter@haleu3a.co.uk

New Listing!

MABEL'S CAFE, 6 Lloyd St, Altrincham

Cafe & Tea Rooms

Mabel's is offering a **20%** discount to u3a members. They are also part of the **Chatty Cafe** scheme – a table set aside for people who are happy to chat with others they don't know. Great for those on their own.

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

CHRIS WALKER PLANTS, Thorley Lane, Timperley

Plant nursery, Garden supplies

ALTRINCHAM IT, 12 Regent Rd, Altrincham

Computers, Printers, Ink Supplies

RANDALLS JEWELLERS, 14 Regent Rd Altrincham

Jewellers, Watches, Services

GREENHOUSE, 41-43 Oxford Rd, Altrincham

Vegetarian Food

HALE BARNs GARAGE, 359 Hale Rd Hale Barns

Car Repairs & Maintenance

THE PAVILION, Bowling Green, Hale Village

Cafe, Eaterie, Room Hire

THE ZIP YARD, 14 Lloyd St Altrincham

Clothing Repairs and Alterations

ROOMS BROTHERS, 45 Oxford Rd, Altrincham

Home Technology, TV Aerials

THINGS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN



Bravura Choir celebrates Fifteen Years and Counting

with a concert at United Reform Church, Cecil Rd, Hale, WA15 9NT

Saturday 13th June at 7:30pm

Tickets on the door £7 (includes light refreshments)

Children under 10 free

All proceeds to Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Rail and Tram News – Closure of the Altrincham Metrolink Line 13th July - 2nd August

There is to be a 3-week closure of the Altrincham Line on the Metrolink due to significant engineering works. From 13th July until 2nd August there will be no trams.

If you need to get to the city centre by public transport there is an hourly train via Stockport. It leaves Hale at xx53; Altrincham at xx57 and Navigation Road at xx00. The return train leaves Piccadilly at about xx10, calling at Navigation Road at xx33, Altrincham xx36 and Hale xx39. Your Bus Pass is valid on these trains if you've paid your £10.

Mike Battman



Great Art On The Doorstep – A Series of Talks by Art Historian Emma Anderson



PAINTINGS YOU CAN VISIT FROM ALTRINCHAM

Oyez Arts at Alty Town Hall are presenting four talks by art historian Emma Anderson over the next few months starting with **How To Look At Rembrandt**

Thursday 11th June 6:15pm Duration 1 Hour Cost £10
Doors and licensed bar open at 5:45pm.
All proceeds support Alty Town Hall.

To book visit www.oyezarts.org

Future dates are:

2nd July How To Look At Canaletto
10th Sept How To Look At Stubbs
8th Oct How To Look At Religious Paintings
(even if you're not religious)

Alty Town Hall, Market Street, Altrincham, WA14 1PF

Music Trains on the Chester Line



You may have enjoyed the **Music Trains to Chester** organised by the social committee in previous years and another one of these is under discussion for later in the year. In the meantime the Mid-Cheshire Line is running Music Trains which are available for anyone to join and they would welcome u3a members.

Dates are:

11th June leaving from Chester on the 10:56, arriving in Altrincham at 11:57 before heading to the revamped Station Hotel. The band playing will be the **Northwich Ukulele Band**. The return train will depart Altrincham at 14:36.

30th July leaving from Chester on the 18:56, arriving at Plumley at 19:35 before heading to the Golden Pheasant, where we will be entertained by **The Lynchpins**. The return train will depart Plumley at 21:56. If you fancy travelling to the Golden Pheasant to see the band there, the 18:36 will get you there on time, returning on either the 21:37 or 22:37 from Plumley.

24th September leaving from Altrincham on the 18:36, arriving in Mouldsworth at 19:26 before heading to The Goshawk. The band playing will be the **Hound Dog Blues**. The return train will depart Mouldsworth at 22:07.

You may join the train at any intermediate station or at the destination pub.

Further information is available at Mid Cheshire Line Music Trains - Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership or contact can be made at musictrains@midcheshirerail.org.uk

The Manchester International Crime and Justice Film Festival

This event has been running through May but there are still some films showing in June. Screenings are at Manchester Metropolitan University or Instituto Cervantes. They are free but need to be pre-booked through Eventbrite.

10 th June	"The Settlers" (Los Colones)	2023	Dir: Felipe Galvez Haberle
			In Spanish with English subtitles
13 th June	"Z"	1969	Dir: Costas Gavras
			In French with English subtitles
19 th June	"Limbo"	2020	Dir: Ben Sharrock



More Information and to book tickets :- [Manchester International Crime and Justice Film Festival](#)



Lunchtime Concerts at St John's

- 18th June The John Turner Ensemble, baroque and classical music.
- 9th July Song Trumpet Quartet
- Monthly on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30
- St John The Divine, Brooklands Rd, Sale, M33 3PB
- £5 entry on the door (cash or card)

Light refreshments available from 12:00 Hot drinks and homemade cake

We also have an additional summer concert on Saturday 13th June at 2pm

Hale Light Orchestra, Last Night of the Sale Proms
Seasonal refreshments in the interval – tickets £10

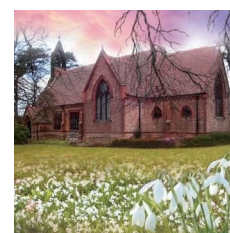
Find us on Facebook at : [Music at St John's](#)

Website: stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley Concert Series 2026

- 10th July, 7pm An Evening At The Opera with Lucy Farrimond (soprano)
Accompanied by Alessandra Pompili (piano)

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



MEMBERS

We are sad to report the death of **Doreen Harding**. Doreen was a recently joined member.

Fina Stradling Last month we reported the death of Fina Stradling. David Peters has now sent us his memories of Fina to share with you.

Last month's Newsletter contained a brief mention of the death of Fina Stradling, and I realise that, with the passage of time, recently-joined members may well not have known her as she and her husband, Steve, moved out of the area a few years ago. Although they both kept up their Hale u3a membership, the only group they were latterly able to be involved with was the Latin group which met online. Before they moved, though, both Fina and Steve were long-standing members of the Table Tennis Group which I run – indeed Fina attended the first ever session on 16th July 2013 and was a very well-liked and ever-present member until December 2021. Fina was also an active member of the badminton and tennis groups during all those years.

Both Fina and Steve were also enthusiastic supporters of the French rail holidays I've organised over the years and came on the first four of them – those to Alsace (2017), Burgundy (2019), Lake Annecy (2022) and the Vendée (2023) – the last two being after they'd moved to Greenfield. In fact the Vendée trip was, as it turns out, the last time I saw Fina, and I shall certainly miss her – as I'm sure the members of the groups I've mentioned will also miss her.

David Peters

New members we welcome this month are: John McHugh, Howard Meadowcroft, Penny Patchett, Rosanna Valentine, Estelle Matthews, Stephanie Goldstone, Sarah Turner-Wilson, Nuala O'Brien, Nigel Franklin, Liz Beard, Christine Hayes, Elaine English, Lynne Hills, Jatinder & Sangeeta Dhawan, Andy & Gaynor Bushell, Judith Turpin, Marilyn McDonald, Stewart & Ruth Price, Bernadette Blackburn, Linda Piziura, Chris Reed, Beth Wilkins, Stella Blackburn, Richard Hagon, Nigel Mildenstein & Philippa Green.

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

Newsletter: [Nick and Nesta](#)

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