



Hale & District Newsletter August 2026

Hale u3a Entertain the Crowds at the Altrincham Festival Parade



Members from our ukulele groups played and sang on our Festival float all the way from Bowdon to Beech Fields, Timperley getting quite a few in the viewing crowds dancing and singing along. A medley of The Locomotion and Let's Twist Again was particularly popular.

Other volunteers walked the route alongside the float handing out leaflets publicising our u3a and everything we do. It was a lovely day and a fun way of being part of the community and letting people know about us.

Yvonne is Singing For Pleasure at 100 Years Old



Singing For Pleasure member, Yvonne Brown, has just celebrated her 100th Birthday. At the group's July meeting, Chairman David Zucker presented her with a bouquet of flowers and a card with birthday wishes from the whole of Hale u3a.

Yvonne, who was working in the family business in Knutsford up until the remarkable age of 98, said that having good friends is the most important thing in enjoying a long life.

The assembled singers gave a rousing rendition of "For She's A Jolly Good Fellow" and a round of applause, "Happy Birthday" being saved for the actual date a few days later.

Nightclub Night - Get Your Dancing Shoes On For DOSH

Our next Nightclub night will be on **Wednesday 2nd September** at Ringway Golf Club.

After the incredible success of our last event, we're turning up the music once again with four-piece band DOSH who play rock, pop and soul hits from across the decades. Music by David Bowie, Van Morrison, The Beatles, Stereophonics, Bruce Springsteen, The Eagles and many more. From timeless classics to irresistible party favourites.

£20 per person including a meal. The bar opens at 6.00pm and Live Music starts at 7.00pm.

Currently sold out, but to be added to a waiting list for returns please email: chairman@haleu3a.co.uk . u3a members only.



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.

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

2nd Sept **"The History of Advertising"** by Frank Vigon

At the July meeting Marilyn Shalks told us about **The Magic of the Musicals** a subject she clearly has a deep love for. Illustrated with many film clips of well-known songs from her favourite shows, she took us from Gilbert and Sullivan, through Rogers and Hammerstein to Andrew Lloyd Webber and one of her favourites, Les Miserables. She peppered her talk with stories of the famous stars who appeared in these musicals along with some more surprising and unexpected names. Some of her comments about favourite male leads provoked humorous asides from her assistant – husband Allan.



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.co.uk

THEATRE VISITS

26th September **Macbeth** Shakespeare Northern Playhouse, Prescot Matinee 2pm
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.

28th September **Pride and Prejudice** Altrincham Garrick Evening performance 7.30pm
The u3a allocation of 32 tickets have now been taken but you can still book at the box office and receive the u3a discount by quoting "u3a Hazel Dowell"

DAYS OUT

29th Sept 2026

Crich Tramway Village, near Matlock, Derbyshire

The National Tramway Museum comprises a large collection of over 80 beautifully restored trams, a reconstructed town complete with historic pub, a covered exhibition of trams showing the development from horse via steam to electric, and a 2-mile tram track on which you can enjoy as many rides as you like. You may wish to get off at one of the tram stops and enjoy a woodland walk and the sculpture trail.



Please contact Sue Power for availability at: holidays@haleu3a

Carole at the National u3a Summer School, 2026



On July 1st, 1500 u3a members from around Great Britain gathered at York University for the second National Summer School. The campus covers a large area and is so beautiful with a large lake, lots of trees and birdsong wherever one walked.

The School was opened by Johnny Ball, known for his children's TV programmes and father of Zoe. I was most surprised to find I was the only member from Hale. For three days we had a choice of literally hundreds of lectures, workshops and experiences ranging from guided tours of York to Enjoying Music, so there was certainly enough to keep everyone busy and happy for the three days. I started with a lecture on AI by York University lecturers, one of them the subject leader for

the u3a. They described its values and problems and outlined how they use it with students and also how we could access information through the u3a. I went with limited understanding but gained an insight into what is going on 'out there' and wanting to find out more.

My second choice was a talk by a representative of the Richard III Society on the Two Brothers in the Tower. It was an excellent outline of current research which suggests they were abducted rather than murdered. I joined two art groups, one using fabric and took part in two quizzes. The highlight for me was an introduction to Belly Dancing. We really need a group: anyone interested? I also spent an hour playing Pickleball for the first time. It was introduced so clearly, and four of us beginners practised serving and trying to keep a rally going.

So, a rich variety of activities and like-minded people to share them with. Sadly, it will probably be two years before the next one but I can fully recommend the National Summer School.

I must tell you, on my last morning I attended a Life Drawing session, and when the model discarded his robe, the lady next to me gasped... She thought it was a Still Life class and was expecting to draw a bowl of fruit!

Carole Mindham

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.

The group are currently having their annual summer break so there are no meetings in August or September. The next talk will be on October 5th with the speaker and subject to be announced.

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.

17th August **Shakespeare and Manchester** A talk by Ian Nickson who has recently written a book on the theatrical and cultural history of performances of Shakespeare's works in the city, especially in the Victorian era..

Local History Visit Historic Stockport



Volunteers from the Stockport Heritage Centre gave some Local History group members an excellent guided tour of Stockport's blue plaques and buildings of interest, entertainingly enhanced by the stories the guides shared about each site.

The NatWest Bank on Great Underbank with its magnificent banking hall was originally Underbank Hall, the town house of the Arderne family of Bredbury until 1823. Apparently the last heir was a close friend of the Prince Regent and accumulated massive gambling debts, so was forced to auction off his family's estates to pay his creditors.

The Railway Viaduct is one of Stockport's most famous landmarks. It was opened in 1840 and is more than 500 metres long with 27 arches in total. It is one of the largest brick built structures in the world with 11 million bricks. When Friedrich Engels crossed over it and witnessed Stockport from above he described it as 'one of the duskiest, smokiest holes'.



The Town Hall has a Wurlitzer organ which is used in its afternoon tea dances and is considered one of the finest of its kind globally.

The Heritage Centre is located inside St Mary's Church in the Market Place and is worth looking round with a good selection of books about the local area. Patricia Flanagan

GROUPS

New Groups and Opportunities

These new groups need your support:

Reading Group (Non Fiction) has had its initial set-up meeting and would like more members. 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.

Craft Group This new group mentioned in last month's newsletter using the facilities on offer at the Vine Methodist Church, Hale Road, has six interested members so far. Anyone else?

Bonsai Is anyone interested in starting a Bonsai Tree Group?

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

Sunday Lunch Group

Recent successful outings by the Sunday Lunch Group have been to the Turquoise Restaurant in Alderley Edge (pictured right) and to the Wheatsheaf in Lymm (below) where 17 members attended.



ATTENTION NEW AND EXISTING GROUP LEADERS

There are now two pages on the website to help Group Leaders.

Useful Contacts for New Group Leaders – A page with a few basics and contacts for Hale u3a department administrators.

Group Leader Full Handbook – A guide to Group Leaders for more complicated tasks, such as managing your group members data and updating your group details on the website.

For both the above, go to the Groups pull down menu on the Home Page.

If you have any queries or suggestions please contact me webmanager@haleu3a.co.uk

Richard Hagon

Guitars, Strings and Things

Having heard the Ukulele bands playing at the first Christmas Gala Afternoon in December 2023, I wondered if any u3a members who once played guitar would like to form a group to begin learning again, playing for fun.

By the time the AGM came around the following year, my ideas had changed a bit to include other musical instruments. So, when I approached Anita to suggest a new group, the name had become Guitars, Strings and Things.



Three guitar players responded and we met initially at my home to discuss how things might go. Taking turns to host the sessions, we began to develop our way of working and seemed to have similar ideas and quite similar tastes in music.

There was a stunned silence however when one of our members informed us that we were expected to play at the forthcoming Gala event in December that year. Meeting only two hours every fortnight, it did not seem very long to prepare for an unexpected public performance.

Several weeks of panic-driven sessions saw us appear on stage at the Bowdon Rugby Club for the Gala. We played two songs with not too many mistakes and we felt we "...got away with it!" We were told that we should smile, but it's hard to smile when you are terrified.

An enjoyable year followed, and we were able to play four songs at the Gala in 2025. Again, not much smiling! In 2026, the group has grown from four guitar-playing members to eight, including a melodeon-player and a bass player. The growth of the group size has meant we now hire a room on a Monday morning. Funding is not too expensive, but it adds a new level of complexity. I think we can cope and the room size means we can accommodate players of other instruments that will fit in with the acoustic nature of the group.

Stuart Beckett

The photograph above, kindly taken by Geoff Little, is evidence that we are, at times, able to smile.

Friday Supper Group (MOTO)

This new group run by Anita Franks held their first monthly supper at the Bulls Head, Hale Barns in July. Fourteen members attended and it was enjoyed by all! The next meal will be on 21st August at a venue to be agreed.

If you are interested in dining out on the third Friday of the month, with other members who are on their own, please contact Anita. fridaysupper@haleu3a.co.uk



Heritage Pubs Group at The Old Nags Head, Edale



Overlooked to the north by Kinder Scout and situated at the start of the Pennine Way, The Old Nag's Head is surrounded by gorgeous views and some of the best walking country in England. This time, though, the group's focus was all on the pub itself! Offering a wide range of food and drinks, it even has its very own ale, 'The Nags 1577'.

'The group still has room for one or two members – all we ask is that they organise at least one of our outings each year. Any interest contact Steve Kay at heritage.pubs@haleu3a.co.uk



u3a Local Trader – Claim Your Discount With Your u3a Membership Card

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 discount! We have at present no discounts in Timperley or further! Ewan Smith Suggestions to newsletter@haleu3a.co.uk

New Listings!

LEATHER And LOCK, 5 Regent Rd, Altrincham
CARRIE PHILLIPS 1, Barrington Road, Altrincham
0161 928 9016 carrie@cheshirebacktherapy.com

Discount Available

15% Shoe & Watch Repair, Key Cutting
10% Chiropractor / Back Therapy

u3a Local Trader – Don't Forget To Use Your u3a Card At These Retailers

CHRIS WALKER PLANTS , Thorley Lane, Timperley	10%	Plant nursery, Garden supplies
ALTRINCHAM IT , 12 Regent Rd, Altrincham	10%	Computers, Printers, Ink Supplies
MABEL'S CAFE , 6 Lloyd St, Altrincham	20%	Cafe & Tea Rooms
GREENHOUSE , 41-43 Oxford Rd, Altrincham	10%	Vegetarian Food
HALE BARN'S GARAGE , 359 Hale Rd Hale Barns	10%	Car Repairs & Maintenance
THE PAVILION , Bowling Green, Hale Village	10%	Cafe, Eaterie, Room Hire
THE ZIP YARD , 14 Lloyd St Altrincham	10%	Clothing Repairs and Alterations
ROOMS BROTHERS , 45 Oxford Rd, Altrincham	10%	Home Technology, TV Aerials

We are sorry to report that one of our scheme members, RANDALLS JEWELLERS, has now ceased trading.

THINGS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN



Lunchtime Concerts at St John's

- 13th August – Hwan Hee Kim – Korean pianist
10th September – Roth Duo – classical guitarists
8th October – The Kell Wind Trio

Monthly on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm

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

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

Website: stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk

Manchester and Salford Film Society - New Season

The society meets monthly at Altrincham Little Theatre from September to June on a Saturday at 7.30 pm.



Membership is only £40 which includes all 10 screenings.

Non-members are always welcome to individual films at £7 per ticket.

We aim to show the very best of international classics and contemporary films not often shown in mainstream cinemas. Further details can be found on: www.mandsfilmsociety.org.uk including a copy of the new season's programme [Season-96-Programme1.pdf](#)

The season starts on 12th September with Ozu's classic "Tokyo Story" from 1953.

For details of how to join, please contact the secretary e-mail: secretary@mandsfilmsociety.org.uk

Cafe Bridge Comes To Sale – Play Bridge For Charity



A team of local enthusiasts are bringing Café Bridge to Stanley Square, Sale on Wednesday 9th September starting at 11.00am. These are fun social events fundraising for local charities, in this case **Francis House Children's Hospice**.

Play several short rounds of duplicate Bridge in different cafes. Move between participating cafes after each round. Enjoy refreshments at each venue and lunch at your venue of choice. Suitable for experienced and improving players alike.

Enter as a pair. Email michael@cafebridge.org to register.

More information at www.brianbridge.net/cafe

Southport Flower Show – 30% Discount for u3a Members

20th to 23rd August Tickets are £32 on the gate but u3a members can get a 30% discount by buying tickets online using the code **u3a26** at <http://www.southportflowershow.co.uk/>

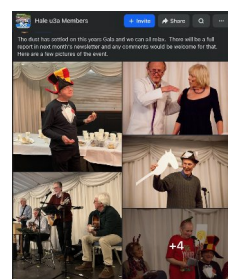
Hale u3a Members Facebook Group Is Two Years Old

Our members only Facebook Group launched in June 2024 and has gradually grown to a current membership of 207. This is around 18% of our u3a's total membership. While appreciating that a significant number do not use any social media on principal, there may be some people who would enjoy our group but have not yet signed up.



As a private group, only other members can see your posts and pictures. It is not searchable so non-members cannot access the page or even be aware of its existence. Do not confuse this group with our public facing Facebook page which is designed to attract new members and is just a basic introduction to Hale u3a.

In the last 2 years the Members page has filled up with some great content especially pictures of u3a outings and holidays, news of groups activities, our major events such as the Gala, participation in the Altrincham 10K and some other things of local interest. A huge thank you to all our contributors with special mention of Sue Power, Mike Wingate, Alan Edwards and Marilyn Chapman for posting regularly.



If you would like to join, please email Nick at publicity@haleu3a.co.uk and I will send you an invitation.

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

MEMBERS

New members we welcome this month are: Chris Simpson, Val Cameron, David & Mandy Buckley, Julie Ashall, Sarah Cantrell, Sylvia Milligan, Dave Boughen, Stephen Clough, Denise Myers, Elaine Church, Patricia Dougherty, Michael Dewhurst, Sarah Booth, Stephen Leopold, Claire Wright, Christine Holmes, Mike Dawson, James Beckett, Ann Taylor, David White & Maggie Munroe.

With best wishes from the committee David, Frank, Ginny, Mark, Anita, Arlene, Alison, Joyce, Amanda and Nick.

Newsletter: Nick and Nesta

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