



Hale & District Newsletter September 2026

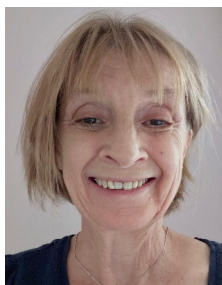
Introducing

Our new Groups Coordinator, Amanda Falk



Amanda comes from Whitefield but has spent most of her adult life in Hale. She worked as a solicitor under her maiden name of Freeman for almost forty years, first in mergers and acquisitions in the city centre, and later in inheritance tax planning and the administration of trusts and estates in Altrincham. Amanda retired in August 2020 and joined a3a in January 2025. She enjoys the history and science talks and is an enthusiastic member of Art Appreciation 3. Outside a3a, she and her husband Steven are learning Spanish and enjoy Tai Chi and yoga.

Our new Social Treasurer, Alison Jurkowski



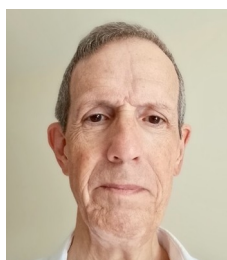
Alison has lived in Timperley for 35 years. She retired a few years ago and joined the Hale u3a Spanish group, which she says is great fun. Following the recent request for volunteers, she felt she could help as the Social Treasurer, using the skills developed during a career spent in various finance roles.

Our new Beacon Administrator, Maggy Simms



Maggy's background is in teaching history and archaeology but, at the turn of the century, she found herself increasingly employed in IT contracts of different kinds, and acquired a very useful set of skills which she enjoys using to help u3a members and their committees get the best out of what's available to them.

Our new Web Manager, Richard Hagon



Richard has always lived in the Altrincham area. While employed in the Film Production Industry, he became Chairman of the NW Branch of the British Kinematograph, Sound & Television Society. He later worked for a local textile company and retired in 2019 after nine years with John Lewis. He has been using computers since he bought his Sinclair ZX81 in the early 1980s and looks after websites for two other local organisations. He created from scratch a tribute website for the North Cheshire Amateur Operatic Society, which was disbanded in 1990. If there are any members of u3a who were members of the NCAOS, he would be pleased to hear their memories.

Nightclub Night - Get Your Dancing Shoes On For DOSH

Our next Nightclub night will be on **Wednesday 2nd September** at Ringway Golf Club, with music by David Bowie, Van Morrison, The Beatles, Stereophonics, Bruce Springsteen, The Eagles and many more. £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.

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| 2 nd Sept | "The History of Advertising" by Frank Vigon |
| 7 th Oct | "Inn and Out at the Top" Neil Hanson will tell us humorous tales of life in the highest pub in England |
| 4 th Nov | "Rosie-Lee aka The Reluctant Shepherdess" After starting her career with Barclays Bank, she took an unexpected turn into farming. With warmth and humour, she shares honest stories of sheep, land and rural life. |

Nicola Hits the High Notes at the Monthly Meeting

Nicola Mills made a welcome return visit at our August Monthly Meeting, entertaining us with songs from opera and musical theatre interspersed with her life story. Growing up in a working class family in Oldham she had little encouragement or support for her musical ambitions. Her own grit and determination got her into the Royal Scottish Academy of Music after which she moved on to work at Glyndebourne and at Opera Houses in The

Netherlands and Belgium.



Her varied career has included busking on the streets of London and New York and, during the Covid pandemic, many times on the streets of Todmorden and Hebden Bridge, keeping peoples spirits up.

The afternoon was billed as The Julie Andrews Story and although it transpired that this was a mistake, Nicola did give us a medley from The Sound of Music. An audience request for more Italian opera prompted pieces from Verdi and Puccini. The climax of her set was a powerful rendition of the Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballé hit "Barcelona".

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

Hale Members Learn, Laugh and Live at the u3a North West Summer School



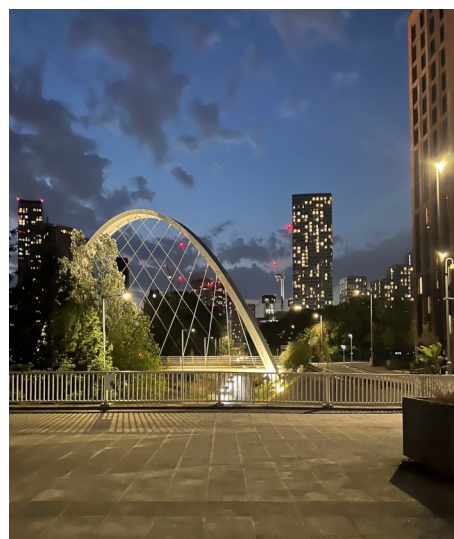
Lilwen, Carole, Jean and Tony at MMU

The photo shows four of the Hale u3a members who attended the North West region u3a Summer School in August. This year's Summer School took place at Manchester Metropolitan University, with the option to live in residence on the campus or to travel in daily. Several courses were held during the week, including Politics, Opera, Archaeology and Geology.

Lilwen and Carole attended the course Art Challenges: History of Colour, which took them on a journey through the development of colour from cave paintings to plant dyes and mixing their own oil paints in the footsteps of the old masters. The tuition, food and accommodation were all excellent and the final exhibition raised a great deal of interest and several appreciative comments from other attendees.

Four other members, including Tony and Jean, attended the course on advanced ukulele techniques. Here again they found the course excellent, not least because of the quality of the teaching and the challenging curriculum. Their performance on the last morning was a huge success, with the entire school applauding their hard work and very high standard.

Evenings were enriched with a quiz, a musical evening and an incredible lecture on UFOs by a leading scientist. All in all a most enjoyable and enriching three days, new friends made, skills developed and the u3a motto - Learn, Laugh, Live - well and truly followed.



MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Paul and Mags Luton



When they retired, Paul and Mags were keen to find a useful, fulfilling way to spend their time and, fortunately for us, this coincided with the launch of Hale u3a. Mags (membership number 138) and Paul (membership number 139) were two of the very first to join.

Paul volunteered for the role of Secretary, which he filled ably for 6 years, overseeing the expansion of the u3a from 150 to over 500 members. He then served as vice-chairman for 4 years, completing his 10 years on committee. In addition, he started a Philosophy group, joined the Current Affairs group, and currently runs the Gardening and

Ethics groups. Paul's varied background and career have enabled him to develop many useful skills which he has applied to helping the u3a for so many years.



Paul was born in Somerset. He left boarding school at 16 for an apprenticeship in engineering. After spending some time at a technical college on day release, he went up to London and took an HND in Mechanical Engineering, subsequently getting a job with English Electric in the Atomic Power division. He spent three years in Switzerland developing engines and (perhaps more importantly!) learning to ski and mountaineer. On his return to England, he worked in research and witnessed the beginnings of CAD. He and Mags then spent five years in Silicon Valley, California, at the centre of the tech industry, before returning to Hale when Paul eventually retired. We value his cheerful and entertaining personality, his practical skills, and are extremely grateful for all his support.

Mags has helped organise registration for very many years, enlisting and encouraging volunteers to support us. Her contribution to the smooth running of our monthly meetings has been invaluable. She worked in the Civil Service before going with Paul to spend five happy years in Silicon Valley. She enrolled on a computer course and learned how to use PhotoShop to design and enhance photos. She volunteered at the Commonwealth Games and has many interests, including the u3a Canasta, Walking and Gardening groups.



Mags and Paul have 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Although they are both now retiring from their formal u3a roles, they will continue to be involved as their time allows.

We thank them both for being such valued and active u3a members.

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"
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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

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

GROUPS

[New Groups and Opportunities](#)

These new groups need your support:

Dog Walkers Walking Group Led by Alex Crawford, the group now has 4 members and would like more, so please get in touch if interested. **Next walk:** 4th September starting at Green Walk outside the entrance to Denzell Garden, walking to Dunham Massey visitor centre and back a different way (approx 4 miles, taking just over 2 hours inc a stop for drinks at Dunham). Future walks will begin at different locations and those who express an interest in joining the group will get notification of the start location about 2-weeks before the walk.

Spanish for Beginners We have several people interested in joining this proposed group but it needs a leader. If you are a Spanish speaker would you consider getting the group started?

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

Craft Group This new group will be using the facilities on offer at the Vine Methodist Church, Hale Road. Please get in touch if you would like to join – or for more information.

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

Cycling Group



At the end of July a group of cyclists set off from near Seamons Bridge on a 40 mile ride led by Doug. Although 7 set off, an early puncture reduced the number. The day began in unexpected rain, but soon we were back in the usual sunshine. We had refreshments at The Shed, in Moore, near to Walton. It was a lovely route, though longer than usual. The return involved the Trans Pennine Trail, so a relatively easy – and pleasantly shady – finish.

In August, a second quite long ride in as many weeks was led by Howard, who only recently joined the group after we met at the open day.

There were 9 riders for this 40+ mile ride. The route took us quickly out to Marton for early refreshments before continuing to Gawsworth, then largely downhill to Mottram St Andrew and back via Alderley Edge.

Potential members should not be discouraged by these distances as shorter rides are frequent and, in fact the norm for this group.

Bob Royle



Art Appreciation 3



Members of Art Appreciation group 3 recently visited Thornbridge Hall in the Peak District.

The Hall is decorated in the Arts and Crafts style and contains “jewels” of exhibits from other demolished stately homes. The gardens include one designed to have “a thousand shades of green” and many “garden rooms”.

Lilwen Guest

Circle Dance

We apologise for the messy start of this new group. It is not our usual style but was unavoidable due to illness and surgery. Lots of thanks to those who have joined and for their positive feedback. We will re-start our regular monthly meetings on **Thursday 1st October** at the **Unitarian church schoolrooms Dunham Road**.

We look forward to welcoming back those who have supported us in this difficult time and welcome anyone who wishes to try us out for the first time. The first session is free.

Until we have stabilised our numbers, the cost will be £5 for two hours including refreshments. Contact Cath Windridge on 0161 928 1088.

Friday Supper Group, Members On Their Own (MOTO) and coffee mornings

Friday supper group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month, which falls on Friday 18th Sept. Please contact Anita at fridaysupper@haleu3a.co.uk if you would like to come.

MOTO meets on the last Saturday of each month, which falls on Saturday 27th Sept. Please contact Lorna Barton at moto@haleu3a.co.uk if you would like to come.

The Coffee Mornings which have been such a success over the past 3 months are planned to continue in the Autumn in the 2nd week of each month. We are currently looking for a new venue following the closure of The Pavilion. More information when we have it.

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

JADUGAR Ashley Rd, Altrincham
LEATHER And LOCK 5 Regent Rd, Altrincham

Discount Available

10% Indian restaurant
15% Shoe & Watch Repair, Key Cutting

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

CARRIE PHILLIPS 1, Barrington Road, Altrincham 0161 928 9016 carrie@cheshirebacktherapy.com	10%	Chiropractor / Back Therapy
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 BARNES GARAGE , 359 Hale Rd Hale Barns	10%	Car Repairs & Maintenance
THE ZIP YARD , 14 Lloyd St Altrincham	10%	Clothing Repairs and Alterations
ROOMS BROTHERS , 45 Oxford Rd, Altrincham	10%	Home Technology, TV Aerials

Former scheme members:

We are sorry to report that RANDALLS JEWELLERS has ceased trading and THE PAVILION cafe in Hale Village is now closed until further notice.

THINGS YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN



Bridgewater Hall - Community Members Scheme

The Bridgewater Hall has extended its Community Members Scheme offering free tickets for selected concerts.

A full schedule of all the events included in the scheme can be found here: [Bridgewater Hall Community Members](#).

The code to access these discounted tickets is currently not working on their website but you can still call their box office on 0161 907 9000 quoting the CMS code.

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

Please note, there is only a limited number of free tickets available under the scheme, so act quickly!

Check your u3a email for the discount code.



Stoller Hall Manchester Chamber Concerts Society

For this special 90th anniversary season, Stoller Hall is offering u3a members an additional 10% discount.

The season comprises 6 concerts between September 2026 and March 2027. Highlights include a performance of Schubert's Death and the Maiden by the Wihan Quartet, Dvorak's Piano Quintet No.2 performed by Artistic Music Director and internationally renowned pianist Martin Roscoe joining forces with the Schumann Quartet, and the Quatuor Agate giving the first performance at Manchester Chamber Concerts Society of a quartet by Eric Korngold, famous for his Hollywood Golden-age scores.

All concerts are on Mondays starting at 7pm and can be booked on the Stoller Hall website.

Check your u3a email for the discount code.



St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley - new concert Series

19th September, 12 noon – Jim Muirhead (Clarinet)
and Richard Wetherall (Piano)

It's good to welcome back Jim Muirhead, this time accompanied by prominent UK-based Jazz pianist Richard Wetherall.

We can guarantee a most enjoyable musical lunchtime!

Everyone is welcome.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

There will be a retiring collection.



Lunchtime Concerts at St John's

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 from 12:00 (hot drinks, homemade cake)

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

Website at: stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk



Cafe Bridge Comes To Sale – Play Bridge For Charity

A team of local enthusiasts is 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**.

You will play several short rounds of duplicate Bridge in different cafes, moving 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. Please enter as a pair.

Email michael@cafebridge.org to register. More information at www.brianbridge.net/cafe

Master Canva in six lessons

— North West u3a Region —

Date	Topics	Time: 10am
24 Sep	Intro to Canva Elements & Text Your first Design	
1 Oct	Templates and more Images Sharing Designs	
8 Oct	Apps & Magic Canva AI Managing your Projects	
15 Oct	Presentations Animation	
22 Oct	Videos Websites	
29 Oct	Docs Whiteboards	

If you miss a meeting, please run the presentations to catch up - click the above links. For an introduction to the full Canva course plus access to all the course notes and other resources, click this link:

[What is the u3a Canva Course?](#)

Master Canva in six lessons

Free online training led by Roger Carter, who runs courses for the national u3a.

Canva can be used to create posters, flyers, newsletters, cards, presentations, social-media graphics, videos, edit photos and much more. You can use Canva for free but, even better, u3a members can apply for a licence to access Canva Pro through its not-for-profit scheme.

First session: Thursday 24 September at 10am, then every Thursday for six weeks.

Open to u3a members across the North West.

There is a minimum 20 participants, so please express your interest by 12th September latest. Contact Jacky at letscomeolsu3a@gmail.com

Manchester Geological Association: Introduction to Geology, Saturday 19th September 11:30-14:30

As with the previous event and successful course at this year's NW u3a Summer School, this event is aimed at both established amateur geologists and those totally new to the subject.

11:30 – The human impact on geology – how we are changing the planet

12:30 – break with tea and coffee provided

13:15 – Practical lab sessions, an opportunity to look at the University collection

There is no charge for the event and there will be complimentary refreshments.

Venue: University of Manchester Williamson Building, 176 Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9QQ.

Booking is not essential but please let us know you wish to attend on niallclarke01@gmail.com so we can get the right number of biscuits.

The full 2026–27 programme can be found at: <https://manchestergeology.org.uk/indoor-meetings/>

North West Region u3a: A Grand Day Out, Wednesday 30th September 11:00-4:30, Southport



You are invited to a cracking good opportunity to catch up with u3a friends from around the region and find out what's going on. The event is open to any NW Regional members who want to be involved in our future. Programme for the day:

11.00 – 11.30.	Welcome and refreshments
11.30 – 12.30	Outside the Box group activity and feedback
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch (beef bourguignon or vegetable lasagne)
2.00 – 2.30	Trust exploration questions & answers
2.30 onwards	Working together and ice cream

Where – [The Grand](#), Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QG, Princess Grace Suite first floor – *there's a lift!*

Cost – £21.00 (includes lunch, tea and coffee and afternoon ice cream)

Getting there – There is free parking at the back of the Grand; local and regional buses stop outside on Lord Street; Southport train station is a 10-minute walk or Southport u3a members have offered lifts. *Please advise if you need a lift from the station and provide a mobile number.*

Please complete the booking form found here: [A Grand Day Out](#)

Payments should be made by Mon 21st Sept to North West Region u3a, sort code 30-90-16, account number [00197002](#). *Use your initial and surname as the reference.*

If you have any queries or do not use BACS, please contact chair@nwru3a.org.uk to arrange payment by cheque.

Heritage Open Days Festival, 11th- 20th September



The ten-day Heritage Open Days festival runs from 11th to 20th September. With thousands of volunteer-led activities and rare openings across the region, this is a chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and **it's all FREE**.

Some of the places you can visit include Fairfield Moravian Settlement, Manchester Tennis and Raquet Club, The Station Agent's House at Liverpool Road, The Pankhurst Museum, The Old Parsonage in Didsbury, Salford Rd Solar Farm, Two Men of Wigan – A Walking Tour, The Williamson Tunnels in Liverpool, Burton Mere Wetlands, Drury Lane House tour in Knutsford and many more. You can find a full list of locations, events and times at: <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Radical Manchester: Explore Manchester's Radical History, Tuesday 15th September, 10:30-13:00



Join local historian Dave Smith on a free guided walking tour exploring sites that played a key role in establishing Manchester as a place of activism.

You will find out about:

- where the first pamphlet, which was to change the world, was researched and written
- why there is a statue of Abraham Lincoln in the city centre
- the Suffragettes, Peterloo, the TUC and much more!

The tour is free but requires the purchase of a rail ticket.

Places are also limited, so please book your place at: contact@midcheshirerail.org.uk

[Hale u3a Members Facebook Group](#)

Our members only Facebook Group, launched in June 2024, has a current membership of 207 – with plenty of room for more! The group is **private**, so only other members can see your posts and pictures, and **not searchable**, so non-members cannot access the page or even be aware of its existence.



Please note: this group is entirely separate from our public-facing Facebook page which is just a basic introduction to Hale u3a designed to attract new members.

If you would like to join, please email Nick at publicity@haleu3a.co.uk for a personal invitation.

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

MEMBERS

New members we welcome this month are:

Barrie Edge, Maria Rose Cramp, Antoinette Byrne, Jacky Scaife, Margaret Hedley, Imelda Arthern, Elaine Cannon, Carol Giles, Nirmala Molloy, Vera Hale, John & Jane Hinds, Ruth Lea, Jeni Norman, Mike Bulcock, Susan Jankun, John Menzies, Sylvia Klaus & Phidelma Roebuck.

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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