



www.u3asites.org.uk/hoylake

Autumn 2026

Reg.Charity 1164889



A message from the Chair ...

The AGM in August instigated the planting of new seeds in the life cycle of your u3a committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our u3a members who were able to attend the AGM, your role in voting formed a pivotal role in formulating the future pathway for our committee. Special thanks go to Geoff Ingham for his display of u3a photographs shown prior to the start of the meeting.

I take great pleasure in formally welcoming Catherine Ditchfield as your new committee member; Catherine will be involved in working with the membership team and supporting Helen with Groups.

It is always a pleasure, to meet new members and visitors at Speaker meetings. Visitors are allowed to attend just one speaker meeting, but regrettably the National u3a policy and guidance from our insurers state that a non-member cannot attend Interest group meeting or activities as it could invalidate the u3a insurance cover of that group.

August has also been an exceptional month for high temperatures. I do hope that you are managing to cope with the really hot weather, keeping well hydrated and finding ways to keep cool.

Carol and Wendy are already actively involved in planning for the u3a Christmas Lunch at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club. I have a critical awareness (I live with Wendy!) of the hard work, dedication and commitment that is required to present this very special event- further information will be provided as soon as possible.

You will have received information via Beacon on the u3a holiday I have planned for Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February 2027, staying at the Duke of Gordon Hotel in Kingussie. Bookings must be made directly through Cairngorm Travel. Information regarding holiday will be available at the Social Team desk at the September Speaker meeting. If you require any further information please contact me directly.

The heart of our u3a is the spirit of sharing skills, knowledge and friendship, these traits, continue to make our u3a community thrive and be special. A special thank you, for the time, enthusiasm and good humour you bring in all weather conditions! - they are what make our u3a truly special.

Your chairman and friend
Terry McKeown

Speakers

We were disappointed that Matthew Patrick, our local M.P who was scheduled to speak was unable to attend our August meeting due to work commitments, but we are very grateful to John Blore for stepping into the breach and providing a sterling presentation at such short notice. John gave us a fascinating presentation about the artefacts, some dating back to 1300 BC discovered in Lynx Cave, Denbighshire.

Looking forward, on **Wednesday 2nd September** we will welcome Gavin Chappell, local historian and author who will tell us more about the 'Smugglers & Wreckers of the Wirral'

Then on **Wednesday 7th October** Marilyn Shalkes will entertain us with the 'Magic of the Musical'

Then looking further ahead, on **Wednesday 4th November**, Dr Phil Manning is going to give us a talk about Palaeontology.



I hope you enjoy them all.
your speaker secretary,
Jules Lee.

Social Events for all members

There are a just few places left for our cruise on the River Dee from Chester on Monday 14th September. Our coach will take us first to the Grosvenor Garden Centre where we will spend a few hours before continuing onto Chester to board our boat. The cost is £37 with the option of adding a cream tea on board for an additional £4.50.



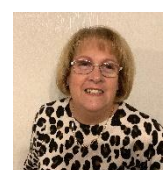
'Late Summer Afternoon Tea' – Saturday 26th September £25



We are hosting an afternoon tea at The Grange in Meols Drive Hoylake. It will start at 1pm, and be a similar event to our last lovely Coronation afternoon tea, and will be catered by the people who catered for our recent Group leader's meeting. Over half the tickets were sold at the August meeting, so a limited number will be available for purchase at £25 at the September 2nd Speaker meeting, or you can reserve by emailing social@hwkdu3a.

Please state who you would like to be seated with, and also let us know if you would like to pre-order an individual bottle of wine (£4) or prosecco (£5)

If you would like to book either of these events you can do so at **the 2nd September speaker meeting or contact Wendy McKeown or Carol Bradstreet on social@hwkdu3a.org**



New Members

A very warm welcome to the following people who joined us recently: Christine Bateson, Melanie Briscoe, Gena Burns, Linda Dunne, Philip Hilton, Norma Iveson, Rita Jenkins, Maureen Massie, Pauline Mottram, Joan Pursglove, Cecilia Rathe, Mark Seddon, Ann Southern and John Stewart.



Interest Group Update



We continue to try to get new groups going. We know it is frustrating that this can take time. If anyone feels they could be the Contact Person (not in charge) of any group, please visit us at the Groups Table at the monthly speaker meeting, or contact us on groups@hwkdu3a.org.

Likewise, if you have your name down on a waiting list, please let us know whether you wish to still be on the list.

Groups starting shortly include: Book Club, Traveller's Tales, Bus Pass 3, Cinema and possibly Mix & Mingle. We are quite excited about the offer from one of our members to organise a short yoga course. The Groups table at the speaker meeting will provide information on available places.

Reminder for group payments –

- Meet in a house – each person pays £1.00 to the host.
- Meet in a venue – pays room hire – every member pays a set amount every six months to the Contact Person.
- Meet in a pub/café – no room hire but please buy a drink.

The committee has recently revised and provided clarity for Walking Groups on the inclusion of Dogs in Walking Groups – a copy has been sent to all Group Coordinators.

Contact: Helen Crelley – groups@hwkdu3a.org for more information.

With Regret

It is with sadness that we report the recent passing of three of our members.

Mrs Joyce Chadwick of Greasby

Mrs Jean Dixon of West Kirby.

Sir George Howarth, also of West Kirby.

Both Joyce and Jean had been u3a members for some years and had made many friends. Sir George was a fairly new member but had been a popular member of various interest groups. We send sincere condolences to all of their families and friends.





Midweek Walkers (Easy 4)

The walk on Wednesday 20 May 2026 for the Midweek Walkers (Easy 4) short walking group was a tour from New Brighton Station to Seacombe Ferry. Of particular interest, were the street murals of New Brighton.



Local street art first began in 2018 and there are now more than 20 murals by British, French, Australian and other artists. We have shared a few of the photos of the murals which were taken on the day to accompany our article. We also visited Vale Park, the site of the underground tunnels and had light refreshments in the Floral Pavilion. We concluded the walk with a sociable and leisurely lunch in New Brighton. Many thanks to our walk leaders, Laurie and Joyce Stockton for a very informative and enjoyable walk.

David Parnell (Group leader)

On 4 June 2026, Local Social History Group 1 enjoyed an afternoon visit to Liverpool. The day began with lunch at Ma Boyle's, where many members tucked into a traditional bowl of Scouse.

After lunch, the group's leader, Carol Hurrell, led a walking tour of the city. One of the highlights was a visit to Our Lady and Saint Nicholas Church, Liverpool's Parish Church and also known as the Sailors' Church, which was first built in 1361-62. The group also

explored the gardens and admired the various sculptures on display including the only sculptured white Liver Bird.

The next stop was the world-famous Royal Liver Building, with its own post box bearing the engraved initials "RL" (see photograph).





No visit to Liverpool's waterfront would be complete without seeing the Fab Four Beatles statue, sculpted by Timothy Edwards. The sculpture incorporates subtle symbolic details relating to each of the Beatles (see group photograph).

The tour also included visits to the memorial plaques dedicated to Britons who served and died during the American Civil War, as well as the site of the former Confederate office at Charleston and Alabama House.

Other points of interest included Exchange Flags, Queen Avenue, Liverpool's last surviving Victorian arcade, Simpson's Fountain, and the Martins Bank Building, where 280 tons of Britain's gold reserves were temporarily stored in 1940 before being shipped to Canada. Many other hidden gems were discovered along the way.

The day concluded with refreshments on the roof terrace of Captain Alexander's, providing a welcome rest for weary and thirsty members. A truly "Scouse" day was enjoyed by all.



The Science and Technology Group led by Mike Waring, visited Hooton Park hangars near Ellesmere Port to see the vintage aircraft being displayed and restored. That does not mean they will fly again but it's interesting to see aircraft like the Spitfire up close.

Sadly we all arrived at different times so a group photo was not possible. Hooton Park is open the last Sunday of the month for visitors

The Museum is located on land which was once part of Hooton Hall, at the time one of the finest stately homes and racecourses in the North West of England, the land was subsequently requisitioned by the British Army in 1914 for basic training following the advent of World War One, eventually going on to become a Royal Flying Corps pilot training aerodrome by 1917. After the end of WWI and the Armistice, the site was returned to civilian use, but by 1927 it had been purchased to serve as Liverpool's major airport, a somewhat odd decision for an area on the opposite side of the River Mersey.



Despite this geographical disadvantage, Hooton Park Aerodrome buzzed with glamour and innovation throughout the 1920s and 30s. Records from the time show aviation pioneers in UK aviation, such as Amy Johnson and Sir Alan Cobham, visiting the site, and air races drew large crowds. Local aircraft manufacturers thrived and included the Comper Aircraft Company, producing the sleek CLA.7 Swift, while

the Pobjoy Aeromotor Company built radial engines. At the time, Hooton was the only commercial aerodrome in northern England until Speke (now Liverpool John Lennon Airport) took over in 1933.

'Where in the World' Interest Group recently enjoyed a talk from new member Zhou who told the group about her life in China, and served the group some **Longjin Tea** that she had brought back with her from a recent visit. It was enjoyed all the more when they learned that it is the most expensive tea in the world!



Our u3a Interest Groups – A summer of Fun & Friendships



*Above: some of the online garden group enjoy themselves at David Austin Roses
Below: the Happy Walkers enjoyed a walk on Crosby beach where they captured an iron man*





Left: The local History group take a tour of the Birkenhead Tunnel.

Below: Local Interest 5 enjoy a cruise on the River Dee at Chester



The online garden group

have enjoyed eight lovely gardens so far this year, including 'David Austin Roses' (above left) Norley Bank Farm (above right) Bluebell Cottage



Gardens (right) The September trip is to be to Powys Castle where the beautiful tiered gardens and amazing yew trees are always a delight.



Online Garden group arriving at the awesome Brynkinalt Hall near Chirk a were given a tour of the historic Hall and beautiful gardens by the Hon. Kate Hill-Trevor.



Thank you Ron Burke for another amusing and topical cartoon.
(Mrs M & Mrs S speak the truth!)



U3A think email

Many of our members have email addresses (96%) but there is tendency amongst members to use other methods of communication (WhatsApp, messaging etc) and that is absolutely fine. Our data management system “Beacon” however, relies on email to provide information to our members. Beacon is also used for Group management, social activities and newsletter delivery.

I realise that it’s not possible for you to communicate with Beacon by email (you could imagine all our 450 members doing that!!), however, it’s the only way we

have to communicate with you! So, if you want to keep well informed = U3A think email

All the committee email addresses are listed below, and are available for you to communicate with us, and we promise a quick response!



Mike Waring u3a Data Manager

chair@hwkdu3a.org - Terry McKeown

secretary@hwkdu3a.org - Peter Wright

speakers@hwkdu3a.org - Julie Lee

treasurer@hwkdu3a.org - Liz Webster

newsletter@hwkdu3a.org – Marjorie Hargreaves

groups@hwkdu3a.org – Helen Crelley

newmembers@hwkdu3a.org – Jean Graham

membership@hwkdu3a.org – Ann Thorne

social@hwkdu3a.org – Carol Bradstreet

social2@hwkdu3a.org – Wendy McKeown

stagemanager@hwkdu3a.org – Terry McKeown

websitemanager@hwkdu3a.org - Jonathan Thornton

committee@hwkdu3a.org - Barry Holland

committee2@hwkdu3a.org- Catherine Ditchfield

A request from your newsletter Editor ..

I am always pleased to receive your pictures to include in the newsletter, especially if they include a write-up as well.

However, can I ask you to email them to me? I am not proficient with WhatsApp and find it difficult to transfer the pictures to the newsletter document on my laptop, and sometimes they become lost in the ether!

Just attach them to a message, no matter how brief to newsletter@hwkdu3a.org or marbroom@gmail.com

Just as Mike says, please 'think email'

Marjorie

