

# Wilmslow

## u3a

Learn, laugh, live

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## Meet the New Chairman



Peter Highfield, seen here on holiday in America, has bravely stepped up to the role of Wilmslow's new Chairman. By way of introduction Peter has been a resident of Styal since 1998. After a career in Medical Devices and Diagnostics he became a member of Wilmslow u3a since 2019, an inauspicious time to join!

In addition to his role as Chairman he is Group Leader for the Croquet Group and a Styal Parish Councillor. Clearly someone who is passionate about serving his community. Peter's main hobby is photography. His recent holiday to the Grand Canyon should offer ample opportunity to achieve some great pictures.

As Chairman he has been fortunate to find support from 5 new Committee members who have stepped in to replace others who have given sterling service for a good many years or have otherwise changed their role on the Committee.

We wish Peter well in his efforts to recruit new members to give added vitality to the organisation and to hopefully expand the Interest groups on offer.

## October Talks

### General Talks

**Wednesday 22nd October - 2.30pm United Reformed Church**

#### Living with Usher Syndrome

Helen Browne accompanied by her support / friend of five years Amy Arnell.

Helen and Amy will provide the challenges of living with Usher Syndrome, a sort of past, present and future around deaf / blindness, nationally and globally. They will include personal anecdotes which will be quite wide-ranging. If time allows Helen will probably include a couple of writings she has done relating to thoughts and incidents.

### Science & Technology Group

**Tuesday 21st October - 14.00 Wilmslow Library**

#### Molecular Chemistry and Nano Technology

Professor David. A. Leigh, Royal Society Research Professor and Sir Samuel Hall Chair of Chemistry, University of Manchester

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### Future Talks

November 18th: How to see Atoms Magnifying over 1 Million Times

November 26th: Blood Bikers

December 10th : Improvisations on Christmas Music

### Cheadle Hulme u3a

November 4<sup>th</sup>: Lithium

2pm Heald Green Village Hall, Outwood Road, Heald Green, SK8 3JL. Admittance fee £3 including Tea/Coffee and Cake/Biscuits.

In order to ensure that members are covered by the u3a Insurance Scheme, please bring your membership card or membership number with you.

For further details, please contact Roger Law by email: [roger@lawfamily.com](mailto:roger@lawfamily.com), or Tel: 0161 485 5744.

## September Talks



### Interesting Facts on Peat Bogs

3 types of Peatlands:-

- Blanket Bog - mainly in the uplands
- Raised Bog - valleys and lowlands
- Lowland Fen - peatlands with nutrients

- Peatlands formed 80,000 years ago after the last Ice Age
- They represent 12% of UK landmass and up to 44% of all soil on the planet, more than forests
- Spagnum Moss can be used to make bandages and medicinal products

### British Army in Palestine

Paul Atherton's talk was based on his novel Billy's War, the story of the final years of British Mandate in Palestine 1945-48.

From the viewpoint of a British soldier the talk covered the history of Palestine; conflicts of the Jews and Arabs; Jews and the British; the Balfour Declaration; the bombing of the King David Hotel and the granting of the State of Israel in 1948

# Alderley Edge Music Festival



The Festival has been providing an annual platform for performers of all ages to showcase their skills as singers, musicians, actors and public speakers. The 2026 Festival will be held from 20th -25th April and will be the 108th, an amazing testimony to the dedication of the volunteer organisers and supporting Stewards.

More than 2,500 people take part in the competition held in a number of venues in Alderley Edge. The majority of performers are of school age (Years 5 to 13) but there are also classes for performers of all ages. Classes include children's and adult choirs; solo and group instrumentalists; poetry recitals and drama performances.

The aim is to encourage young people and older, to grow in confidence through performing in front of an audience and a professional adjudicator. The adjudicators are accredited by the British and International Federation of Festivals and have many years of experience from festivals as well as being renowned professional musicians and artistes themselves.

The Festival organisers are always looking for volunteers to do the following:-

- Ticket Stewards - to sell tickets and programmes at the entry points to each of the venues
- Door Stewards - who check all the participants have arrived
- Platform Stewards - who announce all the competitors before they perform, explain fire drills to the audience as well as taking care of the trophies to be presented
- Adjudicator Stewards - who assist the professional Adjudicators with the paperwork.

For more details about the Festival including how to volunteer contact Ali Lees on [stewards@alderleyedgefestival.com](mailto:stewards@alderleyedgefestival.com) and she will get in touch much nearer the time. It's a great event and as a Steward you can enjoy the performances firsthand.

Anyone not wishing to volunteer can still attend the Festival by buying a modestly priced ticket to any of the classes and / or the best of the best finale on the last night.

# Promoting Wilmslow u3a

As part of the drive for new members and to increase awareness of the u3a's activities the Committee has prepared a flyer (condensed version shown) to place in various venues in Wilmslow. It is evident that so many people who qualify to join are unaware of the u3a. The intention is to expand this knowledge to the wider community



WILMSLOW U3A is a volunteer led organisation, which belongs to a network of 1,000 Regional and National U3As. It has been created for the benefit of Retired / Semi-Retired or adults no longer in full time employment.

The aim of the u3a is to **Live, Laugh and Learn** by sharing knowledge, skills and interests to both educate and enjoy creative leisure activities together. Our Interest Groups include:

**ART**      **BOOKCLUBS**      **BOWLING**      **BRIDGE**  
**CANASTA AND WHIST**

**CYCLING**      **FRENCH**      **GARDENING**      **PICKLEBALL**  
**SCRABBLE**

**STITCHERS AND KNITTERS**      **TABLE TENNIS**      **WALKING**

There is a meeting of the Wilmslow u3a with Guest Speakers on the 4<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAY of every MONTH. The topics are wide ranging and usually highly interesting appealing to a wide range of people. Refreshments are provided.

People interested in joining are invited to attend a meeting or an Interest Group as a taster. Anyone can join from Wilmslow and the wider district. The annual fee is good value at only £14 per annum.

For more information - please visit our website [wilmslowu3a.org.uk](http://wilmslowu3a.org.uk) or contact Melanie Davey / Dave Bryant at [membershipsecretary@wilmslowu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@wilmslowu3a.org.uk)

## Interest Groups

The consensus is that the term Convenor is a little forbidding and the Committee has agreed to soften this by using the term Group Leader instead.

At present Wilmslow is not offering as wide a range of Interest Groups as other u3a's and the decision has been taken to send members a poll using **Survey Monkey** to gather information on the demographics to seek a better understanding of members interests and any desire for new Interest Groups.

For instance, is there any interest in such subjects as:-

Art Appreciation: Geology: Astronomy: History: Drawing, Sketching, Art :

Creative Writing: Philosophy: Photography: Tai Chi: Wine Appreciation?

There is of course a wide range of other subjects which could be considered. Please tell us if any of the above or others appeal to you.

## Chester Christmas Market

Admiral Travel are running two coaches to Chester on Thursday **27<sup>th</sup> November 2025**. The cost is £30.00 per person. Members interested should contact Admiral as follows:- Wilmslow office 01625 322733 : Cheadle Office 0161 383 6199

**Coach 1: WILMSLOW** - pick up Bank Square 9.55 a.m; Carrs Court 10.00 a.m.

**Coach 2: CHEADLE** – pick up from the bus stop by Sainsburys at Cheadle Royal [free all-day parking]. **Return trip leaving Chester at 4.30 pm.**

Payment can be made by cheque in Admiral Travel's offices in Wilmslow or Cheadle Hulme or by Bank Transfer, the details of which are: A & S Nelson /Account No 01865459 / Sort code 30-90-16 / Reference: Chester Trip.

If paying by BACS please ring 01625 322733 or email [sales@admiraltravelwilmslow.co.uk](mailto:sales@admiraltravelwilmslow.co.uk) advising payment has been made, for how many people together with their names.