

Wilmslow u3a

Learn, laugh, live

Newsletter August 2025



A BRIGHTER OUTLOOK FOR WILMSLOW u3a

We've won a reprieve!
Wilmslow u3a will continue
for the remainder of this year but the
future is not guaranteed.

**BUT COMMITTEE STILL
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**

There will be a drive to increase membership - and we'll need more members on the committee.

New Chairman Peter Highfield said: "We still have a number of vacancies to fill.

"Several committee members have agreed to stay on until the end of the year but we urgently need deputies who can replace them. Attendances at our monthly meetings have recovered well since Covid.

"Members enjoy our meetings and associate activities but these can't continue without a robust committee."

Peter has stepped up as chairman after the resignation of Angela Every. We now need a new deputy chairman.

Cherry Dolden has taken over the role of speaker co-ordinator.

Responsibility for the newsletter falls to a new member of Wilmslow U3A - former journalist Mike Kiddey.

He will work in collaboration with two new committee members, Ken Bishop who will be responsible for publicity and public relations assisted by Bob Raj.

Ken said: "The U3A does sterling work but it is surprising how many people of an appropriate age are unaware of its existence.

"Raising the profile through editorial in the local magazines will hopefully increase membership and thus the talent pool and experience".

Let's have your ideas and information
on U3A activities. Contact
newsletter@wilmslowu3a.org.uk

It's Never too late to Splash Out!

Caroline Mellar Smith is proof that it's never too late to learn.

Caroline gave an inspirational talk in September explaining how she took up surfing at the age of 61.

And she gave her talk - entitled "Surf's Up!" in style - dressed in her wet suit!

Her introduction to surfing was through a chance meeting Caroline and her late husband had with an elderly gentleman on Portreath beach in Cornwall.

They bought their first equipment from a Chinese lady operating out of a shipping container near the beach.

The container was the forerunner to a smart surfing shop in what is now one of the country's most popular surfing locations - and a far cry from is thought to be the origins of the sport in this country.

Some researchers believe it may have begun the South East coast in the 1800s.

Caroline says it was popularised in Cornwall in the 1920s through an enterprising local coffin maker who found himself with a surfeit of coffin lids which he turned into surf boards for locals.

Whatever the origins Caroline says its addictive and urges everyone to give it a try "and don't let the kids put you off when they say 'You can't do that'!"

But what began as an inspirational and light-hearted talk ended on a serious note with Caroline warning that many of her favourite surfing beaches were now unusable because of effluence being needlessly discharged into the sea.

She urged everybody to support pressure groups like Surfers Against Sewage who were fighting what's becoming an increasingly difficult problem.

This month's speaker (Wednesday Sep 24) is Paul Atherton. His topic "The British Army in Palestine."

Paul has written an historic novel (Billy's War) describing his father's experiences in the Army in the second World War but particularly in the Middle East immediately following the war..

His presentation includes his research into the history of Palestine in the context of rival claims on the land, including some ancient history.

Play your cards right here



Keen bridge players - there's a place at the table for you.

The bridge group for experienced players meets every Friday at the Oakmere residential complex in Spath Lane, Handforth.

Caroline Mangnall says: "We're a friendly, social group.

"We have fun and usually have four or five tables but we're always looking for new players."

Contact Caroline at cmmangnall@gmail.com for more information.

There's also a Tuesday meeting at the same venue for less experienced players but this has a waiting list.

There is not, however, a group for absolute beginners. Anyone interested in starting one?

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKINGOR EVEN A CASUAL STROLL

Taking it easy are members of the easy walking group who enjoy rambles of between three and four and a half miles over relatively flat terrain.

It's a popular group which is why there are no vacancies at the moment. But there is room in the intermediate group.

Convenor John Cookson explained; "The intermediate group undertake walks of about six to seven miles, uphill and down dale, sometimes on hilly, muddy and stony terrain.

"It's usually within an hour or so drive of Wilmslow - Peak District, Cheshire Hills, Lancashire Hills. Boots or stout shoes are pretty much mandatory."

Walks are usually on the second Friday of the month and John added:



"We generally try and take lunch at a hostelry on the route, sometimes at the end.

"Occasionally no facilities are available, in which case a packed lunch is in order." Walks are arranged by email, usually on the Monday before the walk.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive details contact John at Jcookson@gmail.com



Hosting the `hosts

It's the annual get-together of the volunteers who help make Wilmslow u3a.

They are the Convenors, who organise the myriad of activities ranging from whist to walking and cycling to scrabble - with plenty more to choose from.

The occasion was afternoon tea at the Stannylands Hotel, a thank-you from our committee for all their efforts throughout the year.

Convenor is not a popular description. It was suggested we call them Hosts. Any other suggestions?

A trip to Harrogate?



Picture credit: Visit North Yorkshire and Tom Arber (Photographer)

Cherry Dolden writes: A member told me of a recent trip she had been on which was organised by Admiral Travel who have recently opened on Grove Street.

They are situated between the Heart Foundation charity shop and the Yorkshire Building Society.

Thinking this could be of interest to U3A members I paid them a visit.

There is a day trip to Harrogate on Thursday September 25 which is market day.

The cost of the trip is £35 per person payable by cash or bank transfer

Pick up is from Bank Square 9.00 a.m. or Carrs Court 9.05 a.m. and from Sainsburys at Cheadle Royal at 09.20 a.m.

RETURNING: 5.00 p.m. to be back home with the last drop at approximately 7.30 p.m.

Wilmslow u3a would not be involved with the arrangements or any financial transactions – the plan is for Admiral to send details to me and they would be circulated to all.

Not everyone visits Grove Street on a regular basis so this arrangement seemed to be a good idea – I hope you think so.

These trips are for everybody, they are not specifically u3a members, and if you book could you please let them know, you are a u3a member so that that I can monitor the connection to see whether it is worth an entry into the Newsletters.

Future Ideas for the Newsletter and the future of Wilmslow u3a

As you can see from this issue the design and content of the Newsletter is evolving and it will continue to do so.

But to make it a continuing success we need you to become involved. We need your ideas and contributions.

You're invited to let the Committee know what you would find interesting and would like to see in future editions.

Maybe you have an idea for additional interest groups. Let us know.

Should we include a list new members or profiles of existing members?

Would you like to see biographical details of forthcoming speakers?

And do you have any suggestions for forthcoming speakers or, indeed, topics you would like to see covered at our monthly meetings?

We will, over the coming months, focus on the activities of the various groups within Wilmslow u3a.

But we also want your ideas on how we can continue to remain a vibrant - and expanding organisation.

All ideas will be gratefully received by Ken Bishop. You can contact him via email at kenbishop8@hotmail.co.uk

