



April News 2026

Can I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Easter

Dear Members

Hard copies of this Newsletter can be read on the U3A Board in the Library or pick up a copy at Alsager Civic on a Monday morning.

As we approach the end of our term (Friday, 22nd May) can I once again take the opportunity to thank all Group Leaders and Committee Members for their continued hard work.

Monday mornings at the Civic Centre will stop after Monday 18th May until 7th September but many activities will continue to operate throughout the summer. **Group Leaders can pay in monies in the Library on Monday, 22nd June – 10.30 – 11.30am.**

Don't forget : There will be no Monday morning gatherings on 6th April – Easter Monday : 4th May – Bank Holiday : 25th May – Bank Holiday.



A few Fun Facts about April



Those who were born in April have a diamond as their birthstone, which represents innocence. Their birth flowers are daisies and sweet peas.

There are two zodiac signs in April. Aries, which is until April 19th, and Taurus, which is April 20th and onwards

April is a great month for meteor showers. One of which is the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16th to April 26th each year. There's another one called the Eta Aquariids meteor shower that can be seen onwards from April 21st.

On April 14, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sank on her first and only voyage

One of the most well-known dates of the month is April Fools' Day on the 1st of the month. No one is sure where this originated from, but some believe it to be inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's story in "Canterbury Tales" called "Nun's Priest's Tale."

GROUPS



The U3A Light Orchestra

will perform a **Spring Concert** of small and large screen music on
31st May : 4pm to 6pm at **Wesley Place Methodist Church**
30 Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2RU

Tickets will cost £10. Proceeds will be split equally between
 Wesley Place Church and Cancer Research.

Wesley Place have confirmed that the Church can seat up to 150+ people. Pews provide all the seating and some people may wish to bring a cushion to sit on.

The Wesley Place fundraising team will provide refreshments - teas and coffee - in the main hall.

Parking at the Church is very limited so visitors are encouraged to use the Asda car park.

Tickets will be available from 13th April 2026 and can be purchased from the Civic Centre on Monday mornings. They will also be available at the door of the event depending on pre sales.

Embroidery



The embroidery group have been working on Bargello (or Florentine work) this term. This is a sample of their beautiful work.



Coffee, Cakes and Motorcycles

Richard Gibson has started a group "**Coffee, Cakes and Motorcycles**". As the name suggests it's not so much "Hell's Angels", more about enjoyable and varied rides to interesting places with stops for a chat on the way.

There is more info on the website - under Groups/Coffee, Cakes and Motorcycles or contact Richard at alsu3aweb@outlook.com.

The History of Art

A suggestion for a new Group "The History of Art" has been put forward. Anyone who is interested in leading this group should contact Jean Steer (Groups Co-Ordinator) on 07811411169 or e-mail her on jeanasteer@btinternet.com

who will then look at the feasibility of this type of Group, which will meet on a monthly basis. We have a viable number of interested people for a group to run.

Mah Jong

Mah Jong can restart if we get enough people interested. Please contact Jean Steer (Groups Co-Ordinator) on 07811411169 or e-mail her on jeanasteer@btinternet.com to discuss further

**Is your Group short of numbers
If so, please let our Secretary know by e-mailing
secretary@alsageru3a.org.uk
Or would you like to display your work in
future Newsletters**

TRAVEL

**Please note that outings are available only to
members of Alsager & District U3A**

On Wednesday 18th March David and I joined a full coach for our first U3A excursion to **Bletchley Park**. We were blessed with a day of stunning spring sunshine.



We left Alsager at 8.30am. We were driven by a competent and entertaining driver arriving at Bletchley by 11.00am.

If you get the chance to visit, I recommend that you go. The story of the Enigma Code and the talented operatives was told via accessible interactive media and memorabilia. The main house has certainly retained its splendour. Plenty of staff available, good cafes and facilities. A super day out.

Thank you to Gill for organising. *Maggie Gaston.*

Forthcoming Day Trips

Wednesday, 22nd April, 2026 : Museum of Royal Worcester.

This visit includes a demonstration of flower making.

Price £39, which includes tea/coffee on arrival. Alternatively, if you would like a “day out in Worcester” the cost will be £20 :: Depart 8.30am

Wednesday, 20th May, 2026 : Bodnant Gardens and The Tweedmill Shopping Outlet.

This has been arranged to, hopefully, see the Laburnum Arch at it's best. We will leave Bodnant early afternoon for a visit to the Tweedmill Shopping Outlet for some retail therapy.

Food is available at both venues.

Price £20 National Trust Members :: £37 Non-National Trust Members. Depart 9.00am

Thursday, 11th June, 2026 : Belvoir Castle, near Grantham.

Home to John Manners, 11th Duke of Rutland and his wife. This is a “free-flow” visit.

Price £45 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival. Depart 9.00am

Wednesday, 15th July, 2026 : Stratford-upon-Avon.

Today you can “do as you like, visiting the many attractions Stratford has to offer, followed in the afternoon by a 90 minute cruise on the River Avon.

Price £40. Depart 9.00am

Wednesday, 12th August, 2026 : Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival.

Enjoy a pleasant drive to the pretty village of Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales before wandering around to see the many scarecrows on show. An army of home-bakers make and serve delicious homemade cakes, soup, fresh cut sandwiches, tea and coffees in the Village Hall. There are also a number of pubs, a deli and a tea room.

Price £20. Depart 9.00am

Wednesday, 30th September, 2026 : Cole Porter’s High Society at the Lowry Theatre.

Starring Helen George (Call The Midwife).

Enjoy songs like “True Love” and “Who Wants to be a Millionaire”.

Price £71 per person. Depart 12.00noon

Members can still book places on our holiday



Summertime Norwegian Fjords

30th July 2026 – 9 days Cruise on Fred. Olsen’s Bolette – sailing from Liverpool

Uncover the beauty of Norway !

If you have an interest in any of the above, please come into Alsager Civic on a Monday morning and speak with Gill, Margaret or Alison.

TALK TIME

APRIL / MAY 2026 DETAILS

06 April	NO MEETING – EASTER MONDAY	
13 April	Mike Roydon	Frank Horby : <i>Factory of Dreams</i>
20 April	Philip Caine	<i>Novelist : Raconteur</i> <i>Barrow to Bagdad and Back</i>
27 April	Martin Gaffney	<i>A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Police Station</i>
04 May	NO MEETING – EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY	
11 May	Margaret Holbrook	<i>English Fairy Tales : Looking at the origins of them</i>
18 May	Dr Karen Castle	<i>How I ended up in Prison (Prison Hospital Officer)</i>
25 May	NO MEETING – SPRING BANK HOLIDAY	

Alsager & District U3A needs to hear from you

We hope that you are enjoying the varied and informative talks on a Monday morning but we need to know if there are any subjects you would like to hear about which hasn't been covered before. We need to know whether there has been a specific Speaker or Musical Group which you really enjoyed and would like to see again or see/hear a similar Speaker or Musical performance. Please let us have your thoughts

Do you fancy a bit of a Quiz

Round 1a – General Knowledge - Answers

1. What is the capital of Australia? **Canberra**
2. Who wrote *Romeo and Juliet*? **William Shakespeare**
3. What is the tallest mountain in the world? **Mount Everest**
4. In which year did the Titanic sink? **1912**
5. What is the chemical symbol for gold? **Au**
6. How many sides does a hexagon have? **Six**
7. What is the largest planet in our solar system? **Jupiter**
8. Who painted the *Mona Lisa*? **Leonardo da Vinci**
9. Which country is known as the Land of the Rising Sun? **Japan**
10. What is the main ingredient in guacamole? **Avocado**

Round 1b – General Knowledge – Answers next month

11. Who directed the *Jurassic Park* movies?
12. What is the smallest country in the world by area?
13. How many colours are there in a rainbow?
14. What is the national flower of Japan?
15. Who was the first man to walk on the moon?
16. Which organ in the human body is responsible for pumping blood?
17. What is the capital city of Canada?
18. Which country won the FIFA World Cup in 2018?
19. What is the chemical formula for water?
20. What is the fastest land animal?

AI - what's all the fuss about?

The u3a North West Region - AI Workshop

Monday 27th April 2026, 10am – 12noon

The u3a Third Age Trust National AI team and members of the NW Region will help you improve your AI Literacy.

This online Zoom session will explain: What AI is and is not. Why it is suddenly everywhere. How it can help you in everyday life. How to use it safely.

Remember the early days of the internet? Or getting your first smartphone? Online banking? Online shopping? You've successfully navigated and embraced countless technological advancements.

AI might sound daunting, but it's just another digital tool to understand and use. Join our online u3a event to demystify Artificial Intelligence (AI) and see how it can enhance your daily life, just like the internet did.

Register for a ticket to the event by emailing: groupu3a@gmail.com

In your email you should include the following information

Your Full Name:

The Name of Your u3a:

Your Email Address:

Please register early as demand for this event is expected to be high. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you.



With special guest

JOHNNY BALL

Music & dance Sport & wellbeing Hands on workshops Talks & walks

Just some of the activities on offer:

WEDNESDAY
* Opening ceremony with Johnny Ball * Staying safe online * Guitar * Dance exercise * Improv * Laughter yoga * Climate Matters * Jewellery making *
THURSDAY
Photography * Futurology * Playing jazz * Steel band * Men who challenge misogyny * Beginners painting * AI * Chair yoga * Pub quiz * Wine appreciation
FRIDAY
Dystopias * Destress your life * Dance choreography * Flower arranging * How to be happier * Forest bathing * Ceilidh * Handbells * Crosswords * Museum visits

plus more surprises to be announced!

**Johnny Ball headlines
u3a Festival 2026**

North West Region u3a are delighted to announce that iconic TV legend, Johnny Ball, will be opening *u3a Festival 26*. Known for his fun approach to learning, Johnny's opening event will set the scene for three days of joyful skill sharing.

With over 35 activities a day, u3a Festival 26 promises to encapsulate the creativity, innovation and excitement of the u3a movement.

***Be part of the fun
[book your tickets now.](#)***

Regards – David Gaston (Chair)