



## Summer News 2026

Dear Members

### Group Leaders – Money Collection

There will be an opportunity for Group Leaders to pay money in during June. This will be at Alsager Library on the **22nd June** : from 10.30am until 11.30am

Dear Members,

Whilst Summer may have been and gone many of our groups are continuing to run and thrive throughout the year.

It is good to have a break from the regular Monday morning support sessions at the Civic but committee members and group leaders continue their work on our behalf. We have committee meetings and area meetings to attend whilst also planning for the September start to the next year’s activities. We have a group leaders’ working lunch in August and a money collection slot on **June 22<sup>nd</sup>** in the library for those group leaders that need it.

*Enjoy your summer.*

## TRAVEL

Gill Dalton has been doing an amazing job of organising day trips and holidays for quite a number of years now. An appeal for her successor is again being made. Do you feel that you could take over from Gill when she retires as Travel Co-Ordinator in October? If so, please come into Alsager Civic on a Monday morning and speak with Gill, who will provide all the necessary training, (or contact a Committee member prior to September)



**\*\*Day Trips have been organised up to and including September.**

Without a replacement for Gill, we are sorry to say that September will see our last day trip\*\*

**RENEWED PLEA FOR HELP**  
**NO TRAVEL CO-ORDINATOR - NO DAY TRIPS / HOLIDAYS**

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

## Forthcoming Day Trips



**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> 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 – Waitlist**

**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 - Waitlist**



**Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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 – Waitlist**

If you have an interest in any of the above, please contact Gill Dalton on [geraldine2445@talktalk.net](mailto:geraldine2445@talktalk.net)

## Forthcoming Event

We are pleased to confirm that once again Alsager & District U3A will be supporting the **Alsager Health and Wellbeing Event** run by Cheshire East Council

**Come along and support your U3A : we look forward to seeing you**



## A few Fun Facts about the summer

- In the summer heat, the iron in France's Eiffel Tower expands, making the tower grow more than 6 inches.
- The month of June was named after either Juniores, the lower branch of the roman Senate, or Juno, the wife of Jupiter. Marc Antony named the month of July, in honour of Julius Caesar. The month of August was named for Julius Caesar's adopted nephew Gaius Julius Caesar Octavius, who held the title "Augustus." He named the month after himself.
- Around the summer solstice, some Christians celebrate St. John's Eve, which marks the birth of John the Baptist. John supposedly was born 6 months before Christ, which is traditionally considered to be around December 24.
- The first Olympic Games in the modern era were the 1896 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the Olympiad in Athens, Greece. The Games featured the Panathinaiko Stadium, the first giant stadium of the modern world that housed the largest crowd to ever watch a sporting event.
- The hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth was 134°F. This occurred in the hottest place on Earth, Death Valley, California, on July 10, 1913.
- Every summer solstice, over 37,000 people gather at Stonehenge for one of the most ancient summer solstice celebrations. Druids and pagans are among those who celebrate the longest day of the year at this notable place.

## GROUPS



## *Music Appreciation*

### *A new member's experience*

The Music Appreciation group is an excellent start to the week. This long-established u3a group meets on Monday mornings in the Civic Hall to listen to and discuss a wide range of music.

As a new member, I was initially apprehensive, fearing the discussions might be too specialised. In fact, I found the group welcoming, lively and easy to enjoy.

At my first session, an orchestral version of Cole Porter's *Begin the Beguine* was playing as members arrived, and I immediately felt at home. Sessions usually follow a theme chosen by the leader or, sometimes, by a member. Recent themes have included water, childhood, opera, music from the British Isles and American musicals.

Another popular format invites members to bring music of personal significance. These contributions often introduce unfamiliar pieces or fresh interpretations of familiar works. A recent "something unusual" session included an alternative *Ave Maria*, Dixieland jazz from Eton, Nigel Kennedy playing Polish folk music on electric violin, and Lead Belly interpreted by a grunge singer.

I shall enjoy the summer, but I expect to miss the group until it resumes in September. My thanks go to Colin Wright and all the members who made me feel so welcome.



## Yoga

### **Have you ever wanted to join the Yoga Group?**

Please contact Kath Bostock on [bostock24@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bostock24@hotmail.co.uk) if you have ever put your name down to join the Yoga Group since the return of the group following Covid and still want to be on the waiting list.

## Mah Jong 2

Meets at Twyford House Residential Home on a Monday from 1.00-3.00pm.

Although the group is full at present, please contact Sue Palser on

[sue.palser19@gmail.com](mailto:sue.palser19@gmail.com) or 07749482965

if you would like to be included on the waiting list.



## Sitting Down Keep Fit

Sitting Down Keep Fit aims to improve strength, suppleness and stamina. All exercises are done in a sitting position, accompanied by relevant music.

*Social interaction is also a very important part of the group.*

The Group's Leader is very pleased to confirm that the group will re-start on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** at a new venue : **St Mary's Church Hall, Alsager : 11.00am – 12.00noon**

Please contact Margaret Mortimer on 01270 874899 or 07752 704647 if you are interested in joining.

If you have to leave a message Margaret will get back to you as soon as possible.

There is plenty of parking at the rear of the Church Hall.



## Pickleball

**Presently has vacancies. Wednesday 5.00pm – 6.00pm  
at Alsager Leisure Centre Sports Hall**

This is a group that aims to be fun as well as being active. Trainers needed and loose clothing / sportswear recommended. There will be some bats available when trying out to see if this sport is suitable, but if playing regularly it is probably best to bring your own bat.

If you fancy having a go at Pickleball please contact Jean Steer on 07811 411169 or by e-mailing

[jeanasteer@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanasteer@btinternet.com)

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

## TALK TIME

### SEPTEMBER 2026 DETAILS

07 September 2026	<b>Roger Blaxall</b>	<i>Hold the Front Page</i>
14 September	<b>Geoff Scargill</b>	<i>Edward Elgar</i>
21 September	<b>Russell Philips</b>	<i>North Staffs Miners saved a Czech village during WW1</i>
28 September	<b>Danny Wells</b>	<i>The Place between Heaven and Earth</i>

**DON'T FORGET – WE WOULD PREFER CARD PAYMENTS THAN CASH**

### **Do you fancy a bit of a Quiz** **Round 2a – History and Geography - Answers**



21. Who was the first President of the United States? **George Washington**
22. In which year did World War II end? **1945**
23. What is the longest river in the world? **River Nile**
24. Which country is the Eiffel Tower located in? **France**
25. What was the name of the ship Charles Darwin sailed on? **HMS Beagle**
26. Who was the first female Prime Minister of the UK? **Margaret Thatcher**
27. What is the capital city of Egypt? **Cairo**
28. Who discovered penicillin? **Alexander Fleming**
29. What is the largest desert in the world? **Sahara Desert**
30. In which country is the Great Wall located? **China**

### **Round 2b – History and Geography**

31. What is the capital of Italy?
32. Which year did man first land on the moon?
33. Who was known as the “Iron Lady”?
34. What is the largest ocean on Earth?
35. What is the capital city of Germany?
36. Who was the first Emperor of Rome?
37. Which country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the USA?
38. What is the smallest continent?
39. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
40. What is the capital of Brazil?



**Have a lovely summer. We re-open on MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026**  
**See you all at Alsager Civic for tea/coffee at 10.45am before Talk Time at 11.15am**



***Kind Regards – David Gaston (Chair)***