

November News 2026

Dear Member

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 another calendar year comes to a close can I say that this has been a very successful year as outlined at the A.G.M.

We held our 29th AGM on the 19th October. It was a great success with over 100 members in attendance. All business was conducted in a very positive way and most importantly your Committee will serve you for 2026/2027. One resolution was passed at the meeting:-

Membership Fee for 2027 will be £10.00 per member. You can now renew your membership and Richard Gibson, our IT/Website Co-Ordinator, has explained, in this Newsletter, how to do this on line. You can also come into Alsager Civic on a Monday morning where a Committee member will assist you.

Your Committee will be made up of :
David Gaston (Chair); Jean Steer (Vice-Chair & Groups): Liz Gibson (Vice-Chair & Venues);
Gaynor Butler (Secretary); Ray Robinson (Treasurer); Celia Hudson (Financial Administrator);
Christine Butler-Meadows (Membership Secretary); Gill Dalton (Travel Co-Ordinator);
Geraldine Baker and Carol Robinson (Venues)
Regina Lo and Tony Barson (Associate Committee Members)
This will be the final year for myself as Chair so it would be helpful if anyone interested in succeeding me would join the Committee so as to learn the role over the next few months.
We have one vacancy on Committee

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERS

- Autumn Term for 2026 closes on Friday 27th November (the last Monday morning being on the 23rd November). Alsager Civic re-opens on Monday 4th January, 2027 *(let's hope it's not snowing this year)*
  - from 9.30am onwards for all member questions/queries
  - from 10.45am for coffee/tea & biscuits
  - from 11.15am for Talk Time
  - Money collections for Group Leaders 10.00am – 11.15am

Message from the Membership Team

As you know U3A membership runs from January 1st and renewals are now open for next year. Whilst you can still come into the Civic Centre on a Monday to renew your membership we ask, where possible, if you would try to do it online.
Here are instructions on how to do it online, you will need your membership number to do so
You don't need to renew before January but if you can we ask you to do so in order that any issues can be ironed out in advance. (If everyone tries at the same time, we will struggle to help everyone).
If you do have any problems with the process, please reply to the email you will receive.
Regards,
Membership Team

Renewing Your U3A Membership Online

If you are already a member of Alsager & District U3A then you can renew your membership online. Go to the website and there is a link at the bottom of the Welcome Page or you can use the link in the attached e-mail : u3a Members Portal

Once there you will be asked to log in. If you have previously registered then you can enter your email address and click “Confirm e-mail” then enter your password on the next screen.

If you’ve forgotten your password, you can enter your email address and click the “Forgotten Password” button and you will be emailed a link to reset the password.

If you haven’t registered yet then click “Register for a membership account”. You will need your membership number (which will be in the renewal email) and the email address that you used when you set up your account. Once you’re logged in you will get several options – the one you want is at the top - “Renew your membership”. When you click on that you will be asked to confirm whether we can claim Gift Aid. Please tick one of the boxes and then “Make Payment” at the bottom. If you have a PayPal account you can click on that button and use that, otherwise click on “Debit or Credit Card” and more boxes will appear for you to enter your card details. If you have any problems with renewing online you are welcome to come into the Civic Centre on Monday morning and one of our team will be happy to help.



Help is needed on a Monday morning in the Office area.
Are you able to come along and help out?

The kitchen needs more volunteers to help on a rota basis.
If you feel you are able to do this, please contact
Gaynor Butler – secretary@alsageru3a.org.uk
Or speak with her on a Monday morning at
Alsager Civic

NO HELP NO REFRESHMENTS

Alsager Light Orchestra



Alsager Light Orchestra is always interested to hear from new members who have a good musical skill base and who miss being part of a productive orchestra.
They play mostly light music from films and shows, working towards concert level.
There are vacancies but the Orchestra is particularly looking for violin players.
You will be expected to bring your own instrument and a music stand.

If you are interested, please look at their website: www.alsagerlightorchestra.co.uk
Details are there but, in a nutshell, the Orchestra meets on a Tuesday 2 - 4pm at the Social Club in Alsager: Longview Avenue, Alsager, ST7 2EA

If you are interested please e-mail: contact@alsagerlightorchestra.co.uk
Looking forward to seeing you...



We welcome new members!
Especially string players!



A few Fun Facts about November

Many people in the US can recall what they were doing at 12:30 pm on November 22, 1963. It was on this day that President John F. Kennedy, known as JFK, was fatally shot while riding along with his wife in a procession of cars. He was rushed to a hospital all too late and was pronounced dead at 1 pm that day. Kennedy was the fourth US president to be assassinated, after Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, and William McKinley.

The fifth of November marks a historic day in the UK. On this day in 1605, a group of Roman Catholics plotted to blow up the English Parliament while King James I was inside. Fortunately, the plot was foiled. Every year festivities are held across the country to celebrate the group's failure, which includes setting off countless fireworks, lighting bonfires, and even setting alight effigies of Guy Fawkes, one of the conspirators.

November has just one birthstone, the radiant topaz. The topaz is symbolic of many things, but most of all, it is a symbol of strength and honour. The ancient Greeks also believed that the stone had the ability to turn oneself invisible.

November 3, 1957, was a historic day for both Soviet Russia and the world. It was on this day that the first spacecraft carrying a live passenger was successfully launched into space. The passenger was Leika the dog, an unassuming-looking stray pooch who had been found on the streets of Moscow. The Soviets used stray dogs in their tests because they assumed that they would be used to the hunger and cold that they would inevitably experience in outer space.

Do you fancy a bit of a Quiz



Round 3b Science and Nature - Answers

51. What is the name of the force that keeps us grounded on Earth? **Gravity**
52. What type of animal is a Komodo dragon? **Lizard**
53. Which vitamin is known as the sunshine vitamin? **Vitamin D**
54. What is the smallest particle of an element? **Atom**
55. What is the main gas found in the air we breathe? **Nitrogen**
56. What is the chemical symbol for oxygen? **O**
57. Which bird is known for its ability to mimic sounds, including human speech? **Parrot**
58. What is the tallest type of grass? **Bamboo**
59. How many legs does a spider have? **Eight**
60. Which is the only continent where polar bears are found in the wild? **North America (Arctic region)**

Round 4a: Entertainment and Pop Culture

61. Who played Jack in the movie *Titanic*?
62. What is the highest-grossing film of all time?
63. Who is the author of the *Harry Potter* series?
64. What is the name of the cowboy in *Toy Story*?
65. Who is known as the King of Pop?
66. What is the longest-running animated TV series?
67. Which artist painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?
68. What is the name of the fictional British secret agent created by Ian Fleming?
69. What is the name of the coffee shop in the TV show *Friends*?
70. Who was the lead singer of the band Queen?

Talk Time

NOVEMBER 2026 DETAILS

ROSSIGNOL (Skylark) Traditional Music Band
is returning, by popular demand, to Talk Time this coming Monday
9th November, 2026 – 11.15am – 12.15pm

ROSSIGNOL is a collective of absolutely ancient musicians playing absolutely ancient music, which seems to appeal to people of varied musical tastes.

Come along to Alsager Civic and enjoy the musical morning.

16 November	**Neil Hanson**	*The Inn at the Top*
23 November	**Philip Heaton**	*The Signs of the Zodiac - An introduction into Astrology*

The following groups have vacancies:



Yoga 2

Yoga promotes flexibility and core strength, building through gentle exercise. Strives to improve balance, practices breath control and relaxation, while enjoying a pleasant hour with friends.

Dennis Round Court, Thursdays between 12.00noon – 1.00pm

For more information, please contact Jean Steer on 07811 411169 or by e-mailing jeanasteer@btinternet.com

Table Tennis 8

Please contact **Phil Wootton 01270 873649** If you would like to join this Table Tennis Group

Meets every Friday, 2.00 – 4.00pm at Rode Heath Village Hall.



This activity is ideal if you want to keep fit both in body and mind but not too exhausting as we play only doubles. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available with time to mix and have a chat.

Keep Active with Music 1

Nobody has yet discovered the secret of eternal youth but what has been proved, beyond a shadow of doubt, is that exercising helps towards a fuller and healthier life.
These Keep Active exercises are designed to at least maintain and hopefully improve your strength, suppleness, stamina and general wellbeing.
Sitting and standing exercises (no floor work) to the music of the 60's, 70's and 80's.
You can move with Cliff, Ella, Cleo and Elvis and you can even sign along if you want to!

Meets :: WEDNESDAYS 10.00 – 11.00am
Venue :: ALSAGER GOLF CLUB
Please contact :: EILEEN O'TOOLE - 01270 500518
If you would like to join this group

Regards – David Gaston (Chair)