

HUNTINGDON U3A



**UPSTREAM
MAGAZINE**

2025

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Only paid-up members of Huntingdon u3a may participate in the Groups provided.

Message From the Chairman



August cold and dank and wet, brings more rain than any yet.....

....that's according to Michael Flanders and Donald Swan (remember them?) in their *Song of the Weather*.

Today, though, the weather is glorious! I've just come back from a long walk with my dog, along Huntingdon's Riverside Park. It was great to see so many people out enjoying the sunshine and to chat with other owners while the dogs chased each other around the field. It's funny, though....over the years you can regularly meet other owners and get to know the names of their dogs....but as for the names of the owners - not a clue! But you still stop and have a friendly chat!

And on the way back, from the field across the river, there's a repeated mewling sound as a red kite circles and calls to a fledgling....presumably encouraging it to fly.

Ain't life grand!

**A reminder that the AGM is on Wednesday
24th September at 2.30pm.**

Please make every effort to attend.

We would love to see you at the meeting, so please come along and celebrate the many successes of the past year.

Your vote is vitally important to the running of Hu3a.

Without your vote the Committee and Hu3a would not be able to run smoothly, so please do show your support by attending.

Afterwards, there will be the opportunity to have a cup of tea and chat with your friends.

**Linda Dunbavan
Secretary**

The 25th Anniversary Luncheon was a great success!



On 23rd July a hundred or so members enjoyed a superb 25th Anniversary Luncheon at the Brampton Park Golf Club, in the company of the Mayor of Huntingdon, Cllr Audrey McAdam and Mayor's Consort Cllr Steve McAdam, and Inaugural Chair Teresa Cole. Also present were several other founder members and early members, as well as past Chairs.

The event was brilliantly organised by Heather Holden who had help from a small team of dedicated volunteers which included Linda Dunbavan, Marilyn Williams, Mike Driver and David Swift.



The superb Anniversary cake was made by Linda Donald, who also made 100 slices of cake which were given to all who attended the luncheon to take home. Thanks and hats off to everyone involved....here's to the next 25 years!!



Teresa and Frank Cole



Huntingdon Community Radio - 'Over to You'



'As members will know, this year Huntingdon u3a celebrates it's silver jubilee. In recognition, HCR (Huntingdon Community Radio) made us charity of the month for July 2025

This meant that Teresa Cole our first chairperson and Ian Marlow our current Speaker Coordinator were interviewed live on the 'OVER TO YOU' programme at 7.00pm on Wednesday 2 July 2025.

Teresa, was excellent in her recollection of the early days of the movement under her chairperson years with Ian providing information and updates about how and why we do things the way that we do, eg how being a charity provides us with new opportunities, but at the same time encouraging us to bring in new administrative changes. From the point of view of Teresa and Ian and the radio station the evening was a success and for those members who were able to listen to it, would hopefully have felt the same.'



'HERE'S TO THE NEXT 25 Years'

Huza Open Meeting

Our speaker at the 15th October 2025 Open Meeting will be:

Charlie Haylock

His talk will be on:

The History of Spoken English



This is not a talk on split infinitives, and what the differences are between the past participle and the past tense. Definitely not!

Charlie will show us how the seeds of spoken English were first set.

He will also show us how each invading force affected the English language, and the different sounds they brought; from the Angles and

Saxons to the Vikings and Normans.

How Shakespeare was really spoken . . . the effect of the Italian Renaissance on the English language . . . how England, by being an international trading nation, adopted words from across the globe.

Charlie will include a dialect tour of the British Isles and further afield, and demonstrate the different facial expressions of each dialect . . . and how a deaf person he knows can tell what dialect a person has . . . just by lip reading.

Very informative and highly entertaining.

Clive Chandler



Proposed Book Group

I am currently reading *The Wind in the Willows*, what a cracking book this is, superbly written by *Kenneth Grahame*. The parts I have enjoyed the most, so far, are where Toad is taken away to prison after being convicted of stealing a motor-car and various motoring offences, here is an excerpt:

'Then the brutal minions of the law fell upon the hapless Toad; loaded him with chains (what a wonderful description), and dragged him from the Court House' - the rest of the chapter just gets better with the description of the place of incarceration, just superb. Then there is the piece when Little Portly the baby otter goes missing and Ratty and Mole go off in the boat in the middle of the night to search for Portly. Rat becomes entranced by the sound of distant piping which they are compelled to follow. The 'glad piping' gets louder and eventually leads them to Little Portly, after a wonderful description of the riverbank in the early morning light.

The members of this group would select a book to read each month then discuss at the next meeting. Let me know if this would be of interest to you and if you would be the group leader.

Proposed New Group

Watch this space next month for details of an exciting new group.

Second Gardening Group

Our Gardening Group is full and so I would like to get a second group going. Let me know if you are interested – we will also need a group leader.



Clive

Hu3a Indoor Bowls

The new Indoor Bowls season will start with 2 taster sessions on Wednesdays 17th and 24th September from 16.20pm to 18.15pm to be held at Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club (HIBC), St. Peters Road Huntingdon. New players are most welcome, and all you require is some flat soled shoes to change into when you arrive. All other equipment and help/guidance to get you started will be available. If you are interested please contact Barry Ward to register as it is expected we might have a full group this year.



Please Ensure that you have details of your u3a membership number when you turn up

Should you wish to join full time the fees are £35 for u3a members who just wish to attend social bowls and £70 if you want to play in any of the competitive matches. A rink fee of £4 is payable for each session. These fees are set by HIBC. Sessions are held every Wednesday from 16.20pm until 18.15pm. Let me know if you want to join the Group but please do so early.

In addition HIBC do operate a dress code for all members - this being predominately white tops (this also applies to jumpers/ jackets) with grey trousers and ideally proper bowls shoes although some trainers are allowed provided that they have a flat sole i.e. not ridged in any way - the code is enforced.

***Barry Ward
Indoor Bowls Group Leader***

Huza Golf Group



The Group from left to right - David Swift - Marion - Cynthia Curtis - Jean Western (Group Leader) - Neil Mackie - Carole Harris - Fred Thompson - Helen Claydon - Peter Mailer

The Golf Group meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Pidley Golf Course.

The last meeting was on Wednesday the 6 August 2025 , the sun was shining and with little wind.

On returning to the Club House a few of the members were a few balls lighter, but they always prepare themselves by taking few extra.

Arriving at the club house it is coffee time when they discuss how well they played or not, always good for a laugh though! It could also be their holidays or the next doctors appointment, always a bit of interest there.

If you are interested in joining the group just e-mail Jean or phone her.

Details are on page 26 to this Issue of Upstream

Jean Western
Group Leader

Teresa and Frank: 25 Years of Learning and Friendship

A quarter-century now has passed,
Since first you dreamed, since first you asked,
Why should learning fade away?
Let us make it thrive in the u3a

With hearts so warm and vision clear,
You built a space for all to share,
A place where minds could still explore,
Where age would never close a door.

Huntingdon's halls now brightly shine,
With voices raised, with eager minds.
Friendships formed and knowledge grew,
All thanks to both of you.

Through laughter, talks, and hands-on art,
You wove a bond, a lasting heart.
And though the years have swiftly rolled,
We honour you, Teresa and Frank Cole.

So, here's to you, with love and cheers,
For 25 inspiring years.

David Swift



The photography group has recently had two trips out, the first being Wicken Fen and a boat trip for some members on the National Trusts electric boat, with an interesting and informative commentary from Sally the skipper.

That of course was followed by an interesting stroll around Wicken Fen its self.



(Photograph by Mike Smith)

The second trip was to the Nene Valley Railway (NVR), and for some this included a guided tour of the workshops..... with once again, a highly entertaining and very informative talk given by our guide, which for me, made the day.



(This photo shows part of the group standing in front of Tornado 60163.

The day before the visit a message was received from David King that the Britannia 70000 had broken down on its Chater journey to York, and had been recovered to NVR for repair.
(Photo page 15)

Pauline Marsh (Group Leader).

Brittania 70000 NVR



Huntingdon usa General Notice

DAYS OUT Team
Require a new team member.

Due to our current treasurer Alan Bustard standing down at the end of March 2026, we are looking for someone to pick up the reins and join our friendly Days Out Team.

We usually run 5 trips a year and your role would consist mainly of keeping accurate financial records, collecting fees either by BACS or SumUp at open meetings. No cash involved.

Full support will be given. For further information contact Allen Milne.

Pat Milne

Huza German Conversation Group



The topic for the meeting was *Clothes*.

I am wearing my Grandma's Suffragette hat .

The German Conversation Group meets at Montague House Brampton on the fourth Wednesday of each month.



Liza is wearing her Pinafore, just a part of her collection.



The photo shows the group enjoying their meeting.

German is spoken for most of the time .

Val Scullion

(Group Leader)



How to book - Contact **Roger**, preferably by email, stating the number of places required and if you want to sit with friends. You can also book at some open meetings. Please do not leave telephone voice messages as these are not always picked up in time.

Payment:

Please quote the **event** together with your **surname** and your **membership number** as the payment reference.

Alternatively payment by **debit** or **credit card** can be made at some open meetings.

Cheque payments are also accepted. Cheques should be made payable to **Huntingdon u3a**. Contact Roger for the address to which cheque payments should be sent.

Roger Taca

The Next Theatre Trip

BLOOD BROTHERS

Milton Keynes Theatre

Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am.

Hu3a Theatre Report

On Thursday the 31 July a group of Hu3a Theatre enthusiast's set off from Godmanchester on a journey to Milton Keynes Theatre.

The show was **Calamity Jane the Musical**.



The day was to start with the journey to Milton Keynes via the incredible A1 and the Black Cat roundabout improvements.

Arriving in good time we were able to do our own thing before the performance was due to start at 2.30pm.

Carrie Hope Fletcher stars as the wayward *Calamity Jane* in this affectionate touring production of the classic musical.



Adapted from *James O'Hanlon's* screenplay by *Charles K Freeman*, the show, with *Nikolai Foster* directing (and *Nick Winston* co-directing and choreographing), takes an understated approach, bringing warmth and charm to the performance, it was gently fun, wholesome and a very well cast production.

Our Events Diary 2025

Wednesday 20 August Open Meeting 2.30pm Tony Kirby
Tides of Fortune 'The Rise and Fall of Seaside Resorts' The speaker will be Tony Kirby who will be enthralling us with a history and the origins of the traditional seaside holiday. Why they became popular and why they declined. So whether you have already had your holiday or not, come along and hear what Tony has to say.

Thursday 28 August - Milton Keynes Theatre. Blood Brothers
Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am. **Fully Booked.**

Wednesday 10 September 2025 - Aldeburgh and Southwold.
Fully Booked.

Wednesday 17 September Open Meeting 2.30pm Our speaker will be Alan Gore an independent FINGERPRINT EXPERT. He began his career as a trainee fingerprint officer with Nottingham Police, before qualifying as a Fingerprint expert. He retired in 2020 and since then he has carried out numerous case reviews on behalf of defence lawyers. He has delivered talks to Police Officers and recently to The Criminal Bar Association. It should prove to be a fascinating talk.

Wednesday 24 September 2025 AGM. Time 2.30pm (see page 3 to this issue of Upstream)

Thursday 25 September 2025 Milton Keynes Theatre. TOP HAT. Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am. **Fully Booked.**

Wednesday 1 October 2025 - Milton Keynes Theatre. Riverdance 30: The New Generation Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am. **Fully Booked**

Sunday 12 October 2025 Brooklands Museum Contact Dave Edington.

Wednesday 15 October 2025 - Milton Keynes Theatre. Death on the Nile. Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am. **Fully Booked.**

Our Events Diary 2025 - continued

Wednesday 15 October Open Meeting 2.30pm Charlie Haylock 'The History of Spoken English'

Charlie, who received an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Suffolk, for his contribution as a "tireless ambassador for heritage, culture and the preservation of dialects" last year, will be giving us an informative, but hilarious talk about this subject, not only using his own Suffolk dialect, but many others. This is all the more interesting because he understands how each one is produced, and will demonstrate them.

Monday 20 to Friday 24 October 2025

Yorkshire Dales & Whitby by Coach - 4 Night Mini Break

Included - Saltaire village; Settle train to Appleby; Visit to Wensleydale; Richmond; Harrogate; Whitby and York Moors National Park finally Hull museum quarter.

Staying at The Old Swan Hotel Harrogate. **Fully Booked**

24 October 2025 An Autumn Quiz. Information to follow.

Wednesday 19 November Open Meeting 2.30pm Paul Barwick

"The White Mouse - the story of WWII spy Nancy Wake. Paul served for 34 years in the police service, including five years working in intelligence and national security. He is now has a London Tour Guide company and is a busy Public Speaker.

Saturday 22 November 2025 - Aylesbury Waterside Theatre.

Friends! The Musical Parody. Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am - **Fully Booked.**

Thursday 4 December 2025 - Royal Albert Hall Spectacular Fully Booked

Sunday 7 December 2025 - Thursford, Norfolk. "CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR 2025" Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 10am. **Fully Booked**

Wednesday 10 December 2025 Christmas open meeting with choirs and carols. Information to follow.

Our Events Diary for 2026

Thursday 5 February 2026 - Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. **Christmas Carol Goes Wrong.** Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am **Fully Booked.**

Sunday 15 February 2026 - The Birmingham Tattoo. **Fully Booked.**

Thursday 26 February 2026 - Norwich Theatre Roya. **Carousel.** Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 10am. **Fully Booked**

Wednesday 18 March 2026 - Milton Keynes Theatre. **Inspector Morse: House of Ghosts.** Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am – **Fully Booked**

Wednesday 25 March 2026 - Milton Keynes Theatre. **Sunny Afternoon - The Kinks. 'Places available'** Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am **Fully Booked**

Thursday 26 March 2026 - Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. **Barnum.** Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am. **Fully Booked.**

Thursday 30 April 2026 - Milton Keynes Theatre. **Fawlty Towers - The Play** - Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am - **Fully Booked.**

Thursday 7 May 2026 - Aylesbury Waterside. **Priscilla Queen of the Desert.** Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 11am **2 places available.**

Thursday 9 July 2026 - Norwich Theatre Royal. **MAMMA MIA.** Coach will leave Bridge Place Car Park Godmanchester at 10am. **5 places available**

Huntingdon u3a Committee Members

Chairman	<i>Brian Perrett</i>
Vice-Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	<i>Linda Dunbavan</i>
Treasurer	<i>David Swift</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Dorothy Northwood</i>
Groups Co-ord	<i>Clive Chandler</i>
Vol. Recruitment Co-ord	<i>Jan Cole</i>
Events Organiser	Heather Holden
Speaker Organiser	Ian Marlow
Committee Member	<i>Doreen Lynn</i>
Co-opted Member	Helen Claydon
Co-opted Member	Sue Foster
Co-opted Member	Marion Sweet

HU3A OFFICERS

Administrator No 2 Account Theatre & Concerts/Holidays	Roger Tacq
Beacon Administrator	Mike Glendinning
Days Out Organiser	Allen Milne Alan Bustard, Dave Eddington & Shirley Hiscox
Friendship Plus	Teresa Cole
Keep in Touch	Pat Milne
Members Welcome Team	Pat Milne, Jackie Whitehead, Di Polley-Coles & Marilyn Williams
Open Meeting Facilitators	Paul Silk Lawrence Whitehead
Open Meeting Refreshments	Helen Clayton
Registration Co-ordinator	Jan Cole
Upstream Magazine	Mike Glendinning
Upstream Distribution	Anne & Peter Theakston
Webmaster Hu3a	Doug Thompson

Groups and Contact Information

Title	Contact	When
Archaeology	Richard Halliday Mike Fortune	Monthly - 3rd Thursday 11am - 1pm (except August and September)
Architecture	Carol Gunton	
Art	Margaret Quaife	2nd & 4th Tuesday 10 - 12 Noon
Artificial Intelligence	Andrew Fawccett	Monthly 1st Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Brampton Pie Night	Jacqui Long	
Bird watching	Colin Elliott	Monthly - 2nd Tuesday - times vary
Canasta	Jan Edwards	Every Wednesday 10.15 - 12.15
Classical Music.....	David & Patricia Joy	<u>Group Currently Full</u>
Creative Writing	June Welton	Monthly -1st Thursday 10 - 12
Cribbage	Betty Trevett	Monthly - 3rd Friday 2 - 4 pm
Crochet	Betty Trevett	<u>Group Currently Full</u>
Current Affairs	Andrew Fawcett	Monthly - 2nd Monday-2 - 4 pm
Cycling	Roger Worgan	2nd Monday - 4th Friday 10am
Days Out Organiser	Allen Milne	
Drama & Play Reading	Lynne Stone	1st & 3rd Monday - 10 - 12 Noon
Easy French Conversation	Robin Bowman	<u>'Group Currently Full'</u>
Family History	Pat Butcher Paul Silk	2nd Tuesday 10 - 12 noon
Friendship Plus	Teresa Cole	If you like help.

Groups and Contact Information

Title	Contact	When
French Conversation	Marie-Christine Lacombe	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 - 4pm
Gardening	Jan Cole	Group Currently Full
German Conversation (Not beginners)	Val Scullion	Monthly 4th Wednesday 1030 - 1230 other Wednesdays Zoom 1000 - 1045
Golf	Jean Western	1st Wednesday of each month
Grumpy Old Men	Allen Milne	Monthly 1st Monday 7 - 9 pm
Health Issues	Kevin Bryant	Monthly 1st Thursday 1030 - 12.00
History of World War II	Karen Aspinall	Monthly 1st Monday 2 - 4pm
Holidays	Roger Tacq	
Indoor Bowls	Barry Ward Contact Barry	Winter Only Group.
Italian Improvers	Graham Shirra	'Group currently Full (Waiting List Only)
Knit and Chat	Pat Milne	'Group currently Full'
Line Dancing	Terry and Janet Crack	1st & 3rd Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30
Mah-jong	Lynda Minshull	Mondays 2 - 4 pm
Members on their own	Di Brannan	TBA
More Knit and Chat	Di Polley-Coles	Group Currently Full
Outdoor Social Bowls	Barry Ward	Information Only
Petanque/Boules noon	Paul Silk Colin Jones	Weekly - Thursday 10.30 - 12 <i>April - September</i>
Philosophy	Larry Curley	Alternate Thursdays 11 am
Photography	Pauline Marsh	2nd & 4th Thursdays 10 - 12 Noon

Groups and Contact Information

Title	Contact	When
Rhythm & Chat	Wendy Law	Fortnightly Monday 10.30 - 12.30
Science & Technology	Steve Clark	Monthly – 3rd Tuesday 2 - 4pm
Scrabble	Janet Crack	1st 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 2 - 4 pm each month
Singing	Susan Jones	2nd and 4th Thursdays 2 - 4
Spanish	Josephine Becker	2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30 pm
Strollers Tuesday 10.15am	Paul Silk	Monthly 4th
Sunday Dining 1	Doreen Lynn	Monthly - Last Sunday in the month
Sunday Lunch 2	Jan Edwards	Monthly - Last Sunday in the month
Table Tennis	David Booth	Weekly - Friday 2 - 3 pm
<i>Theatre & Concerts</i>	Roger Tacq	
Transport Interests	Carol Ombler	Monthly 2nd Monday 10 - 12
Tudor History	Karen Aspinall	Monthly - 1st Friday 2 - 4 pm
Ukulele	Philippe Pelletier	Tuesdays 10.00 am - 12 noon
Walking	Geoff Stratton	Monthly 2nd Wednesday 10.00am
Walking Tennis	Clive Chandler	Weekly - Monday 2 - 3pm
Wine Appreciation 1	Di Polley-Coles	<u>'Group Currently Full'</u>
Wine Appreciation 2	Helen Claydon	<u>'Group Currently Full'</u>

Hu3a General Notices

Your committee would love to hear from you. Send an email at any time, but unless it's urgent, only phone during office hours Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



~Are You Aware~

If you know of any member who is unwell, has been in Hospital or who has passed away. Please contact me and I will send out an appropriate card to them or their Family from Huntingdon u3a.

Pat Milne

Your Upstream Magazine

*The next issue of Upstream will be published in **September 2025**
The copy deadline will be **Friday 5 September 2025**
You can email **Mike Glendinning***

Upstream is available on the **Organisational Structure** page of our website. Access to the website: Huntingdon.u3asite.uk/

Click on the **Upstream** link. The magazine is only accessible to our members, so this part of the website is **password protected**.

Please contact a member of the Committee for the password.

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