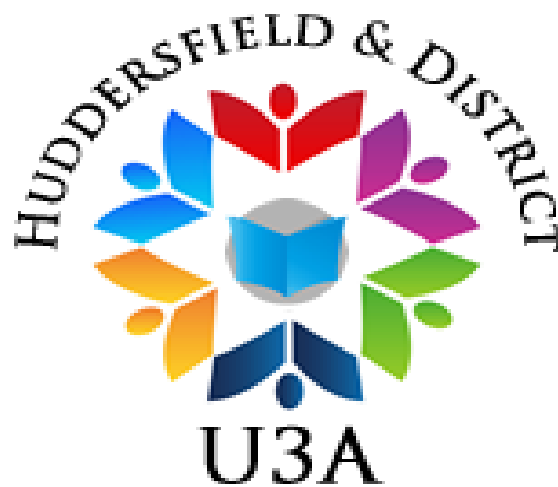


HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Established 1984



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026

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**HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**

Aspin House, Block B, Station Road, Huddersfield, HD2 1UT
Tel: 01484 308482 Email: office@huddersfieldu3a.org

Chair's Letter Autumn 2026

As you read this newsletter the new U3A year will be fully underway, including some new activities adding to the existing range enjoyed by our members across Huddersfield and District. We hope it will be an enjoyable and interesting year for all our members.

We continue to try to expand the variety of activities we offer, and if anyone would like to offer to lead an activity of interest to themselves, then it is likely that other members would also be interested, so please get in touch via the office to discuss your ideas.

In addition, the committee are very conscious of the fact that many of our members have hidden skills and talents which they would enjoy sharing with others but, for whatever reason, may not be able to commit to leading an activity in the traditional way and to this end Diana Wilson has volunteered to co-ordinate a group to discuss ideas and develop the way forward – more information later in this newsletter.

Equally, we fully realise the importance of the social aspects of the activities and interests in which our members participate (as well as the recreational and developmental aspects) and we are seeking to increase the opportunities for social events, both regular and single events, – more information later in this newsletter.

Once again, we are planning to hold some individual talks, with specialist speakers, and these will be advertised on the website in due course. At the present time the location(s) and timing for the talks as well as the format have yet to be agreed – some may well be combined with a specific social activity. If you do not have any access to the internet but would like information about the talks, then please contact the office.

It is with great sadness we learned that one of our earliest members, Ted Duggan MBE, and one of our group leaders, Kenneth Beachill, passed away earlier this year – their obituaries can be found later in the newsletter, and our condolences go out to their families and friends.

In addition, the leader of two of our most popular groups, Barbara Campbell, who for many years has gently encouraged many of our members to become more active, has decided it's time to retire – we will miss her and send our good wishes in whatever she decides to do next.

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, the committee discussions about affiliation to the Third Age Trust and the possible adoption of their IT software system were suspended during ongoing changes in committee membership. Further discussions and investigations will continue later in the year, following the AGM in October. It is important that any conclusions and recommendations are fully considered before any final decision can be made which impacts the long-term of our U3A. In the meantime, the remaining working group have continued to meet, focussing on other operational aspects of our U3A and we are now seeking to implement some of the ideas which have arisen.

One of the areas in which we made some progress during the last year is in raising the awareness of dementia – we were fortunate enough to hold some sessions led by the Kirklees Dementia Community Engagement Officer. They were well attended and as well as introducing members to the different types of dementia, reflected some of the consequences for individuals living with dementia. We now need to consider the next steps for our organisation towards becoming dementia friendly.

Finally, our thanks go to all those who make our U3A possible – our volunteers – with your continued support our organisation will develop and grow for the benefit of all our members.

Isabel Foster

Interim Chair

Dates to Remember

Annual General Meeting **United Reformed Church**

Wednesday 28 October 2026 at 2.00pm

Doors open at 1.30

Statutory notice of the meeting, AGM Minutes 2025 and other relevant papers are included in this newsletter. The Charity Commission requires us to hold a quorate Annual General Meeting (AGM) to enable members to receive our accounts and be eligible as an organisation to claim Gift Aid.

Please notify the office of any items of AOB by 16 October 2026:

email office@huddersfieldu3a.org or telephone 01484 308482

Please bring your newsletter to the meeting so that you have the AGM papers with you

Gala Concert **United Reformed Church**

Wednesday 28 October 2026 following the AGM

A performance showcasing the talents of our various musical groups. Those who attended last year will know what a treat is in store.

Carol Service **St Peter's Parish Church**

Tuesday 08 December 2026 at 10.30

The U3A Carol Service will feature both the U3A Ladies' Choir and the U3A Mixed Choir, with Vintage Brass as our guests. Tea and coffee will be served at the rear of the church and there will be a collection for a local charity.

Tutors' and Volunteers' Lunch **United Reformed Church**

Thursday 18 February 2026 at 11.00

Tutors and volunteers will receive invitations directly nearer the time.

Spring Newsletter

Copy for the Spring 2027 Newsletter should be received in the office by Monday 4 January 2027

Administration Issues

Membership Renewal 2027 – 2028

The Spring newsletter 2027 will contain a **membership renewal form and an enrolment form for Summer Classes 2027**. An updated list of the 2027 Summer classes will also be included.

Please remember the financial year is April 1 in any year to March 31 the next so **enrolment for 2027 Summer classes is dependent on membership renewal for 2027 – 2028 as soon as possible after the Spring Newsletter reaches members**. **Membership renewal is also necessary to participate in the U3A Walking Groups in 2027 from 1 April.**

Membership renewal and enrolment for Summer 2027 classes can be done at the same time from Spring 2027 as soon as the Spring newsletter is received.

If you are paying by cheque please **DO NOT STAPLE** your cheque to your form.

Reminder to all members

Please make sure you notify the office of any changes in the details we hold about you – change of name, address, phone number and email address.

Also remember that clarity on the answer phone is essential – some callers omit their name when leaving a message, others garble their names. As none of the office volunteers have perfect hearing it is sometimes very challenging!

Full classes at the time of going to press

Autumn 2026:

A010, A013, HP16, SP19

Spring 2026:

A013

Class Cancellations

The following classes will not be running: HP18 – A History of the Soviet Union; HP23 - 20th Century Philosophy

Life Membership of Huddersfield and District U3A

Constitution: 4.11 The Committee may decide that a person who has made an outstanding contribution to Huddersfield and District University of the Third Age be granted honorary life membership.

Please nominate anyone you feel meets this requirement.

During 2026 we have sadly lost one Life Member, Ted Duggan, whose obituary appears later in this newsletter.

Current Life members are:

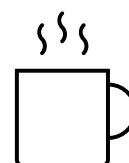
Helen Brockley, Jeff Carr, Cynthia Chadwick, Dallas Cliff, John Dixon, Veronica Hughes, Anne Ingleby, Joan Langfield, Moira Marshall, Jacky Needham, Alison Newbery, Jean Parkinson, Shirley Pearson, Mel Spedding and Christine Whiddon.

Opportunities to Get Involved

If you have time on your hands, or skills you would like to share, or would like to get together with friendly people to do something enjoyable and useful, we have several different ways you could get involved. Please read on and see if any of them would appeal to you.



WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE!



It seems like a good idea to have a regular session where U3A members and friends could get together informally to meet new people and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

It would be a drop-in event with a one-off charge rather than having to sign up for a 10-week session.

Do you agree that this would be a good idea?

Any more ideas would be more than welcome - it's up to you! (We can organise a venue).

Could you organise something like this or get together with others to do so.

Maybe with table games, puzzles or quizzes as a starting point to help break the ice?

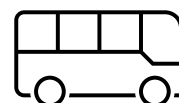
Please contact the office if you could help, or to put in your thoughts and ideas.

If any members are interested in forming a group to develop and plan other social activities, please also contact the office.

Organise a one-off Trip on a theme close to your heart

Following the very successful trips to Port Sunlight and Liverpool in October last year, organised by Gilly Markham, we are hoping other members may be inspired to plan a trip for summer 2027 based on their interests. Please let the office know if you have an idea and are willing to lead a trip. The office will help with the admin, and Gilly has also offered to lend her expertise if necessary.

Please will any volunteers contact the office with ideas.





STOP THAT DRIPPING TAP

Imagine this scenario. The years are taking their toll on your body and bits of you are increasingly letting you down. You live alone; your family live too far away to be of immediate use, and anyway, have their own lives to live. A good friend who would willingly have done some shopping or given you a lift to the doctor's is away; and there is the dependency problem. The one thing we old people fear is losing our independence and identity, becoming that poor old dear from down the road. In the meantime, the dripping tap in the kitchen is driving you crazy: the thread impervious to your increasingly arthritic fingers.

Or alternatively this scenario: you sit at home watching the birds in the garden and review your life – as we do. You assess the successes and failures and wish you could have at least some of it back and maybe do things differently. But your life is not over: you still have the need, the urge to be useful, and a range of skills and areas of expertise, gleaned from a lifetime of training, apprenticeships and practice. You don't want the pressure and commitment of tutoring a ten or twenty week course; but cobble together a bird table – that would be a different story; or to do a bit of pruning or watering for the poor old dear down the road, in return for a mug of tea and one of her delicious scones and a chin-wag about the old days – would be an afternoon well-spent. As for that dripping tap, you had that sorted in a jiffy. You were a plumber after all.

So whatever your needs, there will be someone in your life-time's network who can do the job for you, or recommend someone who can. And whether your skill or interest is in clothes alteration, simple home maintenance, help with a technological problem, dog-walking or diet-driven cooking, someone out there will bite your hand off for it.

But how to match the need with the service provider? I am proposing to create a directory of useful contacts from within the local U3A membership. To begin with I am inviting a small working party of members to help me recognise the issues that we need to think about and keep my feet on the ground. The working party will exist only for this specific task: you will not be required to join the Local U3A committee. The service providers will offer their time on a voluntary basis, but we would expect those who use their services to reimburse expenditure on materials etc.

For the time being I am happy to act as point of contact for both the service providers and the users, but I will be open to suggestions about how we might better structure the project. If you are interested in becoming a member of the working party or have skills to offer; or simply want more information, please contact me on

Tel. 07890 869740

e-mail: wilsondiana@hotmail.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you,

Diana

Group Leaders/Tutors

As members will know we are always on the lookout for new group leaders and subjects to enhance our current programme of classes. Please let us know of any possible tutors with ideas for groups they could run. Unfortunately we can't act on ideas for new groups unless you can suggest a tutor for them.

In the office

We need to ensure that we are properly prepared to cover office duties as time progresses. Like all of us, our volunteers are getting older and will eventually need to step down. We need people to do the day to day work, and we also need innovative people with the enthusiasm to take us forward.

What is involved?

Initially, basic admin and IT skills with data inputting each week into our database and Excel. Once familiar and confident other jobs are shared amongst the team.

Time commitment would usually be a weekly session of four hours.

NB: The committee feels that as we still have a number of members who are not currently on line it is not yet time to provide the prospectus and newsletters exclusively on line.

2027 Series of Talks – previously the Spring Talks

We are planning to hold a further series of one-off talks, for which you can attend as many or as few as you want, and pay for each session on the door. The details and location were not finalised at the time of going to press, but information will be posted on the website later in the year, and an email sent out to all members. Please let the office know if you are interested in the talks but unable to access the internet or emails, and we will send you the information by post when it is available.

New Activities for Spring 2027

commencing week beginning 11 Jan 2027

HP19

Family Tree Research

Lorraine Sykes

Beaumont Chapel, Kirkheaton Parish Church

Thursday 10.00 - 12.00

How to go about tracing your family history, learn about where to go on the internet and other places. Start making a tree all about your family. It will be helpful if you can bring a laptop, ipad, tablet or similar.

M029 Classical Guitar for Beginners Colin Thorburn
Tutor's Home (Almondbury area) Monday 10.00 - 12.00

A class for members interested in learning to play the classical guitar. A knowledge of music notation is an advantage but not necessary as the class will be structured with progressive course materials for the absolute beginner. Members will be introduced to a wide range of music through the centuries written or transcribed for the classical guitar.

Members will need to supply their own nylon strung classical guitar, a guitar foot stool or knee rest and a music stand. For Members without an instrument or accessories advice is available on contact with the leader tel 07753 339316 in advance of the class start.

PROSPECTUS CORRECTION

Group ST03 – the description should have been changed to read as follows:

ST03 A Gentle Look at Some Mathematics and Statistics Michael Smith
Jubilee Centre Spring Session Only Friday 12.45 - 2.45

Here we'll take a leisurely look at topics from these two subjects. We'll cover contributions from ancient civilisations and some from the last decade. We'll look at the maths and statistics that can impact our daily lives such as the encryption behind WhatsApp messaging and the interpretation of medical statistics. The pace will be gentle. Digression and reflection will be encouraged and contributions from group members always welcomed. Spring session only.

Obituaries

Ted Duggan MBE MEd FIET – an early member and an inspiration to many.

Ted passed away peacefully at home on 9th May 2026, aged 96 years

Ted, having spent his working life in education, joined our U3A in 1989. He was elected to the committee and later the executive as Activities Co-ordinator, in which role he met and inspired very many tutors, assistants and students involved with a multitude of activities.

He retired from the role after 28 years at the Annual General Meeting in 2018. Ted was given life membership of the organisation in recognition of his contribution.

Ted was awarded an MBE, awarded by the late queen in Buckingham Palace in 2010, and was instrumental in helping Huddersfield and District U3A to gain the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2005.

Some Personal Recollections

In 1997, with my children gone from home, I found myself wondering how I would fill the time they used to occupy. When I read in the local newspaper that Huddersfield and District U3A had a shortage of tutors in some subjects, English being one of them, I thought I might just make some enquiries. Ted Duggan turned out to be my first point of contact. As soon as I telephoned to express a tentative interest in running a poetry class, he was warm and welcoming and encouraged me to give it a try. He made it as unthreatening as possible by telling me not to worry if numbers were small at first; he said the important thing was to make a start and see what came of it. Without Ted's encouragement I might not have had the confidence to continue. As it is, Poetry for Pleasure has continued from then to this day, and I have enjoyed enormously being able to continue using my skills as a teacher.

Anne Ingleby

As far as I am aware Ted's title has always been Activities Organiser, which doesn't exactly sound like the top of the hierarchy, but from when I joined in 1997, I always thought of Ted as "Mr U3A". On my first Enrolment Day (remember those?) he introduced me to the then Office Manager and ensured that I knew the ropes. He was in charge at tutors' get-togethers, played a prominent role at AGMs, sorted out venues and generally solved problems. What's more he aimed to visit every class at some time or other to check that everyone was happy.

Moirra Marshall

Ted Duggan MBE. What a splendid example of a member of Hudds & D U3A. I first came into contact with Ted when I joined the U3A in 2001 immediately after finishing my final exam at the University of Huddersfield. I had done a History degree and, not working, I wanted to use my degree qualifications to a good end. The day after the finals I contacted the U3A office and offered my services as a Tutor in History. About twenty minutes after my telephone call to the office I received a call from Ted offering me a suitable venue. That location, Jubilee Centre Paddock, remained my classroom for the next 19 years of tutoring. At the opening of the 2001 year and my first class of students Ted was there to offer any assistance if required. Huddersfield U3A could not have had a more faithful servant than Ted Duggan. God Bless Him!

Michael Leech.

Kenneth Beachill

Sadly Kenneth died at his home on 22.07.26.

He was able to maintain his independence throughout his illness.

He did enjoy teaching the philosophy class and spoke warmly of the people he met there. He also attended a Spanish conversation class on Wednesdays. Others in the class were a friendly social group and he enjoyed their regular meetings.

Rosie Laver

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Ken Beachill. I met and knew Ken through his U3A Philosophy sessions. It was a privilege and a joy to be part of these group sessions and I am very grateful for Ken's guidance and leadership. Ken ensured we were all included valued and listened to. The groups were under his inspirational creative and very personable tutorship. We benefitted from his knowledge and wisdom. The groups were informative but relaxed and fun. Ken you will be missed. Rest in Peace. Forever in your debt.

Roger Milthorp

Registered Charity No 516502

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Aspin House, Block B, Station Road, Huddersfield, HD2 1UT

Telephone: 01484 308482

Website: www.huddersfieldu3a.org

October 2025

Statutory Notice

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026/2027

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Huddersfield & District University of the Third Age will be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 28 October 2026 at the United Reformed Church, Moldgreen, Huddersfield HD5 8AA.

Doors will open at 1.30 for a 2.00pm start

All persons attending must have paid their subscription for 2026/2027 and be in possession of an orange membership card. You will be asked to sign in so please bring your membership card with you so that you can quote your number

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM 2025/26 held on Wednesday 29 October 2025 at United Reformed Church
3. Matters Arising
4. Chair's opening address
5. Constitution changes
*Resolution: Members are requested to approve a minor update to the constitution as described**
6. Treasurer's report
7. Election of committee members
8. Any other business indicated to the Chair by 17 October 2025

**Our constitution is available to view on our website at www.huddersfieldu3a.org If approved the updated version will replace the current version on the website after the AGM*

Please remember to bring this newsletter to the meeting

Registered Charity No 516502

HUDDERSFIELD AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
Aspin House, Block B, Station Road, Huddersfield HD2 1UT

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 29 October 2025 at 2.00 pm at United Reformed Church

INTRODUCTION BY THE MEETING CHAIR

The chair of the meeting, Alison Newbery, explained that at an emergency committee meeting convened on 27 October she was asked to Chair this meeting in the absence of our former chair who resigned on 25 October.

In the Autumn Newsletter there was an update on the proposal and action agreed at the last AGM to affiliate to the Third Age Trust and to adopt their Beacon Administration System.

During negotiations with the Third Age Trust the committee received a Letter of Intent as a way of going forward. In discussions about this letter certain reservations became apparent among committee members, as a result of which the chair, the leader of the project, Dr Dallas Cliff, felt he had lost the confidence of the committee and resigned.

The committee would like to express our appreciation of the work Dallas did as the outstanding chair he was over the past seven years. The committee is extremely sorry to see him end his leadership.

At the next committee meeting on 18 November it is intended to discuss the appointment of new officers and the way forward on the affiliation project.

PRESENT

Alison Newbery (meeting chair), Joan Connally, Jenny Eaglestone, Janet Forde, Isabel Foster, Moira Marshall, Christopher Newbery, Monica Plested, Mark Robinson, Mike Scholes, Diana Wilson and 73 members

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Eileen Riley and John Dixon our retiring Treasurer.

The meeting agreed to express written thanks to John for his 20 years of service as our treasurer.

2 MINUTES OF THE AGM 2024/25 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2024 AT HUDDERSFIELD MISSION

These had been published in the Autumn Newsletter and were accepted as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

The affiliation project has already been noted

4 CHAIR'S OPENING ADDRESS

In the absence of the chair's formal address it was reported that in the 2024/25 financial year up 31 January membership stood at 1019 current members of which 181 were new. 216 had not renewed membership.

In the current year for comparison at 28 October we have 963 members of which 173 are new. 225 have not renewed.

Various marketing methods at some costs were used to try and attract new members but our opinion remains that word of mouth is the most successful method of recruitment and members were encouraged to spread the word.

5 CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The committee has recently reviewed our Constitution to ensure that it accurately reflects current requirements. The new version includes a number of small changes: 'Chairman' has been changed to 'Chair' throughout.

SECTION 3: MEMBERSHIP:

- Wording has been added to clarify that membership is not restricted to those over 50.

SECTION 4: MANAGEMENT

- Confirmation that committee members may stand for re-election after their three year term. This reflects the current situation.
- Activities Organiser removed from elected roles, as we no longer have such a position.

SECTION 5: MEETINGS

- Quorum requirement clarified (the lower of one tenth of members or 30 members)

Resolution: Members are requested to approve minor amendments and updates to the constitution as described

The changes to the constitution were approved.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT

- The accounts were printed in the Autumn Newsletter together with the External Examiner's report for your information
- The newsletter was sent to all current members by post
- The accounts were approved by the Trustees at our committee meeting on 19 August 2025
- In the absence of our retiring treasurer we are not in a position to take questions

Note: The accounts have been submitted to the Charity Commission on time.

7.ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following members had agreed to stand for committee membership for a three year period. They have each been proposed and seconded by members. Original paper work is held at the U3A office

Monica Plested

Joan Connally, our new treasurer

Mark Robinson

Each of these three appointments were approved.

With much regret we have accepted a written resignation from Dr Dallas Cliff.

8 AOB

No items were received in advance of the meeting.

Thanks were expressed on behalf of the meeting that the AGM had gone ahead despite difficult circumstances.

The chair concluded by thanking Mike Scholes supported by Monica Plested for organising the Gala Concert, Jean North for her help with the venue, and Kevan Shuttleworth for his audio-visual expertise.

The meeting closed at 2:17 pm.

HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT U3A CONSTITUTION

Proposed update

The committee has recently reviewed our Objects in the constitution to ensure it accurately reflects current requirements.

SECTION 2: OBJECTS

Change from

The objects of the Group are to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle aged and elderly people in HUDDERSFIELD and its surrounding locality.

To

The objects of the group are to offer to participants in Huddersfield and its surrounding locality a range of options providing knowledge, recreation, company and sporting activities. In particular these are targeted at those in their 'third age' such as (but not limited to) the retired or semi-retired.

The Committee asks that you agree this change.

2025-2026 Annual Accounts

The accounts for the AGM on 28th October 2026 are currently under review by our Independent Examiner, WYCAS (West Yorkshire Community Accounting Services). The final accounts plus supporting notes will be available to members by the 7th October via our website. Printed copies will be available at the AGM.

Joan Connally, Treasurer

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Nominee (Print).....Member No.....

Proposer (Print).....Member No.....

Proposer Signature:

Seconder (Print)Member No.....

Seconder Signature:

I agree to this nomination.

Nominee signature _____ Date _____

Nominations should be received in the office expressing interest before 17 October 2026



Autumn 2026

**Huddersfield and District
University of the Third Age**