

HALTON NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Britannia Railway Bridge / Silver Jubilee Bridge



Photo courtesy of Chris Lewis

Message from the Chair - Chris Lewis

I have just been to our General Meeting this afternoon and over 40 members attended and, I think, enjoyed Jennifer's presentation. It is good so many members come to our meetings. We now have some 120 members. About 20 members have not re-joined this year for a variety of reasons but we have new members that have replaced them. I welcome them.

I am also pleased that we are having new groups set up and we now have about 15. The new groups include a Lunch Group, a Day Trip Group, a Ten Pin Bowling Group, an Aviation Group and, of course, my Pub Group. In addition, a Walking Group has been re-introduced and it is hoped to keep the Science Group going with perhaps a different format. If you are interested in joining any of these groups, and have not already

registered, please email me and I will forward to the Group Leader. I take this opportunity to thank all the Group Leaders who put in the time and effort.

I have wanted for some time to mention the Halton Heritage Partnership which many of you have probably not heard of. It has about 20 organisations in the Halton area with interest in heritage and keeping it alive. Its website and social media outlets help bring history to life through oral and other media. It gives access to the heritage of Halton through thousands of objects, documents and photographs with over 3,000 items from local museums, history groups, libraries and the Town Hall. Halton u3a is a member and has representatives at its committee meetings. For a full list see its website: haltonheritage.co.uk It includes Catalyst, 8D (Widnes Railway Club with its excellent website) and both Runcorn and Widnes Historical Societies. I am involved with several. I have always been a great believer in organisations with similar interests helping each other. I asked the latter to give me an article about itself and it is included in this newsletter. I hope you read it.

I said previously that if we did not get more articles from members I would bore you with more railway articles. I am doing this as you will see!

January General Meeting - Buildings of Liverpool

Elaine Allen entertained us by speaking about some of the amazing buildings in Liverpool. She described the construction of the Waterfront including photographs of workmen (with no safety equipment) sitting on the Liver Birds as they secured them on the top of the building.

She continued with some of her favourite buildings and streets, many of which are regularly used as film locations. Many of us left the meeting intending to revisit the 1994 City of Architecture and Design, a world famous waterfront and to discover the buildings Elaine had shown to us.

January Travels - Chris Lewis, Halton u3a Chair

As I said in the last newsletter Jennifer and I started the New Year in Holland. We did go to the funeral in St. Andrews in Scotland, travelling by train to and from Glasgow where our son and friend, the latter living there, drove us to St Andrews for the funeral. We paid £21.90 each for the return journey between Warrington and Glasgow and had no problems.

My next journey was to go from Manchester to Durham and back. These tickets cost £1 each way because of a promotion by Trans Pennine Express, open to anyone. So did I go and see the Cathedral? Of course not! I spent a hour there, just in the station bar that served proper beer. Coming back I changed trains at Stalybridge with its brilliant station bar to have a swift half. Perhaps a good venue for a future Pub Group meeting? Two fast trains each hour go direct from Lea Green.

The next day something different again. A £53.55 return ticket each from Runcorn to Milton Keynes. There is a train every hour taking under one and a half hours. We could have done it cheaper but this ticket gave us the flexibility to return within a month of going. When we arrived there we visited Bletchley Park, well worth a visit. It cracked the codes used for German messages and shortened the Second World War. Jennifer has wanted to go there for many years. I do spoil her! The enormity of its operation was amazing, for example it employed 10,000 people at one time. After drinks at Wetherspoons (a pint and small wine costing £4.05 in total) we ate in a Turkish Restaurant. We stayed at a Premier Inn near Milton Keynes station (£43).

Next morning we met several men and women, the former all associated with Imperial College Railway Society. We started with a visit to Bricket Wood Station. One of these friends had chaired a group that had restored this station to its state about a hundred years ago. A local railway company had given them £250,000 to do it. We had 'elevenses' there. From here we caught the train to St Albans, not to visit the Abbey, as you may have guessed, but to visit a restored signal box. Even two children with us were fascinated that it was as if it was still in operation with bells ringing and lights showing the position of non-existent trains. (You can ask Jennifer what she thought!). Our train back to Runcorn was about 15 minutes late from Milton Keynes but that was no problem and enabled us to have Pizza. I could watch our train's progress on my mobile from Euston and even see more signals in front of it than the driver could such is modern technology. This saved us waiting on a cold platform.

As I write this I have one more trip planned in early February. I am paying £88 for a return to London but travelling in a first class coach so extra leg room. I am Treasurer of the Locomotive Club of Great Britain and have a meeting. Before that I am meeting a University friend for lunch.

Some people think that train fares are very expensive but the above shows that is not always true. The journeys are a bonus for me. However tickets can be very expensive. If you turn up at Runcorn station to buy a return ticket to London say at 8am on a weekday without a Railcard the prices are £343 standard (second) and £494 first class to travel on the fast Pendolinos. Virgin was responsible for introducing these high fares. They will probably increase in March. I have never paid more than £100 return standard or first class.

A Letter to the Editor - George Mullen, Halton u3a member

Since last month's newsletter, which included my bletherings, I've received several messages asking about Mary Anne and why I described her as a knocker upper. When I was a lad Widnes was an industrial town full of chemical factories. People lived in communities near to the factories and, not being able to use an iPad at home for such tasks as shovelling coal into the furnaces of places like copper smelters Thomas Bolton, had to actually go to work. Three shift working patterns were common and this meant 6-2, 2-10 and 10-6. Being on 'earlies' involved getting up at 5am at least. This was before digital alarms and smart phones. The choice was to leave the wireless on all night and be awakened by the Shipping Forecast or rely on a wind up alarm clock. If you remembered to set it.

But Mary Anne offered another option. To me in those days she seemed a shadowy, nocturnal and slightly mysterious little lady who lived in Travis Street which would now be in the middle of Asda car park. Every week she would compile a list of neighbours' shifts and what times they wanted to be woken or 'knocked up'. Very early each morning she would tour the area and, using a long wooden pole, tap gently on the bedroom windows of her clients each one at the agreed time. For this service, guaranteed whatever the weather, she charged tuppence per week. It seems that was a common tariff in those days as we've heard from Stanley Holloway when reciting his monologue on the Runcorn Ferry.

On the Grapevine - George Mullen, Halton U3a member

When we are choosing a bottle of wine we often search by grape variety such as Merlot, Malbec or Sauvignon Blanc. Alternatively we may prefer to select a wine region as in Frascati, Rioja or Chablis. Without doubt a region familiar to everyone is Champagne which is synonymous with sparkling wine. Of course fizz is produced internationally but can only be called Champagne if it originates from this specific French region. There are 319 villages in the area and between them they produce more than 300 million bottles every year. Despite the recent general downturn in wine consumption, sparkling wine remains very popular and sales increased by double digit percentages between 2021 and 2022. Sainsbury's reported record sales at Christmas. There are strict rules which govern how Champagne is made. It is usually a blend of grapes from a long established list of seven with another called Voltis being recently included. The three most commonly used are Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. If the label states 'Blanc de Blanc' this indicates only Chardonnay has been used. 'Blanc de Noir' means Pinot Noir. The process involved in making the wine is described as Methode Champenoise.

Sparkling wine made in eight other regions of France is called Cremant. It is made in the same way but may also include local grape varieties. One of the most popular examples is Cremant de Loire which is readily available in supermarkets. Another is Cremant d'Alsace from winemakers with the splendid name of Dopff and Irion. They are now owned by a company with the even more impressive name of Cave des Vignerons de Pfaffenheim. Try saying that after a glass or two. Something a little different is Cremant de Limoux. Described as Brut Nature it has no added sugar and is bone dry. It uses only the Chardonnay grape and retails at £14.95. Limoux is a commune about 30 kilometres due south of Carcassonne.

An interesting debate concerns which type of glass sparkling wine should be served in. I'm sure we all immediately think of a flute but not everyone agrees. Some knowledgeable folk in the business consider the flute is too narrow not allowing in enough oxygen for the wine to breathe. The coupe is too shallow meaning the fizz will escape very quickly. The design preferred by many is a regular white wine glass which is smaller than its red equivalent. In the publicity photo of a Pol Roger bottle it is interesting to note that the glass is the white wine version.

Controversy also surrounds who invented Champagne. The French claim it was a monk named Dom Perignon. But, in fact,



an English physician called Christopher Merrett discovered wine and cider makers in this country adding sugar to their product to create fizz. He was the first person to formulate the process 30 years before Perignon produced his first bubble. But, without doubt, Champagne is the name that captures the imagination. Everyone has heard of Bollinger. This was the brand featured in 14 James Bond films. It rose to popularity in the 1900s under the guidance of Lily Bollinger who is remembered for her famous comment.

“I drink Champagne when I’m happy and when I’m sad. Sometimes I drink it when I’m alone. When I have company I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it when I’m not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it... unless I’m thirsty.”

A Norfolk Tale - George Mullen, Halton u3a Member

My friend John and I have known each other since we were five years old, the day we started school. He lived in London for many years but has now retired to Acle, a village in Norfolk between Norwich and Great Yarmouth.

We met recently and he told me an interesting story about a character who lives in the village. He is the local handyman and oddjobber and is known as Old Tom. He is seen daily driving around in his truck going about his work. He has never been known to turn down a job. One day he was asked if he could deliver some wood to London. Tom said “Yes, of course” even though he had never been out of the village in his life.

On the agreed day the truck was loaded with the wood and Tom set off on his journey. As everyone knows that part of the world is not blessed with the best road system and journeys can take a long time depending on traffic conditions. On this day it was very busy. But apparently Old Tom is a patient man and was happy to stay tailgating an articulated wagon which was seemingly heading for the same destination. After a couple of delaying diversions Tom came across a place with lots of buildings and buses and busy with people. He stopped and went over to a man and asked if this was London. The guy said ‘No, this is Peterborough’ Tom returned to his truck and continued his journey. After crawling along for some time he arrived at another place again with buildings and buses and crowds of people. He asked a passer-by if this was London. The reply was “No, this is Watford”.

Not to be put off Tom journeyed on crawling even slower as the traffic became more dense. Eventually he reached a very big place with huge buildings, buses everywhere and more people than he had ever seen before. It had a river, an art gallery and a cathedral. Tom spotted a policeman and asked if this was London. The officer replied “Yes” Tom said “Where do you want the wood”.

u3a Online Learning Events - Anna Higgins, Halton u3a Website Administrator

Since becoming a member of Halton u3a one aspect of membership that I've greatly enjoyed has been taking advantage of the wide range of online learning events offered by The Third Age Trust. I have attended and benefited from sessions on family history,

computer safety awareness, plant folklore and on how to solve cryptic crosswords amongst other topics. At the time of writing the next online event in my diary is an introduction on how to use air fryers, together with some simple recipes. Hopefully after this our recently acquired air fryer which has been mainly languishing in a cupboard since purchase will see the light of day more regularly! These events which are available to all u3a members are usually free. Most of these opportunities are presented by other members as well as occasional talks from well-known speakers and organisations. These online events are hosted via Zoom so you will need a desk top computer, laptop, iPad or a mobile phone to access them. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom it is reasonably simple to use. Information on how to use Zoom and the events coming up in the near future as well as how to book can be found by visiting the Third Age Trust website at at : <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Fellow members of Halton u3a may also be familiar with Zoom and will be pleased to help you get to grips with this online platform.

Widnes Historical Society - Keeping the Past Alive - Chris Lewis, Halton u3a Chair

In 1951 a small group of interested people entered discussions concerning the formation of a local History Society in Widnes. A meeting was called to seek public support and to present a programme of possible lectures for the following winter. A committee was formed the same evening and the Mayor of Widnes was invited to be President of the newly formed Widnes Historical Society. By the end of the first year the society boasted a membership of 45 people each paying 5 shillings a year and 2 shillings and sixpence for juniors. For over 70 years the society has gone from strength to strength thanks to its members and volunteers.



The picture shows Chris Parlane, Chair of Widnes Historical Society and Frank Lawless, Chair of the Halton Heritage Partnership.

Its aim is to encourage and improve the knowledge of historical topics both nationally and regionally and Halton's local history with particular reference to Widnes and surrounding areas. The society offers local people the opportunity to learn more about its history through the publication of pamphlets, leaflets and books and attendance at various heritage events.

It has in the past arranged regular excursions to places of historic interest, promoting social inclusion and boosting friendship. The society currently meets for 10 months of the year on the 2nd Thursday of the month in Farnworth Primary School, Pit Lane, Widnes, where there is a speaker presentation and a chat over tea, coffee and biscuits with a regular raffle and when possible there is a book sales table. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday, 14th March 2024 and the topic is Hush Hush – Rhydymwyn - ICI's Secret Place!

Membership of the group is available to all and we provide a welcoming environment where people can learn and meet others and help to combat social isolation. Non-members are also able to attend for a small fee. There is now a Facebook page that over 3,300 people have accessed where historical questions are regularly answered by members and followers and photographs added. The Facebook page also gives up-to-date information regarding speakers. You can contact the society via email at widneshistoricalsociety@live.co.uk or visit the Facebook page.

Group Reports

- **iPad Group (Group Leader, Paula Fox)** - On the first Thursday each month members attend a free workshop at Apple, Liverpool One. These fun sessions have been invaluable in helping members gain confidence and to get the most from their iPads. In February we learnt aspects of some security settings, including the importance of nominating a trusted person as a Legacy Contact. On the third Thursday each month we meet at 11.00am in Cronton Methodist Chapel Hall, Chapel Lane, Cronton, WA8 4NT, to follow up and revise what was learnt at the Apple sessions and also to share tips and know-how, and learn from each other. Beginners welcome, all you need is an Apple iPad and a notebook.
- **Bowls Group (Group Leader, Paula Fox)** - The group meets to play at 10.00am every Tuesday from April to September at Hough Green Park Bowling Club, Royal Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HL. No experience necessary and bowls are available to borrow. Over the winter, essential maintenance to the green and surroundings has taken place, so it should be in tip top condition for when we commence play in April. In the meantime, there will be a social gathering with hot drinks at the clubhouse at 10.30am on Tuesday, 20th February 2024. Complete beginners are welcome to join us.
- **Bridge Group (Group Leader, David Burrows)** - The group meets every Thursday at 10.00am in Ditton Community Centre, Dundalk Road, Widnes WA8 8DF. The group is running well, back in our original room at Dundalk Road with usually between 3 and 4 tables playing. We are a friendly group with all levels of bridge skills and welcome members new to bridge but familiar with whist. We have a library of tuition books free to borrow to get new players familiar with bidding and techniques. Meetings usually start with an analysis of a hand played elsewhere and a discussion of how the hand was bid and played which is both informative and appreciated. Sessions vary between free play and themed instruction with a short talk followed by play based on the theme of the week which is stay-man and transfers. Several of our members also belong to local Bridge Clubs, details of which widens the possibility to play more than once a week. Bridge is a great way to meet people and have fun exercising the grey cells.
- **Reading Group (Group Leader, Barry Cotterill)** - Our book for discussion in January was 'The Foundling' by Stacey Halls. It's a historical novel based in 17th century London. The story begins with the Thomas Coram's Hospital for Foundlings, which cared for babies at risk of abandonment and is today a museum known as the Foundling Hospital. The book seems to have been extensively researched with regards

to the Foundling Hospital and depicts the vast difference between the upper and lower classes of 17th century society.

The story is told from two very contrasting viewpoints. Firstly from Bess, who is an unmarried girl, whose only choice is to give up her newborn baby, Clara, to be cared for by the Foundling Hospital. Each baby arriving at the hospital was given a unique identification number and either a token (broken in 2) or usually a swatch was cut from the mother's dress and pinned to the baby's admission sheet. The babies names were changed within 24 hours of arriving at the hospital.

The second protagonist is Alexandra who becomes the 'mother' of Charlotte, who is the same child. When Bess is eventually in a position to claim her baby (now a little girl) back, Bess finds that the baby has already been claimed, almost straight away, by someone posing as herself. The story then begins to unfold.....

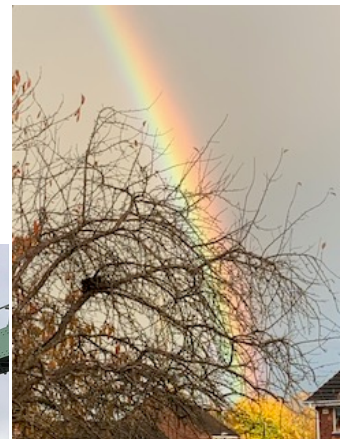
There are many twists and turns to the storyline. Alexandra's troubled past is revealed bit by bit and all eventually fits in to place and makes sense.

The book was well received by members of the group and we all agreed that the ending was well thought out and made perfect sense, the readers not knowing how else the story could have ended.

The group usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10.30am on the ground floor of Widnes Library. New members are welcome. Our next book is the classic novel 'Jamaica Inn' by Daphne du Maurier.

- **Photography Group (Group Leader, Barry Cotterill)** - The group continues to meet monthly on the third Monday of each month at 10.30am at Rivendell Garden Centre. The next three meetings are Monday, 19th February 2024, Monday, 18th March 2024 and Monday, 15th April 2024. The challenge set for February is the weather so a broad range of subjects, March is spring, so again a wide subject range. April we hope to look at macro settings or close up images.

New members very welcome. You don't need a fancy camera, phones or iPads are fine. If you would like to join us please come along to one of the meetings. Any photos you want to share with the group ideally need to be on a card or memory stick so we can see them on a laptop.



- **Science is for Everyone (Group Leader, Bob Roach)** - The group held its final meeting under Bob Roach discussing various subjects. The group will continue but the next meeting will be at 1pm on Monday, 26th February 2024 in St Paul's Church Hall, Widnes to discuss its format for the future. If you haven't already expressed interest in its future please let Chris Lewis know.

- **History (Group Leader, Bob Roach)** - The group meets at St Paul's Church Hall, Widnes at 1pm on the first and third Tuesdays in the month. The group is aimed at people who may not know a great deal of history but are interested in building up their knowledge. No one is an expert, our approach (true to u3a thinking) is one of 'shared learning'.

There are good history programmes on TV, BBC in particular. A recent series titled 'Simon Schama's History of Now' being an example, several found this interesting. Another one that was recommended was 'England's Forgotten Queen: The Life and Death of Lady Jane Grey'.

In line with our long term approach of working through the monarchs of Britain, we are now up to George VI, King Charles' grandfather. The early part of his reign was dominated by the build up to and the start of World War II. This involved:

- In 1938 Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain meeting Adolf Hitler and returning with a 'peace in our time' agreement. However this was soon undermined by Hitler making more attacks that contradicted the agreement. This led to a declaration of war. Eventually, Chamberlain stepped aside, and died a few months later.
- Winston Churchill became Prime Minister at a time when morale was rock bottom. One of his famous remarks was "We shall fight them on the beaches ... we shall never surrender".
- There was the Dunkirk evacuation - many of the British Army were brought back from the beaches but a great deal of equipment was left behind.
- Hitler then planned to invade England - 'Operation Sealion' but needed to dominate the air for this to have a chance of success. Defences were built up in England should an invasion take place, e.g. establishing The Home Guard - "Don't tell him Pike".
- As the Germans needed domination of the skies for this to succeed, the Battle of Britain took place, with the British Air Force being victorious.

At the next meeting we will look at:

- The help provided in achieving this aerial victory by radar, and how a key feature of which was a new plastic invented at ICI Northwich - polythene later military developments.
 - How the war affected civilians.
 - The defeat of Churchill at the General Election after the end of the war.
 - Initiatives of the Labour Government, headed by Clement Attlee, e.g. setting up the National Health Service.
- **Family History Group (Group Leader, Alec Hough)** - The group meets on the third Monday of each month from 2.00pm to 3.30pm in Room 11 at Widnes Library, Victoria Square, WA8 7QT. Our next meeting will be on Monday, 19th February 2024 when we will be having a presentation on the use of DNA in Family History research.

All members are welcome whether or not they have started researching their family's history. For those who want some help in getting started, we offer one-to-one sessions at dates to suit you in your local library to show you the basics. You may be surprised at what you find out about your family.

- **Living History Group - (Group Leader, Geoff Dutton)** - Due to the bad weather Living History Group's peregrinations around the area have been limited. I hope to resurrect our Brewery trip to J.W. Lees Middleton Brewery for the summer.
- **Gardening Group - (Leaders, Chris and Colin McConnell)** - We did not have a meeting in January, but held our New Year lunch at the Griffin, Bold Heath, Widnes on Monday, 15th January 2024. This was enjoyed by all the 18 members who attended.

We are all looking forward to this year's gardening season with garden visits and events being planned. Julie has organised another coach trip with a visit to the Southport Flower Show in August which has been well supported and will be another enjoyable day out, thank you.

The next Green Shoots Gardening Club meeting is at 10.30am on Monday, 19th February 2024 at Rivendell Garden Centre, Mill Lane, Widnes, WA8 3UL.

- **The Cinema Group (Group Leaders, Hazel Landon and Judith Byrne)** - The Cinema Group meets on a Tuesday afternoon (usually around 2.00pm) when a 'good' film is showing. This will not be every week; it is a come when you like group.
 - Sometimes it will be short notice, information will be published on the Cinema What's App Group as films for the week are only released on a Sunday.
 - Tickets are usually about £5.95. You can get a Combo ticket for an extra £1 which includes a drink.
 - We meet in the Foyer so that we can get a row of seats together.
 - Car share is encouraged, as is bring a friend.
 - If you are interested, please let Chris Lewis know along with your contact details, so that Judith can put you on the Cinema What's App Group.

Recently the group went to see 'Men in a Boat' which was enjoyed by all those attending. Please see the Cinema What's App Group for forthcoming films.

- **Ten Pin Bowling Group (Group Leader, Davis Bissenden)** - The Ten Pin Bowling Group meets at 10.00am on Wednesdays at Widnes Super Bowl, apart from during school holidays. Two games of bowling, including coffee and bacon roll, cost £7.99 under the 'Nifty Fifty' option which is only available to over 50's Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 11.00am (two games take a little over an hour - one game option is also available at £6.99). Participants are of course responsible for their own fitness and ability to take part and should supply emergency contact details. Members interested can contact me through the website or just turn up.
- **Visits to Interesting Pubs (Group Leader, Chris Lewis)** - The group is looking to visit pubs or bars that have character, not run-of-the mill estate pubs. The first meeting was at the Society which is under the railway bridge between Runcorn station and the Mersey. The main room is the old Cooperative butcher shop. The owner is renovating the building and has exposed the original tiled walls. The food served, mainly of eastern Asia variety at a very reasonable price, was enjoyed. But most importantly to me one beer is hand pumped and of excellent quality. Jennifer and I have been going there for over four years. It was certainly unique for our first get together.

After meeting in the Society in Runcorn in November an impromptu meeting was held in the same venue a few days before Christmas. Well, Jennifer and I were going there anyway! The group members have been circulated with details of the next visit. Because the evenings get dark early we are not combining these visits with a short walk before but intend to in the spring. If you would like to be on the group mailing list please let me know.

The group now has 19 members, it met at the Castle in Runcorn in January. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 15th February 2024. If you didn't get details of this meeting and want to join the group please let Chris Lewis know.

- **Walking Group (Group Leader, Rob James)** - The first walk from Rivendell Garden Centre to the Dream Monument was well attended considering the recent storms and heavy rain we have experienced. Everyone who attended enjoyed the fresh air and the post walk social at Rivendell Garden Centre cafeteria.

Details of the February walk to the Within Way, Hale on Monday, 12th February 2024 have been sent to the group. The current plan is to arrange two walks per month when possible on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. The walks for March will be taking place on the 11th and 25th with the routes and dates to follow shortly. This may not be convenient for everyone but it may be subject to change during the spring and summer with the possibility of introducing some evening walks during this period. There will be at least two weeks' notice given for each walk.



An article about the Within Way walk will be included in the next newsletter as there is plenty of interesting information on the walk relating to the local history in the area.

If anyone is interested in being an assistant guide for future walks then please let me know.

If you wish to join the group please contact me through the contact page on the website. A Whats App Group has also been set up for those interested.

- **Lunch and Day Trip Group (Group Leader, Patricia Quarton)** - The Lunch Group will restart with a Carvery on Sunday, 18th February 2024 at the Cook House, Liverpool Road, Widnes, WA8 7ER. Tables are booked for 1pm and the cost is £9.99 payable on the day. The plan is to have one lunch a month; venues and days of the week will vary. As the nights get lighter I hope to arrange evening meals so members who have daytime commitments are not left out.

I'm also starting a Day Trip Group, the first of which will be to York on Thursday, 4th April 2024 the price is £26. I need to have the money before I can book so I'll need names and money by the March General Meeting. The plan is to arrange one day trip a month.

Anyone interested please contact either myself or Chris Lewis through the contact page on the website.

- **Proposed New Group - Aviation Group** - My name is Colin and I have over 50 years experience in aviation and am hoping to gauge interest in a group interested in all things aviation. Anything goes perhaps talks about aircraft, visits to local museums, airfield history, perhaps you have a story to tell. We are surrounded in Halton by much aviation history, airfields and manufacturers. To be honest never done anything like this before but if you are interested, please contact Chris Lewis through the contact page of the Halton u3a website.

If you are interested in any of our groups and would like further information, Group Leaders can be contacted through the contact page on the Halton u3a website, or you can contact our Secretary, Caroline Nesbitt.

Next General Meeting and Coffee Catch-up

The March General Meeting will take place at 1.30pm on Thursday, 14th March 2024 at the Masonic Hall, Widnes. The speaker will be Paula Parle, Sport and Physical Activity Development Officer for Halton. Her talk will be on Physical Activity for Health. She will include a taster session of active bingo with a small prize!

The February coffee catch up will be at 2.00pm on Thursday, 22nd February 2024 at Rivendell Garden Centre, Widnes.

The March coffee catch up will be at 2.00pm on Thursday, 28th March 2024 at Rivendell Garden Centre, Widnes.

If any members would like to give a presentation at a future event, or would like to contribute a short article to the newsletter, please contact our Chair, Chris Lewis, or send articles to the newsletter editor through the contact page on the Halton u3a website.

Please note the last date for contributions to the newsletter is the 10th of each month.

Further information and contact details can be found on the Halton u3a website