



## Hoylake, West Kirby & District U3A



[www.u3asites.org.uk/hoylake](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/hoylake)

APRIL/MAY 2024

Reg. Charity no. 1164889

A message from the Chair ...

Here we are almost into Spring (at least I hope so) and the signs of blossoms on some trees is encouraging!



We have had some very good turnouts for the speaker meetings lately, which I think is a great sign that you are enjoying the diverse range of Speakers and subjects that Jules is providing for us.

Can I remind you all that apart from the Speakers themselves, everyone working at the monthly meetings is a volunteer? Many of us are Committee members, but we also have a wonderful team of helpers to check you in, assist you on the groups table, and cheerfully provide us all with refreshments. We are grateful to every one of them. We couldn't manage without them.

The U3A is a self-help group, none of us are paid, so I think you will agree that between us we do very well. If you are interested in joining the band of additional helpers who step in when are regulars can't attend, please contact me.

Linda



February 2024 – another well-attended Speaker meeting. (*the only empty seat belonged to the photographer!*)



## Our Speakers

Dear members,

You should all now have your yellow card detailing our speakers for the rest of 2024.

I wanted to let you know that Jonny (the Pastor at Hope Church) who is also the Audio-visual technician for our social meetings, will be on a Sabbatical until August. The church will work hard to ensure that Jonny's absence does not impact in our meetings. They are making alternative arrangements for our meetings to be covered. But please be patient if we do encounter any technical problems.

Best wishes,  
Jules



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**After our popular trip to York, we can look forward to the following Social Outings**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** we plan to visit Harewood House in Yorkshire. – £38 including entry tickets. Further details and prices will be available at the April Committee meeting. Come and see us on the social table.



Harewood House was built by Edward Lascelles in 1759, and is the former home of Princess Mary, sister to Edward VIII and King George VI and aunt to Queen Elizabeth II; it is still owned by the Lascelles family, the Duke and Duchess of Harewood, and is one of the treasure houses of England. As you walk round the House, you can see portraits by Reynolds, Gainsborough and many others. Outside you can stroll in the wonderful Italianate terraced gardens. Lunches and refreshments can be found in the Terrace or Courtyard cafes or the Bothy tearoom.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June** - We plan to visit the British Ironworks in Oswestry.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August** - Shrewsbury Flower Show.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September** - A trip to Beaumaris.

Royal Liverpool Golf Club Christmas Lunch: Mark Brocklehurst, our sponsor for last year's lunch, has very kindly agreed to sponsor us this year, and we are currently awaiting confirmation of a confirmed booking from the Restaurant managers.

**For any enquiries you can email : [social@hwkdu3a.org.uk](mailto:social@hwkdu3a.org.uk) or contact Carol on 0151 364 4554 or Wendy at 0151 632 5112.**



## Membership Renewals .... Thank you.

A big thank you to our members for making this the most efficient year for renewals. Thank you for using the new methods for payment both online and by card. Nearly 80% of our members used the Sumup card /online system for making their renewals.

The breakdown is as follows:

Sumup Card at the speaker meeting	54.5%
Sumup Online using the link provided	22.5%
Cash and cheques	20.1%
Directly paid into the bank (BACS)	2.7%

The online system worked very well although two payments were made without inserting names. We were able to sort these out but please ensure you do put in your forename and surname using the online system.

Cash and cheque payments involve much more work for your treasurer and the membership team so please consider using one of the Sumup methods for future renewals. You will notice that we are now accepting card payments for Social events, this also reduces the workload for the treasurer and social team.

Thank you for your patience at the speaker meetings during the renewal period, all the memberships were renewed by the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, and this was a significant improvement over previous years.



Liz Webster Hon Treasurer  
Mike Waring Data Manager



## New Members Update

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following people who joined us recently. They are: John Fairburn, John Fry, Carol Gordon, Ronald Henderson, Valerie Howell, Eva Hughes, David Knowles, Nina Phillips, Roy Phillips and Peter Wright.



We hope you are now enjoying the friendship and fun that our U3A has to offer.

## We are sad to report the death of two of our members.



**Arthur Stott** - Former member, Arthur passed away after a long illness. Many of the online-garden group will remember him as he and his wife, Liz were regulars on many of the trips. Liz ran the tap-dancing group for some years. Our sympathies go to Liz and their family who will be missing this very nice man very much.

**David Crelley** – David was a fairly recent member who was a member of the Science group until his illness. We send sincere sympathies to his brother Tony, who is a member, and his wife, our Groups co-ordinator Helen.

## News from the Interest Groups



Here are some of the groups which have spaces

- Antiques & Collectibles - Contact Jane Kennedy 0151 625 9969
- Backgammon - Contact Rosemary Tate 0151 625 6259
- French (beginners & intermediate) - Jean Nile 0151 625 1563
- Local History - David Royse 0151 458 1485
- History 2 - Ruth Simmons 07948 631 730
- Mahjong - Pat Marr 0151 837 2205
- Poetry - Ann Johnson 0151 678 1260
- Science & Technology - Mike Waring 07792 578 414

We would like to start the following Groups:

- Everyday Philosophy & Ethics.
- Walking - A group where you can take your dog if you wish
- What the Papers Say.

If you are interested in joining one of the above please contact me.

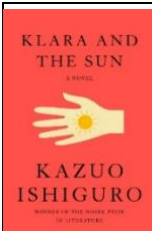
Helen Crelley 07794 636 999 or email [hcrelley@gmail.com](mailto:hcrelley@gmail.com)

**Local Interest Group 5** is hoping to start up in May, and can take a few more members.

Members of this group must be prepared, together with another group member, to take a turn in researching, presenting, and arranging a tour or visit to a local place of interest in Wirral or Liverpool. A selection of venues will be provided.

Please contact: [marbroom@gmail.com](mailto:marbroom@gmail.com) if you are interested.





## BOOK REVIEW by Linda Trim

We recently read this book in our reading group; members reviews were mixed, but many liked it very much. It is available from the library, why not give it a try?

### **Klara & The Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro:**

Kazuo Ishiguro won a Nobel prize in 2017 for his first novel. His novels are all differently themed, so no repeating of an interesting story with another in the same genre.

Klara is a creation. She is an AI, an artificial friend programmed to respond to the person/family to whom she is sold. She is made to be a companion to a young person, and the story revolves around her thinking, thoughts, and responses to the young woman with whom she is paired, Josie.

The world Josie lives in seems to be more dystopian than utopian, yet people have personalities that we can recognize and identify with. Klara observes and watches and thinks, although her thinking is perhaps not all it should be, she perseveres and tries in every way to help Josie and be a good companion.

I found it an easy and compelling read, and if you are willing to try a novel that is sci-fi but not overwhelmingly so, then this could be the book for you.

### **Your U3A Committee Contacts**

<b>Linda Trim</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>07583 653 689</b>	<b><a href="mailto:trim2803@gmail.com">trim2803@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Liz Webster</b>	Treasurer	07977 145 395	<a href="mailto:treasurer@hwkdu3a.org">treasurer@hwkdu3a.org</a>
<b>Barbara Kirby</b>	Secretary	0151 632 2901	<a href="mailto:Beky2740@gmail.com">Beky2740@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mike Waring</b>	Data /Vice.Chairman	07792 578 414	<a href="mailto:membership@hwkdu3a.org">membership@hwkdu3a.org</a>
<b>Jules Lee</b>	Speakers/V.Chairman	07881 885 423	<a href="mailto:juleslee65@hotmail.com">juleslee65@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Jonathan Thornton</b>	Webmaster/publicity	07742 907 777	<a href="mailto:thornton_jonathan@hotmail.com">thornton_jonathan@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Helen Crelley</b>	Groups/Beacon	0151 678 5714	<a href="mailto:hcrelley@gmail.com">hcrelley@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hilary Alcock</b>	Interest Groups	07864 014 291	<a href="mailto:hil7mill@btinternet.com">hil7mill@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Jean Graham</b>	Membership	0151 625 2370	<a href="mailto:membership@hwkdu3a.org">membership@hwkdu3a.org</a>
<b>Anne Thorne</b>	Membership	07788 373 087	<a href="mailto:membership@hwkdu3a.org">membership@hwkdu3a.org</a>
<b>Wendy McKeown</b>	Social	0151 632 5112	<a href="mailto:wendymckeown76@yahoo.co.uk">wendymckeown76@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Carol Bradstreet</b>	Social	0151 364 4554	<a href="mailto:cabradstreet6@gmail.com">cabradstreet6@gmail.com</a>
<b>Terry McKeown</b>	Data/speakers	0151 632 5112	<a href="mailto:terrymckeown76@gmail.com">terrymckeown76@gmail.com</a>
<b>Marjorie Hargreaves</b>	Newsletters	0151 632 1188	<a href="mailto:marbroom@gmail.com">marbroom@gmail.com</a>