

Haxby & Wigginton u3a Newsletter

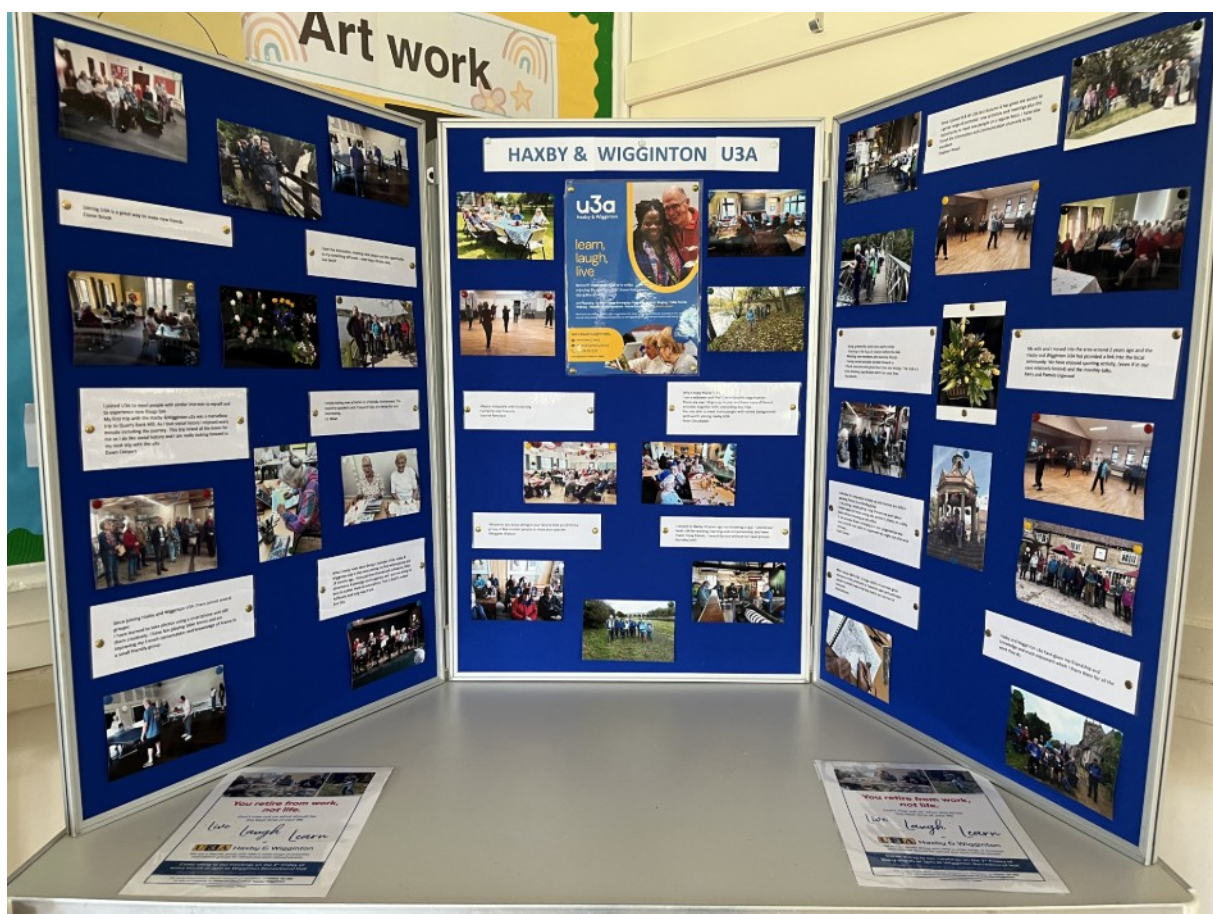
August 2026.



Our website address is <https://www.hawu3a.org/>

u3a Registered Charity number 1118861

"The object of the u3a is the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development" [a quote from the Charity Commission registration set out by the Third Age Trust and included in our constitution].



Above – “Our” display board. Haxby & Wigginton u3a took part in the celebration of the centenary of Wigginton Recreation Hall on 20th June 2026.

Also in this issue ...

... we include reports on 2 recent visits organised by the social team and another by the Science & Engineering Group; Poets’ Corner; salient points from a recent seminar on volunteering and news from the Third Age Trust.

SKIPTON CANAL BOAT TRIP



One sunny day at the end of June a group of us set off for Skipton. We were hoping that it wouldn't be too hot but the air con on the coach kept us comfortable. We were dropped off near the canal and boarded in good time for the 12.00 departure. We all had a designated seat at one of the tables and we opened the windows so had plenty of fresh air.

During the two-hour cruise we were served afternoon tea. The choice was Savoury – pork pie, sausage roll, sandwiches and buttered scone with jam and cream or Regular – sandwiches, scone with jam and cream and cakes. There was an unlimited supply of tea and coffee and the bar was open. Perfect. The canal boat travelled slowly so we could watch the scenery pass by and there were other boats around. All very pleasant.

It was very hot when we disembarked two hours later so we wandered towards the market, some people went shopping, some went to the Town Hall to see the exhibition there and to cool down and others just had a wander until it was time to return to the coach for the journey home.

So, it wasn't too hot after all and I think we all enjoyed the day out.

Photo and report from Dorothy Croft

FRIDAY TALKS

A reminder that we always take a break in August. We then return on 18th September with an important talk on safeguarding against fraud. This is a change from our previously published programme as the speaker had to pull out of that commitment, but we hope to invite her back in 2027. As usual, the talk will be in the Wigginton Recreation Hall; admission is £2 including refreshments and doors open at 1.30.

POETS CORNER

Our group of poetry writers have submitted the following little ditty for the newsletter. They add that hopefully there will be more - and better - to follow [their words!].

*We're members of the U3A,
Could be considered old and grey;
But poetry writing keeps us sharp,
Ensuring we stay young at heart.*

E.N.M.

Daily Inspiration from Dr David Hamilton. He wrote "The Little Book of Kindness".

*A simple thought:
Be kind. Best you can.
Where you can.
When you can.
To who you can.
And to yourself.*

VOLUNTEERING

The Yorkshire and Humber Region u3a and the Third Age Trust organised a workshop held on 15th July. It was titled "Recruitment and Retention", but this proved to be a misnomer, as it was about our volunteers. Volunteers are critical to the u3a movement, we are a membership organisation, volunteer led but how much do the general membership realise this and recognise the challenge. The challenge is common to most if not all volunteer led organisations in the UK today – the shortage of volunteers.

Here in Haxby & Wigginton, we are fortunate to have an active Committee; a great team of Group Leaders and people who step up to make refreshments or set up tables and chairs for our meetings. Even so, it would be nice if we can expand the number of volunteers helping us. So what are the opportunities?

- The rota for chair stackers and tea / coffee makers is managed by Chris Jaques. Please contact him at chairman@hawu3a.org if you are willing to be added to this rota.
- Could you sign up for the next workshop organised by the Yorkshire and Humberside Region, to be held in Leeds on September 22nd; it's for anyone interested in becoming a trustee [aka Committee Member]? Any u3a member may attend the workshop and should contact either Chris Jaques or Nick David - chairman@hawu3a.org or vicechairman@hawu3a.org.
- Our speaker finder Mike Calvert wishes to hand over the role; could you be his successor? If you are willing to help in this way please contact Chris Jaques in the first instance - chairman@hawu3a.org

Volunteering is a benefit of membership! You, yes you can make a difference. It is said that you need at least 10% of the membership actively volunteering to sustain the organisation and grow. In our case that's 68 members!

The picture below shows volunteers manning our display stand at the Wigginton Recreation Hall centenary event.



WRH CENTENARY

Wigginton Recreational Hall Trust is celebrating their Centenary this year, and held an open day style event on Saturday 20th June at the Hall. All the Groups who use the Hall were invited to set up a table to display their activities and show what they do, and there were 21 group displays. Refreshments of teas and coffees, cakes and biscuits were provided by the WI. The Civic Party of the Lord Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Sheriff visited the event and spoke with all the groups exhibiting and assisted with the raffle. Haxby & Wigginton u3a manned a table with a display board (see photo) which showed photographs of Groups activities and quotes from members on why they enjoy H&W u3a. We received a lot of interest from the Civic Party and the public. The event was also in support of the Fire Brigade Charity and was attended by the York Fire and Rescue Service with a fire engine and their river rescue boat.

HAXBY & WIGGINTON U3A 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Haxby and Wigginton u3a will be 20 years old this summer, and we are holding a 20th Anniversary celebration on Saturday 29th August. By the time you read this, it is likely that the event will be sold out. We are grateful to GrazetablebySally for the catering; Topsy Fox for the drinks and the Steve Cassidy duo for the entertainment. A full report will be included in the next Newsletter.

TRIP TO SCARBOROUGH

Sue Eley writes that the Scarborough Trip on July 16th was a great success, thanks to the weather and the happy day trippers. The Scarborough Fair Museum created much chat, interest and fun and evoked many a memory from days long past. Some of us enjoyed several fairground rides but of course, the Golden Gallopers caused the greatest fun and hilarity as some oldies struggled to mount and dismount these beautiful beasts!



Lunch had mixed reviews, but generally, comments were positive, particularly for the service in a very busy restaurant. The afternoon proved that there's

plenty to do in Scarborough. Between us we paddled, spent a little time in the amusements, took a bus ride to the South Bay and wandered round various gardens, relived memories of the water chute and watching mock battles on the lake at Peasholm Park, visited the Art Gallery and Rotunda, the North Bay Railway, walked along the pier, along the beach, along the sea front, shopped and had ice cream. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day out.

A few quotes from our members:

- I took a few steps on the dance floor to read the sign which said 'Please don't walk on the dance floor'!
- I wished we could have danced the Veleta on the beautiful dance floor.
- We had a whisk like that, and a Bero recipe book. My mum had two Bero books!
- Don't worry about getting off the horses, gravity will help. (It didn't)
- And finally, A truly wonderful day.

Thank you for all the feedback.



LOOKING AHEAD

The Social Team is hoping to arrange a visit to Salts Mill and Saltaire, near Bradford, on Wednesday 7th October. Salts Mill opened in 1853, the centrepiece of Sir Titus Salt's Utopian vision of Saltaire. He built the adjoining 'model village' to house his workers. Cloth production continued until 1986, and the following year the Mill was bought by the philanthropist Jonathan Silver, who imagined it as a place where culture and commerce could thrive together. In 2001 Saltaire became a UNESCO World Heritage site, UNESCO noting that *'Saltaire is an outstanding and well-preserved example of a mid 19th century industrial town.....the layout and architecture admirably reflect mid 19th century philanthropic paternalism, as well as the important role played by the textile industry in social and economic development.'*

The Mill now houses a variety of galleries, including a permanent David Hockney exhibition, which has been extended to commemorate the artist's death earlier this year. Shops include the Poster Shop, selling licensed Hockney posters and postcards, a bookshop, a furniture shop, and an antiques gallery. The galleries include a jewellery exhibition, and an early music shop with the world's largest collection of medieval, baroque and renaissance instruments. There are two cafes in the Mill, and an espresso bar. The Mill is on five levels, with good accessibility throughout. There are lifts and disabled toilets. Saltaire is built in the Italianate style, giving it an enduring beauty and charm. You are free to wander around, but please note that some streets are cobbled and quite steep. There are some magnificent and historic buildings, places to eat, some shops, and a lovely park. At present I am asking for expressions of interest for this trip. As Saltaire and the Mill are free to enter, the only cost is the coach, which is likely to be £13-£15, depending on how many sign up for the trip. If you would like to register your interest, please email Philip Shorey on philipjshorey@gmail.com or call 07833 745415.

If you enjoy our day trips, outings and events, please do contact us if you have any suggestion or ideas for next year. Some ideas are already on the list:

- Himalayan Gardens and Sculpture Park
- Salford Quays and The Lowrie
- A Film Night
- and maybe a short 1, 2 or 3 night UK break

Any ideas should be sent to a member of the Social Team via the Haxby and Wigginton website and thank you to members for the above suggestions.

S&E GROUP VISIT TO THE DERWENT VALLEY LIGHT RAILWAY

Geoff Ball, Group Leader reports that a small number of the Science and Engineering Group paid a visit to the Derwent Valley Light Railway (DVLR) at Murton Park on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. On arrival we were met by Ellen who supplied tea / coffee and biscuits whilst waiting for all to arrive.

Tony, Ellen's husband, and a Trustee of the DVLR, then gave us a talk on the history of the DVLR and the preservation of the line. The DVLR was always a private railway and started out in 1912 running between Layerthorpe and Cliffe Common, near Selby, with 11 stations in all. Its nickname was The Blackberry Line and it was originally intended as a freight line but also carried passengers from 1913 to 1926. There was a lot of freight activity during WWII but activity slowly decreased after that and the last train ran on 27 September, 1981. The line reopened in 1993 as a preserved railway running diesel locomotives on Sundays and Bank Holidays. It's well worth a visit!



After the talk we visited various areas including the station, shop and signal box. There a number of us had a go at operating a semaphore signal near the station using the large levers in the box. The first 90% of travel was quite easy but the final 10% needed quite a lot of pull!

A very enjoyable and informative visit.

Photos from Charles Wilson and Gordon Moore



NEWS FROM THE THIRD AGE TRUST

Iain Cassidy, CEO of the Third Age Trust wrote from the u3a Festival in York, the biggest ever gathering of u3a members in our history. *"This morning, members have been forest bathing, making jewellery, playing sports and learning all sorts of new things. A huge thank you to the team of members, volunteers and staff who've worked to bring it all together - it's brilliant to be here among the action and to meet so many of you".*

NATIONAL u3a FESTIVAL 1ST TO 3RD JULY 2026

Carolyn Addy writes;-

At the beginning of July, I attended the second u3a Festival at York University. This is held every two years. For the inaugural one in 2024, I was a volunteer steward and met people from u3as all over Britain. You can attend for 1, 2 or 3 days. I recommend the three days as you are stuck for choice of activities. There is something for everybody, from highbrow activities to the whimsical.

There is a variety of sports from Tai Chi by the lake and petanque on the lawn outside Heslington Hall to cricket and pickleball. Crafts include working with flowers and macrame, with portrait drawing in charcoal and landscapes in watercolours. Also there were music workshops (I did one on handbell ringing) and concerts - the steel band was superb. Overall my favourite activity was the wine tasting.

To get the most out of it I would recommend staying on campus as the activities start at 9am and finish after 9pm. All in all it was a really interesting and fun 3 days. Roll on 2028!

U3A INTEREST GROUPS ONLINE

There are a wide range of Interest Groups with meetings held online, providing all members the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from home. The activities are run by u3a members and are a great way to meet people from all across the u3a movement. Membership is £12 per year, (or £6 if joining between October to March).

Link:- www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online

SUBJECT ADVISORS

The Third Age Trust has many Subject Advisors to assist Group Leaders and Groups Coordinators with advice and suggestions in over 90 different subject areas.

Link:- www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subjects

THE THIRD AGE TRUST [TAT] STRATEGY FOR 2026-2029

The following item on the Third Age Trust's Strategy might be a bit controversial. H&W u3a have submitted a Motion and supporting statement for debate at the National AGM. We are concerned that TAT have not consulted the u3a movement regarding the direction they are pursuing with marketing campaigns and working with partners to extend our reach. They seem to be moving away from the core objective of the u3a movement. The Motion that your Committee has proposed says;

“This AGM calls on the Third Age Trust Board to conduct, within six months, a formal consultation with u3as on Trust involvement in advocacy, campaigning and public policy outside the promotion of lifelong learning, education and support for member u3as.

The Board shall publish the responses together with a reasoned statement of its conclusions and proposed actions by 1 May 2027, and report to the 2027 AGM on how those conclusions have been acted upon”.

Our proposal has been seconded by the Guildford u3a and the supporting statements of the proposer and seconder are given below;-

Supporting Statement (Haxby & Wigginton u3a) :

In 2003–04 the Trust described its role as “not that of a Head Office directing its branches but rather a National Office supporting and advising independent and autonomous u3as.”

Over recent years the Trust has increasingly moved beyond that role into advocacy, campaigning and wider public policy discussions concerning issues such as ageing, wellbeing, loneliness and community resilience.

Promoting lifelong learning and the value of u3a is clearly part of the Trust's role. What concerns us is the shift beyond education and learning into wider social policy activity carried out in the movement's name without any formal consultation with member u3as.

u3as are independent organisations and the members of the Trust itself. The consultation would ensure that the national body remains accountable to the member u3as it exists to support and does not assume authority to speak for the movement on wider social policy issues without first asking the movement.

This resolution asks the Trust to consult member u3as before moving further into campaigning and social policy activity outside the shared purpose of the Trust and u3a.

Seconder Statement (Guildford u3a) :

People join u3as because they see opportunities to try something new, pursue an interest, share experiences and continue learning in later life. That practical, member-led culture is the real strength of the movement and the reason member u3as exist.

Many of us are happy for the Trust to promote u3a and explain the value of lifelong learning. What concerns us is that the Trust's language around u3a increasingly emphasises themes such as loneliness, wellbeing, social isolation, active ageing and community resilience. Many members benefit in those ways, but those are the result of participation, not its purpose.

The purpose of u3as is educational: creating opportunities for members to learn, participate and experience new things together. The purpose of the Trust is to support

u3as in providing those opportunities. Once that purpose becomes blurred, the movement itself begins to be understood differently.

We, like many, are already finding it harder to fill committee places. People take on those responsibilities because they value what their u3a is and what it offers. If we are increasingly seen as part of a wider social support system rather than a mutual learning movement, members are even less likely to take on the work of helping to run them.

u3as are the members and guarantors of the Trust, and the movement exists through the activities, groups and effort given freely by its members. This is why u3as who sustain the movement should have a formal say in how it is publicly represented and understood. On that basis, Guildford u3a seconds this resolution.

Please contact either Chris Jaques or Nick David - chairman@hawu3a.org or vicechairman@hawu3a.org if you wish to discuss the issues raised here.

This is the strategy for the work of the Third Age Trust, providing a framework for its role in supporting u3as and promoting and raising awareness of the u3a movement.

Our vision <i>What we're trying to achieve.</i> A future where everyone has the opportunity to have a positive and fulfilling later life through lifelong learning.	Our mission <i>How we'll achieve this.</i> Promoting, supporting and strengthening the u3a movement.
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How we'll achieve our aims

We promote u3a by: Publicising the impact that u3a has on individuals, communities and society Raising awareness using traditional media, social media, PR and marketing campaigns Working with a range of partners that help us extend our reach.	We support u3as by: Working with u3as to co-create the resources they need to thrive Delivering a high-quality information, advice and guidance service Investing in digital services to prepare u3a for the future.	We strengthen u3a by: Creating opportunities that bring u3as together to share best practice and inform our work Working with u3as to identify new services & opportunities for growth Developing & providing opportunities for members to engage nationally.
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A DILEMMA

Sue Eley heard a story recently which made her consider where her priorities lie. A friend was invited to an informal gathering that might have been very beneficial. He was busy in the morning and the gathering was in the afternoon. After a brief pause, he said he couldn't attend as he wouldn't have time to make lunch. An opportunity lost?

What would you have done?

- declined the invitation
- had a late lunch
- grabbed a sandwich or a cake, taken a drink
- missed lunch completely, had a glass of water at the venue
- had an early tea
- other?

Moral: Don't miss those opportunities. They might not come round again.

EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

This edition of the Newsletter is somewhat shorter than the last issue. This may be the natural lull while we all take summer holidays. It certainly reflects the lack of contributions in the editorial in box. Don't be shy, send your contributions and photos to me at:-

Ian Evans. Email ianficrevans@gmail.com / Newslettereditor@hawu3a.org

The next Newsletter will be due in October; please ensure contributions reach me by Sunday 11th October 2026. Thank you.

So, leading by example, this is what your editor has been up to, driving "Western Star" a Fowler road locomotive [aka Traction Engine] built in 1912!

So what interesting things have you been up to? What special places or events have you been to? Over to you; I look forward to your contributions for the next issue!

