



u3a
South Lakes

Newsflash: April 2026

We need your help

Some of our committee members are retiring at the AGM in May and we need to replace them. Please contact Samantha Ridgway, [click here](#)

Vice Chair

Assistant Treasurer

Assistant Membership Secretary (potential job share)

Assistant Secretary (job share)

Minute Secretary

Job descriptions are available on our website

New Group - Easy Singing

Coordinated by Nick Morrice

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings from 10-11am, fee £2.

The venue is The Space, 26/28 Finkle St, Kendal, LA9 4AB

Come along for an hour's singing of songs from the shows, folk songs from home and abroad in a relaxing, pleasant atmosphere. (no meeting in August).

Contact Nick via link below if you wish to attend

Note: this new group is in addition to the long-running Singing for Fun group



Part year membership

New full members only pay £9 from now until August 31st.

The next subscription year starts September 1st and is £15 full/
£6 pension credit/£10 Associates

Want to contact someone?

[Click here](#) and you will find who to contact about a variety of subjects

MONTHLY MEETS

Just turn up for refreshments, chat and guest speaker

Open to all members (£2) and guests (£3)

10.30am, Castle Street Centre (*Refreshments available from 9.45am*)



Wednesday 15 April

Blackpool Tower

A talk by chief rigger, Davis Hulme

Hear about how the 132 year old structure was built and is maintained.

How do you climb up the outside of the 520 ft high tower - and then get back down again!



Monthly Meet - Refreshments

This friendly and sociable role doesn't take up much time. You wouldn't need to be available every month as we wish to create a team of volunteers who could be called upon as needed. If this is something you could help with please contact Jill Hayes. [Click here](#)

learn, laugh, live with SLu3a

Editor: John Broadhead, email: editor@southlakesu3a.org.uk

Website: <https://south-lakes.u3asite.uk/>

Registered Charity Number: 1030281

*Telephone: 07949 878 523 (only for general enquiries)
please use website to contact Coordinators and Officials*

GROUP MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL just turn up

Classic Films (first Thursday, 1.30 for 2pm, Abbot Hall Social Centre)

Thurs 2 April *Ballad of a soldier (Russia, 1959)*

WW2 - a young soldier goes home (this is not a war film)

Themes in world history (second Monday, 2pm, Abbot Hall Social Centre)

Mon 13 April *The American Constitution by Kate Ellis*

A key tool to understanding the current USA and its politics

Natural History (second Wednesday, 2.30pm, Castle Street Centre)

Now on its summer programme, only group members can attend. Some meetings are visits with limited numbers. 'Open' again in September

Art Appreciation (Third Tuesday, 2pm, Abbot Hall Social Centre)

Tues 21 April *Moving on from sex, drugs, rock'n'roll, by Mark Aldridge*

Rock album cover art, 1966-1980 (part two)

Science and Technology (last Friday, 2pm, Castle Street Centre)

Friday 24 April *Geology of Arnside and Silverdale by Mike Warren*

Publicity

We have a stand at the following to promote SLu3a. Can you help for an hour or so?

Friday 26 June - Birdcage, Finkle St. and Wednesday 22 July - Kendal Library

Contact David Atkinson [here](#)

Gift Aid



To comply with HMRC Gift Aid rules and Third Age Trust (TAT) u3a guidance, members should know the basis being used by their u3a for gift aid submission.

The amount used by South Lakes u3a in its submission is the amount that counts towards the individual gift aid tax allowance.

For South Lakes u3a this is the entirety of the membership amount.

There is no action needed on your part unless you fill in a tax return, in which case use the membership amount that you have gift aided, it will be the same as last year.

Jeff Hickin, treasurer

News from our groups

Short reports are on our website <https://south-lakes.u3asite.uk/>

The content is generally the same as our Social media posts on Facebook - so if not a Facebook fan you can keep up to date. They only show on the Welcome page for a limited time so keep checking what's new.

Changed your personal information?

Please let the SLu3a Membership Team know of any changes to email address, postal address, telephone number, etc at

membershipslu3a@gmail.com

What's going on?

Copies of our accounts and committee meeting minutes are available on our website in the member's area. You will need to sign in.

National u3a membership comes with your South Lakes u3a membership. It organises events and workshops - many online as well as offering member benefits such as travel, leisure activities and shopping savings. Access the website [here](#) to and find out about:

Interest Groups Online (IGO) gives you the opportunity to join groups, talks and courses from your own home. Over 100 groups range from Ancient Rome and Armchair Groups Online; Archaeology to World History, Writing for Pleasure and Zentangle Club

Online Learning with u3a is free and offers members opportunities locally, nationally, in person or online. Online events, creative writing competitions and photography challenges and visits to other u3as.

u3a Matters - our national magazine

For the latest issue of our national magazine [click here](#)

u3a friends  Each month brings stories and interests from across the u3a movement; and shares exclusive offers with our Friends Extra benefits. Click link to sign up [Friends newsletter here](#).

Regional u3a access the latest regional newsletter by [clicking here](#) and you will find lots of interesting items.

AI - what's all the fuss about?

The u3a North West Region - AI Workshop

Monday 27th April 2026, 10am – 12noon

The u3a Third Age Trust National AI team and members of the NW Region will help you improve your AI Literacy.

This online Zoom session will explain: What AI is and is not. Why it is suddenly everywhere. How it can help you in everyday life. How to use it safely.

Remember the early days of the internet? Or getting your first smartphone? Online banking? Online shopping? You've successfully navigated and embraced countless technological advancements.

AI might sound daunting, but it's just another digital tool to understand and use. Join our online u3a event to demystify Artificial Intelligence (AI) and see how it can enhance your daily life, just like the internet did.

Register for a ticket to the event by emailing: groupu3a@gmail.com

In your email you should include the following information

Your Full Name:

The Name of Your u3a:

Your Email Address:

Please register early as demand for this event is expected to be high. A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed to you.

The AI Revolution in Northern England: Boosting Services and Growth

Northern England is emerging as a leader in the UK's AI revolution through strategic investments and digital innovation. Key initiatives range from multilingual social care chatbots in Bradford to major tech hub expansions in Liverpool and Wigan, focusing on both public service accessibility and significant job creation.

ENHANCING PUBLIC SERVICES



"Annie" Multilingual Social Care Support

A WhatsApp chatbot in Bradford providing instant adult social care advice in over 40 languages.



24/7 Digital Accessibility

Offers residents a round-the-clock alternative to office-hour hubs for finding trusted support resources.

ECONOMIC GROWTH & INVESTMENT



1,000 New Jobs for Merseyside

A new AI hub by Kynrdyl is set to create significant employment over three years.



London to Wigan HQ Relocation

Tech firm Agillys moved its headquarters to Wigan, bringing 300+ specialists to a refurbished civic centre.



Privacy-First AI Design

The system is designed to provide guidance without requesting or storing users' personal information.

Discover u3a North West Region: Learn, Laugh, Live



£14bn

National AI Backing

Major tech firms have committed billions toward growth zones and creating over 13,000 jobs nationwide.