

Get-away with the u3a!



The Agatha Christie Story
14 Sep, 4 nights, from £439pp



Appreciating Shakespeare
12 Oct, 3 nights, from £529pp



Yorkshire Festive Treats
18 Nov, 2 nights, from £329pp

Join u3a members from around the country on a range of bespoke holidays exclusive to u3a members and their friends. This exciting partnership opens a new chapter in discovery, fun and shared experience. Look forward to a continually evolving collection of unique itineraries from Appreciating Shakespeare, Going Wild on Dartmoor or three nights of wine tasting!

Every u3a getaway includes accommodation, dinner, and breakfast, as well as a welcome drink on the first evening as standard. However, some itineraries will have additional charges for supplementary benefits which are clearly indicated on the individual getaway itinerary and booking forms.

Booking is easy, either by following the instructions online or, alternatively, by the dedicated **u3a getaways** telephone number. Our opening hours are 9 am – 6 pm Monday to Friday, and 9 am – 5 pm Saturday.

A non-refundable deposit amount is stated on each holiday with the balance due generally eight weeks before departure. However, optional travel insurance, which can protect you against cancellation charges in the event of ill health is available and strongly recommended. While single-bedded rooms do not carry a supplement, double or twin occupancy rooms for sole use do incur a supplement, and these are clearly stated on each holiday.

The good news is the holidays are also available for non u3a members – so you can take your partner or friend and thus avoid paying the room supplement.

For further details, of all the holidays, a downloadable brochure and booking form go to www.justforgroups.com

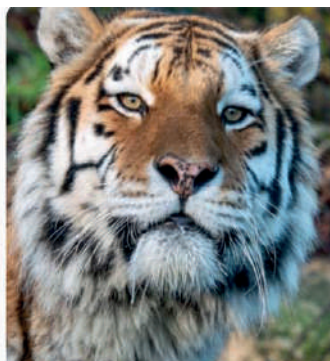
**July / August
2026**

www.halstead.u3asite.uk

halsteadu3athelink@gmail.com



Aviation Heritage
19 Mar, 3 nights, from £449pp



Going Wild in Dartmoor
09 Apr, 2 nights, from £299pp



Wine Lovers Unite
23 May, 3 nights, from £569pp

Monthly Meetings – July and August

Tuesday 7th July

Brian Furlow – The Burley Rectory Ghost



The next time you are driving to Long Melford, as you approach the village turn left after the Nethergate Brewery and, having crossed the River Stour, you are back in Essex on the way to the village of Borley. Here, the Rectory gained global infamy as "the most haunted house in England". Built in 1862, it was plagued by alleged poltergeist activity, phantom nuns, and wall writings. Following a severe fire in 1939, the ruins were demolished in 1944, though the legend (and the haunting) still persists today.

Our guest speaker at our July meeting, Brian Furlow, will be giving a chilling account of the history of the Rectory and its residents – both human and supernatural. Hopefully there will be no strange knocking sounds in the Queen's Hall!

Tuesday 4th August

Roger Hance – Wildlife Photography



photos: Roger Hance

Multi – award winning photographer Roger Hance has been involved in photography for over thirty years. He joined Ipswich and District Photographic Society in 1984 and joined the Royal Photographic Society the following year. In 1990 he was awarded three Fellowships in the same year – Portrait, Applied and Pictorial categories. plus a fourth Fellowship in 1998 in the Natural History category. Roger has also won many other awards – especially for his wildlife photography.

At our August meeting he will be sharing some of his wildlife photography with us and explaining the lengths he went to get some incredible shots of wildlife and nature.

IMPORTANT – CAR PARKING

New restrictions regarding car parking at the Queen's Hall mean that there are only limited spaces available. Unfortunately, all of these will be taken by the guest speaker, members of the committee and helpers who need to park at the hall as they have equipment to unload.

Except for a disabled space, regrettably this means that there will be no available spaces for members to park their cars. The nearest public car park is behind Sainsburys for which a pay and display ticket will be required. Alternatively, car parking for two hours is still free at Tesco in Weavers Court. However please note that your entry and exit time are now recorded on camera.

Membership Card – Correction

If you would like further information regarding the Musical Discovery Group, please contact Group Leader Diana Harding on the following telephone number:

07345 207910,

and not as printed in this year's membership cards.

Off on the hols for the summer, so the next issue of [thelink](#) will be in September. Articles and photos of your summer activities will be most welcome by Friday 21st August.

Quiz Answers: 1 – St Paul's Cathedral 2 – The moon 3 – The Salvation Army 4 – Isabel (Evita) Peron 5 – Amelia Earhart 6 – Louise Brown 7 – Julius Caesar 8 – Euston 9 – Giant hailstones 10 – 250th Anniversary

Interest Group News

Getting Outdoors with the u3a

Dave Bazely



Members of one of our Hiking Groups at Northey Causeway near Maldon on a previous hike

Well, it's 35°C outside today and perhaps best to stay in. However, during my time with the u3a I have spent many happy hours in 'The Great Outdoors'.

My first experience was with the Photography Field Group which I joined in 2014. The main aim was to improve my photography but I liked the idea of doing so outdoors and enjoyed the trips to towns, villages and the coast.

Since then I have joined several groups (as you do) including the Hiking group. Most u3as have walking groups which shows how popular they are – Halstead currently has three, catering for different walking abilities.

The Hiking group started with one monthly walk of between five and six miles. These walks were usually circular, somewhere in north Essex or south Suffolk and finished with a pub lunch – as all good walks do! Before long, other walks were suggested: let's do a long distance footpath; let's have a weekend away; let's do a morning walk, or an evening one. Over the years we have done all this and more. We even managed 'virtual walking' during Covid.

We regularly read that time spent in nature is good for us. Add to that the fascinating history and beautiful countryside of our local area and you can't go wrong with a Halstead & District u3a Hiking Group walk.

AI Group –

Jane Giffould / Dave Bazely
Successful AI Group Inauguration

After some time of discussion and planning the u3a Halstead AI group was inaugurated on Thursday 4th June 2026. We met at the Community Hall at the Men's Shed on Fenn Road. With discussion we came to the following agreements as trial:

Meeting day: First Thursday of the month

Meeting time: 10.00 – 12.00

Cost: £2 per person to pay for room hire.

Membership: Maximum of 20, then waiting list.

A few spaces are available.

Refreshments: To trial each member taking a turn to provide tea/coffee and biscuits. No charge.

Main contacts:

Dave Bazley: dkbazley@btinternet.com;

Jane Giffould: jgiffould@aol.com

The main part of the meeting was a presentation by Dave introducing AI with: What is AI, Use of AI, Benefits and Problems of AI. This included discussion from participants on such items as how they already used AI. Examples were working with photos, summarizing an on-line meeting, translating other languages into English (this required an extra level of translation by a human from American to English!) Other things we learnt were which button to press to re-activate the screen! Jane apologised for having obviously sat on the custard cremes but the bourbons were OK.

Everyone left looking forward to the next session on Thursday 2nd July 2026 when Dave will take us through how he made this picture.

Question: Which is AI generated – the above text, picture or both?



Interest Group News

Travel Group – Ann Beard / Jean Wright



Our next visit on Monday 14th September is to the world-famous Kew Gardens with its collection of trees and flowers from around the globe in vast gardens, huge greenhouses and a tree top walkway.

There are so many different areas to explore including the Palm House constructed in 1844, with its indoor rainforest of tropical plants and the oldest pot plant in the world. The Princess of Wales Conservatory features plants from deserts to the tropics and as for dry, cool, windy conditions that alpenes need to thrive – they are recreated in the Davies Alpine House. If you are a “tree hugger” the Arboretum has a collection of 11,000 trees!

In addition, outdoors there are the Rock Garden, Kitchen Garden and the Great Broad Walk Borders a striking walkway into the heart of Kew. Why not take a walk through the treetop canopy for magical views of the gardens?

We are very fortunate that the biggest ever outdoor exhibition of Henry Moore’s work is also on site throughout the gardens, where we can get up close to 30 monumental sculptures, plus 90 smaller scale artworks, drawings and sketches in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery.

Various food options are available: the cafes and restaurants use seasonal and local produce.

The cost for coach and entrance to Kew is £41.00 per member. The coach will leave Butler Road, Halstead at 9.00am and depart home from Kew at 4.00 pm. We will take bookings during the u3a meetings of July and August.

Althorpe House

Just a reminder to those joining us for the trip to Althorpe House on 23rd July, that we leave Butler Road, Halstead at 9.00am. Jean and Ann are looking forward to seeing you there.

Quiz Time - how much do you know about the month of July?

- 1 – Where did Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer get married on 29th July 1982?
- 2 – Where did people walk for the first time on 20th July 1969?
- 3 – What organisation in London did General William Booth found in July 1865?
- 4 – Who became President of Argentina on 1st July 1974 – the first woman in the world to hold the title “President”?
- 5 – On 2nd July 1937, which female aviator vanished without trace over the Pacific Ocean?
- 6 – Born in Oldham on 25th July 1978, who was the world’s first “test tube baby”?
- 7 – The month of July takes its name from which historical figure?
- 8 – Opening on 20th July 1837, what was London’s first inter-city railway terminus?
- 9 – What type of weather killed 23 people in Rostov, Ukraine on 10th July 1923?
- 10 – On the 4th July this year America will be celebrating which anniversary of American Independence?

u3a

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 30th October -7.00pm Queen’s Hall

Form a team from members of your interest group or friends and family (anyone over the age of 16) and come along to our quiz night.

We try and make the questions not too difficult and cover a wide range of topics – however some of the rounds may not be what you think!

Admission is £5.00 each – bring your own drinks and nibbles – sign up at the September and October meetings or on-line Full details in the September issue of [thelink](#)