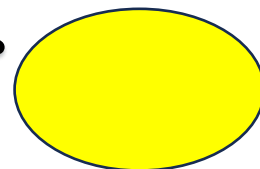


u3aNorthwich Newsletter

AUGUST 2026

<https://northwich.u3asite.uk>



MONTHLY MEETING – JULY 2026 'GLASS MAKING AND STAINED GLASS'

This month's speaker was Andrew Bennett who shared with us his love of 'Glass -making and Stained Glass'. Andrew is a retired civil servant who spent 25 years mostly in Customs and Excise. When he left the service, he needed a hobby and attended the local technical college to learn about glass-making. Andrew does not actually create stained glass but he repairs it and works mostly with lead lights. He does, however, make decorative, coloured glass objects to sell at craft fairs.

Andrew began by pointing out the difference between stained glass and lead lights. Lead lights have a decorative, glass pattern which is held together with lead. Stained glass also has decorative, glass patterns but there is usually lots of added detail.

Normally, stained glass is found in religious settings and are often huge. Andrew informed us that when Lincoln Cathedral was being built and they were ready for the windows, a life-size window was chalked on to the floor and the window was built there.

Of course, glass was very expensive and lead quite cheap so only small pieces of glass were made and held together with the lead. Typically, there were lots of diamond shapes but with strengthening bars across the windows. These bars pierced the stone surrounding the window and made it secure.

Little Moreton Hall has good examples of Elizabethan glass and all the windows are the same which suggests that travelling craftsmen were hired. These craftsmen had their own

sample patterns, which can be seen all over the country. A stately home near Wells has exactly the same pattern as Little Moreton Hall! It is said that windows were so expensive that when the family travelled away from home, the windows were removed and buried in the grounds!

Gawsworth Hall has two different types of windows. Downstairs has windows made up of large squares which would have shown visitors how rich the family were, but upstairs there are smaller, diamond shaped windows which would have been much cheaper.

Andrew told us about the different types of glass, its origins, how it is made and the tools needed to make it. He also showed us some of the projects that he has worked on, including pub signs, windows and door panels.

This was a very interesting presentation given by a very enthusiastic artisan and was very much enjoyed by the attending membership.

To find out more, visit Andrew's website: www.moultonglass.co.uk

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is on 19th August at 2pm at Owley Wood Recreation Club, Weaverham, when Eric Lupton will tell us all about 'The Lives and Music of Rogers and Hart'. Rogers and Hart composed music and songs during the 1920s, and 1930s. Examples are My Funny Valentine, The Lady is a Tramp and Bewitched Bothered and Bewildered.

CHECK THE WEBSITE

Reports of monthly meetings and information of upcoming events and activity groups can be found on our website - <https://www.northwich.u3asite.uk>

COMMITTEE NEWS

First Aid Kits



The Committee have purchased 10 First Aid kits for groups involved in outdoor activities, with funds donated to our u3a by our member Paul Lee. The donation was made via the Riviera Travel Affinity Scheme which is a charitable partnership programme, whereby 10% of the basic cost of a holiday can be donated to a nominated charity, u3a or local organisation at no cost to the holiday maker. We thank Paul for his very kind donation, and are now looking at how to spend the remainder of the donation for the benefit of all our members

GROUP NEWS

Photography Group

The group's last meeting hosted Sarah Kinsella who gave a talk on landscape photography. Sarah's picture of Budle Bay is shown below. The next meeting will host Steve Dale on the photography of flora. Both Sarah and Steve are members of the group.



U3a NEWS

Please find attached the July Update from the Third Age Trust. It contains notices and news which you may find interesting/useful.