u3aNorthwich Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026

https://northwich.u3asite.uk

MONTHLY MEETING – AUGUST 2026
'RODGERS AND HART'

Eric Lupton presented us with the 'Lives and Music of Rodgers and Hart'.

Although possibly best known for his collaboration with Oscar Hammerstein (e.g. 'Oklahoma', 'Carousel'), Richard Rodgers also had a long-term working relationship with Lorenz Hart.

Rodgers was born in 1902, the son of a doctor who liked to sing and a mother who was an accomplished pianist. By the age of 4, he was playing the piano, composing by 9 and writing songs for reviews by the age of 15.

Hart was born in 1895, the son of Eastern Europeans living in America. His father was under 5 feet tall and weighed more than 20 stones – a larger than life character who apparently used very colourful language but was said to be a good and kind man.

Rodgers and Hart were introduced in 1919 while Rodgers was still in high school and Hart had already graduated from Columbia University. Rodgers later said of that meeting that he had found, 'A career, a partner, a best friend and a source of constant irritation.' They worked together from 1920 to 1924 with limited success. Their first hit was, 'The Garrick Gaieties' in 1925 and Eric played us a soundtrack of himself playing, 'Manhatten', a hit from the show. Eventually,

Rodgers and Hart had financial stability. Songs from later films/musicals include, 'Blue Moon' and 'Have you met Miss Jones?'.

In 1937, Rodgers and Hart worked on 'Babes in Arms', from which Eric played 3 songs; 'My Funny Valentine', 'Where or When' and That's Why the Lady is a Tramp'.

'Pal Joey' was not a success in 1940 but when it was revived in 1952, it was a sensation. Songs included 'I Could Write a Book' and 'Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered', the latter of which had very daring lyrics for that era!

Hart was under 5 feet tall and always conscious of his size. He was, however, extremely confident of his gift. At one point he stated; ' I have a lot of talent. If I had cared, I could have been a genius.' Unfortunately, Hart sank into depression and alcoholism and died in 1943.

Eric ended his presentation by playing 'Falling in Love with Love'.

This was an appealing presentation, littered with amusing anecdotes, photographs and quotes. We learned much about the lives, families and works of 2 extremely famous musicians and the audience enjoyed it very much.

Eric donated his fee to the charity, 'Young Lives VS Cancer'.

Next Meeting

Come and join us for the meeting on Wednesday 16th September, 2pm at Owley Wood Recreation Club, Weaverham, when Brian Groom will tell us all about his latest book entitled; 'These Isles'.
Brian Groom is a journalist. He is an expert on British regional and national affairs. His career was spent mainly at the *Financial Times*, where he was assistant editor. He lives in Saddleworth, Greater Manchester. His first book, *Northerners*, was a Waterstones History Book of the Year.

Northwich u3a information

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

Geology Event Notification

Manchester Geological Association Event

On Saturday September 19th the Manchester Geological Association will be holding an Introduction to Geology event.

As with the previous event, and a successful course at this year's NW u3a Summer School, it is aimed at the amateur geologist, both the established amateur and those totally new to the subject.

It will be held at the University of Manchester Williamson Building, 176 Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9QQ.

There is no charge for the event and there will be complimentary refreshments.

Booking isn't essential but ideally let us know on niallclarke01@gmail.com

so we can get the right number of biscuits.

Programme

11:30 - The human impact on geology - how we are changing the planet

12:30 - break with tea and coffee provided

13:15 - Practical session in the Labs, an opportunity to look at the University collection, wrapping up around 14:30

Our winter talks programme is primarily aimed at the amateur and guests are welcome, just turn up on the day.

Details of the upcoming 2026-2027 programme are on our website https://manchestergeology.org.uk/indoor-meetings/

Xmas Lunch

Please find below a reminder about the arrangements for the Xmas Lunch, about which you have received an email from Marian Atkinson:-

The Christmas Lunch takes place at Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate on Wednesday, 16th December 12.30 for 1pm. The cost for tickets this year is £30.00 pp

Tickets will be on sale at the monthly Wednesday meetings from September. Payment by cash, cheque, or card is available.

Please have your choices ready when you pay, if you have dietary requirements, please let the committee member issuing your ticket know.

PLEASE NOTE : The venue has requested that you do not arrive before 12.20 to facilitate the setting up of the tables etc.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Starters

Soup: Leek & potato (V/VE/GF)

Chicken Liver Parfait: Whipped chicken liver parfait with red onion chutney, toasted brioche

Main Courses

Traditional Roast Turkey: Roast potatoes, honey-roasted parsnips, creamed sprouts, roasted carrots, cranberry stuffing, pigs in blankets and gravy

Roasted Pork Loin: Creamed black pudding potato, honey-roasted carrots, braised cabbage and cider jus

Wellington: Roasted butternut squash Wellington with spinach, pomme mousseline, and kale

ADDITIONAL BOWLS OF VEGETABLES

Desserts

Christmas Pudding : winter berry compote and Cointreau orange sauce (V/VE/GF)

White Chocolate and Baileys Cheesecake: cookies and cream ice cream

Cheese and Biscuits : available with a £4.00 supplement

Tea, coffee and petit mince pies

Group News

Theatre Trips

There remain tickets for the trip to the Crewe Lyceum on 9th January to see Sing the Musicals. Tickets/Information from Janice Jackson

Mahjong

There is an opportunity for all Mahjong and Whist players, to meet once in September to play. The meeting will be held on 3 September from 2pm, in Hartford Village Hall.

Walking Group 6

Walkers from Walking Group 6, alongside their dogs, tackled Old Pale, Delamere on their last walk. This was followed by Ice Cream, before they were caught in a deluge of epic proportions.





Photography Group

The topic for August was flowers and stuff, a session led by group member Steve.
Steve talked about flower photography, and members shared their pictures.
Next month the topic is Still Life Photography, the session will be eld by group member Doug.