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Introduction

If you not have taken part in the Third Age Trust online learning events it is worth having a look at the website. Click on u3a@home, scroll down to Events and Workshops and then click on Online Learning Events. There are many fascinating topics.

The one which caught my eye was on 5th October - **The History of the World According to Sheep**. As Yoda would say “My mind boggling is”.

Invitations are included this month for members to take part in research into **Hearing Loss** and to provide **Wilmslow Council** with our views on the future of the Town. Both important.

There is news about the expansion of the Interest Groups, the opportunity to volunteer and/or join the Star Group. The more you put in.....and so on.

Hope you find something to appeal to you.

Enjoy.

Update from Your Committee

Hale & Hearty

12 months ago there was a cri de coeur that Wilmslow u3a would have to close if new members of the Committee could not be found. Three 3 new recruits joined at that time followed by 3 others since September 2025.

The result is a more dynamic Committee and Wilmslow u3a is now in rude health with membership numbers rising. New initiatives include an updated website, revamped newsletter, and payment of membership fees by credit card.

Interest Groups

The **Rummikub** Group set up a couple of months ago is thriving and numbers have expanded for **Bowling**.

Interest has been expressed in setting up a Group for **German, Tai Chi, Mahjong, Backgammon and Photography**. If these activities appeal to you let us know.



Please note we are permitted to pay for a **Tutor** for a new Group where the need arises. Tai Chi is an obvious example, there may be others.

Whist & Canasta

The Whist & Canasta Group is inviting you to try them out for a social afternoon whilst playing the games. They are a friendly group who meet in a lovely venue – Oakmere, Spath Lane, Handforth. They welcome new members and will offer a cup of tea / coffee and biscuits. They would love to see you.

Update from Your Committee - continued

Social Media

Any budding users of Social Media out there?

We are looking for someone to promote Wilmslow u3a through the medium of Facebook, Instagram et al. If you or someone you know has the interest and skills to do so please contact us.

New Members

A warm welcome to those members who have gently joined Wilmslow u3a:-

Hilary Moran Andrea Walker Paul McConnochie Ian Black Melody Higson

Susan Smith Hilary Woodward Bruce Woollen Susan Stone Peter Green

Veronica Dean Sally Duncan Barbara Eggleton Linda Leeming

Carole Starr Godfrey (Geoff) Rawes Judith Bennett Monica Hunter

Heather Eskill Nigel Eskill

We look forward to meeting you and hope you are able to take full advantage of all the u3a can offer.

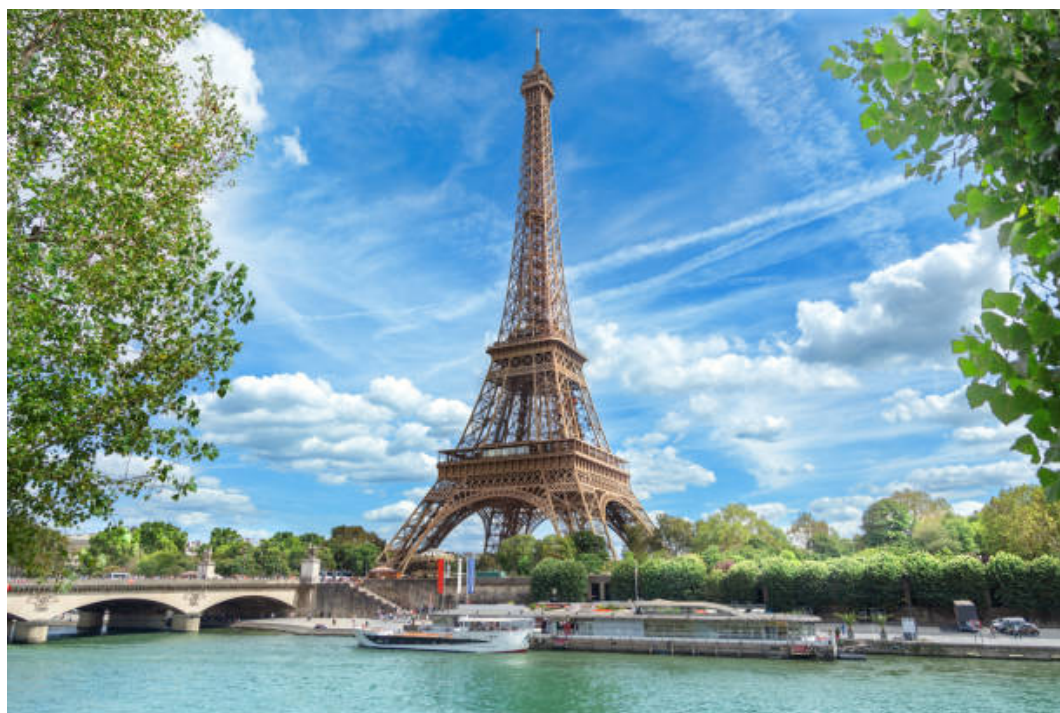
Monthly Meetings - Can You Help?

Pauline Bushnell and Anna Andrew are looking for members willing to join a rota to assist in the collection of cups and washing up after refreshments at the monthly meeting.

Men - this should not be a job just for the ladies. There is no reason why you could not volunteer on a once in a while basis. The more volunteers we have the fewer the times you would have to be called into action.

Please put your name forward if you can.

Parlez-Vous Français?



STOP PRESS

New FRENCH Conversation Group to start in two weeks, **Wednesday 7 October, 2pm.**

Please contact Pat Lee, Groups Coordinator for more information:
leep1032@gmail.com

Sign Up for the STAR Group

To assist in the running of events Pat Lee is looking to start a STAR Group:-

Small

Task

As

Required

So far 11 volunteers have been “collected” who would be willing to provide help on an occasional basis. This would not be an onerous or regular commitment. Please contact Pat if you would like to help out from time to time.

Upcoming Talks

Monthly Talks - 2.30 pm Church Hall, Wilmslow Reformed Church

28th October: Tatton Parks Last Baron Egerton - Judy Copley

25th November: Retired Barrister Turned Author - Simon Michael

9th December: Our Christmas Carol

Science Group - 2pm Wilmslow Library

20th October: Life and death of a star. Peter Cadman. Cheadle U₃A

17th November: Metal-Organic Framework Materials: Applications and Future Technologies.

Further details are available on the website: www.wilmslowu3a.org.uk

Technology for Everyone Group - 2pm Heald Green Village Hall, Outwood Road, SK8 3JL

6th October: Medical Technologies - Prof Andrew Weightman,

This is an Open Group at **Cheadle & Gatley u₃a**. Cost £3 including tea/coffee and biscuits. Please take your membership card or membership number with you.

Solving the Worlds Energy Problems

Congratulations are due to Professor Alistair Sutcliffe, convenor of the Science Group. The quality of Speaker he is able to find for the Science Talks is extraordinary. This month it was the turn of Dr Yagya Regmi to regale us with his research into how to find a solution into the worlds energy problems by using hydrogen.

95% of the worlds energy is from fossil fuels - natural gas, coal & oil. The current problem was caused by the rapid growth in the worlds population from the 1950's. Evidence shows that while there had been spikes in the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere, until the 1950's it had not exceeded 300 parts per million of CO₂ for 800,000 years with spikes to that point being caused by volcanic eruptions.

The rise in renewable energy helps in a small way but the key question is how do you store surplus energy. One answer is the use of electrolytic hydrogen, a technology which has been around since 1929. However at present this is not cost effective.

Food processing, metal refining, crude oil, petrol and diesel all need hydrogen as a chemical. The cost of producing it using renewables is up to 5 times more expensive than using fossil fuels!

To make hydrogen cheaper the cost of the catalytic converter needs to be reduced. The challenge is the membrane needed to separate oxygen and hydrogen. This needs to titanium as it doesn't oxidise but with the process to cut and machine it the cost is 10 times more expensive than gold. The alternative is iridium but not only is this 10 times more expensive than platinum it is one of the rarest minerals on Earth. anew design for the catalyser is therefore needed.

Another issue is the cost of using ultra clean water without any impurities. The shortage of land based water makes this problematic. One solution would be to use water vapour. Sea water cannot be used as the the impurities have to be removed.

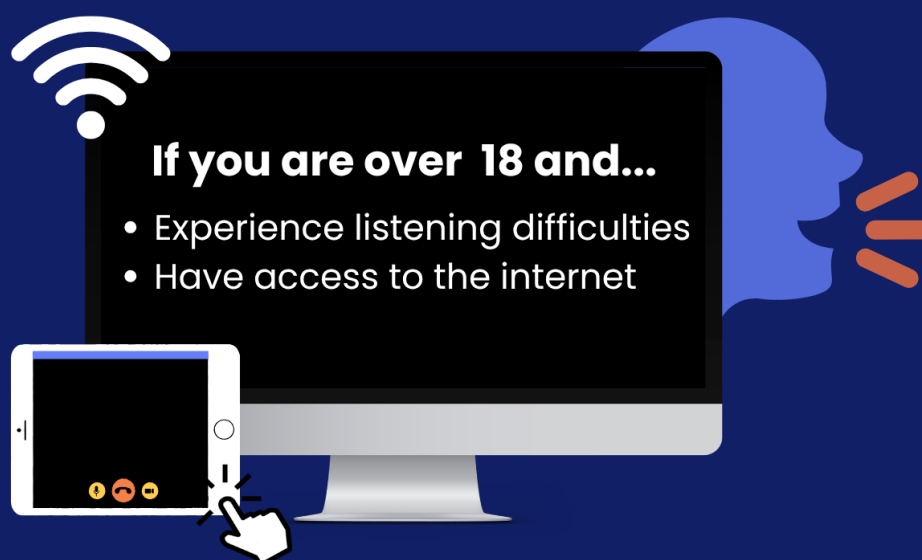
To effect a meaningful reduction in fossil fuels Government policy and investment needs to change as does human behaviour. It is possible solve the worlds energy problems once a solution to the massive number of materials which rely on fossil fuels in their production has been achieved.

Take Part: Hearing Loss Research



University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Do you find it hard to follow speech in noisy settings or take part in conversations?



We invite you to be part of an online study. The study aims to improve two new listening and thinking games for people with hearing loss.

To take part ➡ <https://tinyurl.com/PLUS-Optimal1>
Or email: Natalie.Lerigo-Smith1@Nottingham.ac.uk

AI for Seniors

Wilmslow u3a members Bob Rajan, Alistair Sutcliffe and Micheal Palmer hosted a well attended seminar on the use, the future and the way to use AI.

There are 4 key programmes in the UK - Claude, CoPilot, Gemini & Chat GPT. These effectively act as Personal Assistants. The message given at the Seminar was don't worry about how it works but adopt the ABC when using it - be Alert, Brave and Careful when it comes to using personal information as this will enter the public domain.

AI is essentially a frequency driven character recognition machine. It is develops its answers by the frequency of the different types of information it is given. It's current limitation is that it lacks training on rare events - such as driverless cars and the runaway train examples: which decision to make when a loss of life will result from either of two decisions.

It learns by both Supervised Learning (continuous learning from human feedback which leads to knowledge) and Unsupervised Learning (achieved by access to the Internet).

Failures to date have included examples of:-

- Bias - discriminating against people on colour or gender when reviewing candidates for recruitment
- Lack of awareness of the wider picture - hospital evictions aimed at the average number of days after admission without considering the needs of patients who fall outside the average
- More extreme content bias - highlighted by the Molly Russell case and the recent \$18 billion fine on Meta

At present AI perceives and acts; the future is that it will take Executive Action and dominate / exercise power and focus on its self preservation highlighted by Hal, the computer in the film 2001: A Space Odyssey.

AI : Positive or Negative?

You can hardly watch the news or pick up a newspaper without reading the latest predictions on AI. Whether you wish to embrace AI or not an awareness of its power for good or evil is important as it will affect all our lives.

Experts in the field are widely expressing concern about the future. Some have declared we have entered the era of AGI (artificial general intelligence) where systems are able to complete most cognitive tasks better than humans. The prospect of AI making itself more intelligent is “scary”. It is already writing its own computer code without human intervention.

The danger is the creation of bio weapons by rogue states, the increase of cyber attacks, sabotage and violence. The risk of AI is considered to be on a par with nuclear war and pandemics. There is a view that humanity has a 10% chance of being wiped out by AI and as such there is now a strong lobby of experts calling for control and regulation to prevent this.

There is also widespread debate as to whether AI will be responsible for mass unemployment or an increase in productivity and wealth. The evidence is unclear. Optimists say the abundance of cheap AI will raise demand for workers in service oriented jobs rather than destroy them. However, it seems the benefits may emerge less from labour displacement and more from gains in productivity. In the US, AI exposed occupations have seen employment levels remain unchanged but with **slower wage growth** and the **loss of income** for 5.8 million workers has been put at \$28 billion. A benefit to corporates at the expense of the workers.

British companies are using AI tools at a rate that outstrips its European peers and this has had a positive, if small, effect on national productivity.

Whatever the arguments the impact of AI remains unclear but it will undoubtedly generate massive coverage and debate in the years to come.

Wilmslow Council Looking for Your Views

LET'S TALK



**... ABOUT THE FUTURE
OF WILMSLOW**



**PLEASE POP BY THE
WILMSLOW TOWN COUNCIL
STALL FOR A CHAT,
ASK QUESTIONS AND SHARE
YOUR IDEAS.**



**VISIT
[WILMSLOWTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK](https://www.wilmslowtowncouncil.gov.uk)
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



**FRI 4TH SEPT, 5PM - 9PM:
BANK SQUARE STREET FEST.**



**SAT 19TH SEPT, 11AM - 4PM:
NEAR WILMSLOW ARTISAN MARKET,
ALDERLEY RD.**



EXTRA DATES TO BE CONFIRMED.



Poetry on Wilmslow u3a

As a illustration of the use of AI a member has used it to generate this poem:-

U3A – A Door to New Days

In Wilmslow's heart, the mornings glow,
with minds that bloom, still keen to grow.

A cup of tea, a friendly smile,
new stories shared, new steps worthwhile.

From art to walks, from books to song,
you'll find the place where you belong.

So come and join - why wait, why stay?

Your next adventure starts today.

Byron, Keats, Tennyson, Coleridge et al will be turning in their grave though William McGonigall, considered one of the worlds worst poets, might have approved. Asking AI to redo the poem in McGonigall's style produced this. Is it better? It does illustrate the key point about using AI - the quality of response depends on the quality of question asked.

U3A – A Most Remarkable Door to New Days

In the town of Wilmslow, delightful to behold,
There are people young in spirit, though some may not be young or old;
And they gather at U3A with hearts both bright and gay,
To improve their minds with learning in a most agreeable way.

With a cup of tea and a smile upon each face,
The members meet together in that most congenial place;
And stories they do tell, and friendships they do renew,
While discovering many subjects that are interesting and new.

There is art and there are books, and songs sung with delight,
And pleasant walks in sunshine, and sometimes in twilight;
And each newcomer very soon will surely come to say,
"I've found the place where I belong", at the Wilmslow U3A.

So come and join this noble band without delay,
And do not linger wondering till another day;
For adventure and good fellowship are waiting, so they say,
And your next great undertaking can begin with U3A.

Third Age Trust (TAT)

AGM - Manchester

This is a reminder for those who might be interested the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust will be held on Wednesday **14 October 2026** at **The Midland Hotel, 16 Peter St, Manchester M60 2DS**. This will be a hybrid meeting allowing members to attend in person or online.

Details on how to access the meeting online, for both voting delegates and non-voting delegates, will be shared with u3a's in due course.

Online Learning Seminars

Here is a selection of the forthcoming seminars can be found on the Wilmslow u3a website. There are others.

1st October: 2pm - Mods v Rockers: a 1960's moral panic?

5th October : 2pm - A history of the world according to sheep

6th October : 11am - First light: the formation of the first stars, blackholes, and galaxies

8th October: 2pm - Darkness on the Edge of Town: Bruce Springsteen & the American dream

9th October: 2pm - Music, imagination & the late 60's, early 70's

2nd November: 2pm - Preparing for the AU World - 4 week course

3rd November: 2pm - Cryptic Crosswords for beginners - 6 week course

Details can be found on the website on how to sign up for the Seminars.