



Ware u3a Newsletter October 2026

Dear All,

Here we are approaching the winter months with less daylight every day. Please remember the clocks go back to Greenwich Meantime on Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 2:00 am, with the clocks moving back to 1:00 am.

The practice of putting clocks back and forward was officially adopted in the UK in 1916 during World War I to save fuel and maximize daylight.

Early Ideas and Campaigning

- **1784:** Benjamin Franklin first joked in an essay that Parisians could save money on candles by waking up earlier with the sun.
- **1895:** New Zealand astronomer George Vernon Hudson proposed a seasonal two-hour time shift, though his idea was ignored.
- **1905:** British builder William Willett campaigned heavily for Daylight Saving Time after noticing people slept through early morning summer sunlight. His proposal was introduced to Parliament in 1908 but faced strong opposition. (Fun fact: Willett is the great-great-grandfather of Coldplay frontman Chris Martin!)



u3a Podcast

In these modern times podcasts are becoming more and more popular and the u3a has one. It is written and produced with u3a members, the monthly u3a podcast is

<https://ware.u3asite.uk>

available on the usual podcast platforms including:

- [Spotify](#)
- [Apple Podcasts](#)
- [Podtail](#)

More information about the podcast and how to listen is **available on the u3a website.**

October Monthly Meeting

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, 14th October at 1.45PM (doors open at 1:15PM, tea, coffee, and biscuits are available at the end)
- **Venue:** Wodson Park Sports Centre, Wadesmill Road, Ware
- **Guest Speaker:** Steven Dimner on Patricia Routledge. Steve presents a biographical lecture about Patricia Routledge which celebrates the life, career, and theatrical versatility of the late British actress and singer.
- **Details:** Admission is free for current members; visitors are welcome for a £2 contribution.

Membership: If you have friends or neighbours interested in joining, bring them along to the monthly meeting or direct them to speak with our Membership Secretary in the main hall.

September Monthly Meeting

At the September monthly meeting the presentation was given by Tim Perkins from Midshires Search and Rescue.

Midshires Search & Rescue are the Lowland Rescue organisation which covers Herts & Beds. The team is tasked by the police in both counties to search for high risk, vulnerable, missing persons. Most searches are for missing persons who are despondent, or in a mental health crisis, but the team is undertaking an increasing number of searches for those living with dementia who have gone walkabout. The team is available 24/7/365 and provide a "boots on the ground" search capability, often in wooded and overgrown areas into which the police helicopters cannot "see". The team has its own mobile operations unit, with medical, radio, comms and other technical support equipment. The team also has a water search capability with specially trained volunteers.

They are funded by voluntary donations and at our meeting almost £500 was raised which with gift aid increases to about £600 and they send their thanks for this. They reckon they save the police forces of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire about £60,000 per year for each force because of Midshires work.



If you would like to contribute, then please go to
<https://www.midshires.org.uk/supportus>

u3a AGM

On October 14 it is the AGM of the u3a which is being held in Manchester. If you would like to read about last year's AGM, then please go to
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/reports-policies>

If you would like to see the resolutions, then go to

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/agm-2026/agm-2026-resolution>

The u3a has recently conducted a survey of members and the results are quite interesting. If you want to read the full report, then go to https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/our-impact/u3a-impact-reports/u3a-and-me?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_medium=email_committee&utm_campaign=u3a_and_me&utm_content=read_report_cta

The Headline findings are below.

95%

say u3a has improved their life in some way

90%

say u3a gives them opportunities to keep learning and stay curious

79%

say u3a has expanded their social connections

<https://ware.u3asite.uk>

77%

say their sense of wellbeing has improved since joining

66%

say u3a has helped them stay mentally and physically active

45%

say being part of u3a has reduced feelings of loneliness or isolation

A selection of Local Events coming up

BEAM Hertford on Wednesday 7 October at 7.30pm.

The show takes audiences on an entertaining journey through the history of jazz piano, from Ragtime and Stride through Boogie Woogie, Swing and Bebop, celebrating legends including Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller, Art Tatum, George Shearing, Dave Brubeck and Oscar Peterson.

Combining world-class musicianship with stories, anecdotes and humour, it's designed to be equally enjoyable for lifelong jazz fans and anyone who simply loves great live music.

Tickets & information:

<https://beamhertford.co.uk/whats-on/p1-125-years-of-jazz-piano-with-james-pearson/>

Swing into Town with the Urban Big Band at the Spotlight Hoddesdon

Sunday 18th October 2.30PM

Experience the golden age of the big band era as 17 wonderfully talented musicians recreate the nostalgic music of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Ted Heath and many more.

Tickets can be booked [The Spotlight](#) with all profits going to local charities

There are numerous events going on in Ware and more information can be found at [All Events in Ware | Ware Town Council](#)

Ware Museum

Ware Museum is an independent, accredited museum which is free to visit. They rely on donations and income from their shop and activities to help them care for their collections and keep the museum open.

Ware Museum at 40: Stories of People and Place is the first of two anniversary exhibitions. A second exhibition, opening in late September, will continue the story by exploring the Museum's next 20 years.



Please remember if you would like to form a new group then have a chat with Debbie Rudgley who is the groups coordinator and her email is groups@wareu3a.co.uk



If you have any views on how we can improve what we offer, or any other comments then please contact me at chair@u3a.co.uk

Yours,

Keith

<https://ware.u3asite.uk>