

Newsletter 177

March 2024

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Future Events

The **Chesterfield u3a AGM**

on **Wednesday 6th March**

from **2 pm – 4 pm**

will be in the **Winding Wheel.**

It will be followed by a talk about the Marie Curie organisation.

Please note that the venue is the Winding Wheel.

Your Committee and Key Volunteers 2023-2024:

Honorary Officers:

Chair: Irene Wilkinson, 01246 234924,
chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Vice Chair: VACANT

Secretary: Carole Grew, 07739 383772
secretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Treasurer: Richard Turley, 01246 591300
treasurer@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Other Committee Members,

some of whom have additional key volunteer roles:

Sue Atherton, 01246 229469, susanatherton56@gmail.com

Lynn Cusson, **(Assistant Treasurer)** 07887 884876,
assistanttreasurer@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Jane Machin and Brian Heathcote **(Joint groups facilitators)**
groupfacilitator@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Kathryn Lambert, **(Membership Secretary)**
684 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield S40 3NU
membershipsecretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Valerie Myers, **(New-member Supporter)** 07928 327876,
newmembersupport@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Roger Watts, **(Beacon Administrator)** 01246 276161,
beacon.admin@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Other Key Volunteer Roles:

Facebook Moderator: Howard Burrell,
facebookmoderator@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Meetings Organiser: Samantha Roberts, 01246 557731,
meetingsorganiser@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Jeanne Clark, 0114 2367390,
8 Abbeydale Park Rise, Sheffield S17 3PD
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Refreshment Team Coordinator: Pat Jackson,
refreshmentcoord@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Website Manager: Mark Hoare, 01246 566722
webmaster@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

u3a BUSINESS

COPY DATE FOR NEWSLETTER number 178 MAY

Please send all items for the Newsletter to Jeanne Clark by email or post to the address above, as soon as possible and by **8th April** at the latest. The editor will acknowledge receipt, edit, and abridge as necessary and her decision on inclusion, content and format is final.

APRIL e-BULLETIN

Coordinators with new information which they want to pass on to their members, or details of activities or events which are coming up, should send the details to Jeanne Clark by **23rd March**.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

These are the last Notes I will be writing, as my term as Chair comes to an end at the AGM on 6th March. When I became Chair, in March 2022, we were coming out of the two-year period of Covid restrictions, and no-one was quite certain what lasting effects (if any) there would be on our lives.

Thankfully, our u3a and most of its members came through the restrictions and, because of the efforts of committed volunteers, we have been able to build the extent of activities back to the pre-Covid level. Most other u3as have also proved themselves to be resilient.

I would like to thank **all** our volunteers for their contribution to Chesterfield u3a during my two-year term as Chair. There have been some new faces in key volunteer roles over the past year; Samantha Roberts has been our Meetings Organiser since the 2023 AGM; Pat Jackson formally took on the role of Refreshments Team Co-ordinator (which she had been doing unofficially for some time); Jane Machin and Brian Heathcote have taken over as joint Groups Facilitators and Jean Jefferies has become our new Beacon Administrator. Additionally, at the AGM, Richard Turley steps down as Treasurer, with Lynn Cusson nominated to replace him, having been the Assistant Treasurer since the 2023 AGM. I appreciate the contributions of those volunteers leaving their roles and welcome their replacements.

Irene Wilkinson, chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE

Our u3a is managed by the Committee, which oversees all activities and ensures that they comply with the law and with good practice. It consists of up to 12 people (also known as trustees) who are elected by u3a members at the AGM. Without a committee, our u3a would have to close, and so the role of trustee is the most important voluntary role in the organisation.

From the 2024 AGM onwards we need:

A Chair – because my two-year period of office ends in March 2024; responsible for leading our u3a and chairing the committee; previous experience in being a charity trustee is desirable.

A Vice-chair – to assist the Chair and deputise when necessary; previous experience as a committee member is desirable but someone willing to take on this role would quickly gain such experience.

A trustee willing to also take on the voluntary role of Assistant Treasurer; financial experience is desirable; previous committee experience is desirable but a willingness to help manage the running of our u3a is more important.

Two other trustees - previous committee experience is desirable but a willingness to help manage the running of our u3a is more important.

The Committee currently meets every two months on a Friday afternoon and communicates by email in between meetings as necessary. Any of the existing committee members, myself included, would be happy to provide more information.

As well as helping the organisation, volunteering is known to improve the well-being of the volunteers themselves and to enable them to gain new skills and experiences. It's a way of meeting people and making friends.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of someone coming forward to volunteer to become the Chair for the next two years. Without a Chair, neither the committee nor the u3a itself can function properly, and we would have to consider closing Chesterfield u3a.

No volunteers to be Chair = potentially no u3a.

Irene Wilkinson, Chair, chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

COUNCIL PROPOSALS FOR THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Some of you may have already learned that Chesterfield Borough Council is closing the Assembly Rooms from 1st July 2024.

Our understanding so far of the situation concerning the effect of this announcement, is that bookings which are in the diary for the Assembly Rooms up to and including 30th June are still able to go ahead (i.e. Open Meeting on 1st May, Coffee Morning on 3rd April).

We are discussing with Council representatives what other Council venues may be available for our bi-monthly Open Meetings and Coffee Mornings from July onwards, but probably won't know the exact details of what may be available, and at what price, until at least the end of February.

A few u3a groups meet in either Meeting Room 1 or 2 in the Market Hall (behind the Assembly Room itself) and we are contacting the relevant Group Co-ordinators about alternative venues for them.

We will give members more information about future venues for our Open Meetings and Coffee Mornings once we know them ourselves.

Irene Wilkinson, on behalf of Chesterfield u3a Committee

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our new members: Michael Hicken, Andrea Melo, Julie Simpson, Clive Hart, Charles Smith, Michal Koniarski, Jenny and John Bacon, Kevin Callaghan, Anthony Bull, Lindsay and Kenneth Fox, Michael Hankey, Jennifer Kugler, David Hill, Rachel Rist, Sheila Steeples, Ray Russell, Catherine Mann, Jean Jones, Monica Baker, Glynis Allman, Christopher Bluff, Julie and Alan James, Dorothy Rowland, Norman Magowan, Frank Beasley, Michael Truelove, Sue Auckland, Harry Simpson, Susan Furniss, Mike Edrich, Nick Chard, Sue and John Rollin, Heather Brailsford, Linda D'Agata, Nigel Gregory, Jean and Patrick Waller, Barbara and Allan Campbell, Sue Foulds, Kay and Ralph Dickinson, Judith and John Thorpe, Sheila Webster, and Linda Gibson.

Kathryn Lambert, membershipsecretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

There will be a **Coffee Morning**
on **Wednesday 3rd April**
from **10.15 am – 11.45 am**



in Rooms 1 and 2 at the Market Hall.
Refreshments will be available while you meet
new members or chat with friends.

GROUP AND ACTIVITY NEWS AND PROGRAMMES

COUNTRY DANCING

Country dancing is on Thursday 28th March and Thursday 25th April at the Ragged School Church Hall, Markham Road, at 7pm - just turn up to have a go. Good for gentle exercise, social contact, and the brain!

Joy Houghton



FRENCH CONVERSATION

There is room in this group for more members. Please get in touch for more details.

Christina Kennedy

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUPS

The next meeting will be on March 21st at the Chesterfield Library Theatre. It starts at 2 pm (doors open at 1.30) £3 entry fee including free raffle. All are welcome. The talk will be about "The History of Garden Design" and the speaker is Camilla Anderson.

All of us love to wander around gardens but have you ever wondered where the design of your favourite garden comes from? Or when the lawnmower was invented? This talk will provide a romp through the history of garden design from the great gardens of Kenilworth created for Elizabeth I in 1575 to the gardens of the 21st century,

Group one co-ordinator: Irene Trevis, 074340 42215

Group two co-ordinator: June Partington 01246 232169

GEOLOGY

Judy used this at the end of her presentation: words by Mick Ryan.

Warning – this may offend some people! [Editor]

There was a young lass of geology

Seduced by a man of theology

He fondled her rocks

Which blew off her socks

Then left her without an apology.

There was an old man of geology

Measured age by a different chronology

"When I'm compared

with the rocks" he declared

"I am young, though I'm old in biology."

Pamela Boulton

NEWS FROM THE HANDICRAFT GROUP

We have had an interesting time over the last few months with a variety of activities including making beaded jewellery, creating Christmas decorations, paper crafts, and a guest speaker showed us how to make some 'joyful' Christmas cards.

In February we will have been creating collage houses from a variety of fabrics. Wendy and Marilyn have been busy collecting pieces of work from members, which will be displayed in Chesterfield library during February. Please call in and have a look if you are in town.

Sue Hart

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Tuesday 5th March: *The History of the British Motor Industry in the East Midlands* by Paul Adey

Paul is experienced in management recruitment, training and development as well as having a wide knowledge of the motor industry. Being retired for a number of years, he is now developing a new career in delivering his presentations nationwide. Paul will look at some of the many car manufacturers that sprang up in the early years of the motor industry; there were a few modest successes but many failures. We focus on, among others, Sheffield-Simplex, Laycock-Charron, Humber, Raleigh, Brough and Bentley. Some went on to greater things, while others faded into obscurity.

Sandra Frost

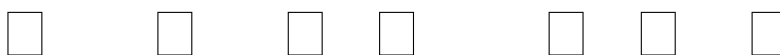
MUSIC INSTRUMENTAL GROUP

Do you have a musical instrument, and can read and sight-read music? Why not come along for a free trial session?

The group meets on Thursdays at 10 am to 12 noon. We play a variety of music, in a friendly ensemble environment.

We have places for violins, guitars, clarinets, oboes, flutes, recorders, saxophones, and others.

If interested please contact Elaine, the group co-ordinator, through the website. She will give you more information.



Elaine Schofield

SUPPER CLUB 4

There are three thriving Supper Clubs in Chesterfield already, but there are still plenty more people wanting to join these clubs. To meet demand, we are setting up a new Supper Club in the near future. If you would like to enjoy good food, good company, and interesting conversation on a monthly basis, please contact me immediately.



Alan Cornwell, alan_cornwell@talktalk.net

UPWORDS

The group meets every other Wednesday at 1.45 pm at Loundsley Green Community Centre. The next meetings will be on 13th and 27th March, and 10th and 24th April.

We play by the slightly informal “Chesterfield” rules, aiming to learn new words as we play.

Tony Clark, tony.clark1@btinternet.com

WALKING GROUPS

WALKING GROUP D (TUESDAY)

These walks are usually of 5 to 7 miles. We set out **promptly** at 10am and all walks include a coffee stop and lunch stop (bring your own). New walkers are always made welcome. **Easy** walks have no or very short steep climbs and descents, and are usually around 5 miles long. They may include long but gentle climbs and descents. **Moderate** walks will be up to 7 miles in length and may have a number of climbs and descents, some of which may be steeper or longer. **Hard** walks will be up to 7 miles or a little more in length and will have a number of steep or long climbs or descents.

The named leader will decide if the weather is suitable for the walk; if you are in any doubt, please ring them.

5th Mar: GR 246606 DE4 2DJ CP next to Winster Primary School: Andy, 6 miles Moderate – steep start, some stiles.

12th Mar: GR 240747 S32 3WY park on road alongside cricket pitch; Sough Lane, Calver: Mel, 6.5 miles Moderate.

19th Mar: GR 247745 S32 3XA near Curbar Primary School: Joyce and David 07926 547112, 6 miles Moderate - long steady climb up to Eyam.

26th Mar: GR 290556 DE4 4GT Black Rocks CP (fee): Shirley and Valerie, 6 miles Moderate.

2nd Apr: GR 403804 S12 3XW Ford picnic site near Bridge Inn: Liz and Peter 07527 995776, 5 miles Easy, some short ascents.

9th Apr: GR 128659 SK17 9QJ Hurdlow CP (fee): Mick, 7 miles Moderate - one steep descent.

16th Apr: GR 255725 DE45 1SA Baslow CP (fee): Penny and Charles, 5 miles Moderate.

23rd Apr: GR 125603 SK17 OBE Hartington, park in main village (free): Dave M and Mick, 6 miles Moderate, rocky paths.

30th Apr: GR 334542 DE55 6BW Whatstandwell Station CP (fee): Mary, 7 miles Moderate (nothing too strenuous).

For any enquiries please contact:

Joyce Hart 0792 6547112 and Peter Smalley 07527 995776

WALKING GROUP B (Thursdays)

We start promptly at 10 am. Please arrive in good time to be suited and booted for 10. On walks of over 6.5 miles, a drink for a coffee stop and a packed lunch should be carried. These walks are shown with TL after the distance. On shorter walks there will be a stop for coffee (which you should carry) and a pub or café lunch may be arranged at the end.

Easy walks involve a total ascent of less than 500 feet (150 mtrs), Moderate walks have between 500 and 1000 feet (305 mtrs) and Harder walks have over 1000 feet. Remember, if using Grid Reference finder, you need to put SK before the number.

If you are thinking of joining us for the first time, give me a call or drop me an email so that I can look out for you.

Any problems please give me a ring: 07739 383772

7th Mar: GR 258721 Baslow (CP) pay: Baslow, Chatsworth House, Hunting Tower; Sarah: 5 miles Easy but steep steps to Hunting Tower

14th Mar: GR 359754 Sheepbridge Cobnar Wood Close: Gateland Lane, Monk Wood, Ouzle Bank Cottage, Roughpiece Wood; Bob: 5.6 miles Easy

21st Mar: BRECON – NO WALK

28th Mar: SK 375610 Ogston Res North CP: Ogston Round: Cliff: 8 miles Moderate TL

4th Apr: GR 548740 Welbeck Estate CP (free) 53.261049 – 1.179228 S80 3NB: Welbeck Court, Robin Hood Way, South Lodge (tunnel entrance) Belph: Mike 7 miles, Easy (Mike suggests the café at the end for lunch or bring your own food)

11th Apr: SK 156942 CP Pay £4 **coins** (53.26493-1.77130): Tideswell Dale, Litton Mill, Monsal Trail, Miller's Dale, Tideswell; Cynthia and Eileen: 6 miles Moderate, 1 steep bank

18th Apr: Curbar Gap CP 63746; Wellington Monument, Gardoms Edge, Ramsley reservoir; Stuart: 7.5 miles 1000ft TL

25th Apr: GR 191768 follow village green: Grindlow, Cressbrook Dale, Wardlow; Adrian: 7 miles Moderate TL

Carole Grew, 07739 383772, carole.grew64@gmail.com

STROLLERS (Saturdays)

As usual walks take place fortnightly and will be on the following Saturdays:

2nd, 16th and 30th March, and 13th and 27th April and 11th May.

We do our best to avoid stiles and steep slopes and walk for a maximum of 3 miles.

We now meet directly at the walking venue and you must be ready to leave from there sharply at 10.45 am for our walk. Emails detailing venues and directions to get there are sent out to members regularly.

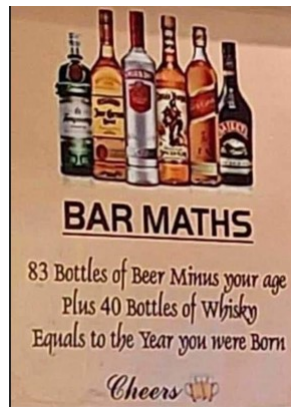
We are not currently organising pub/café lunches at the end, but members may organise these themselves. If a walk is to be cancelled in advance, we send out an email to members the evening before if possible, suggesting an alternative coffee meeting place. If weather conditions are very poor on the morning of the walk it would be advisable to contact the coordinators or walk leaders to ask if the walk is going ahead before you set out. Again, a coffee alternative may be suggested. **Anyone wishing to join the group should contact the coordinators beforehand for details of the next walk.**

Sue and Brian Taylor, 07532 160324, sue_taylor@live.com

Yesterday is history;

Tomorrow is a mystery;

Today is a gift, which is why it is called the Present.



Can any mathematicians out there please explain how this works?

The 30th International
Gilbert & Sullivan
 Festival

Buxton & District U3A welcomes the
 30th International Gilbert & Sullivan
 Festival back to Buxton from Saturday
 27 July to Saturday 10 August 2023

We are pleased to advise that a U3A group booking has been
 made in Buxton Opera House for the performance of
The Pirates of Penzance on Sunday, 28 July 2024 at 7.30 pm

The full festival programme may be downloaded from www.gsfestivals.org or call 01422 323252 for a copy of the newsletter.

One of the festival highlights will be a hilarious production all-time favourite *The Pirates of Penzance*, performed by the professional National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company, directed by and starring Simon Butteriss.

Follow the adventures of Frederic, in love with the Major General's daughter. Frederic finds himself torn between his sense of duty and his love for Mabel. Can he find a way to live happily ever after?

There will be a pre-performance talk by a G&S expert especially for U3A members.

The cost per ticket is a special price of £30 (centre stalls)

Please register your interest by emailing Philip Barton (group leader Adventures in Good Music) at philip.barton@btinternet.com with your name, email address, telephone number and number of tickets required. Alternatively, text details or leave a message on 07980 660202 or 01295 214571.

You will be contacted in early March with details of how to make payment.

Gilbert & Sullivan Festivals

BUXTON OPERA HOUSE & PAULSON ARTS CENTRE

Published by u3a Chesterfield
 Registered Charity No1064504