

Newsletter 178

May 2024

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Future Events

The **Open Meeting** will take place on
Wednesday 1st May from **2 pm – 4 pm**
and will be in the **Market Hall**.

It will be a talk: *The Long Road to
Publication* by James Ellson.

More information on page 5.

Unfortunately, the Cheese Factory talk has had to be rearranged.

The talk on 1st May will be the last open meeting held in the Market Hall.

Your Committee and Key Volunteers 2024–2025:

Honorary Officers:

Chair: Roger Watts, 01246 276161,
chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Vice Chair: VACANT

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

Treasurer: Lynn Cusson, 07887 884876,
treasurer@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Other Committee Members: some with key volunteer roles:

Sue Atherton, 01246 229469, susanatherton56@gmail.com

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

Alan Cornwell, 07500406539, alan_cornwell@talktalk.net

Nicola Hoskin Stone, 01246 275807, nicolahoskinstone@gmail.com

Irene Wilkinson, 01246 234924, iw43@central@gmail.com

Other Key Volunteer Roles:

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

Membership Secretary Kathryn Lambert,
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membershipsecretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

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webmaster@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

u3a BUSINESS

COPY DATE FOR NEWSLETTER number 179 JULY

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 June** at the latest. The editor will acknowledge receipt, edit, and abridge as necessary and her decision on inclusion, content and format is final.

JUNE 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 May**.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

I see from my records that it's been ten years since I wrote one of these notes at the start of a Newsletter. And I have to confess that it is somewhat of a surprise that I should be the first Chair to have to reprise the practice. Since it's been that long, there are many who won't remember my last stint – and perhaps there are those who'd rather not remember!

So, I joined Chesterfield U3A in 2007 and joined the Committee the following year, under the Chairmanship of Campbell Sylvester, who has sadly recently passed away. I became Chair in 2012. After my two years were up, I took on running the database which eventually became Beacon. I've passed on that role now and am looking forward to my year as Chair again. I am a member of quite a few Groups and so get to meet many of you. I hope you will let me know if you think I could do better.

The start has been decidedly rocky. As many of you may have heard, the cash-strapped Borough Council is divesting itself of the Market Hall meeting rooms from July and we need to find a new home for our Open Meetings and Coffee Mornings. Several Groups will also be displaced. However, the Meetings Organiser and her supporters have the matter in hand and I'm confident that we shall have a home to go to in July. I believe also that all the Groups that met there have new places to meet.

Some things don't change, and I recall that my first Open Meeting was held in the Pomegranate Theatre, we having been chucked out of the Winding Wheel!

Other recurring problems are maintaining our Membership, numbers of Groups and Volunteers – or lack of.

On this last issue, I hope by the time this is published, we will have a page on the Website dedicated to Volunteering opportunities.

'Ask not what your u3a can do for you – ask what you can do for your u3a.' (apologies to JFK)

Roger Watts, chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

CAMPBELL SYLVESTER March 1944– March 2024

Campbell was one of the very early members of Chesterfield u3a – his membership number was 289. He was enormously proud of the fact that he managed to escape the confines of work to enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Over the years he has been a very active member and supporter, holding various positions: Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, Chairman.

He was always happy to get involved in projects and was a member of the subcommittee set up to rationalise the accounts, and modified the u3a constitution, which until its recent changes, he could quote chapter and verse!!

He prepared a history booklet for Chesterfield u3a and was on the committee for the 21st birthday celebrations, and a member of the Local History Groups with special interest in maps and censuses.

However, his main interest and joy was walking; he was the Thursday walks coordinator for many years, and he and Philip Haslam organised the walking programme for the March holidays. His knowledge of walks in Derbyshire was tremendous and his study at home is still full of hundreds if not thousands of walks in and around Derbyshire (Good luck with all that Irene!).

He was an absolute gentleman in every sense of the word and will be greatly missed.

Carole Grew

There will be a **Coffee Morning** on
Wednesday 5th June
from **10.15 am – 11.45 am**



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

This will be the last coffee morning at this venue.

OPEN MEETING

James Ellson's talk, *The Long Road to Publication*, covers his twin careers of detective and crime writer, and why and how it took ten years to publish his debut novel *The Trail*, which was published in 2020, and the sequel *Cold Dawn* in 2022. *Cold Summer*, third in the DCI Castle series is just out!

James Ellson was a police officer in the UK for 15 years, starting in London and finishing as a Detective Inspector at Moss Side in Manchester. When he left the police force, he started writing, and has been writing ever since.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our new members:

Susan Lilleker, Miriam Northard, Jennifer Monks, Diane and Andrew Moore, Sandra Leivers, Amanda Baker, Diane Townsend, Ian Fowkes, Marian Parry, Jill Taylor, Steven Goodwin, Carol Hibberd, Joanne and Charles Jackson, Steven Braysher, Diana Allen, Linda Kirkwood and Sharon and Ken Bowen.

Kathryn Lambert, membershipsecretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

BRECON HOLIDAY

Forty-five intrepid explorers braved the mud and weather of South Wales in March on the annual walking holiday.

We stayed at the lovely HF property, Nythfa House, in Brecon where we were very well looked after.

We walked on five days, distances ranging from two to ten miles and difficulty from easy to more challenging. Some of our walkers managed much more than they thought they could do.

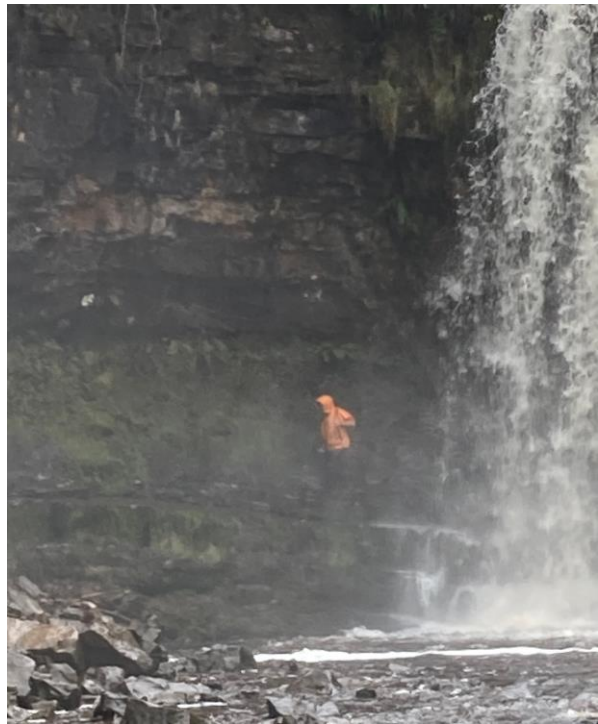
Evening entertainment was varied, fun, entertaining, challenging, and informative. We had two quiz evenings. One run by HF nationally, and one written by our very own Barry Jex who unfortunately was not with us to read it out.

A representative from Mountain Rescue gave a brilliant talk on the type of calls they have to respond to. We were all left with nothing but admiration for the volunteers who put their lives at risk to save others.

Diminishing whist and ten pin bowling were a little less mentally challenging.

Our final night was Chesterfield's Got Talent- and what talent we had! Poetry, historical information, piano solos, and songs. The finale was a couple of songs, words written by Joyce and David Hart, and performed by a motley crew of very talented singers.















Carole Grew

CHESTERFIELD u3a

SPRING WALKING HOLIDAY 2025

Following a successful week walking in Bandai Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) this year, our next walking holiday will be at Selworthy, Somerset, from 21st to 28th March 2025. If you would like further details, please contact me.

Valerie Myers, vmyers@talktalk.net

GROUP AND ACTIVITY NEWS AND PROGRAMMES

ARCHITECTURE APPRECIATION GROUP

We are having a Blue Badge guided walk around Dronfield at 2.30 pm on **Monday 13th May**. The charge will be £5 per person for this. If any u3a member who is not part of this group wishes to find out more, please email for further details.

Tony Clark, tony.clark1@btinternet.com

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 10am 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 or need more information, please use this link to contact Elaine, [Music Instrumental Coordinator](#)

NEW GROUP

TAI CHI

We are starting a new, weekly, group to learn and practise Tai Chi. No special equipment or clothing is required. Anything loose is preferable. Both men and women are welcome.

We shall be learning from online video lessons intended for absolute beginners but if anyone can share experience then, of course, chip in.

Time and Day: Every Wednesday 11 – 12 noon

Place: Stonegravels Parish Centre, Sheffield Road – opposite the Mormon church. For more details, please contact Maureen:

Maureen Barns, maureenbarns@aol.com

UPWORDS

The next meetings are 8th and 22nd May, and 5th and 19th June.

Tony Clark, tony.clark1@btinternet.com

WILDFLOWER GROUP WALKS

The next walk is on Friday 3rd May:

3rd May: Linacre Woods for spring woodland flowers. Meet at the top car park on the left-hand side of the road (fee) grid reference SK337726, post code S42 7JW (off the B6050 road from Cutthorpe).

17th May: Pleasley Pit Country Park: for limestone grassland flowers. Meet at the car park at the end of Pit Lane; SK499643; NG19 7PH; from the A617 roundabout at Pleasley, take the exit to Pleasley Village, then turn right onto Pit Lane.

31st May: Tideswell Dale: for limestone grassland flowers. Meet in the National Park car park (fee) on the B6049 south of Tideswell; SK154742.

14th June: High Peak Trail/National Stone Centre: for wayside, hedgerow and limestone flowers. Meet in Stone Centre car park off Porter Lane, Wirksworth (donation); SK286554; DE4 4LS.

28th June: Creswell Crag: for flowers in a variety of habitats. Meet in the visitor centre car park (£3 donation requested) accessed via the A616 then the B6042; SK538744; S80 3LH.

All the walks are morning-only walks, but people can always opt to stay for longer if they wish. We meet at the venue at 9.50 for a 10 am start. If anyone needs a lift, please contact me and I will email round group members. Please car share if possible, in this time of increasing energy and other costs. It would be helpful if people could let me know if they will be coming on a walk.

**Irene Wilkinson, iw43central@gmail.com; 01246 234924,
on the day only 07967 123703**

WALKING GROUPS

WALKING GROUP D (Tuesday)

These walks are usually of 5 to 7 miles. We set out 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 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 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.

7th May: GR 135547 DE6 2GB Milldale CP (fee, card only): Moira 559365, 07944 590817, 6 miles Moderate/Harder

14th May: GR 417739 S43 3AH Ringwood Park CP: Shirley and Valerie 07757 089914 or 07854 509129, 6 miles Moderate

21st May: GR 240747 S32 3WY Calver, park on road alongside cricket field, Sough Lane: Mel 07875 156869, 6.5 miles Moderate

28th May: GR 267801 S11 7TZ Longshaw Woodcroft CP (free for NT members): Liz and Peter 07527 995776, 5 miles Moderate

4th June: GR 279580 DE4 2AA Bonsall lorry park: Andy 277292, 6 miles Moderate

11th June: GR 129604 SK17 0DH Biggin village: Joyce and David 07926 547112, 6.5 miles Easy/Moderate

18th June: GR 257659 DE4 2EL Rowsley CP on Old Station Close: Helena 07813 215888, 6 miles Moderate

25th June: GR 128659 SK17 9QJ Hurdlow CP (fee, card only): Mick 07415 925326, 6 miles Easy

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 am. 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.

2nd May: GR 246606 Winster School CP: Winster Uppertown, Clough Wood, Wensley, Bonsall Moor, Luntor Rocks; Carole: 5.75 miles Moderate

9th May: GR 195697 Ashford in the Water, near the Sheepwash Bridge: Churchdale Hall, Monsal Trail and Headstone Tunnel, Pennyunk Lane; Geoff and Mary: 5 miles (440ft) Easy

16th May: GR 359754 Sheepbridge, Cobnar Wood Close: Gateland Lane, Monk Wood, Ouzle Bank Cottage, Roughpiece Wood; Bob 5.6 miles Easy

23rd May: GR 256776 Lat 53.295593 Long -1.1616897 Haywood CP: Froggatt, Curbar and White Edges; Cliff 7 miles Moderate TL

30th May: GR 172607 Friden Station CP (pay): Newhaven Crossing, Minninglow CP, Hedge Lane, Long Dale: Steve L 6 miles Easy

6th June: GR 17291 Last lay-by before Fairholmes: Lockerbrook, Haggs Farm, Alport Castles, Derwent Reservoir; Ian 8 miles Moderate TL

13th June: GR 258658 Rowsley Old Station CP; route via Stanton Moor, Birchover, Congreve; Adrian 7.5 miles Moderate TL

20th June: GR 461706 Peter Fidler Reserve: Reserve to Sutton Scarsdale Hall and back; Rob 5.5 miles Easy

27th June: GR 121748 Roadside wide verge parking N of Wormhill: route via Hay Dale and Wheston; John M 7.1 miles (1010 ft) Harder TL

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

STROLLERS (Saturdays)

Walks take place fortnightly and will be on the following Saturdays:

27th April, 11th and 25th May, 8th and 22nd June, and 6th July.

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

ASTRONOMY AND MYTHS

I recently listened to an online lecture as part of my research for the Astronomy Group and something was mentioned that I have not heard of before - dark constellations.

Many cultures around the world group stars into shapes; the patterns are given names and are associated with myths or religious stories. But some cultures conjure up pictures from the dark areas between the stars and nebulae.

The Inca people pictured images of animals where there is an absence of stars in the Milky Way, and these were considered to be living forms representing animals that the Inca knew. One of the most important is the Yacana - the Llama, and another is a wavy black ribbon that makes up the Mach'acuay - the Serpent.

Sue Atherton

MORE WORD PUZZLES

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

Beer						
Repast						
Stroll						
Accuses						
Rafters						
Foundation						
Ocean						

Atmosphere						
Indian garment						
Pours						
Wrench						
Couples						
File						
Par						

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