

Newsletter 181
November 2024

Follow on [Facebook](#)

Website: <https://chesterfield.u3asite.uk>



Future Events

The **Open Meeting** will take place on

Wednesday 6th November

from **2pm – 4pm**

at **Chesterfield Football Club**

(SMH Group Stadium)

1866 Sheffield Road, Chesterfield S41 8NZ

The Victorian Baroness Bolsover, in period

costume, will talk about

Afternoon Tea Etiquette

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: Irene Trevis, 07434042215
treasurer@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Other Committee Members: some with key volunteer roles:

Sue Atherton, 01246 229469, susanatherton56@hotmail.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,
684 Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield S40 3NU
membershipsecretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Assistant Membership Secretary Richard Turley, 07811 305886

Beacon Administrator: Jean Jeffries, 01246 276161,
beacon.admin@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

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

Meetings Organiser: **VACANT**

Newsletter Editor: Jeanne Clark, 0114 2367390,
8 Abbeydale Park Rise, Sheffield S17 3PD
newsletereditor@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

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

DECEMBER 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 November**.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Can I start off by thanking Lynn Cussons for her stint as Treasurer. She has had to resign because of family reasons. She will be replaced by Irene Trevis.

All this been sorted out using the marvels of modern communication, since I am on holiday with Ruth in Denmark. And I am writing this in Copenhagen to beat the copy deadline. Even twelve years ago, in my first term, I wouldn't have done that. Now it's routine. Some of us, I know, are not familiar with such technology, and yet the world often seems to assume we are. Shops with no checkout staff, surgeries that expect pictures of your ailments, car parks with no cash or card payment machines, just a QR code. There is a presumption that everyone knows; too little thought has been given to the needs of non-computing people. I hope that if it happens to you, you speak up and demand better.

We are not immune to using technology in Chesterfield u3a. We need to move with the times, often to save money and keep the subscriptions down, but also to speed up communication. But I hope we are still catering for all of you. Those who can't read this newsletter online can have a copy posted to you. This issue has details of membership renewal. You can do it using Beacon or by Bank

transfer, but you can still pay by post/cheque! Just hang on to the form if you are going to wait until the New Year.

Finally, can I say a big thank you to Joyce Hart and her team for organising a very successful CAMEO to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. There were 400 people at the event, and we gained a score or so of new members. Let's make sure that we make them very welcome when we meet them.

Roger Watts, chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our new members:

Kenneth Tinker, Katrine Pebworth, Stephanie Saltford, Simon Clough, Jamie Mather, Peter Myers, Alan Kelsall, Janet and Paul Tipper, Gillian Mountford, Romy Rylance, Paul Greenfield, Eric Woodhouse, Gabrielle and Peter Smith, Heather Leonard, Pamela Lenton, Sherryll and Mark Cartwright, Amanda Mellows, Ian Stenhouse, Karen Sheldon, Adrian Green, Sue Stokes, Janet Hobden, Danuta Brooke, Robert Breese, Joanne Carley, Kenneth Franklin, Catherine Baldwin, Cerys James, Carl Clayton, Julie Hoskin, Rosemary Hopkinson, Valerie McMann, Denise Shaw and Brendon Wilson.

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

RENEWALS FOR 2025

We are pleased to announce that there will be no increase again in membership fees for 2025.

The renewal fees for 2025 are £14.00 for individual membership and £28.00 for joint membership, respectively.

You can renew from 22nd October.

We would like as many of you as possible to renew using PayPal or Credit card or Debit card via the **Chesterfield u3a Members Portal** using this link:

<https://u3abeacon.org.uk/u3aportal.php?u3a=257&sc=MEZI>

You will need to print off your own membership cards.

If you need help, please contact the Beacon Administrator, whose contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter.

Alternative methods are available for those of you unable to renew in this way.

Alternative Renewal option 1: Paperless using this link

<https://forms.office.com/r/0JnAqtC2XR> which takes you to our online form. Payment may be made by bank transfer, or by cheque. If you need help, please contact the Assistant Membership Secretary, whose contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter.

Alternative Renewal option 2: Paper renewal with bank transfer or cheque. If you need help, please contact the Membership Secretary, whose contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter.

CHEQUE PAYMENT: Cheques should be made payable to **Chesterfield U3A, with no alterations!!** with your membership number(s) on the back of the cheque. **Please do not send cash.**

Please send your completed form and/or cheque to the Membership Secretary, at the address on page 2 of the newsletter.

BANK TRANSFER

Transfer to: **Chesterfield U3A**

Sort code: **30-91-93**

Account No: **00507200** at the TSB, with your membership number(s) as the transfer reference.

If you need help, please contact the Assistant Membership Secretary, whose contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

These will be emailed to you once your 2025 renewal has been processed. Printed membership cards can only be obtained by sending a **stamped addressed envelope** to the Membership Secretary.

GIFT AID

Thank you to the increasing number of members who currently Gift Aid their subscriptions; it is a valuable source of extra income for our u3a. We would encourage any members who are eligible to gift aid their membership subscriptions to consider it and tick the gift aid box.

Kathryn Lambert, Membership Secretary
Richard Turley, Assistant Membership Secretary

EVENTS

There will be a **Coffee Morning** on
Wednesday 4th December
from **10.15 am – 11.45 am**



in **Spire Parish Rooms on Church Way.**
Refreshments will be available whilst you
meet new members and chat with old
friends, in new surroundings

CAMEO EVENT – 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED IN STYLE

On 25th September, we celebrated 30 years of Chesterfield u3a with our Come And Meet Each Other (CAMEO) gathering at the SMH Group Stadium. 37 groups exhibited and there were music and dance performances. We planned for 150 people to attend, matching previous experience at the Winding Wheel, but the actual attendance was almost 400. It was a case of 'elbows in' on the day but, thanks to Pat Jackson's brilliant organisation, the cake just held out to the end with very few cupcakes needing to be frozen for future Coffee Meetings.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to a stall or performed. There isn't space to list every stand, but Skye the dog made a lot of friends for the dog walkers and there were many interesting displays, slide shows, and the opportunity to talk to other groups.

About 50 non-members are thought to have attended and there were some 30 membership enquiries for individuals or couples. The Mayor and Mayoress attended. The Mayor's opening speech showed she was well briefed, and she asked about membership. She has also invited the CAMEO organising group to take tea with her in the Mayor's Parlour.

Our Chair, Roger Watts, introduced the meeting, referring to u3a history and present challenges and opportunities, and John Lewis, Regional Trustee, related local u3as to the national scene.

My special thanks to all the CAMEO organising group, who put in a good many hours to make this a success. They were Sue Atherton, Alan Cornwell, Lynn Cusson, David Hart, Sylvia Jackson, Pat Jackson, Steve and Sheila Leigh, and Sam Roberts. Many thanks also to Carole Grew who acted as the link with the Committee.

The Stadium is a lovely venue and costs a fraction of the current charge for the Winding Wheel. It's likely that the parking at the venue encouraged attendance and it was much easier for members running stands to bring in their materials. The only downside is that space was tight and there were very difficult working conditions for the performers, though they showed indomitable u3a spirit. It's hoped there will be future opportunities for members to see our performing groups under better conditions. We had terrific help from the venue and special thanks are due to Jess, Emma and the team.

It may be a little early to start asking for volunteers to run the 35th Anniversary CAMEO . . .

There are pictures on the website.

Joyce Hart, 01246 567667, hartjoyce056@gmail.com

WHAT THE GROUPS ARE UP TO

ASTRONOMY GROUP

For our last Astronomy meeting we went to the Chesterfield Observatory at Newbold.

First, we had a presentation about the history of the development of amateur telescopes. This was followed by a discussion on the suitability of different types of telescopes, as some are more appropriate for viewing the moon and planets, and others are better when viewing stars, star clusters and nebulae. And then the point was made that good basic equipment for a beginner is just a comfortable reclining garden chair, with maybe a pair of binoculars, and a star map to enable familiarisation of the constellations.

When we went into the dome, the 18" telescope was set up for us to look through with a view of the fish and chip shop and the traffic lights at Grassmoor. Unfortunately, it was a cloudy evening, so no stars or moon to be seen.

We learnt about projects that the members are involved with, and one member, Sue, spoke very enthusiastically about seeing solar flares through her specialised solar telescope. It was a very interesting evening.

Sue Atherton



GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 and 2

This year talks will be held at The Ragged School, Markham Road, S40 1TA (below the library and bus station and opposite Ravenside shops) on the 3rd Thursday of the month (2nd Thursday in December) at 2 pm. Doors open at 1.30 pm. Entrance fee is £3 which includes a free raffle. All u3a members are welcome to attend the talks.

Thursday 21st November: A talk by Mike Davey on *A Suburban Garden throughout the Year* featuring his own half acre garden, describing its reclamation and plants that provide interest and colour throughout the year.

Thursday 12th December: A talk by Alison Levy who writes a blog about her Blackberry Garden entitled *From first thoughts to the present day - the story of how I created my garden from a blank canvas (pretty much a field) to what it is today*.

Future talks will be on 16th January, 20th February, and 20th March.

Group 1 coordinator: Irene Trevis, 07434 042215

Group 2 coordinator: June Partington, 07580 543449

GEOLOGY GROUP

Our special guest lecturer (a “real” geologist) for the Christmas meeting this year will be David Banks, with a talk entitled, *Geology and the Green Energy Transition*. Be there on 10th December at 10am at Eyre Chapel, and then enjoy our Christmas dinner afterwards at The Olde House. Booking essential (!) by 13th November with Pamela Boulton email pboulton@outlook.com or telephone **01246 237622**.

LOCAL HISTORY

The local history talks are open to all u3a members and are held at the library lecture theatre, £3.00 on the door starting at 2.00pm.

Tuesday 12th November: Danielle Burton will talk about: ***Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle: Is it Fair to Call her Mad Madge?***

Danielle is a Derbyshire-based historian, author and history blogger. Whilst her first book, published in February, is the first biography of Anthony Woodville, brother-in-law to Edward IV, Danielle has an interest in little known stories from the 15th to the 19th centuries. She

has a First in History and an MA in Public History and Heritage, both from the University of Derby. She currently works as a Visitor Centre Assistant at Masson Mills but has worked and volunteered in the heritage sector since 2016.

Margaret Cavendish was involved in many things seen as ‘unladylike’ for her day, but was always supported by her husband, William. Why was she nicknamed *Mad Madge* and is this a fair assessment of her?

Sandra Frost

POETRY GROUP

Are you interested in poetry and its appreciation, and in writing poems of your own?

The idea is to start a new group, which might meet once a month. The aims are to encourage the writing of poems, to share them and to offer constructive comments and critique in a friendly and supportive setting.

There might also be opportunities to read and discuss favourite poems.

If the idea appeals, please let me know.

Ken Franklin at 07478 336567, or ken.franklin@zen.co.uk

SCIENCE GROUP

The group thanks Carole Garmory for all her work to organise this popular group over the past years. Carole is taking a well-earned retirement from Group Coordinator but giving support to keep the group going while we seek a new coordinator. As u3a is primarily a learning organisation, it would be a shame if we could not sustain a science group.

If you are interested in joining the science group, or becoming a co-ordinator, contact the Science Now group via the website link. The group welcomes new members; we meet in a large room at St Thomas’ Church, Brampton, on Chatsworth Road.

All our meetings are from **2 pm – 4 pm** on the **first Thursday** in each month, and these meetings are arranged so far:

Thursday 7th November: Steve Leigh on *Do the numbers add up? – using data to make decisions*.

Thursday 12th December (Second Thursday this month only): We join in harmony with the Music Group for a seasonal lunch at St Thomas', price and time to be announced.

Thursday 2nd January: Sue Atherton on *Life on an oak tree – exploring the fauna and flora that depend upon oak trees*.

Thursday 6th February: *Discovering the night sky* with Martin Bradley, u3a member and astrophotographer.

Thursday 6th March: Pamela Boulton on *Geological time, life on earth*.

Thursday 3rd April: A possible visit to Jodrell Bank open to all u3a members. This would be an all-day outing arriving at the centre at 12.00 and returning at 4.15pm. There is a café at the centre. The cost of entry is £14 if you are under 65, and £12 for those of 65 plus. There are usually special shows in the Planetarium for which there is an additional charge of £5 each. The amazing Astronomy Photographer of the Year exhibition, which I have seen at Greenwich, is at Jodrell Bank until 28th April, and there is no additional charge. The plan is to travel by car on an expense sharing basis – volunteer drivers needed for about 45 miles and one and a half hours each way. Please contact me by email if you are interested.

Thursday 1st May: Joy Partridge on *The vagus nerve* A chance to learn about 'the body's superhighway'.

Could you lead a meeting at our group? – We are actively looking for u3a members (or their friends) who could present on a scientific or mathematical topic to our group, based on their own interests. We have had meetings led by highly qualified professionals, but we give an equal welcome to topics and contents inspired by the presenters' interests, which may be far from what they did at work. If you would be interested, please contact me. Presenting to the science group is a very pleasant experience and we particularly enjoy meetings in which we get to do as well as to listen.

For all our sessions at St Thomas' we ask members to contribute £3 per meeting to hire the hall and provide hot drinks and biscuits.

Contact through the website,
https://chesterfield.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/science-now/

UPWORDS

The next meetings are 6th and 20th November, 4th and 18th December, and 8th January.

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, usually, a 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 may 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 may be 7 miles or a little longer 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 Nov: GR 417738 S43 3HA Ringwood Park CP (free): Dorothy and Valerie, 6 miles Moderate

12th Nov: GR 218685 DE45 1AH Bakewell Agricultural Centre CP (fee): Joyce and David 07926 547112, 6.5 miles Moderate

19th Nov: GR 171835 S33 6SB Hope CP (fee): Richard, 5.5 miles Moderate

26th Nov: GR 223690 DE45 1GE Bakewell Old Station CP (fee): Liz and Peter 07527 995776, 5 miles Easy/Moderate

3rd Dec: GR 149666 DE45 1JJ Jack Mere CP, Monyash (donations): Mick, 6.5 miles Moderate

10th Dec: GR 267801 S11 7TY Longshaw Woodcroft CP (free to NT members): Mel, 6 miles Moderate

17th Dec: GR 339692 S42 7EQ The Bull, Holymoorside: Penny and Charles, 5 miles Moderate, a few climbs

24th and 31st Dec: NO WALKS – MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Joyce Hart 0792 6547112 and Peter Smalley 07527 995776

WALKING GROUP B (Thursdays)

We start promptly at 10am. Please arrive in good time to be suited and booted for 10am. 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. Grid Reference for starting points are shown. Remember if using the grid reference finder you need to put SK before the number. Any problems, give me a call or text.

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.

7th Nov: GR 249528 Sheepwash CP, Carsington reservoir: Carsington/Brassington/High Peak Trail; Andrew: 7 miles Moderate

14th Nov: SK 336727, 53.250322, -1.497655 Linacre CP (Lower): Linacre reservoirs, Wigley, Riddings, Frith Hall, Old Brampton; Mike: 5 miles Easy

21st Nov: Hardwick Hall main CP: Hardwick to Pleasley; Carol W 6 miles Easy

28th Nov: 128804.5 Hartington: Biggin and Beresford dales; John Mc: 7.3 miles TL Harder 1170ft

5th Dec: GR 438736 Poolsbrook East CP Erin Road: Bob 6.5 miles Easy

12th Dec: NG21 9QB Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre CP £5: Major Oak and Sherwood Forest; Carole 6.5 miles Easy: I will book a local pub if there is interest

19th Dec: 359725 Holmebrook CP, Lower CP off Linacre Road: Hall Farm, Linacre reservoir and back – mainly hard tracks; Stuart 6 miles Moderate

26th Dec: no walk – we will all be full or eating left-overs!!

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

STROLLERS (Saturdays)

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

9th and 23rd November, 7th December and 4th January

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

Emails detailing venues and how to get there are sent out to members regularly. You must be booted and ready to leave for the walk at 10.45am.

Members often organise pub/café lunches at the end on an informal basis which you may attend if you choose.

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



Answers from the last newsletter:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Take to court | SUE |
| 2. Snooker rods | CUES |
| 3. Hints | CLUES |
| 4. Stipulation | CLAUSE |
| 5. Magnitude | SCALE |
| 6. Delicate fabric | LACE |
| 7. Beer | ALE |

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time. The clues are in random order.

DUCK
DIVE

Body part
Cut into cubes
Pleasant
Floor
Notch

GOLD
COIN

Eroded
Virtuous
Crop
Term
Building material

The three clues should give you answers which, put together, make a fourth answer:

Warning cry

Petty quarrel

Facial feature

Which, when read together, form a word meaning **strengthen**

The two clues should give you answers which, put together, make a third answer:

Swiss currency

US physicist

Which, when read together, form the name of a monster

GROUPS COORDINATOR'S NOWTS

(Thanks to Pamela Boulton for this)

Archaeology group couldn't dig up enough support.

Graffiti group has gone to the wall.

Rifle group has backfired.

Eastern dance group has gone belly up.

Cake making group has flopped.

Candle making group has gone up in smoke.

Trampolining group has fallen through.

Beauty group's efforts were in vain.

Dry stone walling group's plans have collapsed.

Aviation group has crashed.

Orienteering group has lost its way.

Entomology group has had to be scratched.

Motoring group has broken down.

Origami group has folded.

Scuba diving group has gone under.

Motorcycle group has failed to start.

Mathematics group came to nothing.

Pyrotechnics group has fizzled out.

Horse riding group has come a cropper.

Brewing group has gone for a Burton.

And the curtain has fallen on the Drama group.