

E-Bulletin 19
April 2025

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



There will be a **Coffee Morning** on
Wednesday 2nd April
from **10.15am – 11.45am**
at **The Saints Parish Centre.**

It is in St Marys Gate, and the entrance is
down the left-hand side.

Refreshments will be available and you can
meet new members and chat with old
friends.

The **Open Meeting** will take place on
Wednesday 7th May
from **2pm – 4pm**
at **Chesterfield Football Club**
(SMH Group Stadium)
1866 Sheffield Road, Chesterfield S41 8NZ
Nick Hodgeson, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant
of Derbyshire, will talk about National
Honours awarded to people in all walks of
life. Honours such as MBEs, OBEs,
Knighthoods and how anyone can apply.

OTHER u3a BUSINESS

COPY DATE FOR E-BULLETIN 20 (JUNE 2025)

Please send all items for the e-bulletin to Jeanne Clark by email
newsletereditor@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk by **23rd May**.

The copy date for the May Newsletter is **8th April**.

OTHER MATTERS

u3a NATIONAL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE

There is now a page on the website that gives a link to the National
online zoom events.

<https://chesterfield.u3asite.uk/forthcoming-national-u3a-events/>

CHESTERFIELD u3a: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

We will:

- treat each other in a friendly and respectful manner
- support diversity and inclusion
- act in the best interests of Chesterfield u3a
- abide by Chesterfield u3a's policies and procedures
- participate in Chesterfield u3a activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 2025

This year's AGM was held at the SMH Group Stadium, Chesterfield Football Ground on the 5th March, with a good turn-out of over 100 members. A number of changes to the Committee were the outcome of the meeting:

- Roger Watts retired as Chair
- Carole Grew retired as secretary
- Irene Wilkinson (already a committee member) was elected as Business Secretary
- Two new committee members were elected: Susan Davies and Judy Stone

Roger was presented with a gift as an expression of appreciation for his long service on the committee and as Chair during the past year. Carole's considerable contribution as Secretary is also much valued; she was not present to receive her gift, but it was presented to her shortly afterwards.

Since the AGM, Alan Cornwell has been appointed as the Chair of Chesterfield u3a by the committee, and Ian Hardy has been co-opted as a committee member (taking on the role of Minutes Secretary, with Irene acting as Business Secretary). Also, Richard Turley is co-opted as a committee member taking on the role of Assistant Treasurer.

After the AGM concluded, members were entertained by an enjoyable music performance by the Guitar and Ukelele Groups who played a selection of lively tunes which got our feet tapping.

A full list of committee members can be found on the Organisation page of the website (from which you can email any member of the committee) and will be included in the May newsletter.

Irene Wilkinson, Business Secretary,
secretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

SPRING WALKING HOLIDAY

AT HF HOLIDAYS, DERWENT BANK, KESWICK

from Friday 27th March 2026 to Friday 3rd April 2026

- The holiday is full board including packed lunches
- There will be an option of three walks each day and a rest day on the Tuesday
- There will be a variety of evening activities
- There are only 18 single rooms available, and it will be first come first served; anyone over the 18 can go on a waiting list.

About Derwent Bank

Set right on the banks of Derwentwater, it was built in 1785 for Joseph Pockington Stenhouse, high sheriff of Newark. It has been part of HF Holiday since 1937. There are beautiful views from its garden room, orangery and terrace. A short walk takes you to Keswick. There is a large lounge, licensed bar, boot and drying room and discovery point.

Address: Derwent Bank, Portiscale, Nr Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5TY what three words: equity, fool, issued

- The cost will be no more than £690 per person with no single person supplement.
- Exact cost will be notified by email in November 2025 when total numbers are finalised; the balance is due by 30th January 2026.
- Enquiries to Valerie Myers, vmyers1949@gmail.com

WHAT THE GROUPS ARE UP TO

ARCHITECTURE GROUP

We have a few spare places for the guided tours planned for the spring and summer months. They include

- Derby cathedral and chapel on the bridge on Monday 12th May at 2pm
- Ashford-in-the Water – a walk and talk with a blue badge guide on Monday 9th June at 2pm
- Bakewell on **Tuesday 15th July** at 2pm

Please email for further details:

tony.clark1@btinternet.com

ASTRONOMY GROUP

Tourist Guide to Mars: Eight fascinating places to visit!

Our first stop is Olympus Mons, the solar system's largest volcano that reaches a height of 16 miles – three times higher than Mount Everest – with the crater 53 miles across.

Next, we visit the Tharsis Volcanoes. Tharsis is home to 12 giant volcanoes, all much bigger than any seen on Earth. Ascraeus Mons has strange terrace-like slopes arranged concentrically around the summit.

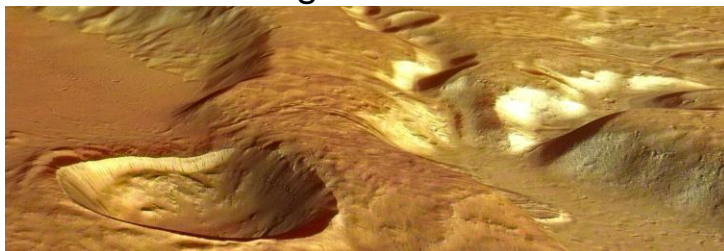
Peacock Mountain is the site of a sky ramp that many of you will use on your return journey home.

Third stop is the amazing Valles Marineris, the largest canyon in the solar system that stretches 1850 miles. Some parts are 125 miles across and some are 6 miles deep. We begin the journey in the west at the Labyrinth of the Night.

Now we go to the north and south poles covered in the carbon dioxide ice forming a surface that resembles cottage cheese in the north. We won't linger long at the south pole as here it is much colder. We will get a glimpse of the surface with its pits that resemble a Swiss cheese.

Gale Crater was the landing site of Curiosity Rover many years ago. The crater was punched out by an asteroid or comet billions of years ago and at the centre is Mount Sharp.

Stop number six is the Medusae Fossae, one of the strangest places on Mars. This huge area is a region of soft, sculpted rock and the yardangs – a series of linear ridges.



Now to the Hale Crater with its narrow, dark streaks on the slopes. These features were formed by water flowing out of the rock.

Finally, we reach the Ghost Dunes which are not actually dunes but the 300 pits in the rock show the patterns where dunes have been eroded.

Part of Sue Atherton's talk at a recent meeting

BOARD GAMES GROUP

We are hoping to expand our group now that we have relocated to the wonderful *Board and Bean* café next to Chesterfield Bus Station. We usually meet on the third Thursday in the month from 10am–12 noon. (NB in April we are meeting a week earlier on 10th April).

We play traditional games like Boggle, Rummicub, Bananagrams, Yahtzee, and Upwords. We also have the opportunity to learn some more modern, strategy-based games as the café has a huge selection. We are going to use Board and Bean's separate annexe, so we will have our own space. There is no charge for the space, but we support the cafe by buying hot drinks (food menu available too!) It would be fun to see you there! Please email me through the Beacon website.

Judy Stone, Board Games Co-ordinator

SCIENCE GROUP

Programme for Winter and Spring 2025

The Science group welcomes new members; we meet on the **first Thursday** in each month, from **2 pm – 4 pm.** at St Thomas' Church, Brampton. Members contribute £3 per session to cover hall hire and refreshments. These meetings are arranged so far:

Thursday 3rd April: Joy Partridge on *The Vagus Nerve*: a chance to learn about 'the body's superhighway'

Thursday 1st May: David Hart on *Lighter than Air Flight – could the great airships return?*

Thursday 5th June: David Fuller on *Radiometric Dating*

Thursday 3rd July: Susan Atherton on *Algae*

Thursday 7th August: *Show and Tell* – bring an object of scientific interest, whether you want to tell us about it, or are just wondering what it is! No large live dinosaurs, please.

Thursday 4th September: Tony Wride, ex-Royal Navy and airline pilot, on *Aviation Safety*

Thursday 2nd October: **Outing** to the Rolls-Royce Heritage Centre in Derby for 11am. See <https://www.rolls-royce.com/about/heritage-trust/visit/derby-and-hucknall-branch.aspx> for more information. A Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust guide will show us the exhibition, from Rolls-Royce's arrival in Derby to the latest technology developments.

Attendance is limited to 15, but another visit can be scheduled for early 2026 if there is a demand. Please tell me by email if you wish to attend. It should be possible to buy refreshments at the on-site café after the visit.

Thursday 6th November: Isaac Newton was a great scientist, but he was an unlikeable man of resentments and grudges. Alan Crow will talk about Newton and lead a discussion of his achievements and contribution to science.

It would help to read the Wikipedia article about Newton before the meeting. There is a very readable account of Newton's relations with some other scientists in Gribbin, J and Gribbin, M: *Out of the shadow of a giant: Hooke, Halley and the birth of British science*. London: William Collins. 2017

Fig Newton and Leibniz biscuits will be provided, in honour of the conflict between these great natural philosophers. Bring your own apple.



Thursday 4th December: Paul Munkenbeck will reveal *Secrets of Snowflakes*: (Mince pie session.)

Thursday 8th January: TBA (maybe a New Year lunch out?) Please note this is not the first Thursday.

Thanks to everybody for the terrific support in planning sessions. We still need presenters willing to give a session in or after February about scientific, technical or mathematical subjects. If you have an interest about which you might be willing to present, please contact me. We are a friendly group and cope with a wide range of subjects and presentation styles.

David Hart, hartdavid056@gmail.com

STROLLERS

The next walks will be on the following Saturdays:

12th and 26th April, and 10th May

Sue & Brian Taylor, 07532 160 324, sue_taylor@live.com

SUPPER CLUB 3

We have vacancies for a few more diners to join our Supper Club 3. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm at a range of interesting venues.

In order to maintain a nice balance within our club, we would particularly welcome single people, but couples are also welcome.

If you like good food, good company and interesting conversation, you will be more than welcome.

Alan Cornwell, alan_cornwell@talktalk.net

UPWORDS

The next meetings are 2nd 16th and 30th April, and 14th and 28th May

Tony Clark, tony.clark1@btinternet.com

Published by u3a Chesterfield Registered Charity No1064504
