

E-Bulletin 23
December 2025

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There will be a **Coffee Morning** on
Wednesday 3rd December
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.

Everyone welcome!

The **Open Meeting** will take place on
Wednesday 7th January

from **2pm – 4pm**

at **Chesterfield Football Club**
(SMH Group Stadium)

The talk, by Janet Stain,
will be about **KNICKERS!**

Did you know that before the 1500s, women were generally knickerless, but Catherine de Medici introduced underwear from Italy to France in the 1500s? You can find out much more at the meeting.

OTHER u3a BUSINESS

COPY DATE FOR E-BULLETIN 24 (February 2026)

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

The copy date for the January Newsletter is **8th December**.

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 PROMO VIDEO

Watch our new Promotional Video!

To attract potential new members, we now have a promotional video on our Website Welcome page.

You can watch it by going to www.chesterfield.u3asite.uk

WHAT THE GROUPS ARE UP TO

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

The French conversation group (which used to be called advanced) has a vacancy. The members of the group have all lived or worked in France. We take turns to lead the meetings. We meet on the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of the month in the mornings.

Tina Kennedy

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUPS 1 AND 2

The talks take place in the Ragged School, Markham Road at 2pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month and any u3a member can attend or anyone that would like to can join. Please use the front door opposite Costa. The entry is £4.00 including free raffle.

December 11th (Please note this is the 2nd Thursday because of Christmas) The talk is by James Elson: *Can perennial vegetables save the planet?* The talk is about vegetables, crops and microbial fermentation.

Thursday January 15th 2026

The talk is the *Potty Plotters*. They have a slot on Radio Derby. This will be filled with humour and plenty of gardening tips. Looking forward to this one.

Irene Trevis, June Partington

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our winter talks are open to all u3a members. We meet in the library lecture theatre on the first Tuesday of the month. Please be in your seats by 1.50pm to start at 2pm; £3.00 on the door.

Tuesday 6th January: Carl Clayton – *Job Brassington, 1894–1916*

Carl lives in Walton and is a retired librarian. He has a BA from the Open University, and a BSc from the University of Sheffield. He is

interested in local and family history and has had an article on Roman roads published in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.

During the First World War, more than 700 men from Derbyshire (the county furthest from the sea) joined up to serve in the Royal Navy. Most of those brave men came from the mining villages of Northeast Derbyshire and they served as ship's stokers. In this presentation he will look at the life of Job Brassington and why young men from Derbyshire were recruited to serve in the Royal Navy.

Job was born in the Dog Kennels area of Chesterfield which was notorious for its slums. As an ordinary person from the lowest class of society, there is not a great deal of information about Job's life, but Carl will explore life in the slums, his employment with the Chesterfield pottery works and his life in the Navy. His story ends with his death at the Battle of Jutland.

Sandra Frost

POETRY GROUP

We meet at 2pm-4pm on the first Friday of each month at a private house in Walton, Chesterfield.

We are a small group of people who appreciate poetry. We are light-hearted and not at all serious or academic. Generally, one of our group introduces a poet or group of poets and reads some of their works. We have a refreshment break at halftime with a voluntary donation to a local charity. The second half of the meeting usually has a nominal theme. Members will bring along poems of their choice or favourite poems. We take it in turns to read out a shortish poem and everyone gets a chance to read two or three over the session.

John Tait

RUMMIKUB GROUP 2

It is held at Loundsley Green Community Centre from 10am – 12 noon, every other Tuesday.

The last Rummikub 2 of the year will be on 9th December. We restart on 6th January and then on 20th January.

Lesley

SCIENCE GROUP

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

David Hart, hartdavid056@gmail.com

STROLLERS

The next walks will be on the following Saturdays:

6th and 20th December.

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

UKULELE GROUP

Some of the group recently played for the residents of Langdale House Care Home. The music certainly stirred some memories as the residents and their carers danced, sang and accompanied us on percussion instruments. A good time was had by all.

Sheila Leigh



UPWORDS

The next meetings are:

10th December (fuddle – games to start at 2.45pm) and 31st December, and 14th and 28th January.

Tony Clark, tony.clark1@btinternet.com

WAR POETRY GROUP – SHEFFIELD u3a

The War Poetry group has been running since autumn 2018, and we now have vacancies for up to four people to join us.

The meetings are very informal and have focused to date on poetry associated with World War I. We are now moving on to look at the poetry arising from World War II, and will, no doubt, discuss the differences between the poetry of the two wars.

The aims of the group are to share poems around an agreed topic relating to WWII (author, social context, area of war) and to look at the lives and works of individual poets. We do not analyse the poems in terms of their format (rhyming, stanzas, etc.) but discuss what is being said, how it reflects the perceptions of the War and links to other information we have about the global situation at the time. Current members have expressed that there is so much to the conflict of WWI, and the repercussions from it, that we did not know!

The group has also enjoyed film sessions and excursions relating to WWI, focusing on the factual reporting rather than (American mostly?) dramas. We have also undertaken the occasional trip, e.g. the Imperial War Museum in Manchester, Buxton (Vera Brittain) and Scarborough (Sitwells and Wilfred Owen).

Meetings are held at my home in Wales, S26 (by Junction 31 of M1) on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 1.30 – 3.30pm, with refreshments provided. There is lively discussion, and you will be warmly welcomed. Please contact me for more details on 07904 208738 (text only please or leave a voice message – I do not answer numbers I do not recognise).

Hilary Berry

WRITERS' POETRY GROUP

Do you write poems? Would you like to share them with other people who also like to write poems? Would you like to listen to the poetry of

others writing in different styles, with other voices, all trying to capture their observations, impressions and feelings in poetry? Then why not come along and read your work alongside other poets and then join in a constructive group discussion?

If this sounds appealing, why not join us? We meet at the home of a member one Friday afternoon a month for two hours or so. Depending on numbers, we bring two or three poems to the group and off we go.

NOTE: If you worry that your poems may not be very good, don't. No-one will judge you here, so why not give it a try? Please contact Terry via the Groups page on the U3A website.

Terry McDonnell

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I've recently started as the Volunteer Coordinator for Sight Support Derbyshire and am exploring opportunities to partner with u3a groups across Derbyshire to find befriending volunteers for people who are blind/partially sighted. We are desperate for more volunteers to support our service users, particularly in Chesterfield.

For more information, please contact:

Fiona Bateman, 01332287005,

fionab@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

SEASONAL DINGBATS

Just say what you can see!

1. SPEAR COTTAGE
 PEPPER SHEPHERD'S
 GARDEN APPLE
2. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
3. PPPPP
 WORLD
4. TOFRANKUCH
5. NIGMASSHT

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