Newsletter 193
November 2026

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u3a learn, laugh, live
Chesterfield

The **Open Meeting** will take place on
Wednesday 4th November
from **2pm – 4pm**
at **Chesterfield Football Club**
(SMH Group Stadium)
Steve Barclay's talk 'Comedy Heroes' tells of the best loved comedians and entertainers. There will be time for Q&As after his talk. Refreshments will be available after his talk.

Your Committee and Key Volunteers 2026-2027:

Chair: Alan Cornwell, 07500 406539,
chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair: Judy Stone, 07968 133564,
vicechair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk
Treasurer: Irene Trevis, 07434 042215,
treasurer@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk
Business Secretary: Sue Davies, 07967 035784,
secretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk
Assistant Treasurer: Trish Hibbert, 07506 504615
assistanttreasurer@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

Committee Members:

Nicola Hoskin-Stone, 01246 275807,
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Jane Machin, 01246 239408, e.j.machin@gmail.com
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Joint Groups Facilitator: Jane Machin,
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Key Volunteers:

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membershipsecretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk
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Refreshment coordinator, and meet and greet coordinator:
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u3a BUSINESS

COPY DATE FOR NEWSLETTER 194 JANUARY 2027
Please send all items for the Newsletter to Jeanne Clark by email, as soon as possible and by **8th December** at the latest. She 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 details to Jeanne Clark by **23rd November.**

u3a NATIONAL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE
On the website there is a link to the National online zoom events: https://chesterfield.u3asite.uk/forthcoming-national-u3a-events/

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our new members: Hyacinth Bancroft, Hazel Bargh, Ruth Barker, Jean Waller, Jane and Thomas Booker, Pauline Bouakaz, Jane and Gordon Cheetham, Catherine Clinton, Sara Collin, Jan Gardner, Alan Garfitt, Helen Hammond, Sarah Isaacs, Caroline Hollingworth, Jane Johnstone, Aly Jackson, Sheila King, Janice Rock, John Saunders, Maurice Skolnick, Georgia Thomas, and Andrea Goddard.

Sue Atherton, Membership Secretary,
membershipsecretary@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

Promotions

It is important that we plan ahead to ensure the ongoing continuity of our organisation. I am very pleased to confirm that Judy Stone has stepped forward to accept the position of Vice Chair. Judy and I will work in tandem over the next few months so that she gains further experience prior to the AGM in March when I reach the end of my two years' term of office. She has had to relinquish her role of New Member Supporter to concentrate on her Vice Chair role.

I am also very pleased to confirm that Julie Smith has now accepted the role of New Member Supporter and will be in attendance at the Coffee Mornings to welcome both new and existing members.

I wish them both every success in their new positions.

Committee Membership

In July, I made an appeal for volunteers to consider future involvement in our committee as one or two long standing members have, or will be, standing down for various reasons. I am pleased to confirm that eight people have joined the

committee as observers, which gives them the opportunity to see how we operate and to assess whether they would like to join the committee as full members. We wish them well and hope they will play a bigger part in the success of our organisation in due course.

Chesterfield u3a Membership

We are always wanting to increase our membership and seeking ways to do so either by word of mouth, taking advantage of promotional opportunities or welcoming people to our coffee mornings at the Parish Rooms. So, it is pleasing to see that 103 people have joined our organisation since last March, increasing total membership to 915.

The Pavements display in September attracted a lot of interest and it remains to be seen how many of them decide to follow it up by enquiring about membership.

Alan Cornwell, chair@chesterfieldu3a.org.uk

RENEWALS FOR 2027

We are pleased to announce there is again no increase in membership fees. **The renewal fees for 2027 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**

The Members Portal will take you to pay using PayPal but **you do not have to sign up for a PayPal account in order to pay**. You can select to **Continue as guest and pay by credit or debit card as normal.**

You can use this link:

https://u3abeacon.org.uk/u3aportal.php?u3a=257&sc=MEZJ

You can 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 do so.

Alternative Renewal option 1:
Paperless using link to our online renewal form.
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ax9X7BViX2
Payment can then be made by bank transfer, or by cheque. Details below.
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.
Complete the Membership Renewal form; this form is enclosed with the paper version of this newsletter or available at the u3a meetings October to December.
Payment can then be made by Bank Transfer or by cheque. Details below.
If you need help, please contact the Membership Secretary whose contact details are on page 2 of the newsletter.

Alternative Renewal Option 3: In person at the bi-monthly Open Meeting on 4th November or at the Coffee Morning on 2nd December. Please note we do not have the facility to take card payments, so cheque or cash.

Cheque Payment

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

Send your completed form and/or cheque, to the Membership secretary, at the address on page 2 of the newsletter.

BANK TRANSFER

Transfer to: **The 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 2027 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.

Sue Atherton, Membership Secretary
Trish Hibbert, Assistant Membership Secretary

There will be a **Coffee Morning** on
Wednesday 2nd December
from **10.15am – 11.45am**
in **Spire Parish Rooms on Church Way**.
There is a sign saying **Saints Parish Centre.**
It is on St Mary's Gate, and the
entrance is down the left-hand side.
Everyone is welcome to attend
for refreshments and a chat with friends,
and it's a chance to meet new members.



WHAT THE GROUPS ARE UP TO

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUPS

The first talk of the Winter season is about COMPOSTING at 2pm on Thursday 19th November. We meet at The Ragged School, Markham Road. Doors open 1.30pm.

The speaker is Jayne Conquest, a knowledgeable plantswoman who gardens at Tansley, near Matlock. She has already given this talk to the Friends of the Sheffield Botanical

Gardens. We look forward to tips on successful composting. Entry is £4 which includes a raffle ticket.

There is no December talk.

June Partington

GEOLOGY GROUP

Not to be missed!

The Christmas lecture by Pete Webb, (a "real" geologist!), on 8th December at 10am at Eyre Chapel, will be a presentation entitled *Mass Extinctions*. This lecture was on a special Zoom session in April organised by The Third Age Trust. Everyone welcome.

The Christmas lunch will follow at The Olde House at 12 noon. If you wish to attend this, it needs to be booked, menu chosen and paid for by 10th November.

Pamela Boult, 01246 237622, pboult@outlook.com

KAFFEE UND KUCHEN

This group would like a few new members. We meet informally in one another's homes to chat, read stories, play games and do puzzles in German. We also eat cake! If you are interested, please email me.

Jean Jefferies, jeanjefferies@hotmail.com

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our winter talks are open to all u3a members; we meet in the library lecture theatre, doors open 1.45pm, £3.00 on the door.

Tuesday 3rd November

History of place names in Derbyshire and Nottingham

Dr Paul Cullen is the English Place-Name Society's editor for the Survey of Kent, his native county. Currently he is also editing Volume 8 of the Survey of Lincolnshire and

transcribing early spellings for the Survey of Cornwall. He is one of the authors of *Thorps in a Changing Landscape* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*. When not investigating names, he picks up a guitar and performs as the folk-punk troubadour Paul Carbuncle.

Paul will explore the range of languages involved in the creation of place-names, looking at their chronology and at the importance of early spellings in determining an etymology, illustrating some of the precision of topographical vocabulary, and contrasting certain patterns seen in Derbyshire with the rather different picture in neighbouring counties. There will be unsolved and partly solved names in amongst those that are better understood.

Sandra Frost

OUTDOOR SKETCHING GROUP

Carrying on with the idea of venturing a bit further afield, in November we will be going to Staveley to base ourselves at Staveley Hall. There are several buildings of interest in Staveley as well as the hall, including the old library, now closed, and the new library if newer buildings are preferred. If you are driving, I understand there is parking on site (which I will check out) but, if not, parking is available in the Morrison's car park.

In December, the fourth Tuesday is a couple of days before Christmas so I'm suggesting we pause that meeting.

Also, in January, I'll be away on the fourth Tuesday but am happy for someone else to arrange a get together.

I'm hoping the new museum and theatre will be open in the new year so we can base ourselves there in February.

Barbara, 07511 576874, barbaramilton27@gmail.com

UPWORDS

The next meetings are on:
4th and 18th November, and 2nd and 16th December.

Tony Clark, tony.clark1@btinternet.com

WINE GROUP 1

Wine Group 1 enjoyed a Study Tour (Yes, a "Study Tour"!) of the Rother Valley Triangle Wineries 🍇 in East Sussex. Taking over a small hotel in Hastings, they were driven by minibus around the Vineyard Trail where they learnt about and tasted copious amounts of sparkling 🥂 and still 🍷 English Wines.



Sightseeing also included a ride on the Kent and East Sussex Heritage Railway 🚂, a visit to The Shipwreck Museum, The Sailors' Museum ⚓ and Bodiam Castle and the East Hill Funicular in Hastings.

The last night was "Party Night" with deliveries of Chinese 🥢 and Italian 🍕 food accompanied by numerous bottles of fine wines 🍾🍾 selected by our in-house Sommelier.



Yu av now idia ow gud it woz!
Hic, hic,

Pamela Boult

WALKING GROUPS

WALKING GROUP D (TUESDAY)

These walks are categorised as easy, moderate and hard and are usually 5 to 7 miles. We set off promptly at 10am and all walks include a coffee and lunch stop (bring your own). 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 of which some may be steeper or longer. Hard walks may be 7 miles or a little more in length and will have a number of steep climbs and descents.
Members of the group are expected to lead a walk whenever possible and to those who are yet to lead a walk for the first time, help and encouragement will always be provided. If you are interested, in joining our walking group, please contact:

Dave Milnes, 07793 06996, bugsymilnes54@gmail.com
or Mick Winfield, 07415 025326,
tuesdaywalkinggroup@gmail.com

WALKING GROUP B (THURSDAY)

The group walks every Thursday; there are a variety of distances and climbs from 5-8 miles and ascents between less than 500 feet (150m) to over 1000 feet (300m). Members are expected to contribute walks to the programme.

We start promptly at 10am. On shorter walks we stop for coffee (which you should carry) and a pub or café lunch may be arranged at the end. On longer walks we take lunch with us. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me.

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

STROLLERS (Saturdays)

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

24th October, and 7th and 21st November, 12th December for the Christmas lunch, and a walk on 19th December.

We do our best to avoid stiles and steep slopes and walk for a maximum of 3 miles. Emails detailing venues and directions 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 join 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 & Brian Taylor, 07532 160 324, sue_taylor@live.com

OTHER ITEMS

DRIVING ASSESSMENTS FOR OLDER DRIVERS

Derbyshire County Council offer mature driving assessments to over 65s, intended to help with confidence and safety on the roads.

Mature driving assessments - Derbyshire County Council
One of our members recently went on one of these and thought it helpful. The cost is currently £20 for up to 90 minutes with a driving instructor, in your own vehicle, with practical advice and honest feedback.

Thanks to Sue Davies for telling us about this.

For more information, you can email driving.assessment@derbyshire.gov.uk

CROOKED SPIRE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This will be open for you to enjoy from

Saturday 15th – Sunday 30th November

Monday to Thursday 10.30 – 4.30,

Friday and Saturday 10.30 – 5.00,

Sunday 12.00 – 5.30



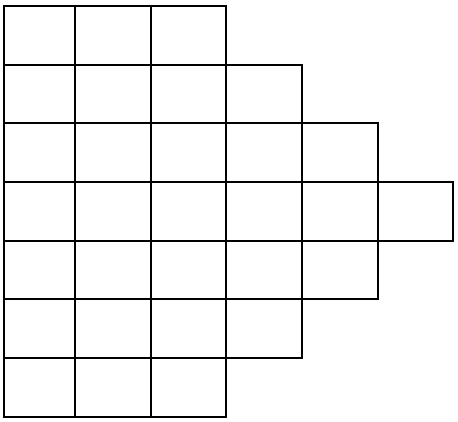
PUZZLE ANSWERS

A WATCHED POT NEVER BOILS

ARCH, WATCH, ACTIVE,
TANK, CREAM, HIGH,
EGG, DRILL, PUZZLE,
ORANGE, TEAM, NEW,
ENGINE, VAN, END,
RIGHT, BOOK, OPERA,
ICE, LEMON, SIGN

8 T	7 A	3 U	9 N	8 T
4 O		6 M		10 R
8 T	7 A	1 B	4 O	4 O
2 E		2 E		3 U
6 M	2 E	10 R	5 I	8 T

PUZZLES



1. Droop
2. Wise man
3. Rampages
4. Lubricant
5. Delete
6. Withered
7. View

Add a letter to each answer in clues 1 – 4, then decrease a letter.

M	A	T
S	N	E
I	G	R

Using the 9 letters in the grid can you build the answers to the clues provided and find at least one hidden nine-letter word? Every answer contains the shaded centre letter.

5 letters

Air raid warning device
Award, donation
Bury in the ground
Huge person
Prepare for sport

6 letters

Baffling mystery
Calming, domesticating
Give in your notice
Of the sea, naval
Outer edge

7 letters

Cauterising
Chair arrangement
Discussion group
Large church
Weird

8 letters

Cooking with hot vapour
Throbbing

HARVEST TIME

Taken from Sir John Betjeman's *Diary of a Church Mouse*

For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes... it's rather odd.

. . .

And prosperous mice from fields away
Came in to hear our organ play,
And under cover of its notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.



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