

# Buxton & District u3a

<https://buxton.u3asite.uk>

## The Bulletin – September 2025

From the chair, Jill Murphy

Hello Everyone, I hope you have all enjoyed the Summer, including the festivals in Buxton.

Sadly, we have been asked to report that Eric Midwinter, one of the visionary co-founders of the u3a movement in the UK, has died. An obituary is available on the national u3a website – see <https://www.u3a.org.uk/latest-news/remembering-eric-midwinter>

And some good news from Darren, with thanks to Christine Billington for all her work on our Facebook presence

**We now have 200  
followers on  
Facebook**



## RECENT OUTINGS AND EVENTS

### Charabanc Outings

Trish writes - have been very active since the last Bulletin with two outings in July and one in August. All the visits were full of everyone enjoying each other's company whilst learning so much and discovering places never visited before.

### Charabanc Outing to Tabley House, Knutsford and the Knutsford Heritage Centre 12<sup>th</sup> July

A shorter day for Charabanc so that we would be back in time for the evening BIF but one of discovery.

We discovered the history of Tabley House and the people who had lived in it through our guides and the interesting stories before we travelled into the centre of Knutsford to visit the Heritage Centre, well hidden away and a little gem to visit. Over 3000 sewers helped create the Knutsford tapestries depicting Knutsford in 2000 as part of their millennium celebrations. The tiny details of all the houses even with hanging baskets and Martin Bell the Independent MP in his white suit.

We also learned of the problems of woolly carpet grubs and their infestation in the tapestries and how to get rid of them.

Another super outing.



### Charabanc outing to International Bomber Command Centre, Lincoln. 29<sup>th</sup> July

Our visit to the IBCC brought back many memories for those who had lived through WWII and for those who had a parent in the RAF. A memorable day with many thanks to our two excellent guides telling us the true stories of often young men who were pilots, and the building of the centre told with feeling and passion plus a bit of humour. Many of the volunteers at the centre are ex RAF.

We had time to visit a brilliant and informative exhibition after many of us had enjoyed the food in their café.

In remembrance of VE Day 80 there was a special display of ceramic poppies laid out in the shape of a Lancaster Bomber lined up with Lincoln cathedral which was used as a marker for returning planes.



In the grounds there is a spire which is the exact height if the wingspan of a Lancaster Bomber, amazingly tall! Also, there was an Anderson Air raid shelter, it looked too small to be a life saver!

### **Charabanc Outing to Floral Media, 19<sup>th</sup> August**

What a wonderful day we all had at Floral Media near Newark. As we drove away there were cries of when are we going again!

Paula and her husband Steven were whirlwinds and very knowledgeable guides as we toured the gardens, but also welcomed us, serving the home cooked delicious food including 4 desserts with a helping of each and serving in the plant shop. Not only all that Paula demonstrated how to build a beautiful posy of flowers for a floral display. She is a Chelsea silver gilt winner as well as a judge at Chelsea. The flowers were all grown in their 2 acres of cut flowers sold through farm shops and other outlets.

The stunning posy arrangement was raffled off to raise funds for



Cancer Research, raising £186 and Mary Bramwell was the lucky winner.

**Adventures in Good Music**, in the guise of Darren, organised a visit to Iolanthe which was showing as part of the Gilbert & Sullivan festival. 60 people from our u3a and others nearby also enjoyed the pre-performance talk in St John's church.



## Crochet group

With the **Womens' Rugby World Cup** starting on Friday 22 August 2025, an appeal was issued for crocheted red roses to decorate England.

Sue Brown organized the Group to crochet red roses to go to Bristol, where they adorned venues and the Wallace statue in the centre of Bristol.



## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS,**

### **Monday 8 September 2025**

The **Monthly meeting** will be held at **Methodist Church Hall**, Market Place Buxton as usual. At 9.30, our Tech Team will be there to help with your Tech queries. Followed, at 10.00, by Jim Williams on **How to Sell the Eiffel Tower**. Jim gave us a very entertaining talk on Charlatans, Frauds and Fools in June (see review in the Events section of the website - <https://buxton.u3asite.uk/reviews-of-the-talks/>)

The talk will be followed by a short presentation on how to get the best out of our website.

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

The **Charabanc group** are off again this time to visit the Timekeeping Museum for a guided tour before visiting Southwell with its beautiful Minster, with a Yarn display of knitted figures depicting the Forces and other organisations in Britain during WWII. There will be a chance to wander and relax in the bishop's garden and have a bite to eat.

Cost £26 which includes the entry and tour of the Time Keeping Museum, the driver's tip and Coach travel.

I have two spaces due to a cancellation. Trish Hampson

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Coffee & Chat** in the Pavilion Gardens Tea Rooms from 10:30 to 12.

### **Wednesday 1 October 2025 – Needlework and Charabanc join forces**

**Trip to Abakhan, Mostyn, North Wales.** The **Needlework group** is planning a fun trip to [Abakhan Mostyn | Fabrics, Yarns & Crafts](#) North Wales. It's the perfect time to start thinking about winter projects, and this store has everything you need, so it's a great chance to stock up! Plus, each visitor will receive a 15% discount card for purchases and a free drink with any food purchased in the café!

Trish has kindly arranged a **Charabanc trip to Greenfields Valley Heritage Site** making use of the same coach. It is about 5-10 mins from where the needlecraft members are going, and you will have about 3.5 hours there and there is lots to see and visit.

On the site there is the ruins of Basingwerk Abbey built in the 11th century, so explore and discover. It is the start of the long-distance route, N Wales Pilgrim Way 130 miles long, to the island of Bardsey and 20,000 saints. Both are free to do this but maybe save walking 130 miles and then back 130 miles for another day!

Close by is the Tea Room which serves snacks, drinks and breakfast, lunch and cakes.

There is lots to see and visit at the Heritage Park which covers in total 70 acres with self-guided trails or follow the Wat's Dyke trail. Nobody seems to know who Wat was, maybe a King of Mercia, but his Dyke is parallel to Offa's Dyke.

Or discover the lakes, streams and ancient monuments within the grounds.

Or/And discover and explore the buildings that remain but portray 2000 years of fascinating history of local, agriculture, social and industrial heritage. Abbey Paper Mill a paper mill in Wales producing high quality writing paper from Esparto grass from N Africa, brought into the docks at Mostyn or Holywell Textile Mill Collection producing, in its time, fine tweed jackets, tapestries and blankets from Jacob Sheep wool plus uniforms for the French and British during WWI and WWII with several other local industries and illustrating ways of life in the area also there to be discovered.

Plus £8.50 entry into the Heritage Park (this is payable direct to the Heritage Park)

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The coach will leave, from Buxton only, at 9.15 to 9.30. The return time can't be given exactly but will be around 6pm. The cost of the coach and driver's tip will be around £19.

Contact Paula Shaw or Jane Stewart if interested in the Abakhan trip; Trish if you would like to go on the Greenfields trip.

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

#### **Charabanc outing to Rochdale Town Hall and the Pioneer Museum, Rochdale**

We are off for a guided tour of Rochdale Town Hall and a self-guided tour of the Pioneer Museum with a sandwich buffet. This is now fully booked but there is a waiting list open of names.

Why not come too, we are a friendly group and love meeting new faces and chatting away with "old" faces. To come just click on my name in the [Charabanc group](#) on the website to email me.

Trish Hampson

### **Thursday 6 November**

#### **u3a quiz**

There will be a quiz at the Conservative Club from 2pm. The quiz will start at 2.30 and we will finish by 5pm. As before, don't worry if you don't come with a full team – we will organise people into teams as necessary. £3 each, booking forms will be available shortly. There is a provisional booking for 19 February next year as well.

## Christmas Lunch



This is your gentle reminder that our **u3a Christmas Lunch** will be held on

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025** at The **Lee Wood Hotel, Buxton.**

Full details and booking forms will be available from mid-September. The cost will be £35.00

### **AROUND THE GROUPS collated by Jean Brown**

The “**Write your own story**” group ended in July. We thank Group Leader Viv Doyle for all her hard work running the group

**Latin** will be at a new venue from September - Buxton Fire Station on Staden Lane. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons of each month and always welcome new members. Contact the group via the website where you will also find information on where the station is and how to gain access.

The **Mindfulness and relaxation** group is successfully up and running. They meet weekly on Wednesday afternoon in the UPPER room at the Methodist Church at 2.00pm. This is “a chance to press pause on life and breathe away daily stresses. To rest, reset and gather yourself, amongst friends, to go forward into the following week with a calmer and refreshed outlook. Tracy, the group leader, will incorporate healing frequency music (alpha waves; scientifically proven to reduce anxiety and stress), optional aromatherapy scents of your choice, calming lights and crystals.” For more information, please contact group leader Tracy Dibben via the website under the group name.

There will be **NO Family history group** in September. The next meeting is on Tuesday 7th October 2025.

The **travel group** start-up meeting will not now take place until October at the earliest.

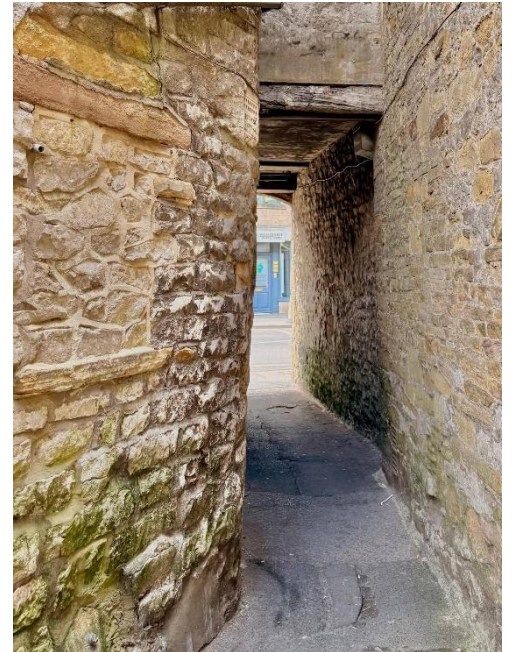
Many other groups will be starting up again in September after the summer break, please check the website for details.

## OTHER GROUP NEWS

### Digital Photography

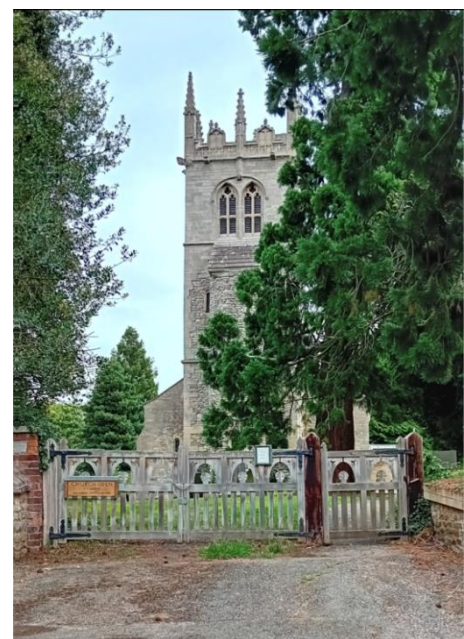
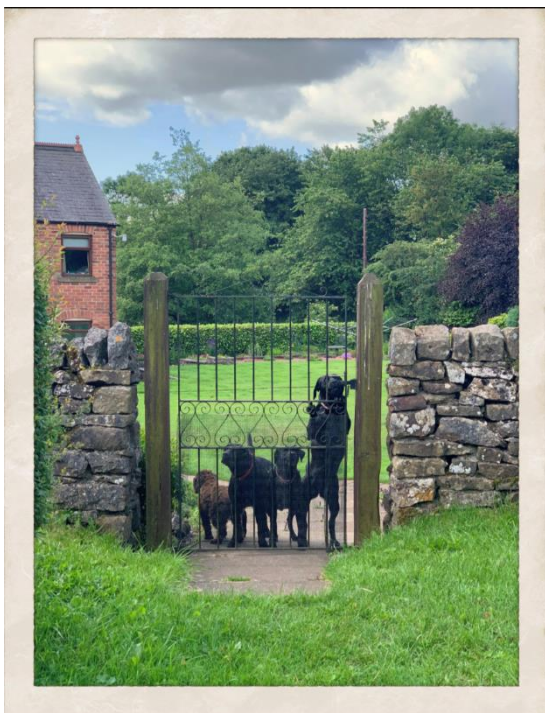
The Digital Photography group have been meeting to share their latest work. July's theme was Buxton Market Place, and members' photos were showcased in a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Darren. Congratulations to Wendy and Philip, whose images were selected as Photos of the Month.

Ann and Sonia then led a discussion about how the images for the 2026 calendar will be chosen, along with ideas for October's photo theme. All details will be posted on the group's WhatsApp page.



The theme for August was Gates. Members' photographs were projected onto the big screen for everyone to enjoy. Two striking images were selected as Photos of the

Month: Margaret's charming picture of dogs peering through a gate and Trish's shot of a Lincolnshire church.



After refreshments, the group turned to practical matters, including plans for a calendar, upcoming photography competitions, and a trip to Manchester. The afternoon rounded off with a short YouTube video offering handy tips for taking great photos on a phone camera.

### **Bah Humbug!**

Rebecca writes "After a long summer break, Bah Humbug will be meeting again in The Cheshire Cheese at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September. Everyone is welcome but newcomers are always advised that there is a step into the venue which whilst marked clearly with tape, could be missed. Facing the bar, we meet in the alcove to the left, at the far end of the room. Really looking forward to seeing you all again!"

### **NATIONAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION**

All u3a members can enter this competition for a short story of maximum 1500 words on the theme '**Lost and Found**. The closing date is 17<sup>th</sup> October. There are prizes – click on

[https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities?view=article&Bid=2262&Bcatid=260&fbclid=IwQ0xDSwMaSaFjbGNrAxpJI2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAAEe\\_mP8-STocNvuj0G3NbGDk2zwwPmGDkxCTqUQaOEKsdrKWPVUFbxWv9mZur4\\_aem\\_wwPA3hO3GwRc7I7CF1tPVw&sfnsn=scwspmo](https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities?view=article&Bid=2262&Bcatid=260&fbclid=IwQ0xDSwMaSaFjbGNrAxpJI2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAAEe_mP8-STocNvuj0G3NbGDk2zwwPmGDkxCTqUQaOEKsdrKWPVUFbxWv9mZur4_aem_wwPA3hO3GwRc7I7CF1tPVw&sfnsn=scwspmo)

then scroll down to the graphic and click on the link that says that it is where you enter your story. This allows you to see all the information and there is a link to the entry form.

### **OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

This year's **Inner Wheel coffee morning** is **Tuesday 23rd September** between 10am and noon at the Methodist Church on the Market Place. This year their nominated charity is The Grapevine Well-being Centre in Buxton. Any knitted/crochet/crafted items you could make would be greatly appreciated.

Also offers of help on the day would also be appreciated

If you would like further information about the event, please contact Kathryn Barton (Knit and Natter lead).

Jill Murphy