

# Buxton & District u3a

<https://buxton.u3asite.uk>

## The Bulletin – December 2025

### From the chair, Jill Murphy

Hello Members, old and new, and welcome to this seasonal issue of the Bulletin. At the last count we had 517 members, and we had two very good days at the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event in the Octagon at Pavilion Gardens. There were lots of membership enquiries, and we had to replenish our stock of Application Forms overnight. Thank you,



Chris and the team of volunteers who set up our stall in appalling weather. I thought it looked really appealing and attractive.

Our volunteer Group Leaders and Members chatted to visitors, and our new stand with leaflets containing details of all our Groups was very well used. The video showing activities of our Groups was fascinating.

The Charabanc information boards, with photos, captions and descriptive words provided by participants was brilliant. Thank you to each of you most sincerely, for all your hard work.

I keep hearing about how our Groups are celebrating the time of the year. Wonderful, try to get out and enjoy what is on offer. It is really important that you check the website or your Group Leader about your meetings, and events.

Groups who would particularly welcome more members are Latin, Piano Playing, Mahjong and Sharing Supper

## RECENT OUTINGS AND EVENTS

The **Quiz** booked up fully and Diane provided a great set of questions, at the Conservative Club on **6<sup>th</sup> November**.



66 members joined in, so the Con Club was full. Prizes were awarded to the first and second teams, with a prize for the picture round too.

Jane Kerr, Group Leader, Sharing Supper, is shown collecting a prize for her Easy Riders team.

We will be running another on the same lines on 5 March 2026 at the same venue and free of charge. Booking not open yet, watch out for details. Just a date for your diary.



On **November 7<sup>th</sup>**, the **Beginners Art Group** visited Bradford to see the Turner Prize finalists at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery. They also visited Salt's Mill at Saltaire on the way back.



A view of the Cartwright Hall Art gallery



The **Kurling Group** met and thoroughly enjoyed learning about New Age Kurling, and the new equipment generously provided to us by the Bingham Trust. It has two groups which meet respectively on the first and third Mondays and second and fourth Mondays of the month, at St Anne's Community Centre.

Many of us enjoyed a friendly, warm and delicious lunch at **Harpur's Bistro** in the Devonshire Dome. Their website has much improved, and it's much easier to book, if you are interested.

Diane, Jean and Fiona represented us when they laid our crocheted wreath at the **Cenotaph** in Buxton on **Remembrance Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November**.

David Poppitt gave us a really interesting, and knowledgeable talk on the History and Work of **The Christie Hospital** at our **Members' Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November**. He particularly asked me to thank you for your really generous donations of £213.50 towards the research work performed at The Christie.

I see on our Facebook page that the **Gardening for Pleasure** Group had a great trip out to Chatsworth Garden Centre, which is certainly well-decked out for Christmas. Members browsed the Garden Centre and Christmas Shop.

I particularly enjoyed a viewing of 'Driving Miss Daisy', provided under the auspices of our **MOTO Group, Movie Matinee**. I make a small donation to cover the teas and coffees served, and/or cake/popcorn! and the other overheads, as the venue is Members' Homes. The New Year programme booked through the MOTO WhatsApp Group just came out. Blink, and you will miss it!

By the time you receive this bulletin, the **Charabanc group** will just have enjoyed a trip to Tatton – write-up in next month's bulletin.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

On **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December** our **Christmas lunch** will be held at the Lee Wood Hotel. You should arrive between 12.00 and 12.30. A local Children's Choir are coming, to sing, and there will be a raffle including a Hamper, a gift voucher for a hairdo (with our thanks to Capricorn Hair Salon) and Bridget has some other great prizes. Also, there will be a bottle tombola, and a prize for the best lady's and gentleman's Christmas adornment. There are some places left at £35 each, so contact Bridget if you would like to go. I'm already gathering my pathetic set of jokes, so be warned!

On **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December** Charabanc make it easy to shop by providing the **Handforth Dean Christmas Shopper** as they did last year. Trish says 'We will be there about 3hrs so a chance to get those last-minute presents, stocking fillers and goodies for eating over Christmas or even take to a Bring and Share group get-together celebrating Christmas. Or just a good excuse for a coffee, chat and an enjoyable saunter around the stores. Cost **£12 with 4 pick ups**. email Trish to book a place.

On **15<sup>th</sup> December** in the Methodist Hall (doors open 12 noon), **Singing for Fun** is having a Seasonal **Sing-a-long**. The words will be available on screen in the Hall. Teas and coffees will be available, with mince pies, and biscuits. All welcome.

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Beginners Bridge Lessons** commence at St Anne's Community Centre at 1.15pm, contact Group Leader Mary Bramwell to enrol.

On **9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 2pm** there will be the next meeting of the new **Travel Group** at the New Inn in the Market Place. Topics will include travel insurance and the member's contribution will be - a trip to Japan. Meeting will then be monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.

On **12<sup>th</sup> January 2026** there will be a **Review of 2025** at the January Monthly meeting. Now is the time that many groups are having a bit of a do as it's Christmas so please remember to send a photo to either Trish or Darren for the Review. Trish is keen to have every group represented in our u3a Yearly Review. Don't let your group miss out by not having them included. The Hall will be set out 'café style', and teas, coffees and cakes will be available. It is open to all as a recruitment initiative. The more members we have the more likely we will be able to contain our expenses.

On **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026** there will be an **Early Bird Dinner** at the **Ithaca Restaurant** in Buxton. Jill is now putting names onto the Waiting List. She appeals to anyone who has put their name down to provide her with their membership number and menu choice. The menu was published on **WhatsApp MOTO Chat Group on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 9.22am**. If you cannot come please let her know so she can re-allocate your place.

On **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026** there will be a Charabanc outing to the Yorkshire Ice Sculpture Trail. The outing is full but contact Trish for any enquiries or to be put on to the waiting list

And finally at **2.30pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026, The Dos and Don'ts of Afternoon Tea Etiquette with Baroness Bolsover**. There is a lot to learn to be correct with your etiquette, especially no slurping or elbows on the table! Followed by a scone, cream and jam and of course tea. The event will take place at the Lee Wood Hotel, and the cost is £12. Trish guarantees a funny, cheerful afternoon with lots of laughter so contact her to book a place.

As previously mentioned, there will be another **Quiz on 5<sup>th</sup> March**, but this is not open for booking yet.

## NON u3a EVENTS AND ITEMS

**Thursday 4 December** from 1-4pm at the Flash Bar Stores, on the Leek Road, there will be 'Elf' Entertainment in aid of the **Alzheimer's Society**. Further information from Niamh at S&J Home Care.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.30pm** High Peak Orchestra will be playing Mendelssohn, Dvorak and Bizet when they put on a Concert in the Whaley Bridge Uniting Church SK23 7HT <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/high-peak-orch>



50th Anniversary!  
Special Guest:  
Andrew Hodgkinson  
Conductor

 

**HIGH PEAK ORCHESTRA  
CONCERT**  
Conductor Patrick Gundry-White

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
7.30pm

**Mendelssohn** The Hebrides Overture  
(Fingal's Cave)  
Dark, majestic grandeur, rolling and crashing waves.

**Dvořák** Violin Concerto in A minor  
Positivity, virtuosity and folk melodies in a dramatic mix.  
*Soloist: Jacob Wright*

**Bizet** Symphony no 1 in C major  
Beautiful tunes, richly orchestrated with elegance and charm.

**Whaley Bridge Uniting Church SK23 7HT**  
Tickets £10, students £5, children free  
available online: scan the QR code or visit  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/high-peak-orch>  
or on the door (cash)  
Supporting Blythe House Hospicecare

On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 2-5pm**, the **Rotary Club** are hosting a **Christmas Concert in St Johns Church Buxton**, our own Take Two (Janette and Colin) are part of the line up, Katy Allen Soprano, the Peak District Junior Choir and Simon Mercer (organist) will also perform. Tickets are £10 from Hargreaves, or on the door.

**Christmas Charity  
Concert**  
St John's Church, Buxton

Simon Mercer  
Organist

Responsibly Sourced  
60s-80s Music

Katy Allan  
Opera Singer

Peak District  
Junior Choir

Take Two  
Songbook

**Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 pm**

Tickets £10pp from Hargreaves (cash please)  
or pay on door, (children free)

interval refreshments, doors open 1.30pm

**ALL PROCEEDS TO  
LOCAL CHARITIES**

**Rotary**  
Buxton

[buxtonrotary@gmail.com](mailto:buxtonrotary@gmail.com)



**zink**  
*for life & work*

We would particularly like to congratulate Buxton-based Zink on their most prestigious award from the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ). These awards are often referred to as the ‘Charity Oscars.’

Zink helps transform lives by supporting local people out of poverty and into work through its innovative employment programme - as well as providing holistic support services including a foodbank, eco-café and health activities. Zink was selected as a winner from 600 charities around the country.

#### **AND FINALLY**

I encourage you to make the most of your membership fee and try out new or different groups. You will always be welcomed, but please contact the Group Leader via our website beforehand.

If you would like me to include any information in a future issue of this bulletin, please send it to me by 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

Jill Murphy