

Buxton & District u3a

<https://buxton.u3asite.uk>

The Bulletin – February 2026

From the chair, Jill

Welcome to our February bulletin everyone. The first couple of pages or so have been reserved for information about our 30th anniversary celebrations, and so over to the Celebrations Working Party led by Diane Ives and Jean Brown.

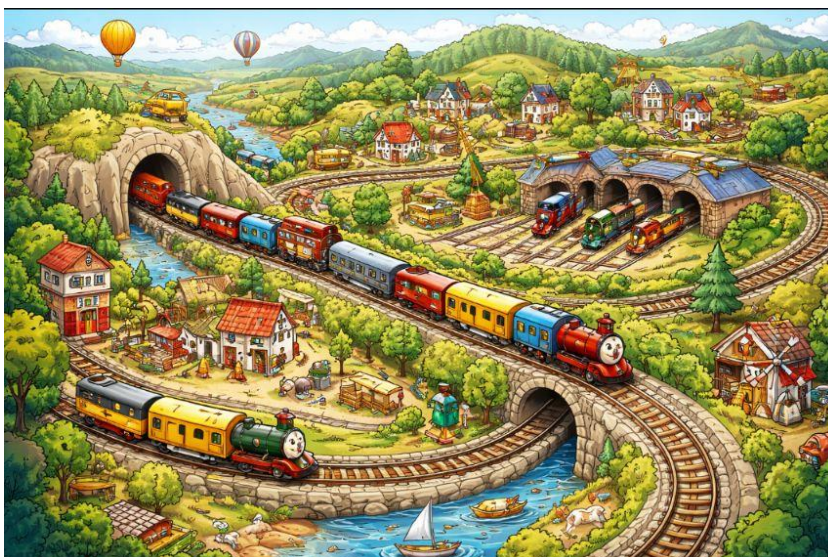
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30th Anniversary Celebrations Update

I am delighted to say that we now have some dates for your diaries!

The Model Railway Group Open Day – Booking Essential!!

Tuesday 10th February 2026
from 10am to 12.30pm & from 1pm to 3.30pm



As previously indicated by email, as part of the B&D u3a 30th Anniversary celebrations, the Model Railway Group are opening the doors to all B&D u3a members to see their layout in operation.

Why would you want to come and see the Model Railways layout?

“With model railways, you’ve got to look at it as an art form. It’s a three-dimensional picture. It’s not just about the train, it’s about the scenery that train is running through, getting the proportions perfect so that when somebody looks at it, it looks just right.” Alf Fantham (2013), Chairman, The Warley Model Railway Club.

Contact Alan Wilkinson to book (see accompanying email to all members)

Barn Dance

This will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday 14th May**. Venue to be confirmed on 19th February.

Admission to the event will be by ticket as we will be including a buffet and the funds raised from the ticket sales will be used to cover the cost of the food which will be provided by outside caterers. The ticket price will be announced as soon as we have finalised details with the caterers.

‘Buxton’s Got Talent’ style variety show

This will take place on **Thursday 10th September** at Buxton Working Men’s Club, to be confirmed. We hope this will be a really fun event but we need your help to make it happen. We have had a couple of offers for ‘acts’ for the show but we need lots more so please get in touch if you would like to take part.

Creative Arts Event

We have been able to secure the Ballroom of The Palace Hotel for this event which will take place in **October**. The actual date is yet to be confirmed by the Palace but is likely to be 7th October. The event will run from 11am until 4pm and will be a celebration of Buxton and District u3a. We hope to stage an exhibition of work by all of our Arts and Crafts groups as well as presentations from all our other groups too. We would like there to be music too and are hoping that some of our musical members might provide some background music for the event. So please get in touch if this is something you feel you would like to do.

Unfortunately, we have had to shelve our idea of a Guinness World Record attempt as the cost of this is prohibitive which is a shame but maybe there is an event that we could do that doesn't need to be 'official'. Any suggestions would be gratefully received.

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Jill says – so delighted with my calendar from the Digital Photography group that I asked if we could use the corresponding month to start my bulletin each month – this is February – see page 6 for January



Early morning over Burbage by Steve Claye

PREVIOUS EVENTS AND OUTINGS - DECEMBER and early JANUARY

Our **Christmas lunch** was held at the Lee Wood Hotel on 8th December 2025. It was very well organised by Bridget, with a raffle, tombola and some really interesting spot prizes. The Prize Winners - Barry's slippers had to be seen to be believed, and Jean's antlers were breath-taking. Entertainment was provided by students from Claire's Buxton School of Performing Arts.

On 15th December the **Singing for Fun group** led us all in a lovely mixture of Carols, and Karaoke. With Teas, Coffees and donated Mince Pies, it really put me in the festive spirit. Well done. The proceeds went to Singing for Fun to help with their expenses (sheet music etc).

On 12th January 2026, Trish, ably assisted by Darren on photos, gave us a great review of the doings of **B&D u3a in 2025**, at a café style event. Thanks to them particularly and to Jean Evanson and her team who provided teas, coffees and cakes, to add to the festivities.

39 members enjoyed an **early bird Greek Meal** at Ithaca, on 15th January. Have a look at the comments made on our Facebook page about the evening. It seems to have been a great success, although I could not stay for the meal, unfortunately.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, OUTINGS AND GROUP MEETINGS

On **8th February** the Charabanc outing is to the **York Ice Sculpture Trail**. This outing is fully booked but as several members discovered over the last week, it is always worth putting your name down on a waiting list, as they now have a place.

The speaker at the **General Meeting** this month (**9th February** at 10.00am) in the Methodist Church Hall Market Place, Buxton will be Jonathan Thompson from Buxton Opera House talking about **'The History of Buxton Opera House'**. Beforehand at **9.30**, the **tech team** will be there to help with any techy problems, and teas and coffees will be served from 9.30am.

Model Railways Open Day Tuesday **10th February** 2026 - see page 1

On **24th February 2.30pm** in the Lee Wood Hotel, **Baroness Bolsover** will be helping us mind our manners, £11. Contact Trish to book.

On **Thursday 5th March at 2.30pm** (doors open at 2pm), another of **Diane's spectacular quizzes** (with a special new round) will be held in the Conservative Club, Concert Place Buxton. SK17 6EE. Due to the success of

previous events, **this one is free**. At the time of writing, there are a few places still available.

Charabanc trip - Tuesday 24th March - Rufford Old Hall NT near Burnley

This is a perfect venue for late March as it has both places to visit indoors and lots to discover outdoors. A part beautiful Tudor House, a local exhibition of life in Lancashire collected by one man in the 1930s, a Victorian and Edwardian Garden and relaxing stroll along the Rufford branch of the Leeds/Liverpool canal which can be, should you choose, a circular walk of 2 miles, maybe stopping to discover the church in the grounds. It is the end of March, and the daffodils may be in bloom in the woodland which is waking up to Spring. Start with a coffee in the café and enjoy company at lunchtime in the NT café or should you prefer, take a picnic and enjoy the sounds and sights of Spring outside. There will be 4 **pickup points**, 2 in Buxton, Doveholes and Chapel. **Cost £16**, which includes coach travel, driver's tip with free entry to the property for **NT members**. **£28.35 for non-NT members** which includes coach travel, driver's tip and entry into the property. Contact Trish to book, although at present, it is provisionally full, but there is a waiting list.

On **Monday 30th March** a **Group Leaders' meeting** is planned at 2pm. Tell your Group Leader anything you want us to know so they can bring it to the meeting. All suggestions are welcome.

Our **AGM** has been provisionally fixed for **11th May**. Please think about whether you would be willing to help out as a committee member, and any resolution you might want discussed. More information to follow.

As previously notified in an email to all members, Darren is arranging an outing to the **Mikado** on **Wednesday 5th August** at 2.30pm. To avail yourself of the discount and to get centre stalls, he needs your booking and payment by 26th March but don't delay, book now – the poster with all the information is on the website - press CTRL & click below

<https://buxton.u3asite.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/u3a-mikado.pdf>

Thursday September 10th at 2pm **A Variety Show** in the Working Men's Club – see page 2 for details. Diane is looking for performers.

On **Thursday 12th November 2026**, there will be a further **Quiz** at the

Conservative Club Not open for booking yet. But thanks are due to our Quizmaster Diane, who has more fiendish questions in the offing.

Monday 7th December 2026 The 'C' word lunch in the Crescent Hotel

AROUND THE GROUPS

Darren, joint group leader of our **Digital Photography** Group writes that the group is ringing in the New Year with a visual feast, officially launching their 2026 Calendar. The calendar, which features a contribution from every single member of the group, showcases the diverse talent and "eye for detail" found within our u3a. All photographs were of Buxton and District.



- January: A striking seasonal opener captured by Caroline.
- February: A soulful follow-up by Steve – see page 3

"We wanted to produce something that wasn't just functional, but truly fantastic to look at," said Darren. "Seeing a photograph from every member included makes this a genuine team achievement."

Many thanks to **Tracy** for arranging the **Mindfulness** Group, which many of us have enjoyed. Tracy can no longer lead this group. Is there anyone else who could step in?

I would also love a **Pilates Group**, although I myself have no qualification in this area, I would really like to participate.

Due to low attendance, John Cassidy has decided to close the **Family History** Group. Thanks to him for his efforts in trying to get the group going again after a long gap.

Bah Humbug. The final meeting will be on **Wed 18th February at 1pm.** There will be a meal (or snack if you prefer) and chat at the Cheshire Cheese Pub to mark the end of the group in its current format. Your final chance for a moan! Group members wishing to attend this meal are advised to contact the Group leader if they wish to book and have not already done so. In May, a new '**conversation**' group will be starting with the same Group Leader, again at the Cheshire Cheese pub. This will take the form of a more positive chat group, and the timing will allow members to purchase lunch should they wish. More details to follow nearer the time.

A PLEA

I found it a real chore to have to look up membership numbers for those who did not fill in application forms, for the Greek evening and for the Quiz. I cannot imagine what Trish goes through with Charabanc, having to check if members have paid. Please use the forms, it makes our jobs that bit easier.

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL EVENT

We can now send two more representatives to this event which aims to inspire & support u3as, provide & share information and provide an opportunity for members to meet one another. It's on 11th March from 11am to 3.30pm at Braunstone Civic Centre, Leicester. There is no charge. If interested, please contact myself or Marge. Jean and I (Jill) are going, so a lift is available if you are interested.

NATIONAL U3A MOVEMENT SEEKS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

As mentioned in last month's bulletin, there is an opportunity to put yourself forward to be a representative at national level for the East Midlands. The closing date for applications is 3rd February 2026 so you'll have to get your skates on. Maybe think about it for next time the opportunity comes up? See <https://www.u3a.org.uk/agm-2020/council-representative-candidate-pack>

OTHER ITEMS

1. The **DOG HOUSE** is looking for people hoping to adopt a rescue dog.

The much-loved Channel 4 series The Dog House is returning and the team are looking to speak to people who are hoping to adopt a rescue dog and would be happy to share their reasons why. To find out more, visit <https://c4thedoghousetakepart.co.uk> or email thedoghouse@fivemilefilms.co.uk

2. The **University of Manchester** is running a study on **Recovery after Knee Replacement Study**

The PAPrKA (Physical Activity Patterns after Knee Arthroplasty study led by The University of Manchester wants to help answer questions about everyday movement after surgery to better inform future patients. The study uses information from fitness data already gathered automatically by devices such as the iPhone.

You can take part if: a) You had a knee replacement in the UK between 2017 and 2023 b) you used any one of iPhone, Apple Watch, Oura Ring or Fitbit at least six months before and one year after knee replacement surgery.

To join the study, ctrl click on <https://bit.ly/3LQskGb>

While this may not apply to you, please feel free to pass on the invitation to anyone you know who may meet the study criteria.

Jill Murphy