Buxton & District u3a

November 2026



A lovely autumnal image by Desi Lander from the Digital Photography Group's calendar.

View from The Chair



Hello Everyone!

Welcome to our November newsletter. To find your way around just click on the yellow boxes. We'd welcome any feedback as usual.

I was very excited by the success of our amazing CALS showcase. It was a fabulous day and my thanks go out to all the brilliant organisers, group and event leaders as well as volunteers who made the day so special. I'd like to give a special thanks to our anonymous donor who helped to make the day possible.

We have had no less than 40 new members in the month of October. Lindsay tells me the New Member Get Togethers are being enjoyed, and new members are finding groups that they can join, and share their interests. I'm delighted.

I always like to meet new members, so if you see me at an event, please do come up and say hello! And please do enjoy our newsletter.

Jill

CALS Report

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Diary Dates

Don't miss out!

And Finally

CALS REPORT

by Anne Rogerson on behalf of the 30th anniversary group

Photos by Roger Beverley, Linda Briggs, Moira Kean and Simon Rogerson. Thanks to them!



It was at a meeting of the 30th Anniversary Group on a dark, dismal January day that the idea of a big event to 'show off' what we do in our u3a was born. Venues were sought and a deal was struck to hire the beautifully restored Ballroom at the Palace Hotel.

It was back in April that the first contact was made with all Group Leaders/Co-ordinators (GLs), asking each one of them what contribution they, with their group, may be able to make to the staging of the event. The replies were most encouraging. Some groups did not lend themselves to 'running a stall,' but despite that every one of the 50 groups listed on the website on the day was represented at CALS, as was Charabanc. Craft workshops were arranged and ran in the prestigious Cavendish Room for those who had either pre-booked, via Paula, or simply fancied dropping in to 'give it a go'.

Banners, posters and flyers were ordered and distributed throughout the town. Facebook articles were posted to publicise CALS and raise awareness of the event. GL requests for equipment in the form of tables and chairs from the hotel and display boards were collated and the hiring of boards was arranged. The mammoth task of how to fit all these requests together and display them was undertaken by Simon who produced a scale plan of every required space and designed the room lay out accordingly. The day before CALS we were there to ensure the plan was brought to practical fruition. The 18 groups not having a stall were each represented by a poster and these were displayed, along with a visual history of our u3a, before leaving that evening in readiness for the day.



Come the morning, the Ballroom was transformed into a hive of activity with creative displays on the 32 stalls and the workshops established, ready for Jill's welcome speech and the rendition of the song 'Busy Every Day when you're in the u3a' at 11am. This was written and arranged by members Viv Doyle and Colin Rodgers respectively. A framed copy of the words was presented to Dena Lewis, a founder member of our u3a, who continues to lead Gardening Pure and Simple thirty years on!

Entertainment was provided throughout the day by string quartet The Fifty Percenters, Singing for Fun, The Ukulele Group, French Connection and The Recorder Group. The atmosphere was amazing and reflected real teamwork not only within but across groups, encapsulating all that u3a is about. There was a raffle for a stunning arrangement produced by Elizabeth from the Flower Arranging Group. All 130 helpers on the day were given a free ticket for this, by way of thanks for their involvement. It was won by Robin from the French Group, who promptly donated it to his Group Leader!

Over 500 people came to CALS and we signed up 29 new members on the day, with a further 11 joining subsequently, swelling total membership to 542. That is all due to the hard work of those who were there on the day and helped to prepare for it. A huge thank you to all who were involved in any way -it was your success! I will not name individuals as it would be dreadful to omit anyone and I am also on a strict word count for this article!

I will finish with a quote sent after the event by Dena, (who will be delighted to have had the last word!)

'Thank you for giving us all the opportunity to see the full scope of the u3a. The variety of activities is impressive and much more meaningful when witnessed en masse'.

If you would like to see more photos of the Cals Day then please head to the gallery page on our website.

Our photographers on the day did a great job, but we want more! So if you did take photos on the day then please pick your top **five** and send them to the newsletter team, we'd love to see them!

We are particularly interested in pictures from the following groups and would be glad to include them.

Arts Beginners
Creative Writing
Singing For Fun
Shakespeare
The Railway Group
Travel Group
Walking Group











CHARABANC NEWS



Trish Hampson

Charabanc September Outings by Trish Hampson

On the 8 and 30 September, Charabanc visited the majestic Hardwick Hall perched high on an escarpment with the sunlight glinting on the huge expanse of glass windows which overlook the surrounding countryside.



Trish Hampson



Margaret Cook



Margaret Cook

A special exhibition showcasing aspects of Bess of Hardwick's life was on display. One of the highlights was the talk given by a volunteer about Bess's life and especially her husbands! We also enjoyed seeing the 400 year old burgundy satin gown worn by Bess. We also stopped for a brilliant cup of coffee en route at the Wheatsheaf in Baslow, not forgetting the biscuits.

In true Charabanc form, the sun broke through the clouds and the weather was glorious. The house and its contents were discovered, we strolled through gardens and parkland taking in their wonderful childhood-evoking autumnal aromas. Two truly great days out making the most of the autumnal sunshine, the exhibition and everyone's company.

'The day exceeded my expectations.

Many thanks for organising such a lovely visit today

We really enjoyed ourselves and thought the visit was better than visiting Chatsworth

CHARABANC - WHAT'S NEXT?

October – Bury Market

Look out for details of Charabanc's adventures in Bury in the December newsletter.

Here's a taster photo to whet your appetite. Wendy Staton and Sue Brown enjoying a Mango Lassi!



Wendy Staton

November – Thornbridge Hall

On Friday 27th November Charabanc is off to Thornbridge Hall for a tour of the hall including a festive mince pie, a mulled wine or non-alcoholic drink, a stroll round the garden along the Festive Trail and chance to find that elusive present in the Christmas Market. A festive bargain at £33.

December – Christmas Shopping Special

Thursday 3rd December is the day for serious Christmas shopping on Charabanc's one and only Christmas Shopping Special to Handforth Dean. 3 hours of nonstop shopping, present hunting, and of course finding that amazing jumper to be worn on Christmas day.

This is not just for the women amongst us, it is absolutely ideal for men (you have to buy presents too you know!). Four came last year and lived to tell the tale. Let's see if we can double that number in 2026.

There's also a chance to get a few tasty goodies for your Christmas freezer, as well as your u3a group Christmas get together party.

Have a cup of coffee or lunch in the café too.

Bargain price of £8!

Please contact Trish for all enquiries and to book your place.

GROUP UPDATES



New Groups

Beginners/improvers Ukulele
It is proposed that a new beginners'/improvers' ukulele group starts in January. It will take place weekly on Friday afternoons from 3.15pm to 4.45pm. Venue yet to be confirmed. Members would be expected to have their own ukuleles. If the group does have enough members to start we will also be looking for someone who can beat out a rhythm for us. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Andrew Matthews.

Beginners Latin
A new group beginners' Latin for absolute beginners. (No previous knowledge of Latin required), will start on Thursday 7th January 2027, from 10-11am in Dove Holes village hall, and run weekly with breaks for Easter, Christmas and the summer holidays. For more information contact the group leader Nigel Gourlay.

Indoor croquet
A new group will potentially be starting in the new year. If you are interested, or for more information please contact Peter Quas-Cohan.

Book Group/s
We have 5 book groups; all are currently full or operating a waiting list. Several members have expressed an interest and would like to join a book group; therefore we would like to establish at least one new group.
An initial meeting was held on Wednesday 28th October. A second meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th November at 2pm in the Pavilion Gardens tea rooms. There will be at least one of our current book group leaders or member at each meeting to offer support and advice. For more information contact Jean Brown, Group Leader Liaison.

SciTech (Science and Technology)
This new group will be held monthly on Friday afternoons, (normally the 3rd Friday occasionally the second) the first meeting will be on Friday 13th November 2pm-3.30pm at Buxton Fire Station.
The first subject will be 'The Solar Eclipse and Gravity Waves' by Marge, the group leader. The talk will be light-hearted, with an opportunity to socialise, please bring along any photos or experiences of the recent eclipse in August.
There will be no meeting in December, the following meeting will be 15th January 2027. For more details contact the Group Leader Marge Rose.

Recorder Group
The group meets on the first and third Monday of the month in the Upper Room at Buxton methodist Church from 2pm -3.30pm. The next meeting is on 2nd November 2026.
For more details contact Esme, the Group Leader.

Pews and Brews

A new group which visits local churches, usually with a guide and a cup of tea or coffee. The visits take place monthly on the first Thursday of each month. The next outing is to St Hugh's Church in Foolow on 5th November. This group is fully subscribed, but has a waiting list, contact Trish or Darren for more information.

Other group news/updates

Movie Matinee
This group meet at the Conservative Club on the Market at 3pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Tea, coffee and homemade cake available to buy. Contact Darren or Barry.

List of upcoming films.
Tuesday 10th November - **Dunkirk** (2017) Starring Cillian Murphy, Tom Hardy and Kenneth Branagh
Tuesday 24th November - **The Darkest Hour** (2017) Starring Gary Oldman.

Travel Talk
Meetings are now held every 2 months, the next meeting is on Friday 6th November at 2pm in the back room at the New Inn on Buxton Market. For more information contact Dee Matthews, the Group Leader.

Beginners Bridge
This is proposed to run again from January for those who are new to Bridge. Please contact Mary Bramwell, the Group Leader.

Please note the following Group Venue changes
Digital Photography - have moved to Trinity Church, Hardwick Mount
Knit and Natter - have moved to the Palace Hotel.

Please do use the website to find out what groups we have and contact the group leader for more information.

If you have any suggestions for new groups, would like to set up a group or for more general information :- please contact Jean Brown (Group Leader Liaison)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CLICK ON THE LINKS TO FIND OUT MORE

8th November 2026 **11:00 am**	**Remembrance Sunday - Wreath Laying** A wreath will be laid from Buxton u3a at the Cenotaph on The Slopes. Anyone wishing to attend would be very welcome.
9th November 2026 **10:00 am - 11:30 am** **Buxton Methodist Church**	**Monthly Meeting - Driving Safer For Longer** This training will be delivered by Karen Dobson, the road safety officer for Derbyshire County Council and her team. The training is aimed at mature drivers. Materials available to purchase on the day are The Highway Code (£2.10) and a Workbook based on the session (£2.70). As usual the Tech Team will be in attendance from 0930 to help you with any technical issues.
12th November 2026 **2:30 pm** **Buxton Conservative Club**	**Quiz** Join us for our upcoming u3a Quiz Afternoon! Whether you're a trivia mastermind or just looking for a fun social event, all members are welcome to take part. Doors Open 2.00 pm. Cost: £3. Fully booked but bag a place on the waiting list here
27th November 2026 **2:00 pm - 3:30 pm** **Pump Room**	**Coffee and Chat** Just come along to the Pump Room and join us.
27th November 2026 **Charabanc**	**Thornbridge Hall, House, Garden and Christmas Market** Cost: £33 including coach travel, driver's tip, tour of house, access to gardens and Christmas market Booking Required
3rd December 2026	**Christmas Shopping Trip** Our annual outing for Christmas shopping to Handforth Dean Booking Required
5th and 6th December 2026 **1000-1700**	**Christmas Fair in The Octagon** Volunteers needed, look out for the email in early November from Jill.

AND FINALLY.....

REVIEW OF THE YEAR = 11TH JANUARY 2027

Review of the Year from Darren and Trish
If you have any photos of group activities you'd like to share, please email them to Darren.
Teas and coffees will be available, but please bring your own biscuits, cakes, snacks.

AN INVITATION

Members have been invited to attend the next Derbyshire u3a Network meeting on Thursday 12 November at 10.30am at the Lime Tree Centre, Chesterfield Road, Matlock.

If you want to find out more, click here.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We were delighted to receive the following feedback from members about our new newsletter format. Please keep your comments coming, especially if there are issues.

Congratulations on the Newsletter. I am most impressed by its visually attractve and invitational style. The format with links to specific information also makes it very accessible. Thank you and good luck with future editions!

Love the new look. Thanks 😊

I like the new snappier bullet point style.

The rest of the format is great, easy to read and find what you might be looking for.

PERSONAL SAFETY

There is an updated version of our Personal Safety Checklist, now downloadable on our website.