

u3a Barnsley & District

The Buzz
Magazine
Autumn 2026

In this issue:

30th Anniversary special events

Group activities and Photos

Committee matters

Monthly Meeting reports and information

Short stories and poetry

Lots more to read and more photos!



Chair's Autumn Message

Did you blink and miss it? Did the noise make you look out of the window? The last downpour of summer rain in June / July was spectacular and well worth watching, and just listening to, but it all seems so far away now. The summer has passed quickly, and the heat has been, at first welcome, (no need to go overseas for sunshine) and later becoming a trial. The constant heat is draining us, as well as our gardens, lawns and public spaces. The British are experts at the weather with it being a good conversation winner, however we are not the only nation now discussing this new type of climate. I did wonder how the sportspeople managed to maintain the energy to play their sports. Wimbledon, cricket and the World Cup are over now, and currently the Commonwealth Games are being played. The footballers did get some respite being shipped around to various parts of the USA, and did get some rain and those hydration breaks, but tennis in the heat must have been completely draining.

Speaking of sport in the heat, our Walking Football team played their hearts out and did us proud in the July tournament. It was the start of our 30th Anniversary celebrations and the weather was hot, hot, hot. Spectators were happy to rest and cheer in the shade of the trees around the pitch, but the players had no respite from the sun. Walking was the order of the day, but there was the odd spurt of energy from the competitive teams. The team from Doncaster won the Cup but with an award being given, we now have an annual competition on the cards to look forward to next year.

I went over in the summer to Northern Ireland, to an area where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea. They really do, and the song that is now going through your head, is right. What to do with Ireland based grandchildren in that heat? Make use of the free cold-water pools in the hills which are being filled from the sources higher up! Alongside other families, the kids jumped in, swam and ducked and dived. No problem. I even dared to paddle and all I can say is that the water was cold! Not a TV or a computer in sight!

Autum brings us to further 30th anniversary celebrations with some being provided by our own groups for which I am grateful. I hope there is a wide enough spread to suit everyone. Papers, documents and photographs have been sourced from the filing cabinets at Storefirst to show our progress though the 30 years. The most interesting ones will be out for you to look at and perhaps you can put a name to faces in the photographs or even recognise yourself as we go through the years.

Let's hope the weather cools a little, the rain begins to fall and the cold stays away for a long time. Enjoy the "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" (Keats 1820)

Pauline Buttlng, Chair, Bu3a

BBC - Poetry Season - Poems - To Autumn by John Keats

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The closing date for entries in the Winter Buzz Magazine is
Friday 20 November 2026

Editor's Page

Welcome to our Bu3a Quarterly Magazine

Whether you are a Bu3a member or just thinking about joining us, you will find lots to interest you in our magazine.

Bu3a is made up of over 120 Interest/Activity Groups, covering many different topics including art, history, sports, dance, literature, debates, gardening, music, science, crafts, needlework, games and more.

We pride ourselves on our friendly, welcoming atmosphere and we are open to anyone not working full time. The u3a motto is learn, laugh, live. We learn from each other, laugh together (a lot) and live a fuller and more interesting life.

Barnsley and District u3a was formed in 1996 - so we are 30! We are celebrating our 30th Anniversary by holding special events and one-time opportunities that will be offered to our members at the Members Monthly Meetings from September onwards. There will be at least one event per month. See pages 19,20 and 21 for details.

National u3a Week is 19th to 27th September. As we are holding several special events for our 30th Celebrations, it was decided to have a stall at Penistone Market on 23 September.

My heartfelt wish for the magazine is that every group contributes to the magazine - by sending me a photo, contributing a poem or (short) story, telling us what your group has been doing, what you love about Bu3a or any ideas that you think would make our organisation better.

In recent months, we have been inviting members, new members and prospective members to come along for a chat and a hot drink at the IBIS hotel or the Library in town centre, on a Saturday morning. The mornings at the IBIS are always well attended - why not pop along to the next one around 10am - details will be published monthly on What's on Offer. You'll be made welcome. We hope to offer these informal gatherings at other free venues in the borough - perhaps your local library or large café.

Do you come to our Monday Members Monthly Meetings? These take place on the first Monday of every month (unless a bank holiday intervenes) at Priory Centre, Lundwood. There is a varied range of speakers and entertainment to suit most people, a good café for a coffee or lunch, and you can sign up for Bu3a Travel, Social and Dining Out events. Over 100 members attend regularly. Blue boxes can be exchanged and there's a raffle too! The meeting begins at 1.00pm with time to socialise and book events, then the main attraction starts at 1.30pm. Try it - you may be surprised at What's on Offer.

Jo Kasperek, Buzz Editor

u3a

Barnsley & District

30th Anniversary

1996 - 2026

We had a great night to start the 30th Anniversary of Barnsley u3a at our Summer Anniversary Bash at the Bluebell Suite, Hotel 19, Dodworth. We were entertained by Strangers in Trainers who kept us dancing the night away. Thank you to all my entertainment team for their help in making this an enjoyable night for all those attending.

Helen Rose

Summer Bash



Theatre Group

A lovely day at the Crucible theatre in Sheffield to watch Summer Holiday. Then a gorgeous tea at Ego.

But what an adventure to get home. All trains cancelled so we had to get a taxi.

Sharon Goodyear

New Members Link Meeting June 2026

Both the team, and the new members, really enjoyed the friendly and informative NML meeting we held at Monk Bretton Methodist Chapel.

Although there were fewer members than usual (11) it allowed us to give them more individual time. They are such a lovely, friendly group it was a pleasure to spend time with them.

Ev Mirfin



New Members Link July 2026

Eight new members attended the New Members Link meeting in late July. All said it was informative useful and enjoyable.

Chrissie White



O the Earwig – a short story by Steve Nottage

O was an insect.

He knew he was an insect as he lived with many others in the fallen bark and leaves beneath the old oak tree in the little wood at the end of Sunshine Lane. Although he was a bit of a loner and didn't really join in with the chats of the others, one had told him he was an insect so that was good enough for him. He could remember the day the men had come with their chainsaws and their knives. They cut down many trees. One crashed onto their little home, killing his mother and most of his one hundred and forty-seven brothers and sisters. O had nearly died too but managed to scuttle away just in time. But he didn't want to think about that and did what insects do and got on with his life as best he could.

He also knew his name was O, the others had told him this too, as whenever he tried to make conversation, they laughed at him and said, "O it's you" and scurried away as quickly as they could.

He spent his time tunnelling through the woodland floor, climbing over the cow parsley, foxgloves and honeysuckle which, along with many other woodland plants, was his playground. He climbed the old tree stump that the men had cut into a wedge shape and which the locals called the cheeseboard and, if he felt particularly bold and daring, which wasn't often, he explored the big bramble bushes that dominated the copse. He didn't dare venture too deep inside as he had heard tales of braver insects than he never being seen again.

At the end of his day, he went back to his little home under the old log behind the toadstool ring, where he lived all by himself, he was a very lonely insect. He had tried joining in with the others, especially the younger ones, but they always said "O go away" so he did. One day he had become so engrossed in his scuttling and scurrying that he'd found himself in a part of the wood that he'd never been to before and wasn't sure of where he was. He started to panic and as he passed by a particularly sweet-smelling clump of wild garlic a figure suddenly appeared in front of him. "And what are you doing out here on your own" it said in a noble, tinny voice. O froze, he'd never seen anything like it at all.

It raised itself up on legs so long that it towered over him and began to make a noise that chilled him to the core. Chirrup, Chirrup, Chirrup it went so loudly that O began to shake. "I'm so sorry to startle you" it said, "this is something that I just can't help" and the booming rasping sound started again. O plucked up courage and spoke in a quavering voice. "I'm lost and you are scaring me". "You've no need to worry" said the creature "I won't hurt you, I'm a grasshopper and my name is Gerald, but my friends call me Gerry", "I'm O" O stuttered "and I'm an insect". "Come now" replied Gerry "you're not just an insect you are an earwig and a fine one at that". "Am I" said O quite proudly "I never knew that", "Well, you seem a pleasant little chap so meet me here tomorrow and I'll introduce you to all of my friends" and with that he chirruped again, sprung high into the air and was gone.

O made his way home as happy as could be he'd never had a friend before. The very next day O found his way back to where he had met Gerald and sure enough the grasshopper was there. They got on famously, O told Gerry all about his mum, how he was so lonely and that none of the others beneath the old oak tree liked him. "We'll soon remedy that" said Gerry, "Do you play football?" O admitted that he did not know what football was and had never played it. "No matter you'll do splendidly and with your six legs you'll be a natural so come and meet some friends" and with that he hopped off with O running behind as fast as he could to keep up with him. Eventually they stopped "Here we are" announced Gerry spreading out his wings in welcome. O caught his breath and looked up to be greeted by a gathering of woodland creatures that he later learned were spiders, beetles, ants, dragonflies, and many more creatures, who were all waving joyfully at him. "These are all my friends, I've told them how unhappy you are and that all that all your fellow earwigs are so beastly to you so we have arranged a football match against them and you are going to be our star player, there's bound to be a big crowd there so let's get you ready".

Photo from Trip Advisor



CIVIC150 is a two-year heritage and conservation project led by Barnsley Civic on Eldon Street, celebrating the historic building's 150th birthday, leading up to 25 January 2028. Backed by £235,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project features community exhibitions, monthly Friday coffee mornings, and building upgrades.

Historic details of the Civic

The building was completed in 1877 by Henry Harvey and officially opened to the public in 1878. In 1962 it was converted and reopened as the Barnsley Civic Theatre. Following a period of decline, the building was closed in 1998. It was partly restored and reopened in 2009 and recently, major work has been carried out to restore the Eldon Street entrance.

The Civic 150 group are holding an informal CIVIC150 drop-in on the last Friday of every month, 10am-12pm. If you have any memories that you would like to share and possible mementos, come and have a chat with the team, and help build a community archive celebrating nearly 150 years of Barnsley Civic.

Continuation of “O the Earwig” short story

After a quick practice at which his teammates declared him to be an excellent player O put on his boots, all three pairs “Follow me” shouted Gerry and they all marched off together and very soon reached a little clearing that was circled by thousands of excited woodland insects and in the middle were eleven earwigs, most of whom O recognised as the ones that had been so horrible to him. They looked at him in astonishment. “Get ready” said Gerry, “and as soon as you go out on the pitch, I guarantee that they’ll all be shouting your name”.



O was puzzled as he was pushed out first and entered the arena with some trepidation.

He jogged onto the pitch and as soon as he did so the crowd rose as one and started singing.....

“Earwig O, Earwig O, Earwig O.”

O was so pleased as he realised the crowd were cheering for him and he waved back grinning from earwig to earwig.

Steve Nottage

Barnsley Folk Festival

As part of the Barnsley Folk Festival 2026, the Bu3a Ceilidh Band were invited to perform alongside the Penistone Folk Ensemble at a free event in the Civic Theatre on Sunday 31 May.

The event was opened by the organiser, Jason , who then passed the mike over to Chris McShane (of the Rhythm Chaps – the band Bu3a hire for our own Ceilidh events) who ran the afternoon.

The stage was completely full of musicians with little elbow room. A small audience of mostly u3a members was soon swollen by many family groups arriving and the staff needed to bring out another 4 batches of seats.

The full band played gigs, reels and waltzes for 30 minutes. The music was loud and uplifting and enjoyed by everyone.

This was followed by the Ceilidh itself. Most people had come to dance, even quite young children. We all had a great, if somewhat chaotic, time and went home at 3pm hot and tired. Thank you to the Civic for reinstating the Folk Festival after several years and inviting Bu3a players to be part of it.

Jo Kasperek



Creative Stitches

Suzanne Dinsdale submitted these photos of the Creative Stitches group and their wonderful creations



Poetry Page 1

Bouncing Bunny by Steve Nottage©

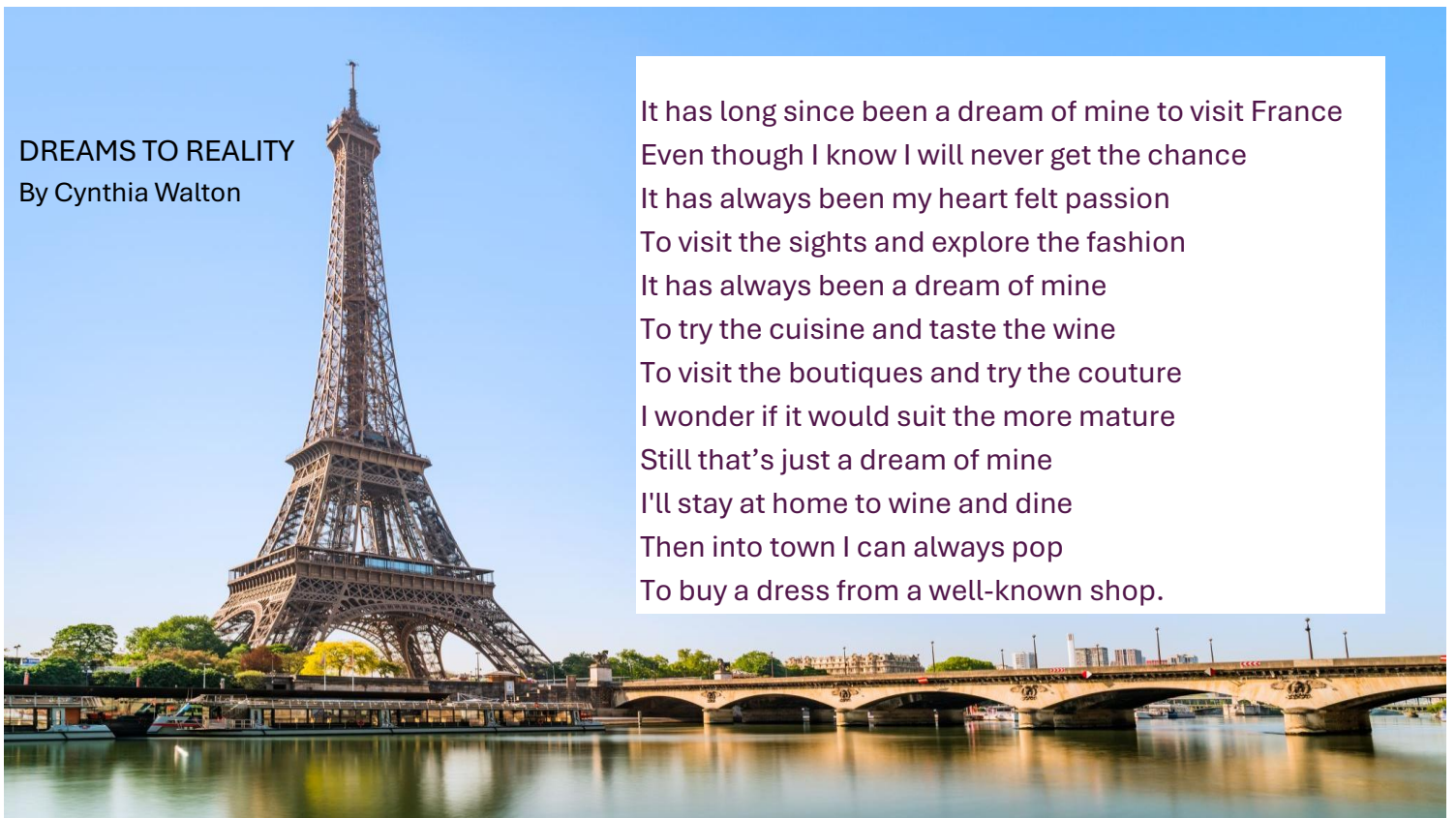
Cookie was a rabbit with a very special trick
She loved to travel far and wide upon her pogo stick
And always traveling with her, perched upon her shoulder
Was her little froggy mate whose christian name was Holder
Cookie loved her pogo stick and liked to bounce up high
Holder wasn't quite so sure and sometimes used to cry
"Froggie friend don't worry so" said Cookie with a giggle
But Holder was not quite so convinced and gave a nervous wriggle.
Cookie bounced up higher but this then caused a problem
As poor Holder lost his grip, fell off and bruised his bottom
"Look what you've done now Cookie" said Holder quite aggrieved
"Your bouncing my dear rabbit has left me most displeased
I fear that from now on you'll be bouncing on your own
And as for my poor derriere such pain I've never known".
"Oh Holder, don't go on so, your landing was quite springy
So jump back up and we'll go on but this time be more clingy".
"Alright" said frog "I'll climb back up and so to save more tears
I'll hold on tight as tight can be to your big rabbit ears".
So off they went at quite a pace with Holder's throbbing bum
And Cookie shouting "loosen your grip - my lugs have gone quite numb".



DREAMS TO REALITY

By Cynthia Walton

It has long since been a dream of mine to visit France
Even though I know I will never get the chance
It has always been my heart felt passion
To visit the sights and explore the fashion
It has always been a dream of mine
To try the cuisine and taste the wine
To visit the boutiques and try the couture
I wonder if it would suit the more mature
Still that's just a dream of mine
I'll stay at home to wine and dine
Then into town I can always pop
To buy a dress from a well-known shop.



Copyright: A Quick Note for the New Bu3a Year

WHO?

WHERE?

WHEN?

WHAT?

WHY?

As our groups start up again in the Autumn, it's worth remembering that all creative work—writing, music, images, videos and recordings—belongs to its creator. Using something privately is fine, but sharing it with a group or using it in a public setting may need permission or a licence.

Crediting Slides or hand-outs

If you include someone else's material in a presentation—an image, quotation, music clip or video, add a small credit on the slide. For example:

- *Image* © Jane Smith, 2020
- *Quote from A. Brown, "History of Yorkshire", 2018*
- *Music: Track 3, © Composer/Publisher*
- *Video: <https://youtu.be/8scBlooQ0TY>*

A brief credit keeps everything clear and respects the creator's rights.

[The video link shown above is to the Bu3a video "Copyright Compliance Counts"](#)

Copyright is straightforward: acknowledge the source, and we can enjoy our Bu3a activities confidently and responsibly.

Any questions or problems? We have our own copyright guru, Graham Mansfield. Contact him on bu3acalendar@gmail.com.

Jean Embury

Members Monthly Meeting Reports

AGM 1st June 2026 and MMM

Our 30th AGM went smoothly and was well attended. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved, and the nominated Executive Committee members were all voted in. The Treasurer presented the examined accounts which were approved. Alan Swann was re-elected as President.



What is Art? By Fiona Clark

Cine films Pictures Sculpture Videos and much more.

Art is a personal perception – in every case you either like or dislike it - or just not have an opinion either way. Fiona gave us an insight into what you can actually see in a picture if you study it in detail, and look for hidden background clues to the story it is trying to tell you. Absolutely fascinating!

Fiona is coordinator of the Looking at Art Group



During the meeting, our Chair, Pauline Buttling, presented a bouquet of exotic flowers to Lynn Maloney, who works tirelessly in our organisation and has now passed on her role of Development Officer to Mandy Martin.

On show were the wonderful works of art produced by members of the Dearne Pottery Group. Unique designs beautifully crafted.



History Group

On 1 June, History Group members enjoyed an excellent presentation by Andrew Green on the Ancient Olympic Games. Andrew explained how the Games began in ancient Greece as a one-day event with a single foot race before developing into a major sporting and religious festival. He discussed the Sacred Truce, which allowed safe travel to Olympia, and outlined events such as boxing, wrestling, the long jump, and equestrian competitions. Members also learned about the role of women in the Games and what happened after Greece came under Roman rule.



Andrew's knowledge and enthusiasm brought this fascinating period of history to life and were greatly appreciated by everyone attending. The meeting concluded with a light-hearted quiz, with biscuits and liquorice allsorts awarded as prizes, providing a fun end to an enjoyable morning.

Vanda Outram



Bowling Group

The Bowling Groups had a great singles bowling competition down at Ardsley Bowling green in early August. Les Hall won the trophy. Much laughter and fun all round!

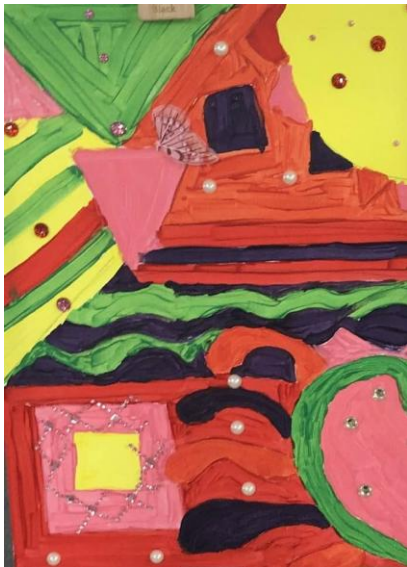
Mike and Pat Pease.



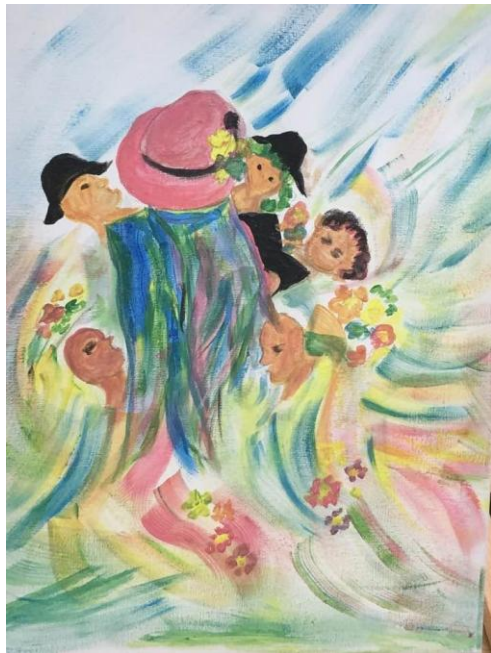
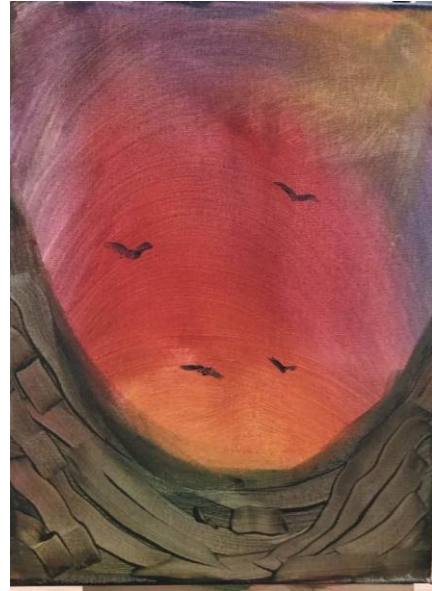
Modern Art Challenge - a Pop Up Group

As part of our ongoing Dearne Project, a Modern Art Challenge was organised by Jean Embury at Houghton Road Community Centre in Thurnscoe.

Twenty aspiring abstract artists got into the 'zone' for a couple of hours to put paint to canvas and immerse themselves into producing surprising and rather spectacular original art. Here are the results.



Modern Art Challenge - a Pop Up Group



u3a Festival July 2026

Barnsley u3a participated in the National u3a Festival, held in York. Lots of our members attended and participated in the activities, lectures and classes that were offered. Here are 2 reports from our own presenters plus a pic of the Silver Shimmy ladies who also took part.



Barnsley u3a Flutes Galore

Bob Pullen, the organiser of the music events at the York Festival, has written to thank and congratulate Flutes Galore on their performance on Wednesday in Hendrix Hall (Jimi Hendrix played there!) and he attached this photo.

He says that he received many complimentary comments about us. He wished that the hall had been full. For our part, we expected to be playing to just a few people in a large hall and were delighted by the size and appreciation of the audience.

Derek Bacon

I really enjoyed my two days at the York Festival doing my Laughter presentation on Thursday and Friday afternoons. From the very positive feedback I think most of the audience had a laugh. However, whilst members were filing in on the first afternoon a couple of women stopped me at the door and one asked. "Would you mind explaining to my friend what your presentation is about?"

I gave a brief overview and explained that the only prerequisite was that audience members needed to bring a sense of humour with them. The second member then looked at her colleague and said "Oh I don't think we will bother." And then they walked off!

Alan Swann



Silver Shimmy ladies with leader Kai Cee ready to show off their moves at the u3a Festival!



Jane Firth, leader of Flutes Galore

The Sheep That Stole My Shoe - By Mac McKechnie



"She was now at the edge of the cliff." "It's all right," Margaret called. "I'm coming."

The sheep paused for just a moment, looked back over its shoulder and, if sheep were capable of smiling, this one certainly appeared to be doing just that. Hanging proudly from its mouth was Margaret's brand-new waterproof walking shoe.

"Stop!" she shouted. "Bring that back! "

The sheep ignored her completely and skipped along the narrow path that wound its way beside the cliff. Margaret hurried after it as quickly as she dared, wearing one walking shoe and one increasingly damp sock. It had all begun barely ten minutes earlier when she'd stopped to admire the magnificent view after a sudden burst of rain. She had taken off her left shoe to empty the rainwater from it, only for a curious sheep to wander over, pick it up and trot away. At first she'd laughed, assuming it would lose interest within seconds. Instead, it seemed to regard the shoe as the greatest treasure it had ever acquired.

Two walkers rounded the bend and immediately froze. All they could see was a woman standing dangerously close to the edge of a cliff in the pouring rain, waving her arms and shouting at the top of her voice.

"It's all right!" Margaret called after the sheep. "I'm coming!"

The taller of the two walkers turned rather pale. "I think she's talking to herself," he whispered. His companion quietly reached into his pocket, produced his mobile phone and said, "I'd better ring Mountain Rescue."

Margaret noticed neither of them. She was far too busy trying to persuade a particularly stubborn sheep that expensive leather footwear wasn't part of a balanced diet and really ought to be returned to its rightful owner. The rain became heavier, her sock squelched unpleasantly inside the remaining shoe and, as she hurried after her woolly thief, she suddenly slipped. The walkers gasped in horror.

"Oh heavens!" one cried. Margaret recovered her balance almost immediately, but the sheep clearly regarded the incident as part of an entertaining game and broke into an even faster trot.

A shepherd, hearing the commotion, wandered across from a nearby field. "Everything all right?" he asked. "No," Margaret replied, rather breathlessly. "That sheep has pinched my shoe." The shepherd looked across at his flock. There were well over a hundred sheep grazing peacefully on the hillside. "Which one?" Margaret looked where he was pointing and her heart sank. Only moments earlier she'd known exactly which sheep she was chasing. Now every one of them looked absolutely identical. "I... I'm not entirely sure now." "I'll fetch the dog," the shepherd said.

Unfortunately, the sheepdog proved wonderfully efficient at gathering sheep but completely hopeless at recovering stolen footwear. Within moments the entire flock was charging backwards and forwards across the hillside, until Margaret had no idea which one might still be carrying her missing shoe.

High above them, a television news helicopter happened to be returning after filming traffic delays on the motorway. Spotting a crowd gathered beside the cliff, the pilot swung round for a closer look. Margaret glanced up, spotted what she thought was a flash of brown leather disappearing behind yet another sheep and began waving both arms frantically. The helicopter crew assumed she was signalling for help.



Within minutes Mountain Rescue arrived, closely followed by two police cars and an ambulance. To Margaret's utter disbelief she then overheard someone suggesting they ought to alert the Coastguard as well. "The Coastguard?" she exclaimed. "We're thirty miles from the sea!" "No chances," replied a very serious police officer.

Ropes appeared. Helmets were unpacked. A stretcher was laid on the grass. Several volunteers studied the cliff through binoculars while another attempted to persuade Margaret to step slowly away from the edge.

"For goodness' sake," she protested, "forget me! Catch the sheep!"

The rescue team exchanged sympathetic glances. "I think she's confused," someone murmured. "I'm not confused," Margaret insisted. "I've simply had my shoe stolen." At that moment a television reporter hurried across, microphone in hand. "Can you tell our viewers how you're feeling right now?"

"Cold," Margaret replied. "Wet... and slightly annoyed." The reporter nodded gravely. "Very brave" he said. "I haven't been brave." A respectful silence followed. "I've been robbed." Pens immediately began scribbling. Margaret sighed. "No... by a sheep." Nobody wrote that bit down.

Just then a little girl of about eight wandered over holding her grandfather's hand. She listened quietly to the conversation for a few seconds, then opened her small rucksack and produced a single digestive biscuit.

Without saying a word she held it out. Almost instantly one sheep ambled away from the flock, walked straight towards her and calmly dropped Margaret's muddy walking shoe onto the grass before accepting the biscuit as payment.

Silence descended across the hillside. Mountain Rescue looked at the police. The police looked at the television crew. The television crew slowly lowered their cameras. The little girl smiled. "Grandad says sheep are daft," she said. "But not as daft as grown-ups."

Margaret picked up her rather soggy shoe, brushed away as much mud as she could and slipped it back onto her foot. Around her, ropes disappeared into bags, helmets were packed away and disappointed reporters quietly wandered back towards their vehicles.

As one photographer asked if she would mind posing beside the sheep for one final picture, Margaret looked at the unrepentant animal. It stared back at her with complete innocence, as though it couldn't imagine what all the fuss had been about.

She burst out laughing. "Next time," she said, "I'm buying wellingtons."

Special Events to celebrate our 30th Anniversary

u3a
Barnsley & District
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The planning of 30th Anniversary events have taken into account other group events that have been planned (travel, Christmas activities etc) to reduce the impact of cost and time for members.

There are no events planned with a cost above £10 per session.

Most sessions last for 2 hours. These events are for members only.

*The first tranche of events will be from August to December (see chart below) and tickets will be available at the **September Monthly Meeting and following meetings on a first come first served basis.***

Some sessions have limits on numbers due to the leads requesting these numbers, the space available or the hire of the venue.

If there are 2 of the same event, it will only be possible to book one of them, to allow as many members as possible to join the sessions.

Month	Session	Venue	Cost to members
16 th August 1 – 4pm	Ardsley Gala	Ardsley Park	Free
23 rd September	Bu3a day Penistone	Tesco's supermarket: subject to confirmation	Free
9 th October 10 – 11.30	Seated Yoga 16 places Ticketed	Roundhouse Library Athersley	£5.00
10 th October	Walk through Nature Max of 15 members	Tankersley Area approx. 1½ hours	Free
31 st October 3.00 – 5.00pm	Halloween Tea Dance Max 40 members Ticketed Tea/ coffee / cake	Monk Bretton Methodist Chapel main hall Small middle room for refreshments	£5.00
6 th November 10 - 12	Seated Yoga 16 places Ticketed	Roundhouse Library Athersley	£5.00
9 th Nov 2 – 4	Posh Puds 6 places Ticketed	Chrissie White	£5.00
14 th December 10.45 – 11.45	Silver Shimmy Workshop Ticketed Maximum 10 places	Mapplewell Village Hall Small hall	Blue Box donation

Special Events to celebrate our 30th Anniversary

u3a

Barnsley & District
1996 - 2026

Seated Yoga

Seated Yoga or Chair Yoga is a gentle way of maintaining and improving balance, strength and mobility. All exercises are done either in a sturdy chair or using the chair for support, so no need to get on the floor! Movements are slow and controlled and aim to improve strength and flexibility.

There are 2 separate sessions with a maximum of 16 members in each.

Session 1 is on Friday 9 October 2026 from 10.00 to 11.30 am Tickets £5

Session 2 is on Friday 6 November 2026 from 10.00 to 11.30 am Tickets £5

Both will be held at the Roundhouse Library on Laithes Lane, Athersley, S71 3AE

You will need to wear loose clothing. Footwear should be comfortable. If it is removed there should be socks worn to reduce slipping. Water is a necessary addition. A blanket may be used for relaxation at the end of the class.

You will be asked to complete a health questionnaire before the session begins, to enable the lead to assess the limits of the group and fashion the session accordingly.

Parking is available at the Roundhouse library and nearby Poundstretchers Supermarket.

Gentle Belly Dancing and Exercise

A fun, friendly and gentle activity session — no previous dance experience required! Belly dance can help improve posture, coordination, muscle tone, core strength, flexibility, cardiovascular health, confidence and self-esteem.

What to Expect:

Gentle warm-up & heart warm-up

Learn basic belly dance moves

Fun join-in dances

Demonstrations from our regular Silver Shimmy dancers

Gentle cool-down

Exercise level: Low to moderate

What to wear: Loose, comfortable clothing and non-slip soft shoes

What to bring: A bottle of water

Interested? Come along, have fun, get moving and enjoy yourself!

Special Events to celebrate our 30th Anniversary

u3a
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Halloween Tea Dance

Saturday 31 October at Monk Bretton Methodist Chapel, S71 2EG

Come and strut your stuff to a wide range of music being played to suit all tastes. The dance floor is all yours from 3.00pm - 5.00pm, so get dressed up - even take the Halloween theme on when you are choosing your outfit! No prizes though!

Tea dances originated ages ago when afternoon tea was the norm and what better way to move all those calories except by practising your moves and perhaps learning a new dance or two. The French called them "Thé dansant" as an early afternoon event often with champagne, but that's the French for you!

No alcohol is allowed on the Chapel premises, but a good cuppa with cake will hit the spot!

Maximum number is 40 so that we have room to dance!

Posh Puds

Posh Puds is a culinary experience! You will make and bake a winter style pudding guided by Chrissie White. Chrissie has been running this event for some time now and has wealth of experience in baking. **Only 6 places for this unique event.**

The ingredients will be provided for you, in her kitchen, and she will guide you through the process of baking the pudding. While your creation is cooking, you will be able to relax and eat a pre-prepared pudding with a cup of tea or coffee and chat to your fellow bakers about the afternoon. Then you will be able to take your pudding home to share with family, friends or keep it to yourself!

The cost covers the ingredients provided, any sundries needed i.e. energy/cling film etc. plus the cost of a share of the sample pudding.

The afternoon lasts from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Monday 9 November 2026.

Further information will be given regarding address after tickets are booked.

Walk through Nature

Any walk is beneficial for our health. This walk is being led by one of our members who has an interest and experience in nature. It will focus on looking at the nature around us and offer insight into what we are seeing. There may be additional vegetation to see but it is not primarily a fungi hunt and identification walk. Picking any fungi is entirely at your own risk. The walk is on easy terrain, mostly paths, but some walking on grass. It is not anticipated that there will be fields crossed with animals in them. Please dress according to the weather and wear comfortable shoes.

Meet at St. Peter's Church, Black Lane, Tankersley S74 0DU at about 10.00am – 10.30 am where coffee / tea and biscuits will be available before the walk starting at 11am. There is adequate parking available on the lane. The walk will last approximately 1½ hours.

Numbers are limited to 15. The walk is free but based from the church - donations are welcome.

30th Anniversary Walking Football Tournament

The first Bu3a Walking Football Tournament was held on Friday 10th July at Dodworth Miners Welfare Club when Bu3a took on Doncaster Dynamos. Despite the heat both sides were prepared to show their skills in the sport. Two sets of teams played: under 70's and over 70's.

The resulting games showed the determination of both teams with the final being between Doncaster Dynamos under 70s and Bu3a under 70's. The match was close and finished at 3-2 to Doncaster who were presented with the 'President's Cup' trophy. A few members attended to cheer on our teams.

It was a good morning's sport and all the teams have to be congratulated in playing so well in such conditions. The only concern they had in January when the competition was planned, was worrying whether it would rain!

Pauline Buttlings



Our Chair with John McKinnon – Referee and Roy gamble – adjudicator. Organisers were Jackie McKinnon, Dave Mahon and Alan Swann – thanks to all the players and helpers.



From an Idea to a Circle of Words

Barnsley u3a Creative Writing reaches out to the Community

It began with a simple idea: what if we took some of the enjoyment we have found in writing and sharing our work at Barnsley u3a Creative Writing Group and opened the door a little wider to the local community? From that thought, Barnsley Word Circle was born - a monthly evening where poetry, short stories, spoken words and friendship can all share the same room.

The events are organised and run by members of the Barnsley u3a Creative Writing Group, but Barnsley Word Circle is deliberately open to the wider community. You do not have to be an experienced writer - in fact, you do not even have to read. People are welcome simply to come along, listen, enjoy the atmosphere and meet others who love words. For those who do want to take part, our open mic offers short four-minute slots for poems, stories and readings.



One of the most encouraging things has been watching people who began by saying, "I could never do that," start putting words on paper and then find the confidence to stand up and share them. That, perhaps, is what the whole idea is really about: not simply presenting finished writers, but giving new voices somewhere to begin.

And it is already making a difference. After only our first month, the connection between the Word Circle and u3a brought a new member into the Barnsley u3a Creative Writing Group. That is exactly the bridge we hoped to build - taking what we enjoy within u3a out into the community, and in turn introducing new people to what u3a has to offer. Each Barnsley Word Circle evening also gives us the opportunity to welcome a guest poet, writer or performer to headline the first part of the programme. This brings established local voices together with complete beginners, regular writers and people who simply enjoy listening. Our July guest was poet and writer Paul Brookes, followed in August by Barnsley poet, musician, actor and storyteller Jane Sharp. Future evenings will continue to feature invited guests alongside our community open mic. Jane summed up the spirit of the project beautifully after her appearance:

To be in at the beginning of something is always exciting. Barnsley Word Circle offers writers in the area an opportunity to share their work, hone their skills and become recognised. Not only that, it is a great way to meet like-minded people and have a chat. The energy that a live audience brings has a certain magic to it. Barnsley Word Circle is definitely a date to put on your calendar."

Jane Sharp

Barnsley Word Circle takes place on the second Friday of each month at Staincross Christian Fellowship Church Hall, 21 Spark Lane, Staincross, Barnsley S75 8AA. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. The aim is simple: a friendly room, a warm welcome, and a place where words can be heard.

Perhaps the best invitation is the simplest one: you do not have to arrive as a writer. You only have to arrive. The words can come later.

Mac McKechnie

"Have you heard the news " said Mrs. Casey excitedly, as she breezed, in waving a sheet of paper. " Barnsley U3A is awarding a prize to the group the most outstanding contribution in 20 years ". The others quickly gathered around to read it.

"A weekend trip to London including a show and sightseeing " she continued. There was a picture of Buckingham Palace and Tower Bridge on it with Billy Elliot sprawled across it. "That's a no brainer" Mrs. Jones from the art class said confidently. "We are the best, have you seen our work. Such a talented group. I don't mean to blow my own trumpet, but our paintings are exceptional. " "When you said painting class dear, I thought you meant painting like decorating the kitchen "Mr. Jones sheepishly said. "I did not realise you meant Da Vinci and Mona Lisa! " he admitted.

"What about the Tai Chi group. Did you know that this ancient Chinese martial art promotes wellbeing by circulating chi . The slow relaxing movements help to replenish energy reserves and improve balance. It also loosens joints and is good for arthritis to make joints more flexible". This wisdom was delivered by Mrs. Taylor. "I noticed you seemed more relaxed and calmer since you joined the group my dear" said Mr. Taylor. " Does that apply to everything dear ? You are applying that at home too. I did wonder why the dinners were taking ages."

The country dance group put forward their case. "Ours is a 14th century traditional dance " said Robert . "Couples dance together in a figure or set. They follow a caller who names each change in the steps. So you need to have good timing. It is performed in social gatherings. You need a good memory and rhythm. We are so popular that we have a waiting list." "Not for us dear "quipped Mr. Howard. "I can't remember our conversation from 5 minutes back " "I noticed' replied his wife.

The Ballroom dancers recommended their dances. They were enjoyed socially and competitively they said. A dedicated group and very accomplished too they proudly announced . "Yes" said Mrs. Taylor " Mr. Taylor is now dancing round the kitchen table all day! "

Mrs. Dobson was in charge of the board games. "We are the elite group" she said. "We concentrate and use our brains . No jumping up and down. Some games have an element of chance, but some have a strategy . They all have a goal and very competitive. We are the corner stone of the groups."

"Is that what you call it . When we see you with your heads down, it looks like some of you go to sleep like in the House of Lords," laughed Harry. " Don't scorn " said Mr. Dobson . " Your Missus has put your name down for chess from next week , so you will soon be one of us !"

" Join the cycling group and discover what you could do on two wheels. Ditch your car and get around on your bike. Good for you and the environment. And you save on fuel! I am getting very good" said Maria. "Better than your driving" added her friend Susan.

" Now let me tell you about the ukulele group," said Margaret "you hear it once and you get the bug! We composed the famous U3A anthem and now they are requesting to use it all over the world! Surely, we deserve to win. We perform gigs which are so popular they want us back! Very impressive we've been told. We are a delightful group, and our performances are exceptional " she reinforced.

" Photography is the art of capturing images as memories. A Steven Spielberg amongst us. A lot of IT knowledge in photoshop" said Mr. Jones calmly. "Our photographs would take your breath away. We are far superior to the others."

" Bird watching is an observation of wildlife. A hobby in which individuals enjoy the challenge of bird studying and other general activities involving bird life " chirped Mrs. Taylor. "We are a special group." "You do mean the feathered kind I hope dear" Mr. Francis said.

" The Gardening group create beautiful gardens. The benefits of gardening are seemingly endless both mentally and physically. As well as the strong therapeutic value of gardening it can help connect with others, reducing the feeling of isolation. It makes us more active and gets us outside for fresh air especially in winter. It brings positive changes to the lives of people with disabilities. It is an antidote to stress too." All this came from the green fingered Mr. Taylor.

Now it was Mrs. Wallers turn to enlighten the group about music. " Music has a special power to move us and stir our emotions. It changes our moods, helps to concentrate and reduces stress. Music brings joy to you and everybody around you. It improves cognitive skills, boosts team skills and increases performance skills. You learn to work with others. It increases coordination and sharpens concentration. It creates a sense of achievement. It also promotes social skills and happiness. There now you know it all " she concluded.

"The Choir group always has a waiting list. It is so popular. We have accomplished sopranos and solo singers. We played for the Mayor and people pay to hear us perform. Churches fill up and we raise a lot of money for charities. We are a devoted and dedicated group with weekly practice. The concerts are exceptional and very worthy with commendable performances."

The walking group argued that they were the fittest of the lot. The cheerful and delightful walkers said they do just 'what the doctor ordered'. " All you need is motivation and a good pair of shoes" said Raymond "and soon you are a size down - as in my wife's case" he unwittingly revealed. "They are the most beneficial. We are brilliant" they said.

Soon all the groups had spoken. They all had done their best to highlight their activities. The day of the award ceremony arrived. Who had won? Who deserved this prize? Who was the most exceptional, most superior group? Could it be the group who performed the most for audiences? Could it be a theatrical singing or dancing group? Or health-conscious groups? The adventurous travellers?

They would soon find out. The coordinators were all handed a small, sealed envelope. The committee members looked at the chairman and smiled. It was tough but they had made a decision. They had selected their winner. In the end it was quite easy really. It was unanimous. They all agreed that they had found the best winner.

There was a lot of rustling as the envelopes were opened. Some impatiently tore them. Some meticulously found a way to retrieve the paper without damaging the envelope. Some had steady hands while others were trembling and sweaty. There was a momentary stunned silence as the winner was revealed

Disappointment? Happiness? Try again? Better luck next time? But who had won? Who had the winning ticket? They all read the note. Some read it again. Unbelievable! Then someone from the back started clapping . Soon the whole room was filled with loud clapping. Laughter rippled through the room. The small note on every envelope said:

"You have ALL been recognised for the outstanding contribution you made to BU3A and have ALL been rewarded." That weekend they ALL went to London.

Indu wrote this story in 2016, shortly after joining Bu3a. One of the first groups she attended was Creative Writing.

It's Tuesday so it must be Cycling !

Great ride from Brayton to Sykehouse today for lunch at the Old George Inn Wheels Cafe. Worth checking out this themed bikers cafe. Unfortunately we have some missing due to illness and also some enjoying holiday breaks at the moment. It is an opportunity to invite members from our waiting list along (the subs bench) So welcome to Wayne & Sue !



A puncture along the way even gave John the opportunity for a training session.

Les Roberts

Monthly Meeting Report – 6 July 2026

What a varied and entertaining afternoon. Music, plant sales, raffle, the usual tables where you can sign up for Social Events, Travel and Dining Out occasions and lots of members.

Our u3a banner finally saw the light of day again as we proudly celebrate our 30th anniversary. This was beautifully crafted by our Sewing groups in 2006 for our 10th Anniversary – all the members involved are named on the framed certificate.

We also marked a very special milestone as one of our earliest Chairs, Beryl Toplis, celebrated her 90th birthday -a lovely moment

The piece de resistance was our show stopping Ceilidh Band. This fabulous group of talented musicians had us tapping our feet, singing along and even dancing. What a brilliant afternoon.

Vanda Outram

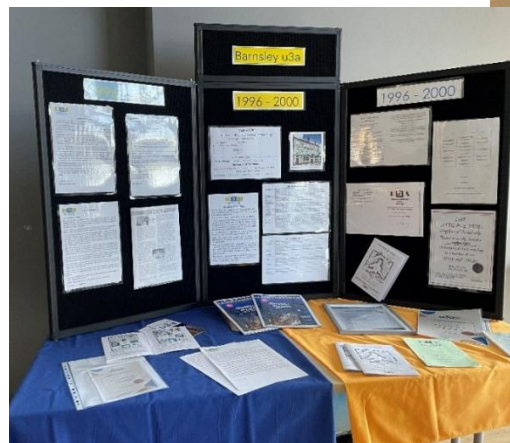


Monthly Meeting Report - 3 August 2026

Rose Buckner's World of Post-War Homemaking by Dr. Ann Featherstone

Over 130 members enjoyed Ann's fascinating and entertaining talk on life in post-war Britain. From rationing and "make do and mend" to homemade Christmas decorations and everyday family life, she brought the era to life with warmth, humour and wonderful storytelling.

There was plenty to see around the room too, with group displays, information about upcoming activities, trips, holidays, lunches and opportunities to chat with friends old and new. A display board told the story of Barnsley u3a from its inception in 1996 to 2000.



Future programme for Members Monthly Meetings

7 September – Wentworth Woodhouse School – Sue Green

Sue Green is a Bu3a member and one of the leading lights of the History Group. She has a wealth of knowledge on Wentworth Woodhouse. The talk is about a wealthy family and their expectations of **their** village schools. Boys and girls attended different schools. The differences between boys and girls education and the family expectations of a Headmaster & a Headmistress.

5 October

As this magazine went online, Hannah was still negotiating with possible speakers for our October meeting. Further details will be sent out when available.

2 November - Travels with a Tiger – Riding the Western Front by Phil Drabble

Inspired by historian Anthony Seldon's book 'The Path of Peace' in which he recounts his solo walk along the length of the Western Front, Phil Drabble decided to do the same journey on his Triumph Tiger motorbike. Tracing this historic route, he crossed some of Europe's most evocative and beautiful scenery from the Swiss border, riding through Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne, the Somme and Flanders, finishing at the North Sea in Belgium.

Phil's talk is a homage to all of those people, on all sides, who fought and died on the Western Front, focusing in particular on the fate of two men from his native Nottingham. Phil spent all of his working life in education, both as a secondary school teacher and as an educational adviser and is now an independent public speaker.

7 December – Old Blowers and mince pies

Once again, we are privileged to be entertained by our Bu3a Old Blowers Brass Ensemble with the extra attraction of a mince pie and possibly a tot of sherry!



Poetry Page 2

The Old Grey Woman by Phyllis Hawkes

She's always there in the old stone wall, the old grey woman in the old grey shawl
Each time I peer through glass and lace I see her there, but she has no face
I peer out through glass and lace attempting to see her aged face
Trying to see her features there but all I see is lank grey hair
And two gnarled hands upon her knee – could it be myself I see?
A glimpse into a future day, I wish the image would go away
I close my eyes and look again but there she is through the windowpane
As if she's gazing back at me, but without eyes how can that be?
And without a mouth how can she smile as if she's saying "stay awhile
And gaze upon my aging face for yours is going to take my place"
I rise to go to take my leave but something catches at my sleeve
She's left her vigil in the old stone wall, that old grey woman in the old grey shawl.



Phyllis was a long-standing member of the Bu3a Creative Writing group and made a significant contribution. Sadly, she died in May, and her daughter gave us permission to print this poem.

An Autumn Walk by Cynthia Walton

The Autumn leaves come floating down
Displaying their colours of gold, red and brown
On most country lanes they can be found
Forming a carpet upon the ground
The branches of the trees are almost bare
The Autumn breeze it fills the air
It's a special time to take a walk
To listen to the wildlife squawk
It's good to get out on Autumn days
And walk the roads and alley ways
This weather in Autumn is just the norm
So make the effort and wrap up warm.

THE BUTTERFLY

I was always unsure
of things that crawl
or fly until I fell in love with the
butterfly.



Their beautiful colours and
pretty design, so intricately
created, so divine.

They fly through the air without
making a sound before fluttering
gently down to the ground.

They land on my shoulders
whilst reading a book - I believe
that the butterfly brings me
good luck.



Cynthia Walton



Floral Art Challenge



The second art workshop, the Bu3a Floral Art Challenge, held at Houghton Road Community Centre, was a wonderful session. The time just flew by as members created beautiful floral artwork using the materials provided. The creativity and colour in the room made it a truly enjoyable u3a morning.

And of course, we had cake, the perfect finishing touch to a friendly, relaxed session.

Jean Embury



To see more about this workshop, there is a video on the Bu3a private Facebook site

Bu3a Choir Summer Concert – July 2026

What a fabulous Tuesday afternoon of music at Wombwell Methodist Church!

The Bu3a Choir, under the direction of Tony Jermy and accompanied by Steven Carey, filled a full church with wonderful music and community spirit. Highlights included As Long As I Have Music, a lovely Adele classic sung and played on guitar by Ian Dowlman, and What a Wonderful World with a beautiful violin solo from Liz Briggs. We also enjoyed poetry from Olive, celebrated birthdays and a wedding anniversary, and ended with a rousing Jerusalem that had everyone singing along. A huge thank you to Tony, Steven, Ian, Liz, Olive, the choir, and everyone who came along and helped make it such a memorable afternoon — as our Vice Chair said, simply "Fabulous!"

Vanda Outram



Tony Jermy addressing the audience, Sue Wilson, Vice Chair, opening the concert. Violin soloist Liz Briggs and guitar accompanist Ian Dowlman.



As always, an excellent performance by the wonderful Bu3a Choir. Thank you for a joyful afternoon.

Sue Stokes



Bu3a Groups in concert at Mapplewell

Saturday 18 August brought over 100 people, including many Bu3a members, to Mapplewell Village Hall to listen to a free concert. First to perform were the Barnsley Flute Choir – a great selection of tunes on several different types of flute, from the tiny piccolo to the enormous contrabass flute which is played standing up.

They were followed by the Silk Strings, 2 violins, 2 cellos and a double bass. Again, a lovely sound.

But the afternoon became more upbeat with the music of our Bu3a Ceilidh Band. Jigs, reels and waltzes followed in quick succession and got everybody tapping their feet.

Thank you to all the musicians for a brilliant afternoon of very varied music and in particular, Helen Simms who played in all three groups.

Jo Kasperek



Committee Matters May, June, July 2026

1. A grant of £500 has been received from u3a towards bu3a day and Barnsley's 30th Anniversary events.
2. Using an accountancy student from Barnsley College as part of the finance team was not considered viable. There is still a need for a replacement treasurer.
3. A presence at Penistone Show was discussed but not considered cost-effective.
4. The AGM was successful, and the BCVS contract was approved for 2026 - 2027.
5. Beacon training was identified as a priority for all especially new coordinators.
6. An organisational review was circulated for completion in July 2026. Several areas were identified as needing further attention.
7. The Dearne project continues to be successful. Clarification of "Taster" sessions was formulated. Meetings with other u3a groups (Holmfirth and Sherburn) formed positive relationships and sharing of good practice.
8. The New Member's Meeting is to be reviewed. The previous meeting formula is to be used as a basis on which to build.
9. Policies and procedures were reviewed successfully.
10. YAHR Chair's Forum discussed the use of publicity by u3a e.g. Boom Radio, newspapers. For bu3a, face to face messages, word of mouth and the outward facing Facebook page were working well.
11. More greeters at the MMM's were needed and several members have come forwards to take up the positions.
12. A plant sale was held at the July MMM. Bu3a received a donation from the proceeds.
13. Plans for new Spanish Language groups was approved.
14. Membership was steadily increasing. At the last new member's meeting, numbers stood at 1300.
15. The drop-in sessions at the Ibis Hotel are well received. The weekday session at the Library at the Lightbox has not been as successful. It will be moved around the districts to broaden the availability.
16. Past social events were discussed and several issues raised for poor attendance. Future events planned, need to break even to cover costs. All social and travel events are for members. Plans for the Christmas lunch were approved.
17. Using vouchers for attending 2 taster sessions was discussed and not considered viable.
18. Bu3a supports and promote the idea of Repair Cafes, but concerns were raised regarding insurance. A bu3a group was not an option.
19. National u3a: The resolution proposed for the u3a AGM was debated.
20. Elections for a trustee to sit on committee was left until there was further information available.

Pauline Buttlings, Chair Bu3a

Poetry Page 3

My Dream Job by Mac McKechnie

When I was just a youngster, people asked me what I'd like to be,
A fireman, pilot or train driver all sounded rather grand to me.
But none of those could tempt me once I saw an advert on TV...
"Official Biscuit Taster Required" – that was the perfect job for me!



They ushered me into an office where a smiling lady poured the tea,
Then lined up plates of Custard Creams and Bourbons as far as I could see.
"Quality control," she whispered, "every biscuit must be sampled carefully."
I thought, "If this is work each day, they've surely found the man in me!"

By lunchtime I'd tested Hobnobs, digestives, shortbread by the score,
Chocolate cookies, ginger nuts and wafers... then they brought out more
I bravely struggled onwards, though my waistband wasn't quite as before
Yet somehow every packet seemed to open one delightful biscuit more.



The manager congratulated me. "You've done extremely well," said he,
"But tomorrow we'll be checking cakes, with cream buns served at half-past three."
I smiled politely, thanked him, then glanced down with growing misery...
My belt had surrendered completely, and one button had escaped to sea!



So now when children ask me what my dream job ought to be,
I tell them, "Choose with caution, though it sounds like perfect luxury."
For getting paid to eat biscuits is a splendid occupation, you'll agree...
Until you discover your bathroom scales have asked for redundancy!



Bus Pass Walkers

On one of the rare days this summer when the weather was perfect for a walk, 17 hardy souls met in Barnsley bus station. We walked from Elsecar Heritage Centre, through the park and along the Timberland Trail to Skiers Spring Wood and out onto Sheffield Road. As the once-an-hour bus had gone, we then walked back towards Allotts Corner, via Evri and the bus back to Barnsley. It was a lovely walk, we even left a contingent in the local hostelry, ready to quench their thirst and enjoy a pub lunch.

Creative Stitches – Fidget Quilts

Creative Stitches latest project was making Fidget Quilts. These are small lap quilts covered in buttons, zips, ribbons, pockets etc. - anything that can keep restless hands busy. They provide occupational therapy and anxiety relief for people with Alzheimer's, Dementia and Autism. We have donated ten quilts to Saxondale Care Home and ten to the Memory Garden Dementia Charity.



One of the carers at Saxondale Care Home holding the Fidget Quilts we donated — they're already proving to be a real comfort for residents who benefit from tactile support.



Norma and Sue from Memory Garden Dementia Charity were also thrilled to receive a selection of our handmade quilts from Creative Stitches. Their smiles said everything. Thank you to everyone who helped create and donate these beautiful pieces.

Suzanne Dinsdale



Tuesday Walkers
at Langsett
Reservoir on
26 May.



Bu3a Paper and Coloured Ink Workshop

Shown on this page is a sample of what our members produced in this workshop held in July at Houghton Road Community Centre. These colour-drenched results were achieved with just coloured ink on paper. Thanks to the ideas and guidance from Glennis Gilruth.

Jean Embury



Ode to an Apple Tree

How good that you're so near to me,
Oh apple tree,
Oh apple tree.
On a winter's day:
your gnarled beauty,
skeletal against a pewter sky.
Or, at night, silhouetted black
Against a pearl-like moon.

Soon though, warming springtime:
nascent buds instead of frosty rime.
It's a wondering, hoping time,
hoping those burgeoning buds
will not be blighted by the frost.
Then all I'm wanting would be lost:
your buds, your blossom and, fatally,
your fruit.
But when life-affirming, nectar-seeking bees
pollinate my and my neighbours' trees
your gifts to us are assured.

Apple trees adore the summer's sun
And the summer's rain.
They drink their balm; they wallow in the warm,
in lifelight and thirsty rain.
Brand new branches race for space
in their flight
from desperate deadwood,
from dark, crusted blackwood,
from etiolating shade.

Apple trees adore the summer's sun
And the summer's rain.
They drink their balm; they wallow in the warm,
in lifelight and thirsty rain.
Brand new branches race for space
in their flight
from desperate deadwood,
from dark, crusted blackwood,
from etiolating shade.

A sign of the imminent fall
is blown down windfalls, bruised,
so peeled and stewed by many.
(That includes me.)

Shorter days, longer nights
and I bite into my first apple from the tree;
red as a rose;
sweetened by a weak sun's rays: fructose.
I twist as I pull.
I twist as I pull.
And I predict a full applestore,
maybe more fruit than I have boxes for.

Autumn is the 'evening' of the year:
A season dear to me;
Oh apple tree,
Oh apple tree!

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Photos from a recent
Dearne Board Games
Group



Heritage Open Days

Every September, churches and historic sites open their doors to the public for visits, talks and explorations.

This year, these events take place between 11th and 20th September. Below are a few events that may be of interest to you in our area. Booking is required for some events.

[Elsecar Heritage Centre Joint Heritage Talks, Performances and Exhibition Series](#)

Visitor Centre, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S74 8HJ

Multiple dates available. In person. Pre-booking required

A series of heritage talks and performances sharing local heritage and stories. These talks have been developed in collaboration with RSPB Old Moor where accompanying exhibitions are being held.

[RSPB Old Moor Joint Heritage Exhibitions, Talks and Performance Series](#)

R S P B, Old Moor Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 0YF

Multiple dates available. In person No booking required.

A Series of six free Exhibitions at RSPB Old Moor. Exhibitions are complimented with a series of talks and performances held at nearby Elsecar Heritage Centre and Hemingfield Colliery. See EHC & HC listings.

[Barnsley Civic Hidden Histories Tour](#)

[Civic Hall](#) S70 2JL Multiple dates available Pre-booking required

Join us for a special behind the scenes tour and explore the spaces, stories, and hidden histories that have shaped Barnsley Civic over the last 150 years.

[Working histories at Wentworth Castle Gardens](#)

S75 3EN Multiple dates available

Explore glorious gardens, woodland and parkland, alongside some fascinating monuments and a Victorian Conservatory. There will be special events on during the Heritage Open Days festival, exploring working histories of the estate.

[Hoylandswaine Nail Forge](#) S36 7JA 19 September

[New Hall Cruck Barn](#) S71 5EZ 19 September Pre-booking preferred

Many local churches have Open Days, including these:

[Felkirk; The history and heritage of St Peter's Parish Church](#) S72 9DH 12 September

[Open days at All Saints Darfield](#) S73 9JX Multiple dates available

[St Michael And All Angels Church, Great Houghton](#) S72 0BL 12 September

[St Mary's Church, Worsbrough](#) S70 5LW Multiple dates available

In all cases, look on the appropriate website to check the dates and opening times.

30th Anniversary Event – Ardsley Gala

I would like to thank everyone who joined in the fun and supported Bu3a at Ardsley Gala on 16 August. Both the Pétanque and the Crown Green Bowling sites were busy, and visitors were made very welcome. Even the mayor had a go at both sports!

The pétanque terrain was formally opened by the mayor and officially named after Roy Marsden and Trudy Atkinson in recognition of the work put in by both to get us to this stage. It only took six years!

The bowling green is suffering due to the hot weather, but it did not stop one young boy from bowling expertly to just touch the jack! Future player there!

The rain held off, after a brief shower this morning, and we had a manageable sunny day - thankfully not as hot as previous weeks!

Pauline Buttling



Above: Civic Mayor, Liam Hardcastle with Brenda Marsden and Colin Atkinson.

Left: The Mayor and the Honorary Mayoress, Natalie Hardcastle meet our Chair and David Mills – Coordinator of the Bu3a Pétanque Group.

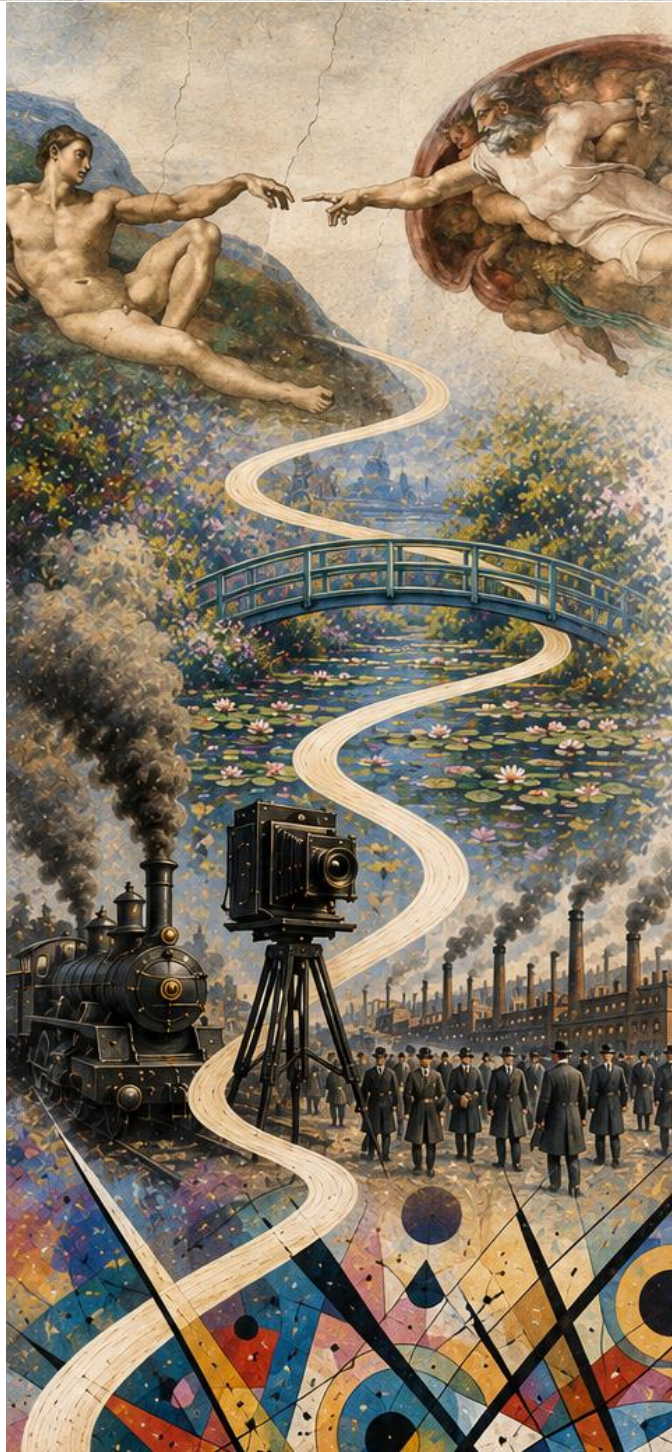


Our table showing the 30th Anniversary bunting, flanked by Committee and other members



Looking at Art

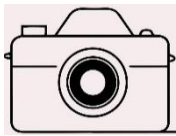
Why Modern Art emerged and how to understand it



A series of 10 illustrated talks by Fiona Clark (coordinator of the Bu3a Looking at Art group), to be held fortnightly over autumn and winter at Monk Bretton Methodist Chapel.

From Impressionism to abstraction, from Asia to the USA, from the Pre-Raphaelites to the machine age, the course will follow the story of a changing world and the art it inspired.

Discover how photography, industry, science, travel, war, psychology and new ideas transformed the way artists saw, and painted, the world.



By learning to look at colour, line, shape, texture, space and composition we can try to work out how the artist wanted to make us feel.

From Monet and Van Gogh to Picasso, Kandinsky and Gorky, and onwards into current art, this course is about learning how to look, not just see a work of art.

The course will begin on Wednesday 30 September 2026 in the Main Hall at Monk Bretton Methodist Chapel, S71 2EG from 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

It is open to all members of Bu3a
No previous knowledge required.

30 September	When the world changed art changed (Industrial Revolution)
14th October	When light learned to draw (photography)
28th October	When the world came in (global influences)
11th November	Learning to see (looking vs seeing)
25th November	The moment art broke free (breaking the rules)
9th December	Christmas talk and fuddle

The course will resume at the end of January and continue until the end of March 2027.

Inside the artist's mind.

Seeing what is not there

Through the eyes of the artist WW1

Thought the eyes of the artist WW2

Where did art lead us.

Tuesday Walking Schedule

Tuesday Walkers		
Date	Area covered	Leader
1 September 2026	Penistone Train Line walk and lunch	Robert & Pauline
15 September 2026	Elsecar circular	Ken
29 September 2026	Dearne Valley	Sandra
13 October 2026	Wentworth	Julie
27 October 2026	Winscar Reservoir	Alan & Pat
10 November 2026	Clayton West	Robert & Pauline
24 November 2026	Silkstone Common Walk and Annual Lunch	Helen W
This group takes a break during December We wish all our walking friends a Happy and Blessed Christmas. Our next planned walk takes place on:		
5 January 2027	Silkstone Golf Course / Higham	Robert & Pauline

Pop-In Coffee morning at the Ibis Hotel, Dodworth



A Wonderful Turnout at our Pop-In Morning!

What a fantastic turnout at the Ibis Hotel for our August Pop-In!

There was lots of coffee, chit-chat and friendly conversation. It was lovely to see new members, long-established members and prospective members all enjoying a great morning together.



We also had people popping in to find out more about Barnsley & District u3a, and another person joined online while they were there!

A lovely morning of meeting people, making connections and finding out more about everything u3a has to offer. Watch out for details of the September meeting date. You'll be made welcome!

Vanda Outram



Barnsley & District

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 10th December 2026

at the Bluebell Suite,
Hotel 19, Elmhirst Lane
Dodworth, S75 4LS

12.30 for 1.00pm

Tickets £25.00

(includes Lucky Raffle Draw)

**2 course meal
plus entertainment from
the Bu3a Concert Party**

**Tickets available at
Members Monthly meetings
from 7 September 2026**

Group Activities – Bowling and Thursday Jive



Bu3a Bowlers having fun at our annual doubles bowling competition with Jeff Jones and Ken Audin the overall winners. Thank you all for coming to join in the fun.
Pat Pease



This is the Thursday Jive group having fun recently.

Do you fancy joining us?

On 3rd September we will be starting a brand new, carefully crafted beginners course and we're looking for volunteers to try it out on! Could it be you? We will have you dancing at your first session and before you know it you'll be happily dancing and enjoying our social occasions as well... especially the Christmas party! So why not learn to jive? Contact **David Lazenby Burnett** or **Chris Audin** for further information or just turn up at Darfield Community Centre, Illsley road, Darfield, S73 9AL every Thursday at 12 noon until 2.30pm. Experienced dancers also welcome.



"Health benefits of Dance"

Boost Memory

Improve Flexibility

Reduce Stress

Diminish Depression

Help your Heart

Lose Weight

Balance Better

Increase Energy

Make Friends



rawforbeauty.com

Dining Out – Italian Night at Uno Momento



Our August Italian Night was a huge success!

Nearly 50 Bu3a members attended and were impressed with the venue (we had the upstairs room to ourselves), the service, and the food was excellent.

We shall definitely be dining there again!



Our next Dining Out experiences are:

Chinese Night on Thursday 22 October at China Court in Mapplewell

Curry Night on Thursday 19 November at Bombay Rasoi in town centre.

Bookings and deposits are taken at the Monthly Members Meetings.

What's the Committee been up to now?

An idea from Sue Wilson, our Bu3a Vice Chair was to feature members of the Executive Committee doing something totally different.

This is definitely over the top different.

I attended a Mad Hatters Tea Party fundraising event in August on behalf of MacMillan and the cancer support group I attend which is called the We Can Survive Singers. I went as the White Rabbit, with bunny ears, bunny gloves, bunny slippers and even a bunny tail. Thank you to my husband for the loan of his amazing waistcoat which is covered in clocks.

Sue Wilson



Bu3a Choir Christmas Concert

Tuesday 8 December 2026

**Wombwell Methodist Church, Summer
Lane, S73 8HE at 1.30 pm**

**Tickets on sale at the October and
November Members Monthly Meetings**



Group Activities – Jewellery Making and Geology



Introduction to Jewellery Making

The weekly Introduction to Jewellery Making Group will start on Tuesday 26th October, 10am -12pm, until Tues 1st December. We will be in the Community Space at Tesco Extra, Stairfoot.

Members will learn how to make earrings, bracelets, necklaces and beaded ornaments using 3 basic tools and techniques. You will also learn how to repair broken jewellery.

All necessary tools and equipment will be provided. If you wish to have your own kit, details will be sent before the group starts.

Please contact Sue Stokes, ronsuestokes@btinternet.com or 07931 865903, or via the Bu3a website.

Barnsley Rocks – Geology Practical

On October 2nd from 12:00 to 14:00, the Geology Group is holding a practical session at Storefirst, Ashroyd Business Park, Hoyland, Barnsley S74 9SB. Come and look at a wide range of rocks and minerals and bring your own specimens to be analysed.

Details from Niall Clarke – niallclarke01@gmail.com

Open to all Bu3a members



The closing date for entries in the Winter Buzz Magazine is Friday 20 November

Send entries to:

barnsleyu3abuzz@gmail.com 45



Three little maids – aprons on! Ready to make pottery !

What's On Offer 2026

- 7 September** Cosmology Group talk on "Pulsars! The lanterns of the Universe"
Monk Bretton Methodist Chapel, 7.00pm
- 7 - 11 September** Travel Group holiday at Warner's Gunton Hall. Cost £445pp
- 17 September** Dining Out Turkish Night at Istanbul Restaurant 6.30 for 7.00pm
- 19 September** EcoFest at Emmanuel Church 10.00am - 3.00 pm Bu3a have a stand.
- 19 - 27 September** National u3a week. Penistone Market event on 23 September.
- 26 September** Dearne Arts Festival at Astrea Academy, Goldthorpe 10.00 am
Free entry. Championing Creativity.
- 2 October** Barnsley Rocks - Geology Practical 12:00 to 14:00 at Storefirst, Ashroyd
Business Park, Hoyland, Barnsley S74 9SB.
- 5 October** 1 pm Members Monthly Meeting at Priory Centre, Lundwood
- 22 October** Ding Out Chinese Night at China Court, Mapplewell 6.45 pm
- 2 November** 1 pm Members Monthly Meeting at Priory Centre, Lundwood.
Travels with a Tiger - Riding the Western Front by Phil Drabble
- 14 - 17 November** Travel Group holiday to Longleat & Bath.
- 19 November** Dining Out Curry Night at Bombay Rasoi, Town Centre. 6.30 for 7.00pm
- 7 December** 1 pm Members Monthly Meeting at Priory Centre, Lundwood. Old Blowers,
Mince pies and sherry.
- 8 December** 1 pm Bu3a Choir Christmas Concert at Wombwell Methodist Church.
- 10 December** Bu3a Christmas Lunch at Bluebell Suite, Hotel 19, Dodworth S75 4LS
Booking from September MMM Tickets £25 12.30pm



More details on Bu3a 30th
Anniversary events happening in
2027 to follow.
Look out for the October
Newsletter