

Cestria u3a at Chester- le-Street

Website – www.u3asites.org.uk/cestria

December 2024 Newsletter



Chairman's Corner

Monthly Meetings

**1st Wednesday of
month Cornerstones
Methodist Chapel
9.30 – 10.00 pre
meeting Coffee &
Chat....10.00- Noon
Main Meeting**

Speakers

**8th January.....
Hearing Dogs
Martin Peagram**

**2nd February
AGM....
Durham Wildlife Trust
at Rainton Meadows
.....Emily Routledge**

**5th March.....
The History of
Chester le Street
Margaret Bozic**

**2nd April.....
Walk Across Africa
.....Fran Sandham**

Dear Cestria U3A members, welcome to the last newsletter of this year. Which reminds me that membership renewals are due in January, a bargain at £15! Please pay as soon as possible. If you only joined late this year then you will have been told that your payment also covers 2025.

Our new groups are up and running and we still have new members joining. We have also had a varied and interesting set of monthly talks over the year, thanks to our Speaker Secretary, Margaret Chilver.

The committee has decided not to keep displaying the Powerpoint presentation at the monthly meetings as nobody much looks at it. The information is available on the website, on the display boards which our Groups Co-ordinator has kindly done or on the monthly update sent out by the Secretary.

Please can I remind you that if you put your name down for an event or meal then you have made a commitment, including any payment.

As many of you are aware Margaret Pescod will be stepping down as Secretary at the next A.G.M. in February. Angela Hamilton has agreed to take her place; this leaves the committee one member short. Would you like to join the committee? There are four meetings a year held in the Parish Centre taking no more than two hours. If this is of interest to you please contact any committee member for information. Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter.

The shops have been full of Christmas stuff for a while now so the festive season must be coming. I hope you have a good one.

.....**Best wishes, Mike Parker, Chair.**

From the Editor..... Christine Logan



Christmas greetings, every one, and a I hope you have a very happy 2025. We will have coffee and mince pies at our December Christmas meeting, whilst this meeting is entry free we will be doing our part toward the Christmas spirit by collecting cash donations for the Durham Food Bank. We are not accepting food items, but there is a box in Cornerstones where you can leave gifts if you choose to do so.

This is your magazine to enjoy, and alongside our new website, it can be a treasure trove of interesting events and information, a chance to catch up with what's happening in our busy u3a. The last quarter of this year has certainly been full of activities to report back on. If you have taken part in any other intriguing events happening, do share! It's always good to hear your news!

As I said we are a very busy u3a, and always have been since starting in 2006, we have thrived due to the sterling work of the first committee who set the stage for great things back then. Amazing how the foundations laid by passionate people can continue to influence and inspire for years. One such member is Joan McElroy, whose membership number is number 2. Our regional u3a was organising a 30 year anniversary event, and asked our committee to nominate someone to attend the celebration meal. Ofcourse, our only choice was Joan!

Here is her report.....

On the 22nd October 2024 the Northumbria Region u3a, a network of 47 u3as in the North East and surrounding districts, celebrated their 30th Anniversary. I was honoured to be chosen by the committee to represent Cestria u3a.

The celebration was a meal followed by entertainment at the Little Haven Hotel, South Shields. Everything was well organised, there were 61 members and guests. Ray and I enjoyed the meal sharing the table with members from four other u3as, which was interesting. I was able to speak to several ladies who were also founder members.

The Chairman then introduced the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, Stuart Birkett who gave a speech, then Ian Cassidy, CEO of the Third Age Trust, also spoke.

The afternoon concluded with Geordie songs by the Whistle Testers.

I would like to take this chance to thank the committee for giving me this opportunity.

.....**Joan McElroy**



Christmas Morning 1975 5am

Sue awoke to the sounds of her two children excitedly opening their Christmas presents.

It was Sue's turn, as duty midwife, to cover the Christmas Day calls that year; the other midwives in the team had promised to hand over only essential calls. There were 12 in all.

Having checked that her midwifery bag contained all the essentials required, she then backed her mini out of the drive, waving goodbye to her husband and children. Snow was forecast – thank goodness for the shovel and bag of grit in the boot, Sue thought. Sue worked her way through the calls using her A-Z maps of the area. (No sat.nav. in the 70's.)

One call was to a scruffy house with an old mattress, a shopping trolley and other detritus in the front garden. "Howay in nurse, we've all got dickies", said a smiling girl, aged about 12yrs with a toddler on her hip. Shoes sticking to the floor, Sue followed the girl to the bedroom. "Me Ma's in there and me Da's down the pub," said the girl. Amazingly the bedding was clean, as were the mother and baby. "Me Gran's comin' ower later on," said the girl. "She'll be bringing dinner for us – but not for me Da." Why's that?" Sue asked. "Well, he's lying low from me Gran. Y'see he borrowed her tellie to watch the wrestling, then when it was ower he sold it." The young girl showed me out and, whilst picking up a dead rat by the tail and deftly putting it in the bin said, "Them rats are all ower, nasty buggers. Merry Christmas norse"

Another call was to a mother and baby in a pit village. Sue was rather weary as this was her twelfth call and was pleased to sit on the sofa and rest her back against a cushion. "What's a bonny lass like ye doin warking on Christmas Day?" an older man asked. Sue began to explain but was aware that the cushion was moving. Bobby, the whippet wriggled out and jumped down. This caused much hilarity; the men having just returned from the club. Dinner was almost ready, and mother and baby were doing well, so Sue wished them Merry Christmas and said her goodbyes. Again, much hilarity erupted, and the man said, "I wouldn't gan oot yet norse the budgies on your hat."

In almost every house Sue had been offered an alcoholic drink which she had to refuse. She saw Christmas dinners in various states of preparation, and everyone wished her Merry Christmas.

Finding a telephone box which hadn't been used as a toilet (not easy) she phoned the hospital for visits to mothers and babies discharged from hospital that day. (no mobile phones in the 70's.) Snow was falling as she made the call. There were three afternoon calls which she attended and found all to be well.

Home now to enjoy Christmas with my own family, Sue thought. Her husband had cooked dinner, following which, the four of them settled down to watch 'The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show' on TV. Sue fell asleep.

Around 9pm the telephone rang and the hospital receptionist informed Sue, as the on-call midwife, a patient was in labour and didn't think she'd make it to the hospital with snow so thick on the ground. Sue knew the house and the journey wasn't far, although the roads were hazardous. A baby boy weighing 7lb 6ozs and named Tim was delivered by Sue at 10.30pm. Mother and baby doing well.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.....**Hettie Aston**

Ghost The Musical.....



On Thursday 29th August a group from Cestria u3a attended a matinee, held at Sunderland Empire.

This show is based on the very successful 1990 film, Ghost. It won the writer of the original story, Bruce Joel Rubin, an Oscar for best screenplay, and Whoopie Goldberg an Oscar for best supporting actor. The film was the highest grossing film of 1990 also for video sales, it broke records both in the U.S. and U.K. The musical has stuck tightly to the screenplay so this performance was, for many of the audience a comparison with a familiar story.

As a quick reminder, Ghost is the story of Sam Wheat and Molly Jenson. They are madly in love until Sam is shot dead, due to his corrupt business colleague Carl. Sam then spends the rest of his time trapped between two worlds. With help from psychic Oda Mae Brown, he tries to protect his beloved Molly. The song 'Unchained Melody', was the background for that very famous scene involving the potter's wheel. The tune is actually heard five times during the show. The rest of the music for the show, was written by Sunderland's own Dave Stewart of Eurythmics fame and a multitalented Glen Ballard. In the stage musical, the combination of original story and musical interludes appeared to work effectively.

All of the special moments have been suitably transferred to the stage, The 'sock-it-to-the-bad-guy' moment when Molly gives Carl quite a wallop, was felt by everyone in the theatre. There are also three ditto moments which are so important to the story and which have been known to elicit tears or goose bumps from the audience.

There were over one hundred special effect in the film, so the stage production had to address these. My favourite special effect was the levitating newspaper. When characters were killed and passed on to a spirit form, the extra body on the ground had to be produced – this happened seamlessly. From the sound effects, the fate of the miscreants sounded appropriately gruesome. The climactic scene where Sam occupies Oda Mae's body to touch and hug Molly one last time is very special, before he goes off into the light.

There was a full cast of fifteen and they made the show special. The actors who played Sam, Carl and Molly were the backbone of the story being played Josh St. Clair, James Mates-Salt and Rebekah Lowings respectively. Les Dennis played two short, yet really memorable roles, as the hospital ghost and business man Lionel Ferguson. He always makes me smile, and did so this time by using an American accent. However, it was Jacqui Dubois, playing Oda Mae Brown, who stole the show. She brought the much needed light to the tragic story. The cheers and standing ovation for her, was testimony to her faithful playing of an Oscar winning role.

There was a strong sense of nostalgia with Ghost the Musical. A sense that the emotional journey of the story had been well told both by the spoken and sung words. Ghost the Musical should take its place high in the list of memorable musicals. The curtain screen in the Empire Theatre asked 'Do you believe' and telling us in the words of the song 'I've hungered for your touch'. It is likely that audiences will be believing and hungering for that touch for many years to come!

Thank you very much to Anne Lanigan for organizing this theatre trip.

Allan Harris

Everyone enjoyed the show.....

The Cestria u3a Theatre Group, led by Anne Lanigan, attended a matinee performance of Ghost the Musical at Sunderland Empire. Seated in the circle with an excellent view of the stage we enjoyed a musical which was entertaining and both made you laugh out loud and then brought tears to your eyes.

The musical closely followed the film, which starred Demi Moore, Patrick Swayze and Whoopi Goldberg. The female lead had an excellent vocal range and her songs tugged at the heart strings as she mourned the loss of her husband. The clairvoyant character was brilliant at both acting and singing, very comical at times and she led a group of excellent dancers. Two smaller parts where a more mature male was required were played by actor and comedian Les Dennis.

The villainous parts were also very well acted with the ghost on the subway train and the murderer of the hero being portrayed as violent and of evil intent. The special effects of him being dragged down to Hell was particularly chilling.

The show leads up to the point we all remember from the film where Demi Moore is using her wheel to make a pot and the ghost of her husband is behind her with the clairvoyant conveying what he is saying. The famous song 'Oh my darling I hunger for your love ...' was really an emotional moment and the point where she says goodbye as he is taken up to Heaven.

An excellent show which held your attention throughout. The costumes were excellent, particularly of the clairvoyant, and when she dresses in her finest to visit the bank. She was particularly funny and so like the original character created by Whoopi Goldberg.

Thanks to Anne Lanigan for organising such a fun afternoon.

Margaret Chilver

Saltwell and Shipley Walk.....Margaret Bozic

Who would have thought that there was so much history in a square mile of out of town centre Gateshead? What was once fields (Sheepcote, Saltwell Side and Paradise) is now dense urban settlement, built up in the nineteenth century as Shipcote, Paradise Lane (not as pleasant in the 21st century) and Saltwell Park.

On 29 August, Jan Morris, a City Guide, led us around the area which is at the rear of the Shipley Art Gallery. Once grand houses and wells on the 1865 map, by 1894 there were terraced houses and schools, as well as Saltwell Park. In the early 20th century municipal buildings were built on Prince Consort Road and included the Shipley Art Gallery, the Education Offices, the Borough Treasurers' Offices and the Library. The original library was on Swinburne Street behind the old Town Hall, and Jan informed us that readers had to request a book from the Librarian at the desk. There was no browsing in those days.



The grand War Memorial overlooks these buildings at the road junction. In May 1922 30,000 people came to see it being unveiled. It honoured 1,700 Gateshead men who had lost their lives in World War 1, of whom 986 had served in the 9th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, which was known as the 'Gateshead regiment'.

Round the corner is the Swimming Baths and Leisure Centre, recently reopened by the Community after an 11 month closure. Nearby is the Army Reservist Centre. And the site of Westfield Hall where the Dodds sister's original theatre was located for The Progressive Players. From there we walked along to look at the theatre group's home from 1939, The Little Theatre, opposite Saltwell Park. (The regional U3A organised a most enjoyable trip around that theatre

a few months ago). And of course Saltwell Park itself and the amazing vista from the Saltwell View entrance, whereby one views a huge expanse of green, which includes the fells beyond and west of the Team Valley.

Back onto Durham Road and I discovered where Gateshead Grammar School had been. There have been schools on that site since 1883 when it opened as Gateshead High School for Boys, and then Gateshead Secondary School. There is a new school there now, Gibside School, a special education school. And opposite is the Snooker Hall, built as a cinema. Next to it is the magnificent, Grade 1 listed, St Georges Church, built in 1897 in rock faced stone. It contains an "imperial" Willis Organ. John Tait informed us that he was married there, and the organ was played.

The weather was fine, the walk wasn't too long and there was only one hill to walk up. And some of us visited the café at Gateshead Library afterwards. We will ask Jan back again next year.....

Lunch Time Jazz Club.....Gala Theatre Durham

The Gala Theatre in the heart of Durham is a great place to enjoy cinema and theatrical events, especially the Friday lunchtime Jazz Clubs, at very reasonable prices. A party of nine from Cestria u3a attended one such event on 20th September.

The Studio upstairs at The Gala was full. We were there for the jazz concert titled “Tom Waits for No Man” – a tribute compilation of Tom Waits songs led by Lindsay Hannon on vocals, Alan Law on keyboard, Paul Grainger on double bass and Brendan Murphy on percussion. The percussion instruments were too many to list, but included a violin bow drawn on various objects and a huge (I think 1” Whitworth) spanner, thwacked in time, on a boot

It was a great session with songs ranging from the raunchy “Pasties on a G String” to a thoughtful “Soldiers Things” reimagined and rearranged and brought to life by the soulful voice of Lindsay Hannon.

Many thanks to Tony for highlighting this concert and organising the tickets. Tom Waits for No Man is on tour and is worth catching if you can.....**Frank Bozic**

Tony himself reported the show was very uplifting, and was happy that our members said they enjoyed it so much, and were eager to go back for more of the shows.

Fujiyama Teppanyaki Restaurant....August 2024



Members of Cestria u3a enjoying their third visit to the above restaurant (yes it's really that good).

Fujiyama was the first Teppanki restaurant in Newcastle opened 1997, and it's still the perfect venue to meet friends, eat and have fun! **Teppanyaki means 'grilling on an Iron plate'.....**

Pictures: Joyce Jeary

George W. Horner Company Limited 1910-1961.....

The site covering the area of Chester le Street Morrison's Car Park to the Railway line from the 1820s onwards was where Thomas Murray's Engine Works were based. These works produced stationary steam engines. Murray's engines were to be found all over the North East Coalfields, Cornwall and even Germany. However, with the death of Thomas Murray junior in 1878 the works closed.



The next entrepreneur to use the site was John W. Luccock a confectioner based where the Cestrian Club is now. He developed Murrays works into the Stag Confectionery Works. This must have been a successful enterprise as Mr Luccock owned many shops and houses in the town and later lived in The Deanery before moving to The Grove, Gosforth.

J. Samuel and Co Ltd took over the Stag Confectionery Works c1903 and produced mainly jam. Jonathan Samuel himself was based in Middlesbrough. About 1907 Norfolk born George William Horner, in 1901 a Confectionery Salesman, came to work at Chester le Street.

By 1909 Mr Horner was the Managing Director although still using the Samuel's trading name. In 1910 the name of the firm was changed to George W. Horner Company Limited, Chester le Street County of Durham.

In those early days Gaywood Fresh Fruit Preserves was the main production. As early as 1911 there was mention of other trade names such as Mermaid Confectionery and Dainty Dinah Choice Sweet Meats. Other early names included Boy Blue, Playtime and Fairy.

Mr Horner had the backing of a number of wealthy shareholders and the factory quickly expanded.

Dainty Dinah toffee was introduced in 1914 and at first she was depicted as a simple outline drawing. However, in 1917 the well-known London based artist William Barribal was commissioned to produce the Dainty Dinah portrait. Mr Horner was a great publicist. Different advertisements appeared in local newspapers such as the Chester Chronicle, changing weekly. At first loose toffees were sold from sweet shops from glass jars, but over time sweet tins were used especially as Christmas and Easter presents. The early tins always featured a roundel with the Dainty Dinah image.

The 1920s was the time of carnivals every town in the North East had carnivals with parades of opened backed lorries advertising firms and organisations. Horner's sent employees dressed as Dainty Dinah and Boy Blue to all the local events.



The expansion of the site continued after the First World War with the 106 feet high Chimney Stack featuring at the top a tiled depiction of Dainty Dinah and the words Horner and Dainty Dinah Toffee stretched down the stack. The Boiler House facing the railway line had the bust of Dainty Dinah at the top with Dainty Dinah Toffee beneath. Below that were the words George W Horner Company Limited. Both these were clearly visible to passengers on the trains passing near by. Other hoardings and buildings at the factory were also utilised to advertise the Horner's name and Dainty Dinah brand.

In the 1920s there were over 1000 employees rising to nearer 2000 running up to Christmas. The business expanded in other ways. Depots were opened all over the country. Two other factories were built at Edinburgh and London in the 1920s and 1930s. Tins from this time featured on the side Manufactured by George W Horner Company Ltd Factories: Chester le Street County of Durham, London and Edinburgh. Both of these extra factories were closed by the Second World War.

George W Horner died in 1947 and his son Kenneth took his place. Kenneth Horner was only 21 and had been a Guards' officer. He like his father was a good publicist and had a flare for marketing, packaging and export. Deciding rather than develop the UK market, which at the time still had sweet rationing, Kenneth looked to Canada and United States of America to expand the business.



During the 1950s a vast range of Toffee tins were produced. At the present time nearly every day on eBay tins from America appear for sale. Kenneth rarely used the Dainty Dinah image or name just Made in England by George W Horner Company Ltd. Chester le Street, County of Durham.

By the end of the 1950s the firm was in trouble. Larger manufacturers such as Cadbury, Mackintosh and Terrys were dominating the UK market and in 1960 the Receivers were called in. The firm was taken over by Barker and Dobson any modern equipment was removed (asset stripping even in those days) and the factory closed in 1961. There were attempts to continue toffee making but soon all that was left were the Chimney and Boiler House to remind the town of 'The Five Acres of Sweetness' George W Horner had been so proud of.

H. Young Motors Agricultural Division used the site followed by a Durham Rubber Company a tyre firm. The chimney was blown up in February 1985 when the

St Cuthbert's Walk development started. The Boiler House bust of Dainty Dinah in 1991 graced the area outside the Supermarket, it was moved in 2004 to the Civic Centre entrance. After the closure of the Civic Centre Dainty Dinah was moved back outside Morrisons hardly noticed as she was usually encircled by shopping baskets, anti-freeze or garden plants Dainty Dinah is now on display at Mile House over-looking the Bridge End area of the town. Chester le Street Heritage Group have surrounded her with toffee tins, Horner's ephemera including a 1920s toffee girl's uniform and photographs. George W Horner would be pleased!.....**Dorothy Hall**

Thank you Dorothy for you contribution from the Chester le Street Heritage Group

Abigail's Party.....Christine Logan



As mentioned below our 'Crack' group now has a firm footing, and in September we attended the opening night of Abigail's Party, Northern Stage, Newcastle. As it happened we were not the most important visitors that evening, the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Edward) and other dignitaries, were already there on our arrival. This did add an extra touch of glamour to the evening!

We were delighted that Mike Leigh's dark comedy was to be restaged after so many years – this time directed by Jack Bradfield.

If you are not familiar with the plot, the scene is set at a party in the front room of a 70s suburban house, next door 15 year old Abigail is throwing her own party. Abigail's party is up for conjecture... everyone is envisioning what is happening what can they do about it...the rest you can imagine!

The scenery was amazing, designed by Anna Yates, even the family mini and a toilet (very discreetly used) were on stage. A sumptuous white carpet added an extra touch of luxury to the set.

Northern Stage is welcoming and comfortable, it supports the Pay it Forward scheme to subsidise and/or pay for young people and community groups to attend the theatre.

During the show there was laughter, tears and memories of seeing this show the first time around. Laura Rogers was wonderful as Beverly. I had always adored Alison Steadman in this part, but Laura made the part her own, ably supported by Leander Deeny-Laurence, Chaya Gupta-Angela, Joe Blakemore-Tony and Amy Rockson-Susan.....truly, a night I would not like to have missed..... there's always plenty of room to join us!

Cestria U3a Crack arts group.....

Called The Crack (just for the fun of it), has existed for 6 months. It is proving an ideal way for the current 11 members to connect and share their interest in the North East's performing arts. They have attended a wide range of events (x42), primarily chosen from The Crack monthly listing publication, but from other listings and member personal interests too. Here are some numbers/activities so far:

- 2 - Bowes Museum -talk about French fashion and revolution
- 2- 17 Sunderland - Zoe Gilby Trio
- 4- Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland – The Battle of Orgreave Screening
- 5 - Gateshead Little Theatre - Arthur We Love You
- 1- Live Theatre Newcastle - poet Tom Packard + Tarras
- 3 - The Gala Durham lunchtime jazz
- 2 - The Gala cinema - The Critic
- 5 – Northern Stage Newcastle - Abigail's Party
- 3 - Tyneside Cinema Newcastle - Endeavour documentary
- 1 - Live Theatre - Chris Mullen
- 3 - 17 Sunderland - Marrakesh Express CSN&Y
- 5 - Launderette Durham - Bob Fox
- 3 - Fire Station Sunderland - Joni Mitchell songs
- 3 - Dance City Newcastle - Ballet Cymru contemporary dance. If you have an active interest in getting involved please get in touch with **Lesley Johnson** to join The Crack Whatsapp group.

Daft as a Brush Last Night of the Proms 2024.....

Another resounding success from the 'Daft as a Brush' team.

Anne Lanigan, along with some committee members had organized a u3a trip to this musical event for the second year running.

As in the previous year attendees made their way to the venue to suit, travelling by bus with other U3A members from Chester-le-Street or independently.



At the venue, doors were opened promptly to let people enter and find their seats. We were upstairs in the gallery where we had a brilliant view of the stage. The theatre seats were adorned with hats, flags and souvenir programmes to get us in the mood. The atmosphere was bright and jolly.

Throughout the evening we were entertained, not only with the comperes but also a wide range of skilled singers and musicians, bathing ourselves in their music. What was also significant was that the performers were from or had links to the North-East.

The final part of the evening was an opportunity for lots of singing, flag-waving and jollity.

All the proceeds from the night were to go to "The Daft as a Brush" charity, they are hoping to raise sufficient funds to purchase a new ambulance.....**Irene Marwood**

Thank you Anne, for a wonderful time, I thought it was even better this year. You will book for next year, won't you....Margaret Bozic

Regional Quiz 2nd October.....



As Cestria's quiz team didn't disgrace themselves completely at the last Regional Quiz held in Sunnyside Club in March, we put on our thinking caps, and gave it another try on 2nd October.

Each team that enters is asked to bring a cake, every team bringing a cake is entered into a prize draw. The display of cakes is glorious when spread out. Steve Willan has volunteered both times to bake for us, always scrumptious.

The organisation is expertly organised by Cecilia Coulson (Regional Chair) and Bob Pullen Prudhoe u3a.

Questions included general knowledge, geography and music topics. The full score would have been 112, the winning team, **from Newcastle u3a**, had 95 and ours was 71. There was even a booby prize, so that no one was left out.

We're going to have another try Spring 2025.....Nothing to stop Cestria entering two teams.....Christine Logan

Look out for Cestria new website.....

Steve Willan in the picture above, has been setting up the new website for us, as soon as it is 'live' we will let you know. The address will be:

<https://cestria.u3asite.uk>

1st December 2024

To Members of Cestria u3a at Chester-le-Street

This letter gives notice of the Cestria u3a at Chester-le-Street 19th Annual General Meeting.

The date of the AGM will be Wednesday **5th February 2025** at our regular monthly meeting on that day.

A Nomination Form for committee positions is attached together with the Agenda for the meeting.

Appointment of Officers and Trustees - as set out in the Cestria 2018 Constitution

At every Annual General Meeting, the serving Officers shall retire from office and the members shall elect from amongst the membership, individuals to serve as Officers. The term of office is one year from the date of that meeting until the next Annual General Meeting. A retiring Officer may be re-appointed provided they remain a member of The u3a and subject to the limits on periods of service as set out below.

Chairman four years. Treasurer six years. Secretary four years.

Those up for re-election or replacement are:

Mike Parker – Chairman (Served 1 year)

Tony Morrell - Treasurer (Served 5 years)

Appointment of Non-Officers and Trustees - as set out in the Cestria 2018 Constitution

At every Annual General Meeting the Non-Officer members of the Executive Committee shall all retire. A retiring Executive Committee member may be re-appointed provided they remain a member of The u3a. A person may not serve more than six consecutive terms of office as a Non-Officer member of the Executive Committee.

Those up for re-election are:

Kathleen Atkinson (Served 6 years)

Margaret Bozic (Served 6 years)

Rachel Burton (Served 2 years)

Margaret Chilver - Speaker Secretary (Served 8 years)

Ann Lanigan - Groups Coordinator (Served 7 years)

Christine Logan - Newsletter Editor (Served 9 years)

Angela Hamilton (Served 4 years)

Pat Rule - Membership Secretary (Served 5 years)

Steve Willan - Website Administrator (Co-opted July 2023)

The following committee posts have not been filled and therefore nominations for replacements are required:

Secretary

If you are interested in joining the committee and feel you would like to know more, please contact me or another committee member to get more details.

Margaret Pescod Secretary of Cestria u3a at Chester-le-Street

Registered Charity Number 1163334

Cestria u3a at Chester-le-Street
Annual General Meeting - No.19
Wednesday, 5th February 2025

Agenda

- Chairman's opening remarks
- Treasurer's report
 - 2024 Accounts
 - Appointment of 2025 Auditor
- Election of Officers and Committee members to February 2026
- Election of Honorary President
- Any other business
- Date of next AGM - Wednesday 4th February 2026
- Close of meeting

Cestria u3a at Chester le Street

Annual General Meeting No. 19 - Wednesday 5th February 2025

Nomination Form

Nomination of members to stand for election as Officers and Non-Officers of the Cestria u3a at Chester le Street

The form below is to be used for nomination of members of Cestria u3a at Chester-le-Street to stand for election in the role of Officer and Non- Officer as described above for the period of one year from the date of the A.G.M.

Members nominating any Cestria u3a member for election to the Committee in the roles shown in the below form must obtain the signature of the nominee, which will serve as the nominated members acceptance of his/her nomination for that particular role.

Nomination forms received without the nominee's signature will not be considered.

In the event that there is more than one nominee for any of the committee positions shown in the table below then an election by ballot will take place, the winner will be declared by a simple majority of the vote.

Position	Nominee Name	Nominee Signature	Proposers Name and Signature	Seconders Name and Signature

Prior written nomination of any candidate for appointment as an Officer or a non-Officer of the Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting shall normally be required, made by a proposer and seconder from amongst the membership of The u3a (not being themselves Officers or non-Officer members of the Executive Committee). **Form to be in the hands of the Secretary of Cestria u3a at least 28 days before the meeting.**

Committee 2024

Honorary President - Robert Berry

- . **Chair:** Mike Parker
- **Treasurer:** Tony Morrell
- **Secretary:** Margaret Pescod
- **Groups:** Anne Lanigan
- **Membership:** Pat Rule
- **Newsletter:** Christine Logan
- **Speakers:** Margaret Chilver
- . **Website:** Steve Willan
- Kathleen Atkinson
- Margaret Bozic
- Rachael Burton
- Angela Hamilton

Contacts for the above from our White Cards or website.

--oOo--

Cestria u3a at Chester-Le-Street is a Registered Charity no1163334

Cestria u3a (University of the Third Age) is an autonomous, self-help organisation run by the voluntary efforts of its members.

It is a member of the Third Age Trust (a Registered Charity) which is its national support and advisory body. The word "university" is used in its original sense of people coming together to share and pursue learning in all its forms aims to encourage and enable older people no longer in full-time paid employment to help each other to share their knowledge educational, cultural, recreational, physical and social.

--oOo--