



# **DECEMBER 2025 NEWS BULLETIN**



## **Forthcoming Monthly Speaker Meetings**

Monthly speaker meetings are held at 1:45pm on the second Tuesday of the month in Burton Joyce & Bulcote Village Hall, Trent Lane, Burton Joyce, NG14 5EY. The speaker's talk is followed by tea, coffee and cakes. Visitors are very welcome and may attend two meetings without charge or obligation to join. Please arrive in good time as latecomers can make it difficult for others to hear the announcements.

## **Tuesday 9th December - Christmas Meeting**

The Christmas meeting will begin with a talk by Mike Burton, who spoke to us a few months ago about the River Trent. "*A Christmas Story*" will cover its customs and traditions, its roller coaster history, from a crazy over-the-top festival in Tudor times, to near-extinction, then to a modern reinvention. Our Ukulele group will then perform Christmas favourites and there will be a table quiz, mulled wine, and festive fayre.

## **Tuesday 13th January – Neil Hallam "From Policeman to Crime Author"**

An accomplished mountaineer and adventure cyclist, Neil has travelled to some of the world's most fascinating places, including the Himalayas and the Mongolian Steppe.

His police career, in both uniform and as a detective, took some unusual turns. A specialism in CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear) terrorism, involved him in cases like the Alexander Litvinenko assassination and the Salisbury Novichok poisonings. Neil also spent five years leading an anti-corruption team (the real Line of Duty). Already a qualified photo-journalist, Neil's police and travel experiences led to writing his series of crime thrillers. The subject matter, all adapted from real-world experience, cover diverse subjects, including; people trafficking, nuclear terrorism and the smuggling of rare animals.

Neil's policing experience, and his ability to turn it into drama, led to commissions as a Police Advisor on TV shows, including Coronation Street and Waterloo Road. His enquiring mind also turned itself to historical research, and a historical novel, based around the iron and coal industries of the Derbyshire village he calls home.

Neil's talk From Policeman to Crime Writer weaves his real-life experiences through the creation of his 10 books. Explaining the creative process, and where fact meets fiction.

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# ***INTEREST GROUPS***

[\*\*\*bju3a.co.uk/groups\*\*\*](http://bju3a.co.uk/groups)

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## ***Pétanque***



The Pétanque group met on Tuesday 25th November for their (early) Christmas get together which also marked the end of our annual Melee competition, so a prize giving was in order. Bob Heath was our champion this year, for the second time!

26 of us gathered for a very convivial post Pétanque meal. We continue to play when the weather suits us, armed with thermals and have gathered quite a few new members over the last few months, so we thrive! If you would like to join us then DO IT!!!

- Dil Vowles - <https://bju3a.co.uk/petanque/>

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## ***Beer & Cider Group***



Eleven of our members turned out to visit The King William IV ("The King Billy") in Sneinton. This is a pub widely regarded as being one of the best "real ale" pubs in the Nottingham area, serving a wide selection of beers and ciders, of various strengths; something to suit everyone's taste.

- Rob Johnson

<https://bju3a.co.uk/beer-cider/>



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## Wine Tasting

A record 35 members attended November's meeting for a very sociable evening, tasting 4 white and 4 red wines from the Burgundy and Rhone regions of France, very ably hosted by Caroline Roberts and Ian Cunningham, and Colin and Mary Simm.



We were treated to a Cotes due Rhone Blanc, an excellent classic Chablis, a crisp unoaked white Burgundy, and a creamy, oaked white from the banks of the Rhone. The reds were all from the Cotes du Rhone,

the hot, dry, south of France where the sun enables the grapes to fully ripen. Ideal wines to drink with a hearty stew. The final red we tasted was awarded the highest mark of 9 out of ten, and it also happened to be the most expensive at £18.50 a bottle. It's certainly not always the case that the most expensive wine wins.

We also enjoyed sweet and savoury nibbles, and had our general knowledge tested by 3 quizzes, one a music quiz run by Colin Simm (pictured standing), and another based on Richard Osman's House of Games "AnswerSmash" round.

- Alan Comerie - <https://bju3a.co.uk/wine-tasting/>

My laptop is set up to take a picture after 3 incorrect password attempts and I just got a text alert on my phone with this image attached.



## CHRISTMAS DRINKING GAME:

- LAY OUT WRAPPING PAPER, SCISSORS, TAPE, TAGS, ETC.
- POUR YOURSELF A DRINK
- BEGIN WRAPPING 
- EACH TIME YOU LOSE THE SCISSORS OR THE TAPE OR YOUR PET GETS IN THE WAY, TAKE A DRINK

## BURTON JOYCE & DISTRICT U3A - INTEREST GROUPS

Group	Leader	Meets
Aerobics - <span style="color: red;">This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.</span>	Rosslyn Tuffrey 0115 931 2754 , Judith Wright 0115 931 2805, Joy Yates 0115 9312858	Every Wednesday at 09:30am
Antiques & C20th Collectables	Angela Mallett 0115 966 3799	Fourth Monday of the month at 11:15 a.m.
Armchair Travel	Rod Hirst 07804 335878	2nd Monday of the month from 2pm to 4pm
Beer and Cider Tasting	Colin Berry (07891 754132) and Vic Wightman (07767 752963)	3rd Thursday - evenings
Bird Watching	Hilary MacCallum, 07803 925 715 , hil.mac@btinternet.com	Alternate Thursdays and Fridays at 10:00am
Board Games	Elaine Bass 07799 233 891	Every Thursday at 2:00pm
Book Club 1 - <span style="color: red;">This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.</span>	Judith Wright 0115 931 2805	3rd Wednesday at 2:00pm
Book Club 2	Malcolm Nabarro 07985 362 234	Last Thursday of the month at 2:15pm
Bridge 1	Dorothy Burton ----- Caroline Roberts 07779 315310	1st, 3rd, 4th Tuesday, 2nd Monday at 1:30pm
Bridge 2 (Beginners)	Dorothy Burton ----- Caroline Roberts 07779 315310	Every Thursday at 1:30pm
Canasta 1	Colin Simm 07850 553 133	1st & 3rd Wednesday at 7:00pm to 10:00pm
Canasta 2 - <span style="color: red;">This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.</span>	Anna Moore 07891 221840	2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm
Craft & Patchwork - <span style="color: red;">This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.</span>	Christine Sheath 0115 931 3260	2nd Friday 10:00am
Discussion	Tom Klima 07766 600205	Usually 1st Monday at 2:00pm

Dominoes Plus	Jacqui Hudson 07775 450 497, Sue Berridge 0799 910 1354	4th Tuesday at 7:30pm
Fashion	Anna Moore – 07891 221 840 Christine Shepherd – 07773 156813	Bi-monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 2pm
Film 4 Fun (October - April only)	Colin Simm 07850 553 133	Varies
French Intermediate	Sue Clifford 07866 139236	Every Friday at 11:00am
French 3	Christine Foster 0115 931 2571	1st and 3rd Friday at 10:15am
Friday Fit - This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.	Roz Tuffrey 0115 9312754	Every Friday except the 2nd Friday of the month, from 9:30am to 10:30am
Garden Group "Fifty Shades of Green". - This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.	Christine Shepherd 0115 961 8840	4th Wednesday at 2:00pm
Garden Group 1 - This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.	Christine Sheath - 07767136185	1st Wednesday at 10:00am
Garden Group 2 - New members welcome.	Alwyn Foster 0115 931 2571	1st Monday at 10:00am
Garden Group 4 - New members welcome.	Alwyn Foster 0115 931 2571	3rd Monday at 10:00am
Guitar 1 - This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.	Tony Kirk 0115 961 4587	Thursdays at 2pm
Hikers	Chris Helmore 07973 473 531	2nd Wednesday
History	Tom Klima 07766 600205	2nd Monday in the month at 10:30am
Information Exchange	Margaret Gaborak 0115 998 5798	N/A
International Dining	David Falkner 07860 502479	Third Tuesdays or Wednesdays. 6:45-7:00 pm onwards
Italian	Mary Simm 0115 841 3605 and Maggie Clothier 07811 246133	Every Friday 3:30pm - 5pm

Line Dancing	Anna Moore (07891 221840) and Christine Shepherd (07773 156813).	Every Tuesday 4:30pm to 6pm
Luncheon Group	Margaret Robinson 0115 966 3793	4th Tuesday at 12:30pm
Mah-Jong	TBC	1st & 3rd Tuesday 10:30am - 12:30pm
Meditation	Tricia Blanco White 07985 313711	Last Wednesday at 2:30pm
Out and About - This group is currently full. Please contact the group coordinator and ask to join a waiting list.	David and Margaret Hallam 07777 631364	1st Thursday May-October
Outings	Outings are announced well in advance in Newline.	Timings vary
Petanque	Dil Vowles 07879 425643 Roz Tuffrey 07591 555859	Tuesdays and Fridays 10.30am - 12.30pm
Photography	Jim Molloy 07885 203989	Last Wednesday at 1:00pm
Political History	David Yates – 07929 726583 or yatesnottmbj@outlook.com	Last Tuesday at 2pm.
Pool 1	Pete Clothier - 07960 016210	1st and 3rd Mondays
Pool 2	Stephen Foster - 07896 200302	2nd and 4th Mondays
Ramblers - Plus	Chris Helmore 07973 473 531	1st Wednesday at 10:00am
Ramblers 1	Anne Hegarty 07981 705967	Last Wednesday at 10:00am
Shakespeare Appreciation	David Yates – 07929 726583 or yatesnottmbj@outlook.com	Last Thursday of the month
Snooker	Alan Comerie 07581 456253	1st Wednesday of the month during the afternoons.
Spanish	Mike Chapman 0115 965 2489 or 07771 973415	2nd and 4th Thursdays at 11:00am but may vary - contact Group Coordinator
Speed Walking	Caroline Roberts	Every Tuesday at 9:00am. Meet in front of the village hall for a 30-minute walk.

SWANS (formerly know as Country Walks)	Elaine Bass 07799 233891 Mary Russell 07855 706291	3rd Monday at 10:30am
Table Tennis 1	Tony and Betty Everington 0115 966 3465	Every Monday 10:00am to 12:00 noon
Table Tennis 2	Dave Hoskins - 07711 985380	1st & 2nd Thursday - 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Theatre	Christine Smith 07977 050693	1st and 3rd Fridays at 9:45am
Time Out	Elaine Bass and Jacqui Hudson. Email: dabass43@hotmail.com Mobile: 07799 233 891.	Times and dates vary.
Ukulele	Barbara Palmer 0115 966 5103	1st & 3rd Wednesday at 2:30pm
University Interest Group	Trevor Wright 0115 931 2805	Varies
Water Colour Painting	Yvonne Kirk 0115 961 4587	1st & 3rd Wednesday at 9:30am
Wine Tasting	Alan Comerie 07581 456253	Usually 4th Thursday but may vary