



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Hucknall

NEWSLETTER

Issue November 2011

Web Address : www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Message from our Chairman (John Ellis)

Sadly this will be our last meeting at the Methodist Church, which has been our home for almost 4 years. We will leave it with many happy memories but in order to accommodate those waiting to join our group we must move on. We currently have a waiting list of 120. It will be strange at first but I am sure that we will grow into our new abode and I look forward to many more memorable meetings. As promised your Committee have arranged an opportunity for you to view the venue, for full details see 'Invitation' within this Newsletter. Don't forget that the December Christmas Party is at the John Godber Centre on Monday 12th December and is by Ticket only.

There will not be the usual meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of December.

Invitation.

**Your Committee
invite you to join
them over a cup of tea or
coffee at the Hucknall
Leisure Centre on Monday
21 November 2011
between 1-30pm and
3.00pm to view our new
venue.**

Future Speakers

9 November 2011– Gillian Cane – A Girls life in the Army.

11 January 2012 – Ian Morgan – Bolsover Castle through the Ages.

Dates of Meetings

The U3A usually meet on the second Wednesday in the month but watch this space for any changes. Doors open 1.30 pm. Please note that the December meeting will now be the Christmas Party day – 12 December 2011.

News from the Interest Groups

Water Colour Group

The water colour class have been set several pieces of

work ranging from castles, to seaside resorts and now flowers. Thanks to Patrick we are learning so much more on techniques, colours and drawing. The next class will be on Monday 7

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November at Titchfield Court, Orchard Street, Hucknall starting at 1 pm. The class booked for 5 December has been cancelled due to the room being decorated, the first class in the new year will be held on Monday 9 January 2012.

History Group

At our meeting on 16th November David Amos will be talking to us about Mines and Mining in the area. There will be no meeting in December. At the October meeting, Maureen mentioned the possibility that there was

to be a memorial naming all the miners killed in accidents at the two Hucknall collieries. If you know of anyone who should have their name recorded, please have a word with her and she will pass the details on. You missed a good laugh at the October meeting, when Mick Whysall told us the history of Wollaton Hall, beginning with the days when it was only a house in Wollaton Village, which was on the Willoughby estate. Then in 1580 young Francis Willoughby had high hopes of being able to attract Queen Elizabeth I to visit his home, but first he had to build a house fit for a queen. He employed an architect, who used a variety of styles for the house design, a notable feature being that it is square and looks the same from whichever side you view it. The Hall was built on the highest piece of ground on the estate so that as a status symbol it could be seen from miles around, but the Queen never visited. The interior of the Hall was later renovated and is now Georgian in design. Defences were put into the basement entrance and in the walls round the Hall to keep out the Reform rioters, who were attacking great houses in the area. The red deer in the park are wild and have been there for generations.

The Hucknall U3A Choir
(formerly Singing for Pleasure)

The next meeting for the 'choir' will on Wednesday 16 November at the 'Studio',

John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall starting at 11.30 am. We are currently learning a variety of songs and would especially welcome more people to join. For any members wanting to join please contact Doreen Newton on 0115 953 6206.

Easy Wheelers

The combined Hucknall and Ashfield cycling group still meet every Wednesday at 09.00 on the Hucknall Leisure Centre car park with short and longer rides alternate weeks. A short ride normally returns to the start by 11.00 covering a distance of about 10 miles. The longer rides normally return to Hucknall by 16.00 and cover a distance of about 25 miles. This ride commences with a car ride to the start point. We have ridden trails this summer which have included the Monsall Trail, Tissington Trail, High Peak Trail, Rutland Water and Chesterfield Canal to Rother Valley C.P. amongst other flattish runs. This month we shall be riding short local 10 mile rides on Wednesday 9th Nov; 23rd Nov and 7th December. On the 16th Nov we are planning a return to Rutland Water and on the 30th a ride based on the remains of the Grantham Canal. Monthly planning meetings are held at the Griffins Head in Papplewick on the last Monday of each month. Our next meeting will be on the 28th Nov. to which all interested U3A members are invited. All riders have to wear a helmet for safety and insurance purposes and we recommend the carrying

of a puncture repair outfit and possibly a replacement inner tube just in case. Ladies are most welcome as there are plenty of Sir Galahads awaiting the opportunity to assist in the case of breakdown. We normally take a packed lunch on the days out and always try to stop for a cuppa on the 2 hour rides."

Lunch Group

The carvery at The Gateway Hotel at Cinderhill on October 26th was very enjoyable with good hot food. The Pop Group Quiz was won by Jean Rowe and Enid Monk, amidst many groans about the crossword-type clues! We are going to Frankie & Benny's (1950's style diner) on November 23rd at Giltbrook Retail Park – followed by Christmas shopping at IKEA, Bhs and Next etc. Swot up on your 1950's history as this is what the quiz will be all about!

Thirty-two of us are going to see Cinderella at the Nottingham Playhouse with other members joining us beforehand for lunch at the Osbourne Lounge, Albert Hall on 21st December. Please let Sandra Green have the balance of £10 for the lunch at the November meeting. Please make your cheque for £10 payable to Hucknall U3A.

Supper Group

Butchery at Belper. 30 members attended the re-launch dinner for PM Radio at The Lion Hotel in Belper, along with another 50 guests, they mingled with the stars and the management

during pre dinner drinks in the bar.



As they sat down for dinner the local Police Inspector arrived to announce that the body of the Stations caretaker had been found in the studio basement with a screw driver thrust into his chest. He asked for everyone's help to find the murderer and during the next 2 hours clues were posted on the dining room wall, the dark past's of the Station Staff were revealed and just as the Inspector was about to arrest the chief suspect, the radio DJ, he was murdered! The question then was, Who Killed the DJ? Well done to Graham Reeson for winning the prize by solving the crime, giving a good account of the motive and a psychological profile of the murderer.

Theatre Group

Hello Dolly at The Derby Theatre on Saturday 5th November at 2pm Tickets £10.

Legally Blond at Theatre Royal on Wednesday 30th November 2pm Tickets £35.50.

Mansfield Palace Theatre Charley Boorman Live on Friday 4th November at 7.30 tickets £15.50

And Joe Pasquale on Sunday 20th November at 7.30pm Tickets £16.50.

If you want to see Charley Boorman or Joe Pasquale please contact the box office on 01623 633133 as I think they will sell out very quickly.

Feed your soul with a FREE LUNCH TIME CONCERT in the Theatre Royal Dress Circle Foyer: LIVE AT LUNCH Thursday 10th November 1pm - Classical recital from Caroline Pether(violin) and James Vaughan(piano) Monday 12th December 1pm - Festive music from Nottingham Trent University Chamber Choir. Doors open 12.30pm with refreshments available from the bar. For tickets and information please contact 01623 822009.

Square Dancing

We now have 11 of our members who are proficient square dancers and in January a new 2 year teaching course will be started for both beginners and those wanting to refresh their dancing. The group meets at the Mapperley Community Centre on Mapperley Plains on Monday nights 7.30 to 10.15 and costs £3.00 per person. Anyone interested please contact your Chairman John Ellis.

Walking Group A

On a bright, sunny November morning this months walk started from the Clumber Hotel on the edge of Clumber Park and commenced with a gentle stroll through the park to

Hardwick Village and the lake. Our leader got a little carried away with trying to get the best view of the lake that he took us down a non public footpath that ended with a fence to climb. A bit of a problem for some of the ladies with short legs but the view was superb. Onwards to Elkesley past a wood recycling yard that had a 40ft high pile of scrap wood, what a bonfire night they're going to have. After making contact with a relatively tame reindeer stag and his mate we arrived in Bothamsall for lunch in the church yard, yet again. Our leader does seem to have this strange affection for dead people. Back across open countryside to the start point and a welcome drink at the Hotel. 22 members enjoyed what is probably the best walk we have done in this area and the weather was superb. Next walk Tuesday 6th December.

Walking Group B – Short Walks

Meeting in the layby at Greasley Church on a cold sunny morning 34 walkers assembled to start our October walk, In the churchyard we visited the grave of Benjamin Drinkwater, surgeon to Captain Cook. We then proceeded downhill past the remains of Greasley Castle to the public footpath crossing several fields to meet a Lane giving clear views of the surrounding countryside. After following the lane for some distance we joined the footpath back to Greasley Church,

observing a small aircraft taking off from the small airfield located behind the farm. We then returned across the fields to our start point followed by lunch at the Horse and Groom public house in Moorgreen. Our walk for November 17th will start at 10am from the Hole in the Wall Carvery in Underwood, lead by John and Sue Tedstone. It will be a walk around Selston finishing with our pre-Christmas Lunch at the Carvery.
Jim Bentley

Knitting and Crochet Group

The Group meet on the fourth Tuesday in the month. The idea is to learn different techniques from other members of the Group and to help each other.



At the last meeting short row shaping to improve the shoulder line and 3 needle cast off procedures were explained.

Science Group

The Group held its second meeting and discussed all manner of issues facing the world today. Our future discussions will centre around Climate Change and its effects (or not as the case may be), Population Growth and Genetically Engineered Crops. Members of the

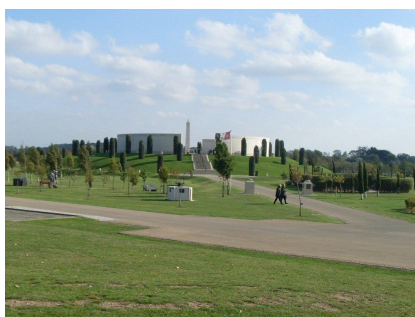
group will also attend an Astronomy Course starting in January 2012. Visit to Rolls Royce Heritage Centre, The Leicester Space Centre and the Snibstone Centre are to be arranged.

Debating Group

The next meeting of the Group is on the 7th November when the topic of debate will be 'Computers – A necessary Evil?' We will let you know the outcome of the debate and more importantly the decision of the Group.

Weekenders Group

Twenty nine U3A members went to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire on 22nd October. We arrived at around 10.20 am, had a coffee in the lovely Visitor Centre, then there was a short dedication in the Chapel at 11 am followed by a talk on how the Arboretum came into being. It is not just an Armed Forces memorial but there are lots of different organisations commemorated there.



A "land-train" took us around the perimeter of the site with a commentary. We were dropped at the Armed Forces Memorial which is the largest one.



We looked round at all the thousands of names commemorated there and then walked back to the Visitor Centre. We then travelled four miles to Lichfield where the three-spired Cathedral stands on a hill. There were several interesting places to visit with, of course, shopping in the market as well. We can thoroughly recommend the Arboretum as a trip out; it is not morbid or too sad but awe-inspiring.

On Saturday, December 10th we are going to Southwell for Carols for Everyone. We are going for a late afternoon meal first. See Sandra Greene for details.

Notice Board.

The U3A

Did You Know that the U3A in the U.K. started in 1982 and by the end of 2012 there will be 300,000 members of the 800+ U3A Clubs in Great Britain. In 2010 there were 37 new U3A clubs started up and 30 new clubs in 2011 and probably 40,000 interest groups in total. The average membership is 339 members per club. Each time a member attends an interest group be it local history, bridge or play reading or whatever he or she is also a

part of the larger U3A group and proclaiming I am an older citizen, not a social casualty nor even an old age pensioner. I am active and living life to the full.
Alan Snape.

Forthcoming Event

The Christmas Party on Monday, 12th December 2011 at the John Godber Centre.

U3A National Chess by email

Basically, you have your own chess board set up and play via sending and receiving moves by email. Why might you want to do this? You'll have as much time as you wish to think about your next move (which will improve the quality of your moves). Via a grading system, you'll play someone of equal strength, You can play at any time to suit yourself. You only have to concentrate for the time span of your next move. You'll play with someone who shares your U3A philosophy of having fun, whilst doing your best without being too competitive. A game would be expected to take two to three weeks to complete. It operates via a page on the U3A National Website - www.u3a.org.uk and holds the following information from you: name, grade, U3A, short chess profile and email address.

For full information, including how you might decide on your grade, email Dick Chapman of Watford U3A at dick.chapman@ntlworld.com



