



Hucknall

NEWSLETTER

Issue January 2012

Web Address : www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Message from our Chairman (John Ellis)

Welcome to our new home and I hope you all had a Happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year. I must thank everyone who helped with the Xmas Party, wasn't it great ! the tables, the food, the entertainment and of course the M.C. whoever he was. Difficult to believe it's now 2012, 12 years since the millennium, doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourselves. This is the start of a new phase in the life of our U3A and the next two meetings should see us settled into the Leisure Centre. These will be followed by the admission of the first 70 from our waiting list, which currently stands at 160. A decision on further admissions will be made soon afterwards. Forms for election to your Committee are now available from the Secretary (Rose) and will require a proposer and a seconder and must be lodged before the end of February. Your Committee has also agreed that up to 2

members can apply to observe at each Committee Meeting. Requests should be lodged with the Secretary and will be dealt with on a first come first served

basis.

New Venue – Hucknall Leisure Centre

The entrance to the Youth Wing to access Hucknall U3A's monthly meeting is to the right of the main Hucknall Leisure Centre when facing the main entrance. Follow the path around the building to the rear. Signs directing you will be displayed for the January meeting. There is a large car park and easy access via double doors.

Membership Fees

Fees are now due and forms will be sent by post to each member, they must be returned by the end of February. Fees are being kept at the same level as last year (£15) but, in order to take account of the costs involved in accommodating new members, a joining fee of £5 will now be paid as a one off charge. **This will not apply to existing members.** There will also be a Grant Aid declaration form

included but you should only complete this if you are a taxpayer, you will not incur any additional cost but the U3A will be able to reclaim tax. You will also receive a membership form for the Leisure Centre, this is free and should be returned along with your membership Fees. If you are already a member of the Leisure Centre you do not need to complete the form.

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New Equipment

Probably the most important piece of equipment we can use is a quality sound system and your Committee decided to acquire one in time for the Xmas Party. We will be using it in January and I hope you will agree that it is a vast improvement. We have also acquired a lockable Cabinet that will be kept at the

Leisure Centre. This will enable us to store books, boards, refreshment utensils etc.

Newsletter Questionnaire Results

Can I thank all members who took the trouble to complete our questionnaire about the Newsletter. 44.4% of members returned the Questionnaire and the results have now been collated. To summarise 82% of those were happy with the current format, 84% liked three columns and 64% would like a resume of decisions made by the Executive Committee. There were a number of comments to the effect that the Newsletter should include more future events rather than past events. The Executive Committee along with the Editor will now consider what changes to make to the format to ensure our Newsletter meets your requirements.

Observing a U3A Committee Meeting

There was a general invitation for any interested people to observe a committee meeting so today I did. It was extremely interesting and an eye-opener. There is a lot going on in our U3A at present what with moving the venue, admitting 70 new members, the upcoming AGM and electing a new chairman and committee so there was much discussion and decision making. The meeting was very democratically conducted

with everyone allowed to have their say and votes taken. There is much more to running the U3A than I had imagined and the committee members deserve our respect and thanks for all their hard work. I would encourage anyone interested to sit in on one of the meetings and see for yourself.
(Val Kelly)

Speaker

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 do **remember** that our meetings are now held at the Hucknall Leisure Centre.

Web Site

Our Web Site now contains photos and video clips of the Xmas Party plus details of all Interest Groups.

News from the Interest Groups

Reading Group

Members enjoyed cream cakes (courtesy of Rosemary Taylor) on the occasion of the first Reading Group session on 4th January (along with Sandra Green's birthday that day). It is hoped to discuss "Rebecca" by Daphne DuMaurier for the February meeting (seeing as

"love" is being celebrated on Valentine's Day) and in March we will be looking at a biography of either a long-past member of Royalty or a Politician.

Games Group

Our games group has been going well over the last few months. We still have room for more people if you are interested in joining us on the third Friday of the month at the rear of the Catholic Church on Watnall Road. The date of the next meeting is 20th January and you are welcome to come and join in. We play from 7.00pm to 9.30 pm. The games are easy to learn and fun to play, so why not give it a try?

Bird Watching Group

Tuesday 13 December twelve of our group visited Portland Park at Kirkby-in-Ashfield. This was the first time we had experienced good weather – we put this down to Jim & Cindy who have just joined our group. Thirteen different types of birds were seen, amongst them was a sparrowhawk sunning itself in a tree and a goldcrest darting through the branches. A good morning was had by all.

History Group

At our meeting on **18 January** it is hoped to inspire beginners and more experienced members working on Family History. The aim is to encourage beginners to follow the footsteps of their ancestors backwards in time by a 'hands on' meeting showing

charts and suggestions. Maybe we will even enable those who have hit a 'brick wall' to use a stepping stone or two and scramble over so they can climb up their family tree again. So bring your thoughts, questions or expertise but most of all – bring Yourself.

On **15 February** members will be telling us about the local large houses and castles they have been researching over the past few weeks. There is history hidden in our area that can interest us all.

Our speaker on **21 March** is Stuart Rose, who will tell us about the history of Laxton and explain what we can expect to see on our visit later in the summer.

In the summer months we are planning visits to Southwell Minster, St. Mary's Church and the Lace Market area in Nottingham and Laxton. You will be able to put your name down for these visits at the History Group meetings.

Easy Wheelers

Our Easy Riders meet every Wednesday at 0900 on the Hucknall Leisure Centre car park. All paid up members of Hucknall or Ashfield U3A are welcome provided they have a helmet to wear. No charges are made and our rides during the winter period are morning only and last approximately 2 hours.

A monthly planning meeting is held at The Griffins Head, Papplewick. Monday at 7.00 p.m. the next being February 6th. For further information contact Alan Snape alansnape@hotmail.co.uk

Late Breakfast Group

The first meeting of 2012 was held at the Nag's Head, Woodborough, on Friday 6th January. 25 members enjoyed another excellent 'Full English' in convivial company. Our next meeting will be on Friday 2nd March, and the proposed venue is the Badger Box at Annesley, 9.30 for 9.45 p.m. Please put your name on the board at the next meeting, or contact Geoff Cree on 01623 794485, geoffcree@btinternet.com

Lunch Group

In December thirty-two of us went to see "Cinderella" at the Nottingham Playhouse with lunch beforehand at the Osbourne Lounge of the Albert Hall. All we can say is SUPER! The meal and service at the Albert Hall was excellent (we intend going back again, hopefully to one of the free Binns Organ Recitals with a three course meal at £9.95 beforehand, when these recitals start up again this year). The stage sets at Nottingham Playhouse were excellent and the audience, mostly made up of children from two Nottingham schools, were just as entertaining as the actors!

In January we are going to The Flaming Grill which was the old Bowman on Nottingham Road, Hucknall. They are doing a meal deal of Two for £9; this is now full. Details of the February 22nd lunch will be given at the January U3A Meeting.

National Trust Group

Happy New Year to all group members. Our National Trust visits programme kicks off with two visits to fairly local properties. On Friday 23rd March we will be visiting Belton House which hopefully should be awash with wonderful daffodils in the grounds. The cost of the coach is £9.00. This year I would appreciate cheques, rather than cash, made payable to 'Hucknall U3A' and please book your place early. Non-NT members group entrance rate if £9.50.

On Wednesday, 28 March we will be visiting Calke Abbey where we will be able to visit the lambing marquee which is approximately a 15 minute walk away from the house. Please let me know if you are interested so I can book appropriate transport or arrange car sharing if necessary. Sorry these visits are close together but the lambing only happens in a short time window.

Tap Dancing

Starts again on January 12 but please note a new time for the class, 2pm to 3pm. The classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the John Godber Centre, Ogle St. Hucknall. There are a couple of members coming along to 'have a go' some trying Tap Dancing for the first time. We will be starting from basics, special shoes are not required to 'have a go' so if you would like to come along don't be shy, everyone welcome. See Vivian at the break or just turn up.

Square Dancing

We now have 11 of our members who are proficient square dancers and in February 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 NG3 5GG, 589 Woodborough Road, Mapperley Plains on Monday nights 8.00 to 10.15 and costs £3.00 per person. The first session will be on Monday 6 February but on the previous Monday 23 Jan. there will be an open evening from 7.30pm (free). Anyone interested please contact your Chairman John Ellis or turn up on the night.

Walking Group A

On a day that the weather forecast said was only for the hardy few, with gale force winds and heavy rain predicted, 17 members turned up at Oxton for the January walk. Although a little blustery at times, once the 10 o'clock start time arrived the rain was no more and not seen again before the walk was completed. All were so glad to have fresh air and exercise again after the festive holiday, that as they merrily chatted their way round the 8.5 miles circuit no one noticed the couple of hills cunningly slipped in or the odd mud patch. From Oxton to Calverton, along the Woodborough ridge, through Ramsdale golf course to Gravelly Hollow and then back to Oxton via Watchwood plantation and Gorse Covert, through some local attractive countryside

that most motor by but never stop to explore. Next walk Tuesday 7th February.

Walking Group B – Short Walks

Our walk on February 16th is around Sherwood Forest. Starting at the usual time of 10am we will follow a way-marked route taking in points of interest and viewpoints along the way in this ancient forest. The starting point is the car park at the cricket ground in Edwinstowe NG21 9RN. After the walk refreshments may be purchased from the Visitor Centre and a short walk will return you to the cricket ground and car park. For further information contact Jim 07976 358 230

Science Group

This Group is starting to feel its feet with several visits being organised, the first of which will be to the Mansfield and Sutton Observatory on the 19th January. Other similar visits are at planning stage. Several members are to attend a course at the Observatory which will be run for a period of nine weeks. Two members attended a lecture at Nottingham University about space telescopes and further lectures about a whole range of subjects should prove interesting. Closer links with the Mansfield Science and Technology Group are being forged, which should help our Group develop. Our discussion on Climate Change (Global Warming) proved to be a very hot topic (excuse the pun). After

much sole searching we all agreed that there was much we know but much more that we don't know. We had to accept that climate change is happening and we are aware of the effects this is having on a global scale but the political will to sort out the problems are hampered by national interests, the need to sustain growth and development and the reluctance of the international community to work together. The outcome does not look too good. Our next meeting is on the 26th January at the John Godber Centre (10.00am) when we will be considering Genetically Engineered Crops and Population Growth.

Debating Group

On the 7th November just two days after the bonfires our first debate took place. Would there be fireworks this afternoon? "Are PCs a necessary evil" was the topic, which turned out to be a less contentious than one might have thought. Most of the members use computers and were in favour of the objective 'necessary' and even 'indispensable'. Those in favour of the proposition laid out the store of uses that they put their PCs to, from storage of documents, photographs, music and films to on-line banking and buying theatre and travel tickets, Skyping and an unknown use (to some of us) on-line petitions. It was generally agreed the 'evil' did not necessary apply except that caution in the PCs use must be taken to

protect the vulnerable. Those against the proposition brought to the meeting the idea that on-line shopping may well be harmful to small businesses. In the end though, the resolution was passed soundly 7 votes to 3 votes (after the Chairman had been helped with the advanced maths). Our next debate will take place on the 9th January 2012. 'Is Hosting the Olympics worth it?' will be the issue.

Weekenders Group

Southwell Minster's Carols for Everyone was enjoyed by the group on Saturday, December 10th, preceded by a meal at The Olde Bridge Inn at Oxton. Doreen Newton kindly offered hospitality for Weekenders' members for New Year's Eve when mulled wine was partaken, Rummikub was played and they saw the New Year in with the fireworks from the London Eye. Many thanks Doreen for hosting this.

Hopefully Weekenders will have remembered our Get Together on January 7th to discuss future plans, more information in the next newsletter.

New Groups

Wine Appreciation

There is to be a board for you to put your name down for this new group, there are 2 ladies raring to get the group started. If you enjoy a glass of wine but find you

often buy a bottle that is not to your taste this is a great way to sample different grape varieties from different regions of the world without having to spend a lot of money. The original Wine Group has been full since it started so take advantage of this opportunity.

Amateur Dramatics

Janet is a member of the Ashfield Amdram Group and would like to start a group in Hucknall. The group will meet once a month with the intention of working on a play, performing rather than just reading, with the possibility of performing extracts at any future Hucknall U3A events. An initial meeting of anyone interested has been set for Thursday 26 January, please speak to Janet at the monthly meeting and please put your name on the list if interested.

Gardening

The Committee have received a paper packed with ideas and information from the U3A Trust to help anyone wishing to start a Gardening Group. Other U3As in the area run very successful groups, all that is needed for Hucknall to have their own is either 1 or 2 members to coordinate it, this does not mean they have to do all the work. Many Groups share the organising, promoting friendship and learning. Please put your name on the list if interested.

Pot Luck 2

This has again been suggested but in the past has not had sufficient interest from Members. Run similarly to the Weekenders but 'happening' during the week (either daytime or evening) the members (6-8) organise the events as a whole but it requires one person to 'take the reigns'. Please put your name on the list if interested.

Forthcoming Events Chairman's Lunch - 25th March 2012

A lunch has been arranged to commemorate the end of John's 2-year reign as Chairman. Why not come along to join the celebrations at Portland College, near Mansfield, on Sunday 25th March, 12.00 for 12.30 p.m. [spouses/partners and friends are also welcome to join us]. The menu is : Soup or Fruit Juice; Roast Beef [or veggie alternative]; Crème Brulee; and Coffee. The cost is £15 per person, and payment will be required in full by the February meeting [cheques payable to Hucknall U3A]. If you have not already put your name down, please see the board at the January meeting, or contact Geoff Cree on 01623 794485, geoffcree@btinternet.com

North Notts Neighbourhood

Jubilee celebration 12th June
More details in February Newsletter.



