



NEWSLETTER

Issue May 2021

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Message from our Chair

Hello and welcome to your May newsletter.

There are eight bank holidays in 2021 and two of them are in May.

Before retirement they were something to look forward to, as for the large majority of us, it meant time off work.

How they came about and why we know them as bank holidays dates back to 1871 when:

Statutory bank holidays were introduced by the 1871 Bank Holiday Act and were days when the Bank of England and banks could close. The Act made provision for no financial dealing to occur on that day and bills or promissory notes that were due on that day were not payable until the following day and did not incur any penalties. Before this time banks were unable to close on weekdays as to do so would have put them at the risk of bankruptcy. But once the act was on the statute books, bank staffs were able to have fixed holidays.

The first bank holidays were Easter Monday, Whit Monday, the first Monday in August and Boxing Day, in England, Wales and Ireland.

When you are in the u3a every day is like a holiday....

Provisionally on May 17th the Covid protocols change and groups of 6 will be allowed inside and groups of 30 outside. This means that we can start to organise some face to face group activities. There will still be some conditions relating to risk assessments, social distancing, hygiene and masks that will need to be followed.

Later In this newsletter I wish to commend an article by Val Gant suggesting a Hucknall u3a litter picking squad. Val is asking that volunteers get in touch with her, please see further details in the article.

Finally thanks to everyone who voted in the AGM and remember we will need new committee members next time.

David Rose, Chairman

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COMMITTEE MEETING

Notes from the May 2021 Committee meeting

Apologies were received from Sandra Green and Greg Umney.

Minutes of the April meeting were accepted as a true record.

Siobhan wishes to remind members that requests to join an interest group should be via the group leader. Following renewals group leaders are advised to check updated group lists.

The speakers for the monthly meetings are arranged up to August.

Live face to face future monthly meetings can no longer take place in the new studio at the leisure centre but will be in the main hall.

The social committee are considering plans for an 'open air' summer event and a Christmas party that will have a different format to previous years.

Angela welcomes updates and news for the website which had 2513 hits last month.

Christine reports little change to our finances the main outgoings have been payments to speakers.

Philip has made contact with the leisure centre to clarify our concerns about equipment storage during their building alterations – they say they will be kept safe.

Melvyn has organised a one session course on 'Driving in the 3rd Age' on Tuesday June 15th at 2pm. A similar course took place in Nov 2016 and was well received by attendees. It is highly recommended especially as most of us have not used our vehicles much since March 2020.

It was suggested that a speaker to talk about the current rise in Scams would be a useful one to pursue.

Greg's membership update is that it is now 449 members with 15 affiliated members yet to reply.

In the recent AGM voting Mark reported a 48.1% turnout and the approval of all items.

AOB

It is national u3a day on Wednesday June 2nd and we will attempt to get some local press publicity together with a u3a litter pick.

We considered a suggestion from Alan Snape 'about the possibility of setting up a 'Chat bench' in the centre of Hucknall with the benefit to the community of providing an opportunity for people to meet up and chat in safety to strangers. This will be followed up with ADC before any decision is made.

Next meeting Wednesday June 2nd 10am via Zoom

The meeting closed at 11.20am

David Rose

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Monthly meeting via meeting via Zoom Wednesday 12th May 2pm

Log in from 1.50pm

2pm to 2.15pm Information sharing

2.15pm Guest Speaker is David Skillen who will be talking about:

The Bentley Boys- 'The Playboy Racers' In 1919 Walter Owen Bentley built his first motor car. It was the beginning of one of the most charismatic marques in motor racing. But equally fascinating are the men-about-town who drove these magnificent cars.

Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting (in lock-down)

Background

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it has not been possible for the U3A to meet to hold the 2021 AGM. At the virtual (Zoom) Committee meeting on 3rd March 2021, it was decided that, in the interests of good governance, the business usually conducted at an AGM would be carried out by way of a poll of all the membership.

Members were able to vote on the proposed resolutions from 7th April to 30th April, either on-line or by post and votes were received from 48% of the members. The constitution dictates a 20% threshold for a quorum at an AGM so, given the circumstances, the poll results were accepted as valid by the Committee at the virtual (Zoom) meeting on 5th May 2021.

Decisions of the Members

Resolution Decision

Proposal to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting	Accepted
Proposal to approve the Accounts for the year to 31st December 2020	Accepted
Proposal to appoint Geoff Cree as the Examiner of Accounts for the year to 31st December 2021	Accepted
Proposal to amend the Constitution to permit meetings using electronic means	Accepted

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NEW GROUPS, GROUP NEWS, WORKSHOPS & OTHER NEWS

Proposed Hucknall u3a Litter Picking Group

Are you concerned about the environment and the amount of litter in our locality? If so, read on...

When we are out cycling and walking no doubt like you we notice lots of litter in both urban and rural areas.



Litter which has been deposited in Linby Brook

We do complain and moan to each other about the amount of litter we see but now we have now decided that we would like to do something about it.

For this we will need your help.

We wish to gather some volunteers from our membership by setting up a Hucknall & District u3a Litter Picking Group.

It is suggested that this could take place one day per week and last for about an hour per session.

All equipment such as litter picking sticks, gloves and collecting bags will be provided.

We have contacted both Ashfield and Gedling Council and there is an offer of some equipment and all rubbish will then be collected by the council.

Think of the benefits – gentle exercise and fresh air in the company of fellow u3a members whilst making a difference to the environment. If you are interested please contact Val Gant on 07749 822017 or email val.gant@viginmedia.com

MAY SCAMS UPDATE

1. Phone scam calls are on the increase:

These days for many of us genuine callers on landlines are often outnumbered by the scams callers. Such calls are a lot more than just a nuisance.

One woman had a mobile call telling her that there was an ongoing court case against her over an unpaid tax bill. The judge and jury were on the line, the scammer told her, but if she immediately transferred payment of £999, the case would go better for her.

She panicked and paid but was told it was not enough. So she went to the bank, with the scammer still on the line, and sent another £4,000.

"As soon as she had done it, she realised it was a scam," said Louise Baxter-Scott, head of the national Trading Standards scam team.

According to Trading Standards, there has been a surge in such calls during lockdown.

"Everyone is at home so they are easy prey," said Ms Baxter-Scott.

And the scams are getting more sophisticated and more threatening.

One currently doing the rounds, purporting to be from the National Crime Agency, claims there is a warrant out for your arrest for "serious offences".

Another common claim is that National Insurance numbers have been stolen, which might seem plausible given the number of data thefts.

Although the request to immediately send money to the tax office should ring alarm bells

Increasingly the calls are coming through to people's **mobile phones**, often appearing as a UK number to add another layer of legitimacy.

The top three problems Trading Standards identified were:

- people selling insurance for white goods, offering cover for fridges, freezers and washing machines
- impersonation callers claiming to be from the NHS, BT, Amazon or utility firms
- domestic home repairs such as boiler services and drainage

Some of these are defined as nuisance calls because they are actually selling something - albeit it something you probably do not need. Others are out-and-out scams.

People are thought to receive an average of seven scam or nuisance calls per month and be aware that the scammers are particularly targeting the elderly.

David Rose

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ARTS & FILMS INFORMATION GROUP

If you wish to be included with the 150 other members in the circulation of the ongoing Arts Information Calendar each month, please drop an e-mail to alansnape@Hotmail.co.uk or ring me on 07940146542.

CHOIR GROUP

Sadly, possibly, I wasn't one of the 5,000 legally singing and dancing at the concert in Liverpool on Sunday, but I read of it with pleasure. Fingers crossed it was a success without any unpleasant after-effects, so that all the sooner we'll be making our own music again.

Of course, the choir may be the last group to resume meetings, unfortunately, we have all become aware that singing is a strong method of spreading potentially infected air droplets, and of course we meet in a residential home, with vulnerable residents, but things do seem to be speeding along now.

I'm not counting the days, but I am looking forward to singing with the choir as soon as we safely are able. It's been a long time, but I'm sure we've all been singing at home, so we'll be super enthusiastic when we can finally meet, and nothing will daunt us.

Take care, see you soon.

FUN WITH LANGUAGES GROUP

Our April zoom meeting was fairly attended and the sudden disappearance of the Tedstones part way through caused much speculation!! However, on that windy day, it was all hands to the pump to rescue the gazebo! This caused much amusement, as you can imagine.

We talked about the wordsearch and definitions first, then continued with the next episode of our drama Mi Vida Loca. This was followed by a short look at coronavirus vocab on Butterfly Spanish by our Ana, a favourite with Mark. We are all finding Spanish quite challenging and feel sure some months on a beach in Spain would help considerably!

We are not zooming in May but having a break for a month, so our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th June at 10.30. At present this will be on zoom but if in person you will be contacted. Here's hoping for warmer weather!!

Liz and Ann.

GARDENING GROUP

I am writing this in National Gardening Week, (who decides on these special weeks I wonder?!) and the weather has taken a turn for the cool, so I guess we are all busy protecting all our precious seedlings and tender plants with fleece and bubble wrap.

It takes at least a couple of weeks to harden off seedlings so at least they are all getting a taste of what is to come when they are planted out. We can be getting on with sprucing up pots and tubs, replacing the top layer of compost and putting in new plants. Even supermarkets have lots of bedding plants to choose from if you can't get to a garden centre. The tulips and camassias are taking over from the daffodils and crocus now and also cowslips are through.

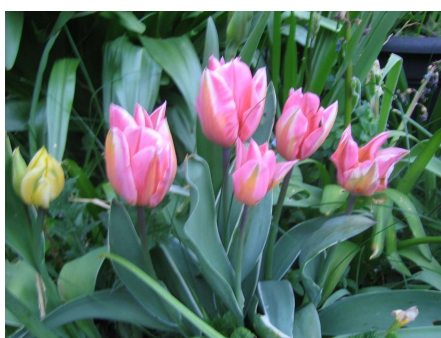
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The cowslip is a flower with lots of tradition attached to it. It was often scattered on church paths for late spring weddings or woven into May Day garlands. It is also the county flower of Essex, Surrey, Northamptonshire, and Worcestershire. It is supposed to symbolise "comeliness and winning grace." Years ago it was frequently found growing near to steaming cowpats, hence its name. Today it can be found in woodland, meadows, pastures and grass verges. There is always a good display of them on the land near to the island just past the railway crossing at Linby. Shakespeare wrote about them in his plays, and they have been nicknamed Key of Heaven; Paigles; Bunch of Keys; and Herb Peter. This last comes from a legend that St Peter once had a duplicate set of keys made for the gates of Heaven but he dropped them and cowslips sprouted at the very spot where they fell. Once they were as widespread as the buttercup but along with many wildflowers suffered a decline due to the ploughing of pastureland and increased use of herbicides. Now they have returned to unsprayed grass verges and village greens. They are a vital source of nectar for pollinating insects and years ago the flower tips, scented like apricots, were fermented with sugar, yeast and lemon rind to make wine.

The petals were believed to have medicinal properties, helping to cure headaches, and were also used as an anti-aging tincture. A very useful little flower!

There is a great opportunity to pick up special plants and unusual perennials from a Plant Hunter's Fair at Carsington Water on 31 May, 10am – 4pm. There is free entry to the fair and country park. Check it out at planthuntersfairs.co.uk

Finally, this month's quote is from Claude Monet 1840-1926 – "My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece."



HISTORY GROUP

The History Group always welcomes all U3A members. Our indoor meetings are held at Central Methodist Church on the 3rd Wednesday of the month commencing at 2pm. I am hoping this year the first meeting will be July 21st with Kieran Lee talking about the Bennerley Viaduct.

We need to be booking speakers and visits for next year to make sure the best come to speak in Hucknall and we visit the best. Ideas please.

Since I last 'spoke to you I have had enquiries about the Green Dragon pub. I have been researching it discovering that the name goes back many years but the present Green Dragon was built within my mum's memory. If you can help with information or have anecdotes of happenings or celebrations in the building it would be good to know for an article in Hucknall Torkard Times. Incidentally I am now working on the 100th issue. What a surprise. Something I never thought I would accomplish when I began 25 years ago. Some people think Hucknall has no history but still new articles are written which fill in the missing pieces of the jigsaw.

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While I am thinking about pubs what about The Bowman? Nothing I know of has been written about the building would you like to volunteer? It has had various other names such as The Lodge and The Blue Boar but originally of course it was Broomhill House. Were you an early visitor? I hear stories about the Blue Boar Scooter Club but wasn't a member myself. Should dedicate one of our indoor meetings to the history of – or – our memories of public houses?

T.T.F.N. & God bless from Maureen

LUNCH GROUP

Many pubs/restaurants are providing outside covered areas for dining but I think it would be a bit too optimistic to expect that they could accommodate forty of us in this way so it may still be later in the year before the Lunch Group gets started again but I know we are all looking forward to our get togethers.

NATIONAL TRUST GROUP

Having read the following data in the newspaper today, the last day of April, then the Covid-19 situation seems to be improving rapidly

*The numbers falling ill with the Covid have dropped to the lowest level since the pandemic began.
"The number of over 80's with infections is now at a record low"

I could go on with many other statistics but the main point is that hopefully the roadmap will continue to progress and eventually clear us to resume many aspects of our lives.

Hopefully National Trust properties will be more fully opened over May and June. All good news.

As I said last month the vital factor for our group will be rules on social distancing on transport.

Those of you who have ventured on to a bus or tram recently will know the problems present there.

I hope that by the time of the next Newsletter then this situation will be clearer.

I have received an email on behalf of two members who are so keen to resume that they are willing to pay twenty pounds each for the Fountains Abbey visit so that we could socially distance on two buses should this be the only thing stopping us going ahead.

If any other members have views on this please let me know by emailing us at barriensaunders@yahoo.co.uk or phoning us on 0115 9559842

This would allow us to gauge opinion should we reach this situation.

Barrie and Sue Saunders

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PUB QUIZ & LUNCH GROUP

April newsletter quiz **Cryptic Animals** Answers

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Result of a sore throat - | Horse |
| 2. A bit of a wrench - | Monkey |
| 3. Monty's soldier Desert - | Rat |
| 4. Not colder, I think I hear? - | Otter |
| 5. These were filmed in the mist? - | Gorilla |
| 6. Hard to hit the ball without one of these? - | Bat |
| 7. Tony used to think Frosties where grrrrreat? - | Tiger |
| 8. When their tails up, they can cause quite a stink? - | Skunk |
| 9. Troy Tempest used to command one of these? - | Stingray |
| 10. Naked - | Bear |
| 11. Used to lock up the Urine? - | Kiwi |
| 12. A dance where you need to follow? - | Conger (eel) |
| 13. A shy fish? - | Koi Carp |
| 14. This bird used to be great for Guinness? - | Toucan |
| 15. A Roman soldier would die for this standard? - | Eagle |
| 16. Not the most sensible thing to put down your trousers? - | Ferret |
| 17. Pulled? - | Toad |
| 18. Take the red out of this misleading clue - | Herring |
| 19. Boy George thought this animal really had Karma! - | Chameleon |
| 20. Simple! - | Meerkat |

And another cryptic clue quiz for May on **Flowers & Herbs**

1. This flower is one in the eye for the girl?
2. Got Up?
3. Please remember me?
4. Fashionable feline?
5. Cunning animals hand warmer?
6. Bovine Error?
7. Wed Precious Metal?
8. Spring Month?
9. Sad Ringer?
10. Vehicle State?
11. Duration?
12. Bill sounds like a nice fellow?
13. Industrious Queen?
14. Receptacle for dairy product?
15. Used in thickening sauces?
16. Mrs Bucket's first name?
17. Enclosure in criminal court for prisoner?
18. A nice pad on a lake?
19. A Vicious Welsh emblem?
20. A wise old herb?

READING GROUP

We are hoping to have a Reading Group meet up in Margaret White's garden in June. Unfortunately at this moment Hucknall Library is still not open so it has been difficult to return books etc but they have automatically renewed all books until 1st July and I understand that they have a Click & Collect service if you log on to the Inspire website. Also I believe you can return books to any library so if you happen to be passing another one in Nottingham, give it a try.

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SCIENCE GROUP 2

At the April meeting Ann Murray assisted by Ian gave a very interesting presentation about glaciers and icebergs.

We learnt that icebergs:

- Are a floating mass of freshwater ice that has broken from the seaward end of either a glacier or an ice shelf.
- About 90% of the total volume of the iceberg is under water always.
- The density of the iceberg is about 10% lower than the density of sea water, so 1/9 of it stays on the surface until it melts.
- There are different types of iceberg classified by size and shapes.

Ann included some photographs of glaciers taken when they visited the Rockies and explained how they are important indicators of global warming and climate change in several ways: Melting ice sheets contribute to rising sea levels. As ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland melt, they raise the level of the ocean affecting plant and animal life.



In May we meet on Friday 21st at 10am via Zoom and I will be looking at aspects of flooding, its impact on the environment and the science and technology contributing to flood control.

David Rose

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WALKING GROUP (SHORT WALKS)

Short Walk Thursday May 20th 202.

Many of us have been completing a lot of local walks so for a change of scenery for our first short walk of 2021 we are starting from the car park behind Lowdham Village Hall.

Main Street, Lowdham, Nottingham NG14 7BF

The entrance is opposite The Ship Inn – please park at the rear of the car park
Meet at 9.45am for a 10am start.

The walk is approx 4 miles with one early uphill which provides good views followed some downhill before walking by the Dover Beck and Lowdham Mill and back via the churchyard.

It is basically all footpaths with one short quiet road section.

David Rose

WEEKENDERS GROUP

The May Newsletter will be sent out after 1st May. Once again, many thanks to Margaret Wilde for printing off copies for those members not on email and for delivering them on her morning walk. We plan for garden meet ups after the end of May and also optimistically our birthday lunches, an outing and a Christmas lunch – more details later.

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HUCKNALL & DISTRICT U3A INTEREST GROUPS May 2021

For further details contact check the website at www.hucknallu3a.org.uk from there you can email the respective Group Leader

ARTS

ACOUSTIC GUITAR	1 st &3 rd Thursday 10:00
CHOIR	1 st Wednesday 13:20
	3 rd Wednesday 11:20
DISCUSSION	1 st Monday 13:45
DRAMA	4 th Friday 10:00
FILM CLUB	Thursday 12:30
HISTORY	3 rd Wednesday 14:00
NATIONAL TRUST	Various dates & times
READING (BOOKS)*	1 st Wednesday 14:00
SINGALONGA	3 rd Tuesday 10:30
THEATRE	various dates
UKULELE	2 nd &4 th Monday 10:00

ACTIVE WELLBEING

CYCLING	Every Wednesday 9:00
EASIER CYCLE	Every Friday 9:00
GROWING OLD DISGRACEFULLY*	Various
GRUMPY OLD MEN	Various
NOT SO GRUMPY OLD MEN	Various
KURLING	2 nd Sunday 3-5pm
PICKLEBALL	Thursday 14:00
SEATED EXERCISE	4 th Monday 14:00
WALKING (LONG)	1 st Tuesday 10:00
WALKING (MID)*	3 rd Monday 10:00
WALKING (SHORT)	3 rd Thursday 10:00

FOOD & DRINK

BREWERY SCIENCE & HISTORY	Various
GINOLOGY	3 rd Thursday 19:00
INTERNATIONAL DINING	As Arranged
LATE BREAKFAST	1 st Friday 09:15
LUNCH GROUP	4 th Wednesday 12:00
PUB QUIZ & LUNCH	2 nd Monday 12:00
WINE APPRECIATION*	3 rd Monday 19:30
WINE TASTING *	3 rd Wednesday 19:30

HOBBIES & PASTIMES

CANASTA	1 st & 4 th Friday 19:00
CRAFT 1 *	3 rd Monday 13.45
CRAFT 2	2 nd Tuesday 14:00
GARDENING	3 rd Tuesday 14:00
HOLIDAYS	various dates
KNITTING & CROCHET	4 th Tuesday 14:00
MAH JONG	2 nd Friday 19:00
POT LUCK *	1 st Wednesday 19:30
RUMMIKUB1	1 st Monday 14:00
RUMMIKUB2	Thursday 13.00
SCRABBLE	4 th Thursday 14:00
TABLE GAMES	3 rd Friday 19:00
WATER COLOUR	1 st Monday 14:00
WEEKENDERS	various Sat & Sun.

LANGUAGES

FRENCH CONVERSATION*	3 rd Tuesday 10:00
FUN WITH LANGUAGES	2 nd Thursday 10:30

SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCIENCE 1	4 th Thursday 10:00
SCIENCE 2	3 rd Friday 10:00

*Indicates group full. If you are interested then contact Siobhan who will happy to help you set up a further group. Please be aware that some Interest Groups have a limited number of places due to activity, venue etc.

Group Leaders are normally available in the Board Room at the monthly U3A meetings to answer any questions that you may have about their group. Their contact details are displayed on the Interest Group Information Board.

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