



Issue December 2021

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Message from our Chair

Hello everyone I hope that you are keeping well and have taken the opportunity to have the booster Covid-19 vaccine.

I think summer is now well and truly behind us, but there is always the compensation of the current wonderful autumnal colours. Let's hope that this winter isn't going to be too extreme.

We now have the prospect of Christmas looming on the horizon.

People used to write in to newspapers to report when they had first heard the sound of a cuckoo in the spring.

I wish to report my first hearing of festive muzak wafting around a shop as I ambled round Wilko's on Sunday 14th November.

'Merry Christmas Everybody' by Slade and Noddy Holder's 'its Christmaaaaas' line will be (frequently) coming your way soon...

We have previously said that there wouldn't be a General Meeting in December; however we have decided to have a Christmas themed film show on Wednesday 8th December starting at our usual time of 1.30pm.

There will also be a book sale before and after the film. Details appear later in this newsletter.



The Committee

All u3as, as independent charities, must have a Committee of Trustees who manage the charity and who are legally responsible for the safe and efficient running of the body. Most people are eligible to be on the Committee, and there are no particular qualifications needed – just a willingness to help run the u3a.

Please forward articles for the next Newsletter to hucknallu3anewsletter@live.co.uk by 31st December2021 Please also send a copy of your article to webmaster@hucknallu3a.org,uk for inclusion on our website.

We already have some welcome volunteers coming forward but your u3a still needs you! If you wish to join the committee from April 2022 please contact me, Vice Chair Melvyn or any of the committee members.

David Rose, Chairman

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee met on Wednesday December 1st at 10am

Apologies for Absence: Dianne Heenan, Melvyn Francis and Mark Jackson

The November minutes were agreed as a true record.

Siobhan as Groups Coordinator reported that all groups were now meeting and she is hoping to start a new group 'Flower Arranging' .There are more details in this newsletter.

She continues to look for an outlet that will receive the used blister tablet packs for recycling.

The January monthly meeting will feature a film 'Nottingham through the Ages' instead of a speaker. Dianne is exploring speakers for next year, if any member has any speaker recommendations then please let us know.

The additional meeting for 2021 is our Christmas film and clearance book sale. The details are in this newsletter.

Angela continues to update and add to the website and Facebook page. Members are encouraged to visit both sites.

The previously circulated accounts were discussed and agreed.

Greg reports that the membership numbers are looking healthy with a total membership of 458 full members and 493 including associate and affiliated. He also shared an interesting statistic about the monthly meeting numbers. Over the 3 meetings so far 198 different members have attended at least one of them. Greg also has arranged a new members meeting on January 5th at 12.30 at the JGC. We confirmed that our current Covid meeting risk assessment covers the current situation provide we all follow the space and mask wearing recommendations especially when moving around inside venues.

We had another discussion about the need to fill essential committee roles from next April when we have 6 retiring members.

The History Group request to amalgamate with Hucknall Heritage, both led by Maureen, was agreed provided it is only open to u3a members.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.

David Rose

A Defibrillator for JGC and Hucknall and District u3a



We are frequent uses of the John Godber Centre and many of us are 'of a certain age'

Following on from a member suggestion the committee have agreed to raise part of the cost of a portable defibrillator to be located inside the JGC building.

It will be fully automatic and similar to the one shown below.

Any excess proceeds from the Christmas Film show will be donated to the defibrillator fund as will the alternative Christmas card donations.

A collection bucket will be at the Christmas Lunch and at the film show. Once the defibrillator is purchased a demonstration of how to use it will be arranged.

An Alternative Christmas Greeting Suggestion





Last week a group of our members suggested an alternative to writing and exchanging Christmas Cards between u3a friends.

The suggestion is that instead we each make a donation towards the joint u3a /John Godber Centre defibrillator fund.

If you wish to do this a collection point will be in the JGC hall at the Christmas lunch on Monday 6th December and at the film on Wednesday 8th December.

December Monthly Meeting

No meeting - See Below

U3A Christmas Film Show Wednesday 8th December 1.30 to 4pm JGC

The Man who invented Christmas - a modern classic

Film Summary:

In 1843, the celebrated British novelist, Charles Dickens, is at a low point in his career with three flops behind him and his family expenses piling up at home. Determined to recover, Dickens decides to write a Christmas story and self-publish it in less than two months. As Dickens labours writing on such short notice, his estranged father and mother come to stay with him. Still haunted by painful memories of his father ruining his childhood by his financial irresponsibility, Dickens develops a writer's block which seems to have no solution. As such, Dickens must face his personal demons epitomized through his characters, especially in his imagined conversations with Ebenezer Scrooge. Now with a looming deadline, Dickens struggles for inspiration against his frustrations and his characters' opinions in a literary challenge creating a classic tale that would define the essential soul of modern Christmas.



Running Time 1 hour 40 minutes, colour, PG with subtitles

Enjoy a drink and mince pie during an interval.

Please browse the book stall at the back of the hall it is our clearance sale!

Pay on the door, £3.00 to cover the cost of the refreshments, hall and sound system hire. Please note enter the hall only from the car park rear doors.

NEW GROUPS, GROUP NEWS, WORKSHOPS & OTHER NEWS

Recycle and Reuse

Medicine Blister Packs

To say I am disappointed is an understatement. Our u3a members made a brilliant start to collecting these packs, I had a huge black bag full to take to the pharmacy on Nabbs lane I had been told was collecting them – no they weren't and never had. I then tried Diamond Cars. Luckily I rang first to see if what I had been told was true. Diamond cars are no longer collecting! So I rang Superdrug at Mansfield, they are not collecting as they have been inundated. So I rang the company who is overseeing the recycling the nearest place was Derby Eagle Centre!

So I am very sorry but I will not be collecting the packs anymore which is a real shame especially after watching that programme on plastic the other night.

Siobhan

Flower arranging Group

The Flower arranging group will welcome the New Year in with a meeting on Monday the 7th February in the Portland room at the John Godber Centre. Time 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Room hire £30. 50 for the 2 hours so we need at least 15 people at £2 each otherwise the group will be unviable.

The Group will be led by its members with each member playing an active part.

These are the dates for 2022

7th February

7th March

4th April

2nd May (no session bank holiday)

6th June

4th July

1st August

5th September

3rd October

7th November

5th December (no session U3A Christmas dinner)

If you are interested please contact Siobhan via the website or the phone number you have for the Groups Coordinator Siobhan.

DECEMBER SCAMS UPDATE

Scams - Password awareness

Whether it's your Facebook, Amazon, or Netflix account, the explosion in popularity of online apps and services means more and more of us have to remember an increasingly long list of passwords.

Unfortunately, some of us cope with this challenge by resorting to practices that leave our data, devices and money at risk - by using the same password across multiple accounts, or by creating simple passwords that could easily be guessed by hackers.

Bad password practice is more prevalent than you might think - the UK's National Cyber Security Centre carried out analysis of passwords leaked in data breaches and found that more than 23 million users worldwide used 123456 as a password. You can read more about it here:

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https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/most-hacked-passwords-revealed-as-uk-cyber-survey-exposes-gaps-in-online-security

Here are three top tips that will make your life easier and your online accounts more secure:

1: Creating memorable passwords

A good way to create strong, memorable passwords is by using 3 random words. But remember; don't use words that can be guessed (like your pet's name). You can include numbers and symbols if you need to. For example- "RedPantsTree4!"

2: Saving passwords in your browser

Saving your password in your browser means letting your web browser (such as Chrome, Safari or Microsoft Edge) remember your password for you.

This can help:

Make sure you do not lose or forget your passwords
Protect you against some cyber-crime, such as fake websites
It is safer than using weak passwords, or using the same password in more than one place.

3: Email account passwords

If a hacker gets into your email account, they could: Reset your other online account passwords Access personal information you have saved about yourself or your business

Your email password should be strong and different to all your other passwords. This will make it harder to crack or guess.

David Rose

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ARTS & FILMS INFORMATION GROUP

Please contact me if you would like to be included in the circulation of the calendar each month at alansnape@hotmail.co.uk or 07940146542. This year I plan to separate off the cinema section into The Film Club and I will attempt to include a description of what each film is about and who is in each film. Alan Snape

CHOIR GROUP

Our notification requesting assistance with the choir is now out there in the NG15 magazine. Our copy hasn't arrived yet, but a choir member has received hers and has confirmed that the advertisement has been included. You can check it for yourself if you can find it!. It will be small, they were willing to spare me only an eighth of a page, but it was free, so I was happy to accept. The run-up to Christmas, when everyone is busy, isn't the best time to ask for help, but someone may have time on their hands and be pleased to spend it with us. Volunteers may be more receptive during the quiet time at the beginning of the year, but having missed the August issue, this is what we were offered, and I didn't think we should wait a further three months (I think it's a quarterly magazine). Someone may be available and get in touch now, but if we don't get a response we must hope that the request is seen in one of the publications later, as I have run out of ideas for seeking help! If you hear of anyone with the necessary skills who'd enjoy spending a few hours a month guiding our group, please point them in my direction. As the choir is unable to sing this greeting, I'll pass on our good wishes. 'We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year' and to all choir members too, 'Best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas'.

FUN WITH LANGUAGES GROUP

Our November meeting continued a mixture of revision and moving on with Ma France.

We then split into small groups for some role play on what we had watched on the videos. This had a mixed response and lots of laughs!!! To sum up, we all need more conversational practice to build up confidence again after the long period of lockdown zooms. But we will get there!

Our December meeting consists of drinks, nibbles, fun and music as we hope for safe and happier times for us all and for the world in 2022. Our first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday 13th January at 10.30 in JGC. New members welcome.

Joyeux Noel, Liz et Ann

GARDENING GROUP

The final month of the year and the beginning of winter, this year has flown past even though we did not do much for most of it! Now is the time for tidying up, clearing away the dead bits and adding to your compost heap if you have one, or the garden bin if you don't. Now is also the time to plant winter flowering shrubs, many of which are very fragrant even if the flowers are small.

Thank you to all those who attended our November meeting and worked hard on the challenging quiz sheets! I hope you managed to learn something new from it all. We do not have a meeting in December or January but hope to book a room somewhere in the John Godber Centre for February. Watch this space!. Anne

GRUMPY OLD MEN GROUP

After the recent enforced period of grumpiness, our Grumpy Old Men group is looking for more members to join them. We take it in turns to organize a day out to a place or activity of interest within reasonable distance of Hucknall, usually once a month. Before lockdown, some of our recent visits had been to the Museum of Timekeeping at Upton (everyone arrived early), Nottingham Council House for a guided tour, and Nottingham Justice Centre (no-one was locked up).

We hope to resume our activities in early 2022 all being well.

If you are sufficiently grumpy, you can get in touch by email via the Interest Groups tab on the Hucknall U3A website, or have a chat with John Tedstone at the next monthly meeting on Wednesday 12th January.

HISTORY GROUP

The History Group always welcomes all U3A members. Our usual meeting place which is Central Methodist Church is fully open, including kitchen, for our meeting on December 15th.

It was a surprise to those of us organising the visit to Richard III & Leicester Cathedral that everything went so well after almost two years of waiting. Downstairs at the centre is the very well done historical part with archaeology on the floor above. A volunteer explained about the shallow grave and that there is to be a film about the discovery, excavation, etc. next year which will be something to look out for. The Cathedral was marvellous, the stained glass spectacular but the building none of us had seen before was the Guildhall dating back to the 1300s – brilliant.

The next meeting of the History Group is on 15th December when we have speaker Keiran Lee to tell us about the Bennerley Viaduct. I had a nice surprise last week when somehow on T.V. I caught a rerun of a railway buildings programme with beautiful Bennerley included.

HOT NEWS The 1921 Census will be available exclusively on FindMyPast from the 6^{th} January 2022. Apparently there will be a charge of £2.50 for a transcript of the record and £3.50 if you want to see the original image – however for all 12 month subscribers there is a 10% discount on any 1921 census purchase. This will be the last census for anyone to see for 30 years. To remind those unaware; the 1931 census data was lost due to enemy action in World War II and there wasn't one in 1941 (it would have been impossible in wartime) meaning that the next census available will be the 1951; 30 years from now. Of course we do have the 1939 Register but it does not have quite as much information.

A full list of meeting dates for the group with details of speakers and visits is available on the website and copies can be picked up at meetings.

Season's greetings to all members. Bye for now, Maureen

LITTER PICKING GROUP

4 Group members continue to be very active with at least 38 bags of litter collected so far this month. This means that the milestone of well over 100 bags of litter have been removed from our environment since the first litter pick at the end of August – its just a pity that our group needs to exist. Litter is a never ending problem.

This month the winning entry for the strangest items found goes to several intimate pieces of female underwear found on the Washdyke Lane Recreation Ground so if any Hucknall & District u3a member is missing this underwear I'm sorry to have to tell you that it's been disposed of!. There was also a mattress and blanket too but there are limits as to what we can pick up!

Should anyone else wish to join the group please contact the group leader, Val Gant, email litter@hucknallu3a.org.uk

LUNCH GROUP

Our second Lunch Group in nineteen months was on Wednesday, 24th November at Sprinters in Arnold when 27 of us sat down to dine. Once again the restaurant did not want our pre-orders or any deposits so that wasn't so difficult to organise. The Christmas Lunch at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, 15th December, is now booked and we look forward to what is always a lovely meal and venue. Our local venue for January is The Nabb Inn which has just had a major refurbishment. I am taking names now so please reserve your place for Wednesday, 26th January. I have also booked the February lunch for the 23rd at The Shepherd's Rest, Bagthorpe; it's a little more difficult to find but I will post directions and menus in January for pre-booking. If you have any favourite restaurants or recommendations, please let me know. Sandra Green

PUB QUIZ & LUNCH GROUP

Our first Pub Quiz in twenty months was on November 8th when once again 26 of us met at the newly refurbished Nabb Inn; then on 13th December we will have our Christmas Pub Quiz. Seating is limited to 32 members so please let me know if you would like to attend. Just to remind you, on arrival please make a note of your table number then order your lunch/drinks at the bar. However it's not necessary to have a lunch if you don't wish to eat. We start with a short table puzzle, then on to the main quiz. After lunch we get the answers! We usually have a small free raffle for which prizes would be gratefully received. There is a charge of £1 per head, the total of which (less expenses) is divided between the winning team and the runners up.

Here are the answers to the November quiz.

- 1. The price of amber increased tenfold after the release of which 1993 film? Jurassic Park
- 2.In literature; Pemberley, Tara and Manderley are all examples of what? Estates (Pemberley is the estate in 'Pride and Prejudice', Tara 'Gone With the Wind', Manderley 'Rebecca')
- 3.Influenced by the Latin word for "iron", what is the name of the metal sleeve on a pencil that holds the eraser in place? Ferrule
- 4. What did the members of the early 20th century movement or school known as 'Fauvism' do for a living? Painters (artists)
- 5. Which Mr. and Mrs. live at number 4 Privet Drive? Mr. and Mrs. Dursley (Harry Potter)
- 6. Which 1975 pop song is the biggest selling palindromic song title ever? (3 letters) S. O. S. (ABBA)
- 7. What is the name of the Nike corporate trademark? Swoosh
- 8. What are the two most populated cities in Sweden? Two answers. Stockholm and Gothenburg
- 9. The first year since 1987 in which there are no what? No repeating digits 2013
- 10. What is the largest land mammal in South America? Baird's Tapir
- 11.Lisbeth Salander is the unusual heroine in which 2011 film? The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo
- 12. What is the official national fruit in each of the following countries? One point for each correct answer. a. India Mango b. Mexico Avocado c. Jamaica Ackee
- 13. Which kind of dance style is mentioned in the Queen song 'Bohemian Rhapsody'? Fandango ("Scaramouche, Scaramouche, will you do the fandango?")
- 14. Which fictional Mr. had the rare blood type T-negative? Spock
- 15. What is the only absolute monarchy in Africa? Kingdom of Eswatini

And here's your December Quiz -

- 1. Which form of clean 'transport' do Norwegians hide away somewhere in the house on Christmas
- 2. Who wrote each of the following words?
- a. "It was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge"
 - b. "Maybe Christmas" he thought, "doesn't come from a store"
- 3. What kind of animal delivers gifts at Christmas in Syria?
- 4.On which three feast 'days' do Americans consume the most food?
- 5.Plus or minus one year, when did Queen Elizebeth II deliver her first ' televised Christmas message to the nation'?

- 6.In which European country do malicious creatures called Kallikantzaroi get up to mischief around Christmas?
- 7. Which percentage of Americans don't celebrate Christmas at all?
 - a. 4% b. 10% c. 18%
- 8. Who composed the music for the festive season ballet 'The Nutcracker'?
- 9.Plus or minus one year, how long does it take a Scotch Pine Christmas tree to reach a typical retail height of 6 to 7 feet?
- 10. Which two figures deliver gifts in Russia during the festive season?

READING GROUP

For November we read "The Child" by Fiona Burton, which was the librarian's choice. We all enjoyed this story which had a twist at the end. We are planning our 2022 programme and we like to have a different genre of book each month; so once again I would be pleased to hear of any which you might like to recommend. The Library are organising our December book but at our January session we will be discussing "any book you read at school" which gives scope for a wide variety of books.

REAL ALE GROUP

14 of us enjoyed an evening in Nottingham on 18th Nov, visiting The Crafty Crow, The Roundhouse, The Trip to Jerusalem (a local David, demonstrating how easy the hook and horn game is, which none of us could do), finishing of at The Royal Children where we were entertained by a group with a variety of singers, a most enjoyable night.

It was decided to return to Nottingham for our final night out of 2021 on Thursday 16th December, by again meeting at the tram station to catch the 6.30pm tram and to visit the Derby Road - Canning Circus area public houses. Melvyn Francis, Group Co-ordinator

SCIENCE GROUP

We were both educated and entertained by a science based quiz with our ace quiz writer and quizmaster Bob McEwen. Thanks Bob.

We also had a dress rehearsal for our entry into the Hucknall Christmas Tree Competition. The trees will be on display inside the parish church from the afternoon of Wednesday December the 1^{st} until Saturday 4^{th} .

Our next 3 meetings are on Fridays at 10am January 21^{st} , February 18^{th} and March 18^{th} . There is no meeting in April as it is Good Friday. David Rose

SCRABBLE GROUP

As usual there will be no meeting of the Scrabble group in December as it falls during the Christmas period. The next meeting will be at 2pm Thursday 27th January 2022 at the rear of the Catholic Church, Watnall Road, Hucknall.

SINGALONG GROUP

Many thanks to Christine and Dave Vincent who lead a very enjoyable session at our November meeting, we learned about the origins of Skiffle and enjoyed a different mornings entertainment.

Our next Singalong will have a festive theme, a quiz and a few seasonal nibbles! The date for this extravaganza is December 21st at 10.30.Normal venue.

Any particular requests? Then let us know!. Keeeeep Singing!.

THEATRE GROUP

The Russian State Ballet of Siberia, Concert Hall, Wednesday 26th January 22, 2pm Tickets £39.50

Anton & Erin, Concert Hall, Sunday 6th February 22, 3pm, Tickets £48.00

Johannes in Freedom, Concert Hall, Tuesday 17th March 22, 7:30pm, Tickets £42.50

Oti Mabuse, Concert Hall, Friday 20th May 22, 7:30pm, Tickets £39.50

Here Comes the Boys - Aljaz, Pasha, Graziano, Concert Hall, Friday 16th July 22, 7:30pm, £45.00

Strictly Ballroom the Musical with Kevin Clifton, Theatre Royal, 24th June 22, 2:30pm, £49.00

Apart from Strictly Ballroom all the above shows are only on for one day so tickets will go quickly so please let me know as soon as possible if you want to go.

I will be going to the following

Cinderella Panto, John Godber Centre, Saturday 22nd January 22, 2:30pm, Tickets £7.50

Robin Hood Panto, Ravenshead Village Hall, Saturday 29th January 22, 2pm, Tickets £9.00

Barbara Ives.

WALKING GROUP (SHORT WALKS)

Thanks to Roy Brown for leading our November walk.

There is no walk organised for December.

The first walk in 2022 is on Thursday 20th January.

We are meeting at the Titchfield Park car park at 9.45 for a 10am start.

David Rose

WALKING GROUP (MID LENGTH WALKS)

Our November walk started from Underwood and followed a route across open country to Selston, over paths reputed to have been walked by the famous author D.H.Lawrence. 26 of us started from the Hole in the Wall pub, the name being believed to have originated from the Civil War, when canons were presumably fired at the building. At one time, it was possible to count over 30 coal mines in this area, and there are views across the Erewash valley, although a bit limited on the day of our walk!

On return, we set ourselves up in the pub for our traditional before Christmas lunch, which concluded our shortened, although very welcome, walking season this year. We will resume in January, all being well, with a local walk in the Ravenshead area.

WEEKENDERS GROUP

The December Newsletter will be sent out on 1st December. Once again, many thanks to Margaret Whilde & Lindsay Smith for printing off copies for those members not on email and for delivering them on their morning walks. We had a Broomhill Birthday lunch on the 26th November for June Flint. We enjoyed our annual outing to the Blue Diamond Garden Centre at East Bridgford on 19th November; the restaurant was very packed but we all managed to do some Christmas shopping. We have not planned any social activities in our homes for the time being. Sandra

HUCKNALL & DISTRICT U3A INTEREST GROUPS December 2021

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

ARTS

CHOIR 1stWednesday 13:20 3rdWednesday 11:20 DISCUSSION 1stMonday 13:45 4thFriday 10:00 DRAMA FILM CLUB Thursday 12:30 **HISTORY** 3rdWednesday 14:00 NATIONAL TRUST Various dates & times READING (BOOKS)* 1stWednesday 14:00 3rd Tuesday 10:30 SINGALONGA THEATRE various dates 2nd&4thMonday 10:00 UKULELE

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 2ndSunday3-5pm **PICKLEBALL** Thursday 14.00 SEATED EXERCISE 4th Monday 14:00 1stTuesday 10:00 WALKING (LONG) WALKING (MID)* 3rdMonday 10:00 WALKING (SHORT) 3rdThursday 10:00

FOOD & DRINK

INTERNATIONAL DINING As Arranged LATE BREAKFAST 1stFriday 09:15

4thWednesday 12:00 **LUNCH GROUP**

PUB QUIZ & LUNCH 2ndMonday 12:00

REAL ALE GROUP Various

3rd Monday 19:30 WINE APPRECIATION* WINE TASTING * 3rdWednesday 19:30

HOBBIES & PASTIMES

CANASTA 1st& 4thFriday 19:00 CRAFT 1 * 3rd Monday 13.45 2ndTuesday 14:00 CRAFT 2 3rd Tuesday 14:00 GARDENING HOLIDAYS various dates KNITTING & CROCHET 4thTuesday 14:00 MAH JONG 2ndFriday 19:00 1stWednesday 19:30 POT LUCK * RUMMIKUB1 2nd Monday 14:00 RUMMIKUB2 Tuesday 13.00 4thThursday 14:00 SCRABBLE TABLE GAMES 3rdFriday 19:00 WATER COLOUR 1stMonday 14:00 various Sat & Sun. **WEEKENDERS**

LANGUAGES

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

SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCIENCE 3rdFriday 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 at the monthly U3A meetings to answer any questions that you may have about their group.