



NEWSLETTER

Issue January 2022

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Message from our Chair

Once more we are approaching the end of an eventful year with some optimism for the situation gradually changing in 2022.

Between September and December we are very pleased to report that most of our groups were up and running again.

For their continued support throughout this challenging year I would like to thank members, committee members, social committee members, group leaders, their assistants, Steve Lawrence for producing the newsletter and Graham Daft for printing it.

The fact that our u3a has ended 2021 in such good shape is entirely due to you all and we cannot express our gratitude enough.

On a cheerful note it was lovely to see ours and all the other Christmas Trees and Christmas Wreaths displayed in the church in December.

The Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by 105 members who were well spaced out in the Portland Room at the John Godber Centre.

It was good to hear live music thanks to Paul Haigh and his string quartet and the diners were also entertained by a raffle and Terry's (new) book of jokes.

The Christmas film was also enjoyed by 61 members and at both events generous donations were collected towards the defibrillator fund.

Member Linda Baker took on a personal challenge of a sponsored walk to raise money towards the fund and raised an amazing £105.00. Much appreciated and very well done Linda. The current total now stands at £630.

With all the increasing infections around at the moment, we hope that you are keeping safe and well.

At the time of writing we may need to revisit the current infection rate situation and possible further guidance as we move into the January.

The committee are meeting via Zoom on the 5th January we will keep you informed on any decisions and developments.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to wish you and yours a very Happy, Healthy and peaceful New Year.

Please forward articles for the next Newsletter to hucknallu3anewsletter@live.co.uk by 28th January 2022
Please also send a copy of your article to webmaster@hucknallu3a.org.uk for inclusion on our website.



David Rose, Chair

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee met via Zoom on Wednesday January 5th at 10am.

Apologies for absence were received from Sandra Green. Gary and Tina Holmes attended as observers.

The minutes of the December meeting were agreed as a true record.

Siobhan the Groups Coordinator said most of the groups were meeting regularly and a new group 'Flower Arranging' had been set up to start on February 7th. Further details are in this newsletter and on the Hucknall u3a website.

The December events were reviewed: The successful Christmas Lunch organised by the Social Subcommittee received positive feedback from members and the Christmas film was enjoyed by 61 members.

Angela relayed information from our website hosts that an update was required and we agreed that she should go ahead with this.

Christine led us through the previously circulated financial summaries for the month ending 31st December and clarified by responding to questions from the committee.

Melvyn is planning a short course event around financial planning for the older generation.

Greg updated on membership and is planning to produce the renewal forms to go out to the membership this month.

Mark has prepared the nomination forms for prospective committee members ready for the AGM in April.

Finally with the background of increasing Covid cases there was a discussion about meetings in January and a review of the current risk assessment.

The advice from the u3a Trust is:

The starting point for all advice to u3as is that at all times you must follow the advice given by the government. In addition you must ensure that a risk assessment is undertaken before commencing any u3a group activity.

They add: that Interest Group meetings are at the discretion of the group leader and group members.

It was agreed to amend our policy is to include the wearing of masks at all times (apart from eating or drinking) during inside meetings this month when it will be reviewed again.

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By a majority vote it was agreed that the monthly meeting will go ahead as planned on January 12th and that group meetings to continue at the discretion of the group leader and group members.

The meeting closed at 11.05 am

David Rose

January and February Monthly Meetings

Covid Update: On Wednesday January 5th the committee agreed that the physical meeting should go ahead as planned.

The risk assessment was reviewed and **compulsory mask wearing** throughout the meeting was added to it for all attendees unless they are addressing the meeting, eating or drinking.

Wednesday January 12th

This month we have an interesting 55 min film instead of a speaker.

'Nottingham through the Ages' presented by Dominic Heale.

The history of the city is part of a rich tapestry that is the story of Britain: Nottingham was a Viking stronghold; it provided a fortress for the Norman conquerors; Crusaders began their long journey to the Holy Land from here; Richard 3rd lost his crown (and horse) on nearby Bosworth Field during the Wars of the Roses. And of course there is Robin Hood.

It continues through the centuries to spotlight the proud industrial and sporting heritage of Nottingham 'The Queen of the Midlands'

and not to be missed a **BOOK SALE**

We have received a donation of lots of contemporary books, we cannot permanently store at JGC and hope that members will buy at a bargain prices and take them away.

The photograph indicates the scale of what is available. Bring a carry them home bag!



Wednesday February 9th

Our speaker this month is the Rev Alan Haydock who many of you will remember from his time at St John's.

Alan is an entertaining and interesting speaker and there will more details in the February newsletter and on the website.

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NEW GROUPS, GROUP NEWS, WORKSHOPS & OTHER NEWS

JANUARY SCAMS UPDATE

Scams –some light relief

This month we will look at two of the strangest scams of 2021

It's been a turbulent year in the pandemic, with the recent rise of the Omicron variant turning the tide of earlier optimism into one of concern about our Christmas and New Year festive plans.

Even as we were enjoying the relative freedoms of summer – with some people even jetting off on holiday – fraudsters didn't take a single day off.

But for every sophisticated scheme spun by scammers, there are the more preposterous attempts which are capable of raising a smile – even in these worrying times. Read on to see some of the strangest enticements, from caves stuffed with 'gold and crystals' to random windfalls from Hollywood actors.

1. How about this for an optimistic Spam email

This is a creative variation of the classic 'Nigerian Prince' scam which promises fabulous riches, if only you stump up a small fee to 'release' your windfall. It's the 'let me know if you are interested' that really makes it.

← Re: confidential



Niruthika Kantharuban

to [redacted]
Today, 12:51



My name is Sergeant Niruthika Kantharuban.
This is to inform you that we found gold and precious crystals inside a cave in Iraq worth millions in USD. I am making arrangements to deliver them to your country.

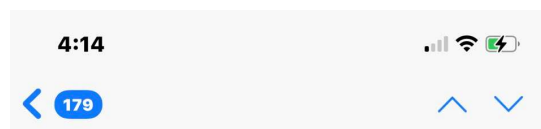
Let me know if you are interested

Niruthika Kantharuban

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2. The 007 impostor

Can someone please forward this to Daniel Craig. I thought he should see , someone is running a scam with his name



Daniel Craig
To: Recipients >

Wednesday

Hi

Hi,

I'm Daniel Craig, also known as James Bond, I have a donation worth \$160 million and I have chosen to give it out randomly to anyone who is willing to accept it. Get back to me for further information once this email gets to you.

Greetings,
Daniel Craig (James Bond)

It looks like Daniel Craig has found his post-Bond calling as the unlikely star of this ludicrous scam attempt. As with the Iraqi cave of gold above, this is likely another 'advance fee' fraud, which aims to con you out of an upfront payment and probably your personal details too. In this case, the fraudsters are employing the common trick of using a celebrity's reputation to seem more credible – though arguably it has the opposite effect here.

Let's keep vigilant in 2022 and remember:

Never share your personal details with anyone if you can't confirm they are who they say they are.

David Rose

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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

FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

Firstly please remember I am a terrified amateur at flower arranging, but I am willing to give it a go with your help.



For February 7th 1.30 – 3.30 please bring

- A container (smallish) with some oasis sticking out about 2 inches above the rim.
- Spring flowers – I usually buy the pots of spring bulbs and cut the flowers off (hard I know) but then I pop the bulbs in the garden in the hope that Chardonnay the squirrel leaves a few to flower next year).
- Some foliage that will enhance the flowers such as box, privet, cyclamen leaves.
- Some moss if you have it.

Equipment

- Sharp scissors or secateurs
- Bag for rubbish
- Something to cover the table – I have used a cut up black bag.

At the first meeting we can discuss what we want to get out of the group as I don't want it to be a group where people just watch. I want people to go away with a creation they are proud of. Transport of creations can be arranged if needed.

Some of the thoughts I have had are

- trip to Flora Media to have a professional flower arrange show us how it is done.
- trip to a cathedral to see a flower festival (C19 willing)

I am sure you will be able to come up with other ideas.

Please feel free to contact me if you need some help with oasis or anything else.

Siobhan

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FUN WITH LANGUAGES GROUP

We had a great meeting in December with adverts made up in French and guessing what they were. Also we had some fun French Christmas songs which put a smile on all our faces! And thank you to Liz for organising all the Xmas nibbles, which went down a treat!

We meet next on Thursday 13th January at 10.30 in JGC Byron Suite, all being well. Liz and I wish you all Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee!. We hope you keep safe and healthy in the light of the new Covid news. Ann Murray.

GARDENING GROUP

A happy New Year to all!. While we may not be inspired to get and do things in our gardens at least we can still plan for the new growing season. The newspapers and magazines are full of suggestions for different growing areas- shade, full sun, (remember that?!), partial shade and so on. It is heartening to see that nature is still doing its thing even as we face difficulties and restrictions. The Clematis "Freckles" is full of flowers again and feeding bees and flies, the winter honeysuckle has tight buds that will soon open and the winter jasmine brightens up the dull fence with its bright yellow blooms. Winter shrubs such as Daphne, Sarcococca and Skimlea are showing buds ready to open. There is so much to look forward to in the new seasons to come so enjoy your outdoor spaces when it is fit to get out.

We do not have a meeting in January but hope to gather together again in February at the John Godber Centre and welcome all, new members and old!

Anne



HISTORY GROUP

The History Group always welcomes all U3A members. Our usual meeting place is Central Methodist Church: time 2pm – 4pm ish. This is all virus permitting because our next meeting is on January 12th when we are hoping John Tedstone will come to update us on the Hucknall High Street project but he is on jury duty at the time so that is a bit iffy. However we will have a members High Street project – see me??? If anyone can come a little earlier to help set up tables that would be great.

In December Keiran came to tell us all about the Bennerley Viaduct – brilliant. A member requested we ask him to take us on a 'walk about' on the viaduct next year and he agreed. Watch this space for dates and times. Thank you to those members who said they enjoyed our mini buffet – those few words made my trawl around Morrisons worth the effort.

I thought, as we have lots of new members now, I should explain how the History Group payments work as you come through the door. Speakers are usually charging at least £50 for a booking now and the room hire has to be paid. £2 per person usually covers both these payments plus the refreshments. If we have a members meeting (as in January when neither John or I claim payment because we are U3A members) the charge is usually just £1 per person. I try to make sure we have a variety of topics to suit different history based subjects but if you have heard a speaker you think suitable please let me know; especially ones who speak about the history of other countries.

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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.

Bye for now, Maureen

KURLING GROUP 1

We have a new home from 9th January at St. John's Church Hall, Nottingham Road, time 3-5. Any member of the U3A wishing to join us, is most welcome. Further dates are 13th February, 13th March, 10th April, 12th June, 10th July, 14th August, 11th September, 2nd October, 13th November and 11th December.

KURLING GROUP 2

We have a new home from 23rd January, at St. John's Church Hall, Nottingham Road, time 3-5. Any member of the Hucknall U3A is more than welcome to join us. Further dates are 27th February, 24th April, 22nd May, 26th June, 31st July, 28th August, 25th September, & 27th November.

LITTER PICKING GROUP

Although the group members have been understandably busy with their own Christmas and New Year festivities, at the time of writing 29 bags of litter have been collected during December making a total of over 150 bags since the group was first formed at the end of August.

That is a lot of litter removed from our environment and sadly there will no doubt be a lot more to come.

One more u3a member has joined the group which now stands at 21 members but there is always room for more. If you are interested in joining the group please contact me via the email address litter@hucknallu3a.org.uk.

On December 30th a group pick was organised by Maureen Newton around the Butlers Hill tram stop.

The photograph shows Maureen, Christine Eagle and Jean Dow committing 8 full bags of litter fittingly to the dustbin of History!



Finally I would like to say a big thank you to all members of the group for their continued help and support and wish them all a happy, healthy and productive 2022. Val Gant.

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LUNCH GROUP

The Christmas Lunch at the Albert Hall was much enjoyed on Wednesday, 15th December, despite Covid. There were only 24 of us but it was a lovely occasion, made even better by the high quality of the lunch and the friendliness of the staff. Sue Foss & Judy Pritchard won the Christmas Quiz and Alan Snape the Christmas Lucky Number.

In view of the increased Covid activity I have decided to postpone the January 26th lunch which was planned for The Nabb Inn. At least 26 members had put their names down for this event so please check your diaries and cancel this date. I have booked the February lunch for the 23rd at The Shepherd's Rest, Bagthorpe and this is now full also. Obviously we hope this will still go ahead but at the moment we are just planning month by month. Let us hope the rest of 2022 will be a much better year. Sandra Green.

NATIONAL TRUST GROUP

On Wednesday 15th of December a coach party of National Trust group members enjoyed an afternoon and evening visit to see the Belton House Light Trail.

The weather was perfect for our visit with the sun shining as we left Hucknall Market at 2.30pm and the rest of the day remained dry and very mild for December. even the wind stayed calm for us!! After passing through Grantham- once described as "England's most boring town" we arrived safely at Belton House in perfect time to start the Trail.

On arrival we met up in the Courtyard at Belton House where some members took the opportunity to have a warm drink before starting on the Trail.

The Trail itself was quite amazing with glorious displays of colour centred around the buildings and the features in the grounds. There was a tunnel of white lights to pass through before we passed some beautiful displays lighting up the trees, water areas and planted areas that make up the Belton Estate.

Many members took the opportunity to take photographs.

While on the Trail there were further refreshment points with the chance to roast your own marsh mellows proving popular.

Once at the end of the Trail there was still time to revisit the Courtyard which included food outlets and the National Trust shop.

Everyone was safely and happily back on the bus in time for our departure back to Hucknall at 7.30 pm. A big thank you goes out to our driver Paul, from JB Tours, who got us safely back in Hucknall for 8.30pm.

All the members had enjoyed what had proved to be a very pleasant visit.

The group will restart (Covid permitting) in March 2022. Although the situation with Covid remains serious I have set the dates below for our National Trust visits for the period from March to October.

I will let members know the venues in the February Newsletter but I would like to visit places such as Kedelston Hall, Waddesdon Manor, which is owned by the Rothschild Family plus venues in Yorkshire and Warwickshire.

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Dates will be

March. Wednesday 23rd
 April. Thursday 28th
 May. Tuesday 17th
 June. Monday 13th
 July. Wednesday 20th
 August. Thursday 11th
 September. Tuesday 13th
 October. Monday 10th

Barrie

PUB QUIZ & LUNCH GROUP

Our second Pub Quiz in two years was on December 13th and had a distinctive Christmas theme. When once again 26 of us met at the newly refurbished Nabb Inn.

Sadly, due to the current Covid situation we feel it is better to postpone our Pub Quiz visit for at least January. So please check your diaries and cancel this event for 10th January. But please give our January Quiz a try; answers next month.

Here are the answers to the December quiz.

1. Which form of clean 'transport' do Norwegians hide away somewhere in the house on Christmas - **Brooms** (in order to keep the witches away)
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" **Charles Dickens**
 - b. "Maybe Christmas" he thought, "doesn't come from a store" **Dr. Seuss**
3. What kind of animal delivers gifts at Christmas in Syria? **Camel** (one of the wise men's camels)
4. On which three feast 'days' do Americans consume the most food? **Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day and Superbowl Sunday**
5. Plus or minus one year, when did Queen Elizabeth II deliver her first 'televised Christmas message to the nation'? **1957**
6. In which European country do malicious creatures called Kallikantzaroi get up to mischief around Christmas? **Greece**
7. Which percentage of Americans don't celebrate Christmas at all? **a. circa 4 %**
8. Who composed the music for the festive season ballet 'The Nutcracker'? **Tchaikovsky**
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? **7 years**
10. Which two figures deliver gifts in Russia during the festive season? **Little snowflake (Snegurochka) and Grandfather Frost (Dedushka Moroz).**

And here's your January Quiz: we did use this quiz at The Nabb Inn on 13th December so apologies to those who have seen it before.

1. According to an old wives' tale, bread baked on which day will never go mouldy?
2. Which beloved, quiet little man passed away on Christmas Day 1977?
3. In which European country does a kindly witch named La Befana deliver children's Christmas presents?
4. What are the first 2 lines of the Christmas song 'Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow'?
5. In an old nursery rhyme, who "sat in the corner eating his Christmas pie"?
6. Which former Hollywood child star once said "I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked me for my autograph."
7. What kind of 'bread' is traditional at German Christmas markets?
8. Which chart-topping Christmas song from Boney M was originally recorded by Harry Belafonte in 1956?
9. The communist dictatorship of which European country came to a bloody end on Christmas Day 1989?

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10. Which critically acclaimed film about King Henry II takes place over the Christmas holidays in the year 1183?
11. The name Santa Claus evolved from Sinter Klass, a nickname for Saint Nicholas. What language is Sinter Klaas?
12. Plus or minus 3 years, in which year did Barbie first appear under the Christmas tree?
13. What did Harry Potter get as a Christmas present during his first semester at Hogwarts?
14. Where does the Danish version of Santa Claus live throughout the year?
15. Which US 'First Lady' wrote the book 'Christmas 1940'?
16. In which country is Santa Claus known as 'Julemanden'? a. Denmark b. Austria c. Poland d. Germany
17. The name of which toy, popular since Christmas 1929, translated means "come-come" or "come-back"?
18. The words "God and sinners reconciled" are from which Christmas carol?
19. The name for which traditional festive season accessory is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words for "dung on a twig"?
20. Which mind boggling and very frustrating device, named after its inventor, was one of the best-selling Christmas gifts of 1980?
21. US President and staunch conservationist Theodore Roosevelt banned what in the White House?
22. Which electronic device in an egg-shaped container was the best-selling Christmas toy for children and adults alike in the year 1997?
23. Although she was secretly expecting a necklace, what does the disappointed wife played by Emma Thompson in the film 'Love Actually' get from her husband for Christmas?
24. Which Christmas carol was sung by soldiers on both sides of the trenches during the Christmas Eve ceasefire of 1914?

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 organised our December book which was a futuristic one; "How to Stop Time" is about Tom Hazard who looks like your average forty-something but actually has a rare condition that makes him age slower than the average human. So, he's around four hundred years old! We have decided not to hold a January Reading Group session but will share on line our comments on books we have read. In February we will be discussing "any book you read at school/college etc" which gives scope for a wide variety of books. Sandra Green.

SCIENCE GROUP

Our meeting this month is on January 21st 2022

Provisionally this will be upstairs in the Portland Room at the John Godber Centre from 10-11.45 am.

I have a presentation about extreme weather and tornados plus Terry Hill will be sharing some background about 2 important but relatively little known scientists.

David Rose

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

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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

CHANGED - Cinderella Panto, John Godber Centre, Sunday 23rd January 22, 5:30pm, Tickets £7.50, No lunch at this time.

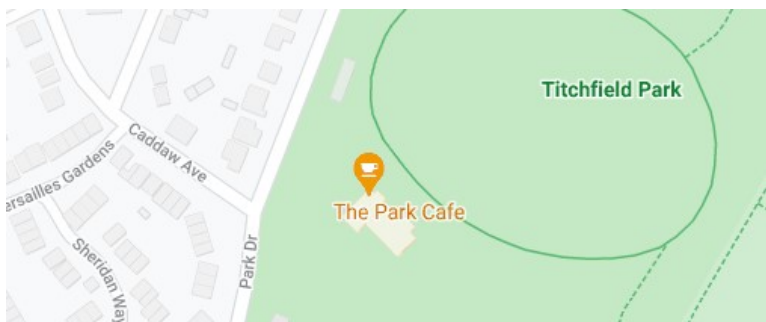
Robin Hood Panto, Ravenshead Village Hall, Saturday 29th January 22, 2pm, Tickets £9.00

Barbara Ives.

WALKING GROUP (SHORT WALKS)

This month the walk is on Thursday January 20th.

Meet at Titchfield Park car park near the junction with Caddaw Avenue at 9.45 for a 10am start.



The walk is approx. 4 miles and visits Bulwell Hall before proceeding to Bestwood Lakes Country Park and returns through Butlers Hill.

We will take a short break at the Forge Mill (fairly new) tea rooms for a drink stop. Bring your own or buy one at the cafe.

If the car park is busy there is ample parking nearby on Park Drive.

David Rose

WEEKENDERS GROUP

The Weekenders January Newsletter will be sent out on 1st January. 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 for Ruth Houldsworth on the 10th December, which was also our Christmas lunch. Again, an excellent lunch but a bit on the large side! Eight of us also met up for Coffee Club Lunch on 18th December at the Nabb Inn. Please note I have cancelled all Weekender events for the month of January. Hopefully we hope the increased Covid activity will soon be eased so that we can meet more socially "in house". Meanwhile let us hope the new year will bring us better news. Sandra Green.

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HUCKNALL & DISTRICT U3A INTEREST GROUPS

January 2022

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

ARTS

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 1	2 nd Sunday 3-5pm
KURLING 2	
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

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
REAL ALE GROUP	Various
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	2 nd Monday 14:00
RUMMIKUB2	Tuesday 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	3 rd Friday 10:00
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*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.

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