



# **NEWSLETTER**

**Issue –January 2024**

**Web Address: [www.hucknallu3a.org.uk](http://www.hucknallu3a.org.uk)**

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**Next Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**Guest Speaker: Paul Cullen**

**Origins & History of Nottinghamshire**

**Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Please forward articles for the next newsletter to [hucknallu3anewsletter@live.co.uk](mailto:hucknallu3anewsletter@live.co.uk) and remember to send a copy to the [webmaster@hucknallu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@hucknallu3a.org.uk) for inclusion on our website**

## Message from our Chair

Welcome to our January Newsletter.

Just wanted to thank all the folk who organised our Christmas Social / Meal on 4th Dec, the catering and food was excellent, and of course, not forgetting the entertainment and sing-a-long, really well done all.

Likewise, on Friday 8th Dec., Maureen's talk and presentation on Eric Coates and Christine's Media show were both very professional and entertaining. Followed by the Cycling group and Fun with Languages 'skits', again very well done.

What a surprise it was waking to almost 4 inches of snow on Sunday morning 3rd Dec, really wondered what the rest of December held weather wise, but next day it had a but gone, and back to cold and wet, although I was pleasantly surprised how mild Christmas Day and Boxing Day was. I have to confess to a childlike liking for snow. Some of us never grow up.

Christmas came and went, a lot of shopping, cleaning and preparing and of course expense and all over literally in a couple of days. We had the whole family round for Christmas dinner, Daughters with their partners and grandchildren, nine of us around the table, turkey and roast beef with all the trimmings, then we had a party on Boxing Day evening, so somewhat podged with a little bit of a hangover Wednesday morning. Hey ho, I do like Christmas.

We listened to the Kings message and I was very pleased to hear him speak on the environment and also his mention of equality to those of all faiths and none. Sadly though we are still a long way from world peace with the wars in Ukraine, Gaza, elsewhere, not just the wars but the massive impact it has on the worldwide refugee crisis, which doesn't just affect in us the UK but many, many other countries quite a few a lot worse than us.

As we start a new year I would like to thank all those who have worked so hard for all of us in our u3a, the committee, social subcommittee, group leaders, refreshment providers and the staff at the John Godber Centre, I know that we are all very grateful.

Finally, please remember to vote with the council regarding your concessionary tram tickets, you only have until 7th Jan to object to losing them, the link is <https://consult.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/tram-concessionary-pass-consultation/consultation/subpage.2022-01-25.8087376767/> or go via ACC website

It just leaves me to wish you all a very HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR I look forward to seeing, sharing and working with you all in 2024

God Bless

**Melvyn Francis, Chair**

## Monthly Meeting – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

### Safety

As always please use the rear doors off the car park for access and ensure that you register yourself as attending, if leaving before the end of the meeting, it is important for health and safety that you sign yourselves out.

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, then please make your way to the rear car park by means of the rear doors if possible. The assembly point is the Scout Hut in the far corner of the car park.

We will be starting with news and notices, followed by any group announcements, then our Tea/Coffee break. Our guest speaker after our break will be Dr Paul Collins talking on the subject "Origins of History of Nottinghamshire". It will be interesting to see how much or how little we know.

Please wear your name badges, it is far easier to strike up a conversation if folk know your name.

Please remember to volunteer for the tea & coffee rota if you are able.

### Future Speakers

February – Graham Keal – Oprah & Co  
March - Emma Sheardown – No Such Word as can't  
April – Geoff Harris – Folklore, Folk Tales & Funny Folk

### Notes from the Committee

Just three items to bring to your attention from the January Committee Meeting

1. Our Membership renewal Subscription for the next twelve months has been reduced to £8 for Individual members, this includes the £4 capitation fee to TAT, Associate members renewal fee will be £4. Please note this is a temporary reduction.
2. We are holding a 'One Off' talk titled "Tax Care & Toy Boys" this a talk by a professional regarding finance and wills etc., as we get older.
3. Please reserve Friday 12th April as our Social Sub Committee are arranging an event by the entertainer Johnny Victory, more details later.

### Our u3a Social Committee Christmas Events December 2023

The first week of December was a busy u3a week and already it seems a long time ago.

Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> was our first traditional **Christmas Lunch** since the Covid restrictions were lifted.

144 places were available and they were all quickly sold.

Members enjoyed a substantial 2 course meal followed by tea/coffee and a mince pie.

The catering was by Cathy from the British Legion and on the day both her helpers and the staff from JGC were whizzing round efficiently serving every table.



Some of the 'Golden Oldies' enjoying the lunch

Following the meal we were firstly entertained by Terry Hill with an enjoyable selection from his 'Big Bumper Book of Jokes' followed by Roy Brown and Ann and Ian Murray who sang a selection of seasonal songs.

To end the afternoon we had a Christmassy 'Singalong' curated by Liz and Phil Attenborough.

We extend our thanks to all of them for sharing their talent with us and for time spent in preparation for the event.

Finally thanks also to Cathy, her helpers and Kim and the staff at JGC.

### **The Christmas Lecture and Groups video Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Esteemed local historian and the long-time group leader for the popular History Group Maureen Newton presented a talk about Hucknall born composer and musician Eric Coates



Maureen concentrated on his early years in Hucknall and then progressed to how he kept up his links to the town and family through frequent visits in later years.

During the interval we enjoyed drinks ,mince pies and sausage rolls organised by Christine and John Berrill and Lynn and Peter Baker.

After the interval we were entertained by a video montage with a lively musical soundtrack carefully put together by Christine Vincent which featured many of our Interest Groups.

The finale was songs by the cycling group 'Daisy Daisy' starring David Riley and Mary Martin with backing singing by group members.



They were followed by 'The 12 Days of Christmas' /'Les Douze Jours de Noel' sung in French by the 'Fun With Languages' group.



**The Social Sub Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed to our Christmas events.**

## News From the Groups

### Film & Culture Group

This group exists simply to notify members of Hucknall u3a what films are available locally and when, plus information on other musical and drama events. To receive this information please forward your email address to [alansnape@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alansnape@hotmail.co.uk) and I will forward the latest bulletin.

Advance notice - at the ARC cinema here in Hucknall on the 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15, a recording of the live performance of The Nut Cracker ballet by the Royal Ballet Company will be shown.

### Flower Arranging Group

What a busy December we had. Started off with a wreath making session not everyone who put their name down was able to come due to illnesses and generally forgetting.

Let's face it that is so easily done with the passing years. No worries though. We also entered the Christmas tree festival at St. Mary's gosh that was a lot of work for just a couple of days. Many thanks to Rose and Anne for helping.

We was robbed by the Arc which had a beautiful elegant tree representing Charlie and the chocolate factory. Our tree featured in quite a few publications and on the news. The cakes and tea were lovely.



The children's carols were so different from the ones I know and their actions were so funny.

We then had a session creating table arrangements which again was fun.

The flower group is now on hold until March 25th. We have changed our dates to the 4th week in the month. Same time same place 1.30 - 3.30 upstairs in the hall John Godber centre.

Dates for 2024 are March 25

April 22

June 24

July 22

September 23

October 28

November 25

December to be decided at March meeting

No meeting May 27th and August 26 as they are bank holidays.

Siobhan

## **Gardening Group**

There is no meeting this month so our next meeting will be on February 20th when we welcome Rachel Barrowcliffe, a garden designer. We will meet as usual at the John Godber Centre at 1.30. All are welcome.

We are taking names for a trip to Highgrove in May. We do not have a specific date as yet, but will let you know as soon as we can.

Anne

## **Grumpy Old Men Group**

As we get going in 2024, it's time for the Grumpy Old Men to start thinking about outings for the coming year.

In 2023, two of the places we visited were the National Mining Museum at Wakefield and, nearer to home, Cromford Mill. Our final visit of the year was to the fascinating W.W. Winter photographic business and museum in Derby.

We take it in turns to organize visits, so if you can think of somewhere interesting but which you have never visited, why not organize a Grumpy Day out? If you're not a member of the Group, or have only joined our U3A recently, why not join us? Just use the tab on Hucknall U3A website to get in touch.



The photos show some of the places which we have visited recently. All our visits include a meal in a nearby pub or café as well.

John Tedstone

## History Group

The History Group always welcomes all u3a members especially new ones. Our indoor meeting place is Central Methodist Church on Baker Street: time 2pm - 4pm. It is on the third Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting is on January 17th. This time we have Peter Amour coming to talk to us. He should have come last year but had a family emergency. His topic is 'Wanderings in and around Wiltshire' so think Stonehenge; the Avebury Long Barrow, etc. I feel sure it will be excellent.

May I please take the opportunity to wish all members 'A happy and healthy new year'.

Maureen

## Litter Picking Group

Obviously with Christmas and the poor weather it has been a slow month for litter picking. However, during an afternoon walk one member collected a supermarket basket, filled it with empty beer cans (he claims not to be responsible for emptying the cans and leaving them as litter!) and then left it at a council litter bin. He then climbed up the pit tip on the Ranges and picked up a metal chair which he deposited at another local litter bin. That's commitment for you! However, if anyone wishes to join the litter picking group please contact me as per the litter picking group contact details at the end of this newsletter – and please do not feel that in joining the group you have to collect bulky or heavy items. Anything that can be picked up using a litter picking stick will suffice.

Val Gant

## Science Group

Our first meeting of 2024 is a week earlier than usual on Friday 12th January 10.00am in the main hall at JGC

The original plan was for everyone to create a fixed cyanotype 'photographic' image of selected objects but now the practical element will take place as part of the February meeting.

This month we will cover the theory of this process and learn the basics of how to carry it out.

As part of this we will be a look at how photography techniques evolved alongside advances in physics, chemistry and technology.

The 2024 Science Visit to Oxford is on Friday 19th April

8.15am depart from Ogle Street return from Oxford at 5.15p eta in Hucknall by 8.00pm

The cost is £23.00 each. £3.00 of this is to book group entry to the Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum which is on the same site.

More details at this meeting and bookings will start at this meeting.

Following my master class with our treasurer Gary the payment by card machine will hopefully be available for use.

If you wish to pay by cheque please make it payable to 'Hucknall and District u3a'

Please write your name and 'Science Visit' on the back.

David Rose

## **Theatre Group**

The theatre news list as follows:

Panto at John Godber Centre on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024. 2.30pm performance tickets only £8.00.

Dr.Michael Mosley & Clair Bailey Monday 26.02.24. Concert Hall 7.30pm Tickets £30.50. Please note this is also a one off evening performance.

Matthew Bourne's Edward Sissorhands Saturday 02.03.24. Theatre Royal 2.30pm Tickets £54.00.

The Wizard of Oz Thursday 11.04.24.Theatre Royal 2pm. Tickets £44.50

Sensational 60's Sunday 28.04.2024. Concert Hall 3pm Tickets £33.50. Please note this is a Sunday performance.

Northern Ballet Romeo & Juliet at Theatre Royal on Saturday 04.05.2024 2.30pm Tickets £37.50.

Cluedo 2 at Theatre Royal on Saturday 25.05.2024 at 2.30 Tickets £42.50.

Pretty Woman Wednesday 04.09.2024 Theatre Royal 2pm Tickets £45.50.

## **Vegetarian Cookery Group**

The meeting this month will be on Monday January 22nd, at 10.30, at St Peter and St Paul's church hall on Ruffs Drive. I have a full list of new recipes for us to try this year so look forward to seeing members of the group after the Christmas break. We have a few spaces in the group so please contact me if you are interested. The aim of the sessions is to give you an alternative menu, not to turn you into vegetarians!

Anne Wilkinson

## **Walking Group (Short Length Walks)**

On December 20<sup>th</sup> we did a 4 mile local walk starting and finishing at Brooke Farm Linby.

Some of the route followed the River Leen and the group photograph is in front of Papplewick Dam.

We had been forewarned by Brooke Farm to arrive by 11.30am as it was the day of their staff party with an early closing time of 12.30pm.

However most of the group managed to find seats and enjoyed a welcome warm drink after the walk.



Next Walk - January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024

This walk will be led by Kevin Varey

Kevin will send out details at a later date for the walk which will start from Farnsfield

David Rose

### **Walking Group (Longer Length Walks)**

Thanks to all the hardy souls who braved the mud and the rain for our latest walk, which was around the Felley mill area. It was a nice walk and we managed to miss most of the mud by sticking to Forestry roads. It is a very picturesque walk in the right weather, but sadly it was showery and overcast, with a good chance of seeing deer. We had a shorter walk due to the conditions, 7.45 miles.

Thanks to everyone who went to the Nabb for a pint after the walk, very enjoyable, by way of thanks to Emma who kindly lets us park in her car park whenever we are walking in that area.

Mark

## ***HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a INTEREST GROUPS***

<b>Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Contact E-Mail</b>
Bridge	Sue	bridge@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Calligraphy	Glenna	calligraphy@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Canasta	Sue	canasta@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Craft 1	Jo	craft1@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Crafty Knitters	Janet	craftyknitters@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Cycling	Jim	cycling@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Discussion	Christine	discussion@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Drama	Janet	drama@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Easier Cycling	Angela	easiercycle@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Flower Arranging	Siobhan	flowers@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Fun with Languages	Ann	languages@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Gardening	Anne	gardening@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Growing Old Disgracefully	Christine	god@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Grumpy Old Men	John	grumpy@hucknallu3a.org.uk
History	Maureen	history@hucknallu3a.org.uk
International Dining	Marilyn	internationaldining@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Kurling	Sue	kurling@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Late Breakfast	Geoff	latebreakfast@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Litter Picking	Val	litter@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Lunch	Rose & Ann	lunch@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Mah Jong	Val	mahjong@hucknallu3a.org.uk
National Trust	Barrie	nationaltrust@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Not So Grumpy Old Men	Barrie	notsogrumpy@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pickleball	Bob & Terry	pickleball@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pub Quiz	Angela & Christine	pubquiz@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Reading	Margaret	reading@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Real Ale	Melvyn	realale@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Rummikub (1)	Kate	rummikub@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Rummikub (2)	Sue	rummikub2@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Science	David	science@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Val	scrabble@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Seated Exercise	Anne	excercise@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Short Courses	Tina	shortcourses@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Singalonga	Liz	singalonga@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Table Games	Sue/Margaret	games@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis	Alan	tabletennis@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Theatre	Barbara	theatre@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Ukulele For Fun	Philip	ukulele@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Vegetarian Cookery	Anne	vegcookery@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Long)	Mark	longwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Medium)	John	midwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Short)	David	shortwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Watercolour	Margaret	painting@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Weekenders	Sandra	weekenders@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation	Mark	wineappreciation@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Wine Lovers	Tina / Gary	winelovers@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Wine Tasting	Sue	winetasting@hucknallu3a.org.uk

### **HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a INTEREST GROUPS - Calendar**

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>1</b>	11:30 - Pickleball 13:45 - Discussion 14:00 - Water Colours	10:00 - Walking (Long) 13:00 - Rummikub 2	09:15 - Cycling 10:00 Committee Meeting 14:00 - Reading	14:00 -Pickleball	09:30 - EasierCycling 09:30 - Late Breakfast 14.00 - Table Tennis 19:00 - Canasta		
<b>2</b>	10:00 - Ukulele 11:30 - Pickleball 12:00 - Pub Quiz & Lunch 14:00 - Rummikub 1 14:00 - Seated Exercise	13:00 - Rummikub 2 14:00 - Crafty Knitters 18:30 - Bridge	09:15 - Cycling <b>13:45 - Members Meeting</b>	10:30 - Fun with Languages 14:00 - Pickleball	09:30 - Easier Cycling 14.00 - Table Tennis 19:00- Mah Jong		
<b>3</b>	10:00 - Walking (Medium) 11:30 - Pickleball 13:45 - Craft 19:00 - Wine Lovers 19:30 - Wine Appreciation	10:30 - Singalonga 13:00 - Rummikub 2 13:30 - Gardening	09:15 - Cycling 14:00 - History 19:30 - WineTasting	10:00 - Walking (Short) 10.00 - Calligraphy 14:00 - Pickleball	09:30 - Easier Cycling 10:00 - Science 14.00 - Table Tennis 19:00 - Table Games		
<b>4</b>	10:00 - Ukulele 10:30 - Vegetarian Cookery 11:30 - Pickleball 13:30 - Flower Arranging	13:00 - Rummikub 2 18:30 - Bridge	09:15 - Cycling	14:00 - Pickleball 14:00 - Scrabble	09:30 - Easier Cycling 10:00 - Drama 14.00 - Table Tennis 19:00 - Canasta	14:00 - Week-ender's Coffee	15:00 - Kurling
<b>5</b>	11:30 - Pickleball	13:00 - Rummikub 2	09:15 - Cycling	14:00 - Pickleball	09:30 - Easier Cycling 14.00 - Table Tennis 19:00 - Canasta		

**Various Dates:**

Growing Old Disgracefully; Grumpy Old Men; International Dining; Litter Picking; National Trust; Not So Grumpy Old Men; Real Ale; Theatre; Weekenders

**If there's an Interest Group that you'd like to see here, please contact the Groups' Co-ordinator, who will be happy to help (coordinator@ hucknallu3a.org.uk).**

**If you are unable to e-mail the group leader, Please speak to them at the monthly meeting or ask a committee member.**