



NEWSLETTER

Issue – March 2024

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

Next Meeting 13th March 2024

Guest Speaker: Emma Sheardown

No such word as can't. If I had said "I can't" at various stages throughout my life, then:

I wouldn't be walking or talking

I would never have become World and European Para Dressage Champion

And... I wouldn't be able to Motivate and Inspire YOU!

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 29th March 2024

Please forward articles for the next newsletter to hucknallu3anewsletter@live.co.uk and remember to send a copy to the webmaster@hucknallu3a.org.uk for inclusion on our website

Message from our Chair

Welcome to our March Newsletter.

Well we are in March, the weather folk tell us that February has been the hottest on record, I know it must have been one of the wettest, taking the dogs for their walks has meant that we have often had to abandon the woods and walk them on the pavement. They are not as happy as there are no squirrels to chase and yes they have been known to catch them, not sure who was the most surprised the squirrels or the dog.

On the subject of animals, we have spent the past two days watching a male blackbird trying to drive away an interloper on his territory, don't know how long it will take him to realise it is his own reflection in a mirror.

Some of us are off to Kendal shortly on a short holiday the Long Walk leader has organised for the Walking and the National Trust groups, plus a few other of us, sound good with a good program of walks and NT visits, we will let you know how we fair afterwards. Here's hoping for good weather and good food!

Sunday 10th March is of course Mothering Sunday and I hope all of you mothers get a card and a few flowers as thanks for all your hard work throughout the year. Not sure how many of us still have our own mothers with us, if you are fortunate to be one of the few, I'm sure you will spoil your mother on this day.

On the 17th March it is of course St Patrick's Day, Ireland's patron saint and a good excuse for all of us that enjoy an occasional pint of Guinness. St Patrick was a 5th century Roman-British Christian Missionary. It is traditional to wear something green if celebrating his saints day.

Another date to remember is Saturday 30th March and remember to put your clocks forward before you go to bed. I'm not sure if anyone actually sits up until 2am on Sunday morning the official time to do so. Always amusing at church on a Sunday morning to see those who have forgotten, arriving an hour late.

Finally but by no means least we have Good Friday on 29th and Easter Sunday on the 31st March. Obviously a traditional time for children to receive Easter eggs, however, for the Christians among us this is the most important date of the year, celebrating Christ's death and resurrection.

A very busy month indeed.

I am pleased to announce that we have managed to fill all of the committee roles to replace those that are retiring and hopefully they will all be voted into office at our AGM in April.

Look forward to seeing you at our next monthly meeting on 13th March and would encourage you to look to see if there are any other interest groups that you would like to join.

God Bless

Melvyn Francis, Chair

Monthly Meeting – Wednesday 13th March

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 Emma Sheardown talking on the topic "No Such Word as Can't" - sounds interesting

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

April – Geoff Harris – Folklore, Folk Tales & Funny Folk
May – Nina Dauban – What you didn't Know about Charities
June – Andrew Lound – The Sky is no longer the limit

Notes from the Committee

Please note there are 46 members who have not yet renewed their membership.

Membership does expire on 1st March, so please ensure that you renew your membership if you have not already done so as soon as possible, otherwise your membership will lapse and you will not be able to attend any u3a activities or meetings.

**Tickets for this show are now available for family,
friends and members of other u3a's**



HUCKNALL DISTRICT U3A

**invites you to an evening
of entertainment & dancing with**

JOHNNY VICTORY



"Singing the sounds of the 50's, 60's & 70's"

on

Friday 12th April 2024

from **7.45pm** until **9.45pm** at the **John Godber Centre**

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7.00pm

Starts at 7.45pm with a break at 8.30 -9.00pm for drinks and food

The performance will resume at 9.00 – 9.45pm + encore

**Tickets will on sale for £8 at the
February & March Monthly Meetings**

Please note: There will be no catering at this event
but you are welcome to bring your own food

Hucknall and District u3a
An evening with
Top singer and entertainer
Johnny Victory
Friday April 12th John Godber Centre
7.30pm to 10.00pm
Doors Open 7.00pm
Bar and BYO Food
£8.00

Tickets will be on sale at the March
13th meeting and if they are not sold
out, again on April 10th

Payment by cheque, cash or using the
u3a contactless payment system

Fancy Dress - Optional

U3A Holiday

HIGHLAND HOUSE PARTY, 5 DAYS FROM SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2025
DUKE OF GORDON HOTEL, KINGUSSIE VILLAGE, £305 pp

The hotel is located in the village of Kingussie and looks out across the Spey Valley and Cairngorms National Park. All rooms enjoy private facilities, the comfortable and welcoming lounge bar offers a choice of over 50 whiskies from Scottish distilleries.

Evening entertainment takes place in the Ruthven ballroom with traditional folk dancing and a weekly Ceilidh. I have negotiated a bespoke Highland House Party for our u3a members the cost includes all of your excursions and admissions. Our main itinerary will be as follows :-

Sunday 23rd February 2025 coach pick up at Kirkby and Newstead Abbey Gates. If there is demand we will also pick up from Mansfield.

5 days , 4nights half board.

Three Excursions included

- * Eilean Donan full day out with comfort stop at Spean Bridge Mill
- * Funicular Railway ride on the Cairngorm mountain. With stop off at Aviemore in the afternoon
- * Red Deer Sanctuary where you will have the opportunity to feed and see these magnificent creatures. Afterwards we continue for a stop off at the highland town of Pitlochry for a chance to explore the town.

Your holidays also includes

Full Highland breakfast

Candlelight evening meals, 5 courses at each meal please let me know if you have any special dietary requirements.

Entertainment every evening

On several evenings, guests are piped into dinner by a piper in full highland dress

An evening of traditional Scottish Ceilidh... bring your dancing shoes and be prepared to fling the tartan!!

I'm feeling excited about this one!!

THE COST IS £305 pp. PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUES OUT TO CAIRNGORM TRAVEL

See Caroline to book and for more information. crhoades159@gmail.com 07724210563

CAIRNGORM TRAVEL ARE FULLY BONDED WITH ABTOT - MEMBER 7095



News From the Groups

Discussion Group

February - The following are the topics which were discussed.

1. Heat pumps. Cost of installation compared to solar panels would be more costly but maintenance not so.

It has been reported that new housing could be installed with heat pumps. A comment was made that it will never happen!

2. Speeding. It has been reported that a 20 mile per hour limit could be planned for all roads was met with opposition. A recurring problem brought up was that of having no police to monitor offenders.

3. Solar panels. Years after solar panels began the cost of installation and their maintenance was the main point of discussion along with the probable recompense. The takeover of vast areas of land as promised in Rutland to create solar farms led to discussion about their benefit and foreseeable future of land use.

4. Cruise Ship expense.

The news of an 8 billion dollar construction of a cruise ship led to a lively and varied discussion about Cruise ships, whether or not it was a waste of money and whether or not those present would use such a facility or of those less expensive. Also the point was raised that not many ports could be accommodating because of the vessel's size.

5. Chips. An article regarding the insertion of electronically activated microchips into living brain tissue came to the attention of one member. A discussion ensued about what controlling effects this might have in the future. The movement towards AI(Artificial Intelligence), was a concern expressed by all.

Members were invited to present topics for the meeting in March.

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 and I will forward the latest bulletin.

Fun with Languages Group

Our February meeting was rather low on numbers due to holidays and the adverse weather conditions among other things. However, well done to the 8 brave souls who got there and were snowpeople going home!!.

We used an audio online practice on the previous month's German greetings etc and some found this challenging on the concentration. We managed to get through it and had some laughs along the way. It was lovely to have Phil Nathan back with us.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14th March at 10.30 in the Byron Suite in JGC and hopefully the snow will not be with us for that! We shall be concentrating on numbers and some fun with them in German. Anyone is welcome to join in our meetings.

Ann Murray and Liz Attenborough.

Gardening Group

We welcomed Rachel Barrowcliffe to our February meeting and she gave a very informative, interesting and amusing talk about container Gardening. So many good ideas for all types of gardeners to use whatever the size of plot. Just make sure each container has a thriller, fillers and spillers! She sent a copy of her talk in an email which I have sent out to members but if anyone who is not in the group would like a copy please let me know and I will forward it to you.



Our March meeting, on the 19th, will be another NGS online talk, this time about Kiftsgate, in the Cotswolds. It has been looked after by three generations of female gardeners, and is a very interesting garden.

Unfortunately we will not be going to the Highgrove Gardens in May as there are no suitable dates and the price is now very high. We will organise somewhere else for the 21st May and let you all know as soon as we do. We are sorry to disappoint you as we know you were looking forward to it.

We are an open group so all are welcome to our meetings at the John Godber Centre on the third Tuesday of each month.

Anne.

History Group

The History Group always welcomes all u3a members - especially new ones. Our indoor meetings take place at Central Methodist Church on Baker Street - Time 2pm - 4pm. It is always on the third Wednesday of the month in March it is 20th.

Last month we had one of our regular speakers Stephen Flinders with the topic 'Stanton at War'. He showed an original film taken in wartime at the Stanton works located just 'ovver t' brook' (the river Erewash) near Ilkeston. It seemed most of the people at the works were young women who could easily have been our mothers or grandmothers doing heavy work using cranes and making bombs which were taken over targets in Germany by Lancaster aeroplanes. Some Italian prisoners of war also worked there. Stephen is such good value as a speaker we will look forward to seeing him again.

Our speaker in March is Andy McKinnon who is going to tell us about 'The History of Bestwood'. Andy is another of our favourite speakers and I'm sure some of you will remember when he came to John Godber Hall to tell us about the Hucknall people who served in the Great War.

There might still be seats available for our visit to Pleasley Pit; please ask Kathy or Sue for details.

Maureen Newton

Litter Picking Group

During February our u3a litter pickers collected a total of 26 bags of rubbish throughout our area. However, two members who are also members of the proactive Hucknall Wombles litter picking group collected 22 bags of rubbish in just one day from the Butlers Hill tram stop/tin bridge locality. Well done to the Wombles but what a sad indictment on society that so much litter is strewn in a relatively small area. If anyone knows anywhere which is in need of our help please contact me as per the group contact details at the end of the newsletter and we will do our best to help.

Val (Gant)

National Trust Group

This year's programme of visits has proved a little more difficult to arrange due to venues not accepting coaches during the school holidays and Houses being shut on certain days, anyway we do now have an interesting and varied selection of properties to visit.

The first visit sees the group travel to Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire on Monday 15th of April, leaving Hucknall Market at 9.30 am. The original date in late March not being available because of the school holidays meaning that no coaches were accepted. Bookings can be made preferably by email to barriensaunders@yahoo.co.uk on March 15th. The cost of travel is £11 which includes the drivers tip. Phone bookings from 9.00 am on the same date on 0115 9559842.

The second visit follows shortly afterwards to Snowhill Manor down in the Cotswolds, leaving Hucknall Market at 9.00 am. Cost of travel is £16. Both visits return at 4.00pm from the venues. Please note that no coaches are able to arrive at Snowhill before 11.30 am.

Finally, our August visit will be to Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire where we will have a guided tour of the Abbey and gardens included. Monday 19th of August for this visit.

Barrie

Not So Grumpy Group

In February, the Not So Grumpies motored into Nottingham to try their driving skills (or lack of) on the recently redesigned and extended Scalextric track at the Dragon featuring many of Nottingham's historic landmarks and locations.

After free practice in which participants theoretically acclimatised themselves to the circuit, 3 qualifying rounds were held to determine the six fastest drivers who then raced against each other in the nail-biting final.

To everyone's surprise, the favourite to win (Senna(Pod)) only managed third place, being soundly thrashed by AlanDenham in second place, and FieryNikiL who, despite a number of allegations of track and grid violations during which a number of rivals were forced off the track, finished in first place. However, despite winning, his overall times fell far below the 10 lap record, set by Claire Balding in the inaugural race following the commissioning of the new circuit, which still remains unbeaten.



After the race, all drivers retired to the Long Row Social to analyse the race violations, consider their appeals, and partake of much-needed fortifications.

Real Ale Group

Our February outing on Thursday 8th took 9 of us to the Hucknall Beer Festival, organised by CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale held at the John Godber Centre.

We met at 7pm At the venue and were pleased that we had chosen Thursday this year as last year on a Friday it was packed solid, with barely standing room. This year we were fortunate to get a table.



With over 70 beers on offer we were spoilt for choice. At a beer festival you purchase tokens, obtain a festival glass, then sample the various ales in third pint measures, This allows you to sample a wider range of beers.



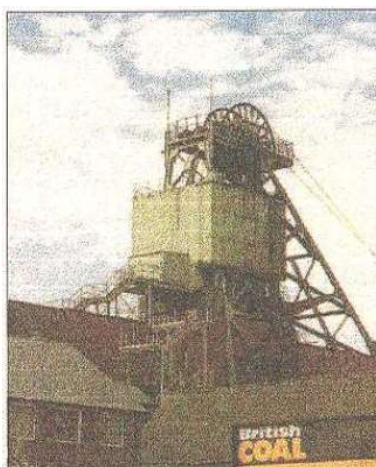
The festival closed at 10pm and we all made our way home. An excellent night, with some outstanding real ales on tap.

Science Group

At our February meeting David Vincent ably assisted by Christine presented a very interesting Part 2 of the 'Greening of Nottinghamshire'

He described the early planning stages and then went on to explain how the many coal spoil heaps in the county were transformed into the country parks and in some cases farmland that we enjoy today.

In addition to the spoil heaps there were miles of interconnecting railway lines, many of which are now walking and cycling trails.



You may recognise Linby Colliery

March Meeting Friday 15th 10.00 am JGC

Terry Hill will be telling the tale of 'The Unlucky 7' scientists who came to a premature end.

I will be introducing an environmental theme starting with the location of rainforests and their climate plus exploring the significance of the different layers of the rainforest.

Finally there will be a briefing about the April visit to Oxford.

David Rose

Theatre Group

The theatre news list as follows:

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

A large group attended the first meeting of the new year in February and enjoyed tasting savoury muffins made with cheese and courgettes. There was also a demonstration of Roasted Vegetables and Cheddar Strudel, which was cooked and then eaten. Another good recipe to try.



The next meeting will be on Monday March 25th, and we have just 3 spaces left in the group, so if anyone wants to join us, please contact me.

Anne Wilkinson

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

In February we had an exhilarating walk around Gedling Country Park.

It was a dry breezy day and from the viewing platforms it was possible to identify some of the landmarks and features towards Newark and Lincoln.

At the end of the walk we enjoyed a well-deserved drink in the café.



Smiling walkers standing near the miners memorial

And now for something a little bit different.

Our next walk on Thursday March 21st will be led by Liz and Phil Attenborough.

It includes a tram ride and an interesting urban walk from the Nottingham Midland Station tram stop.

We will meet at Hucknall Tram station to catch the first tram after 9.30, for those wishing to use other means of transport meet at Midland Station tram stop at 10.15.

The walk is along the canal and down to the river, taking in the Memorial Gardens on the way.

The distance is about four and a half generally flat miles.

David Rose

Weekenders Group

Our February birthday celebration for Christine, was on the 16th at the Broomhill where we managed to fill our time discussing recent medical operations and procedures! The difference between the two- as explained by one of our members- is that an operation involves a cut, and a procedure is merely a poke. Coffee Club was on the last Saturday of the month, the 24th.

Our first bus trip of the year is on Saturday April 6th, and this is to the York Designer Shopping Outlet. Then on Saturday 13th April we plan to use our bus passes to travel to Southwell where there is a Spring Craft Fair.

Lindsay Smith

HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a INTEREST GROUPS

Group	Leader	Contact E-Mail
Bridge	Sue Tedstone	bridge@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Calligraphy	Glenna Gash	calligraphy@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Canasta	Sue Foss	canasta@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Craft	Jo Hackland	craft1@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Crafty Knitters	Barbara Hill	craftyknitters@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Cycling	Jim Spray	cycling@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Discussion	Christine Beer	discussion@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Drama	Janet Stevenson	drama@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Easier Cycling	Angela Cornish	easiercycle@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Flower Arranging	Siobhan Lee	flowers@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Fun with Languages	Ann Murray	languages@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Gardening	Anne Wilkinson	gardening@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Growing Old Disgracefully	Christine Berrill	god@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Grumpy Old Men	John Tedstone	grumpy@hucknallu3a.org.uk
History	Maureen Newton	history@hucknallu3a.org.uk
International Dining	Marilyn Gretton	internationaldining@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Kurling	Sue Foss	kurling@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Late Breakfast	Geoff Cree	latebreakfast@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Litter Picking	Val Gant	litter@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Lunch	Rose Ridley / Ann Lambert	lunch@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Mah Jong	Val Gant	mahjong@hucknallu3a.org.uk
National Trust	Barrie & Sue Saunders	nationaltrust@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Not So Grumpy Old Men	Barrie Saunders	notsogrumpy@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pickleball 2	Bob McEwen / Vaughan Gallagher	Pickleball2@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pickleball	Terry Moulton	pickleball@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pub Quiz	Angela Cornish / Christine Eagle	pubquiz@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Real Ale	Melvyn Francis	realale@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Rummikub (1)	Kate Jackson	rummikub@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Rummikub (2)	Sue Foss	rummikub2@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Science	David Rose	science@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Scrabble	Val Gant	scrabble@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Seated Exercise	Anne McDowall	exercice@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Short Courses	Tina Holmes	shortcourses@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Singalonga	Liz & Philip Attenborough	singalonga@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Table Games	Sue Spolton / Margaret Nunn	games@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis	Alan Hodgkinson	tabletennis@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Theatre	Barbara Ives	theatre@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Ukulele For Fun	Philip Attenborough	ukulele@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Vegetarian Cookery	Anne Wilkinson	vegcookery@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Long)	Mark Thornley	longwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Medium)	John Tedstone	midwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Short)	David Rose	shortwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Watercolour	Margaret Huckerby	painting@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Weekenders	Lindsay Smith	weekenders@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Wine Appreciation	Mark Jackson	wineappreciation@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Wine Lovers	Tina & Gary Holmes	winelovers@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Wine Tasting	Sue Tedstone / Marilyn Gretton	winetasting@hucknallu3a.org.uk

HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a INTEREST GROUPS - Calendar

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	11:30 – Pickleball2 13:45 - Discussion 14:00 - Water Colours	10:00 - Walking (Long) 13:00 - Rummikub 2	09:15 – Cycling 10:00 Committee Meeting	10.00 - Calligraphy 14:00 - Pickleball	09:30 – EasierCycling 09:30 - Late Breakfast 14.00 – Table Tennis 19:00 - Canasta		
2	10:00 – Ukulele 11:30 – Pickleball2 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 13:45 – Members Meeting	10:30 - Fun with Languages 14:00 - Pickleball	09:30 - Easier Cycling 14.00 – Table Tennis 19:00- Mah Jong		
3	10:00 - Walking (Medium) 11:30 – Pickleball2 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) 14:00 - Pickleball	09:30 - Easier Cycling 10:00 – Science 14.00 – Table Tennis 19:00 - Table Games		
4	10:00 – Ukulele 10:30 – Vegetarian Cookery 11:30 – Pickleball2 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
5	11:30 – Pickleball2	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.