



NEWSLETTER

Issue – December 2024

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

18th December 2024 – See Poster

Guest Speaker : *No Speaker*

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 27th December 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

Hasn't this year passed quickly? I can't believe it's coming up to Christmas, then again I can't believe that some people had their Christmas lights up at the beginning of November!. Still I will confess that I do enjoy seeing them. Christmas decorations go up a little later in our household as Gary's birthday is at the start of the December. So despite both of us loving the season we make space for his birthday cards to have their own time decorating the lounge.

In the meantime, we have of course been enjoying (or not as the case may be) some early snow. I think I prefer the snow, despite its hazards, to the storm that is forecast for the weekend as I write this. It's predicted to be so bad that we have had to cancel our planned caravan trip to the Ludlow Christmas market. With gusts predicted between 31 to 45 miles per hour it just isn't worth the risk. Hopefully, this will be the only activity planned for as part of our Christmas that we have to cancel.

Other than any activities your own groups have organised, the Social Sub-Committee have a couple organised for the Christmas festivities in December. The tickets have all sold for the Christmas lunch but there is still the Christmas film on 18 December that you might wish to go to. Especially if it hasn't warmed up by then. The film a 'boy called Christmas' stars Dame Maggie Smith starring in one of her last movies. A quick reminder that at these events we are collecting money or goods for the Hucknall Food Bank. All donations gratefully received.

Speaking of thanks I have some to pass onto you all. I believe in the order I received them.

From Eric Ridley the Treasurer for Hucknall Parish Church, who would like to thank you for giving Sue and John Gibson the opportunity to offer goods for sale to u3a members at our October meeting. They raised £95 for church funds, which Eric says are needed to enable repair work to be made to the roof and walls (internally and externally), so Eric is thankful for all donations for the project.

Jean Green was extremely pleased with all the wool she received in response to her request and this should keep her going for some time.

Whatever your personal beliefs (or even non-belief) I wish you all the very best Christmas possible and hope to see you all safe and well in the New Year.

Tina Holmes, Chair

Monthly Meetings

Please note the changes to the dates of the monthly meetings in January and February 2025.

January Meeting – Wednesday 15th January 2025

February Meeting – Wednesday 19th February 2025

In both cases the meeting will be a week later than normal.

Future Speakers

January – Ranald Macdonald – “Aquabox”
February – Mo Cooper – “The Good, The Bad, The Reality”
March – Jerry Jarvis – “Nuclear Submarines”

Social Sub Committee Silver Screen Event Friday 22nd November

We were royally entertained by a series of short videos that illustrated the diverse activities of several of our interest groups and their members.

Each video was accompanied by an appropriate soundtrack and they were made by Christine Vincent with assistance from husband David.

It was quite an undertaking and the end results were much appreciated by the audience.

Both Christine and the SSC wish to thank the interest groups and individuals who supplied photographs of group activities or allowed Christine access to take photographs.

For those who missed the event and those who wish to see them again in keeping with all high profile media outlets we have a ‘Catch Up’ facility as some may be shown before the speaker at future monthly meetings.

Our thanks to Christine and David for their time and energy spent producing the videos.

THE HUCKNALL & DISTRICT U3A

Invites you to come and join us for another of our

Enchanting Christmas Films

at the John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall

Wednesday 18th December 2024

A BOY CALLED CHRISTMAS

Showcasing

Henry Lawfill

Also Featuring



Maggie Smith, Toby Jones, Joel Fry



Also Featuring



Jim Broadbent, Stephen Merchant, Zoe Colletti

An ordinary young boy called Nikolas sets out on an adventure into the snowy north in search of his father, who is on a quest for the King to discover the fabled village of the elves, Elfhelm. Nikolas takes with him a headstrong reindeer called Blitzen and a loyal pet mouse, who he has trained to speak. Nikolas soon meets his destiny. The story is told by an old lady to her grand-niece and grand-nephews.

Doors will be open at	1.00 pm
The Film will start at	1.30 – 2.30 pm
Refreshment Break	2.30 – 3.00pm
tea or coffee, mince pies & sausage rolls	
The film commences at	3.00 - 3.45 pm

This is a **FREE** event

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR POPCORN !



News From the Groups

Discovering Britain Group

The aim of the group is to take historic day trips around British towns and cities from March to October.

The trips will be on the second Friday of each month, the first being to Ely on 14 March 2025.

On 6 January 2025 we will be inviting members to email their interest in joining the Discovering Britain group, membership is limited to the first 70 people who apply and the maximum number per application is two people.

Emails to be sent to paulinearcher80@yahoo.co.uk. We will only reply to those who are successful.

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

The aging population and individual care plans. RESPECT forms and LPA (health and welfare)

Various explanations and reasons for ensuring that these are in place ready for any eventualities as we all get older. The RESPECT form is an important statement that conveys our wishes in such cases as DNR (do not resuscitate). The LPA should be in place where the individual may not be able to make their own decisions through illness. This gives an elected person the power to make decisions on their behalf. Costs were discussed.

Should ethnic minorities be called majority instead of minority.

It was felt that this is a play on words and that 'all people are people'.

Should we bring the mammoth back?

Difficult question as this could work with flora and fauna but not practical for many creatures. We are the caretakers of the world – was one point.

Shall we rebel against the wasted hours spent on automated phone lines

A list was made of where this happens, including, ringing for appointments, services, waiting times on calls and unwanted calls. Little being done to address this situation.

Policeman in London – from recent court case

A discussion centred on the rights and wrongs of arrest and whether a policeman should have his name given before the case has gone to court.

We shared a short film made about our group which will be shown as part of Hucknall u3a Christmas entertainment.

The next meeting is on Monday 25th November at the John Godber.

John

Easy Walkers Group

We started our last walk of the year from Newstead Village and walked through to the Abbey where we stopped off for refreshments.



A beautiful if chilly morning enjoyed by nine brave souls!

Our next walk will be in January 2025!

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.

Alan Snape

Gardening Group

November's meeting unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the snow, so we have booked the speaker to come to us in April next year. We do not have a meeting in December or January so the next meeting will be in February, with a talk on a Spring garden. Enjoy your planning for the new year of gardening.

Anne

History Group

The group always meets at Central Methodist Church on Baker Street from 2pm to 4pm. The next meeting (Note the different date) is on Wednesday 8th January which is the second Wednesday of the month. The change is necessary due to other meetings having to change dates as well. The speaker is Tony Robinson who is to tell us about 'Robin Hood - Fact or Fiction'. It sounds very intriguing. I wonder what you believe - do you think he will change your mind either way?

Last month, November, our speaker was Bob Massey explaining about 'The Gunpowder Plot. There was so much more information, researched by Bob, along with short video's and screen shots which were included in the presentation making it very unusual. I bet searches of the rooms below Parliament were increased from then onwards.

Christmas greetings to all members. Maureen

Litter Picking Group

November has thrown a lot of diverse weather at us – heavy rain, strong winds and *a lot* of snow, none of which is conducive to litter picking. Nonetheless members of the group have braved the weather whenever possible and collected a total of 15 bags of rubbish which under the circumstances is very commendable. One member has commented how much she enjoys chatting to people as she collects litter, a comment with which I think other members of the group can associate. Most members of the public do seem to appreciate our efforts. I just wish litter louts would pack it in!

Val (Gant)

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

It was a dark and murky evening as 12 NSGOM travelled by tram into Nottingham for our Ghost Walk. Leaving the tram in the Market Square we walked down to the Trip to Jerusalem where our guide, Simon, was waiting for us.

We walked up to the Statue of Robin Hood and then the castle entrance where we learnt something of the history of the site. It was then on to Friar Lane and Maid Marion Way for further stories.

Eventually crossing over the road to the Salutation where we went down into one of the caves below the pub itself. Here we heard some gruesome tales of ghostly happenings and public executions and of bodies being hung drawn and quartered in times long gone.



A further walk down towards the former Radio Tent building and St Nicholas church followed as we finally found ourselves in the upstairs bar at the Trip hearing about the various curses cast on the pub and some of the consequences which followed.

Finishing for 8.30 we travelled back by tram where some members enjoyed a chip supper and others opted for a more liquid form of refreshment!!!!

A very enjoyable trip organised by David Robbins. We meet up again later in November for a Christmas lunch at Ramsdale Park golf club.

Science Group

At our November meeting Chris Garner gave a very interesting illustrated talk about working in the oil industry.

Chris has operated in many locations across the world and his talk had a focus on his experience whilst working for the American company Marathon extracting from an oil field in Gabon Africa. He explained how the crude oil is extracted from underwater shale deposits and the difference between oil rigs and oil platforms.

The photograph shows Chris with some of his colleagues on board the platform.



After the break members were selected at random to start the 5 minute talks about their chosen scientist.

Liz Attenborough, John Berrill and Helen Rose were randomly selected to talk about Rosalind Franklin, Evangelista Torricelli and Archimedes who is seen below.



December 20th Meeting - We will continue with some of the 5 minute talks together with a mini festive activity and a science based Quingo quiz with prizes and mince pies.

David Rose

Singalong Group

Snow stopped singing in November so our theme "of the lower body parts" will now take place early next year.

Decembers meeting has the obvious Christmas theme. Same songs that everyone knows and loves!!

Thank you to the group members who have supported us over the last year.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Strollers Group

A short walk from Newstead Village into Newstead Abbey Grounds was our last walk of the year. Although very chilly and icy we managed the 2 miles without any mishaps and refreshments at the Newstead Community Cafe warmed us up once we were back in the village. Thanks to those who have supported the group over the last six months.

Theatre Trips Group

Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Theatre Royal on Saturday 15th February 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £58.00.
 Varna International ballet The Nutcracker at Royal Concert Hall Saturday 1st February 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £49.00.
 Calamity Jane at Theatre Royal on Saturday 29th March 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £54.00.
 Murder on the Orient Express Theatre Royal on Saturday 5th April 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £40.00
 Chicago Royal Concert Hall Saturday 12th April.2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £55.00
 Kinky Boots at Theatre Royal Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at 2pm. Tickets £51.50
 Riverdance 30: The New Generation at Royal Concert Hall Saturday 4th October 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £53.00.
 Charlie & The Chocolate Factory Theatre Royal on 29th October 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £27.00.

Barbara

Vegetarian Cookery Group

At November's meeting members tasted four different recipes as it was the last session of the year. The main recipe was a Parsnip nut roast, using five different nuts plus other ingredients. Then there was a Pesto tear and share bread tree, filo pastry bites and finally mincemeat cookies. Again the session was well attended and thank you for helping with the washing up and tidying up. Happy Christmas to you all.



The next meeting will be on Monday January 27th , at 10.30 am at St Peter and St Paul's church Hall on Ruffs Drive.

Anne

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

It was a very cold day on Thursday November 21st but five hardy walkers braved the elements.

We took the tram to Bulwell Forest and walked 4.6 miles via Bestwood Country Park and Mill Lakes back to our starting point at Hucknall tram stop.

The snow in the fields impressively reflected the sunlight and it was quite a Christmassy scenario.



December 19th Christmas Walk - A local walk which starts from Linby. Park either in front of the Horse and Groom, at Brook Farm or on Church Drive. Meet at 9.30 for a 9.45am start for a steady walk of just under 4 miles. The aim is to get to Brook Farm by about 11.30/45am for an optional drink or more at the end.

Merry Christmas to all our readers

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Our last walk of 2024 started in the centre of Jacksdale, north of our October walk from Brinsley, but still in the Erewash Valley nature reserve. The weather had been much less wet before this walk, so the going was mostly what the horse racing world describes as 'good to firm'.

After a mostly uphill climb, we crossed the border from Nottinghamshire into Derbyshire near the hamlet of Jubilee, walked under the preserved Midland Railway and had our coffee stop at the reservoir where the 'Pinxton arm' canal joined the Cromford canal. The canal as built started in Cromford, where a stretch is preserved and operational, and met the Erewash canal at Langley Mill. Closed to navigation for many years, many stretches have been lost to reeds, but the course is easy to follow, and some of the locks remain partly intact.



We paused to look across to the imposing stone building which is now converted into apartments, but was built by the Butterley Company for its workers. For anyone who travels to London St. Pancras on the train, it is worth a look upwards at the roof, which was manufactured by the Butterley Company.

We returned to Jacksdale through the nature reserve, where our walk leader had arranged for us to eat our sandwiches in the very accommodating Poachers Ale House.

Thanks to Paul Haigh for stepping in at short notice, and leading a very pleasant walk to end the year.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

We walked from Cromford to Bonsall and through Bonsalldale back to Cromford a picturesque loop in Derbyshire, blending historical landmarks, charming villages, and scenic countryside. Starting in Cromford, we passed the historic Cromford Mill, a UNESCO World Heritage site, then follow a winding uphill path through woodlands towards Bonsall. The ascent provides rewarding views of the surrounding limestone hills and valleys.

Reaching Bonsall, a quaint village known for its narrow streets, traditional stone cottages, a rich lead-mining history and the 13th-century St. James' Church. From Bonsall, the route continues along Bonsalldale, a serene, green valley flanked by rolling fields and dry-stone walls, making it an idyllic stretch for nature lovers.



The descent through Bonsalldale is gentle, with opportunities to spot local wildlife and enjoy the peaceful sounds of the countryside. The walk loops back alongside the River Derwent to Cromford where we had a pint and a chat at the Greyhound public house.

Mark Thornley

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
Chair Based Exercise	Anne McDowall	exercise@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Crafty Knitters	Barbara Hill	craftyknitters@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Discussion	Christine Beer	discussion@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Discovering Brittain	Mark Thornley/Pauline Archer	discoveringbritain@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Drama	Janet Stevenson	drama@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Easier Cycling	Angela Cornish	easiercycle@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Easy Walkers	Philip Attenborough	easywalkers@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Easy Wheelers	Jim Spray	cycling@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Flower Arranging	Siobhan Lee	flowers@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	John Berrill	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
Luncheon	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
Papercraft	Jo Hackland	craft1@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pickleball	Terry Moulton	pickleball@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pickleball 2	Bob McEwen / Vaughan Gallagher	pickleball2@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
Short Courses	Melvyn Francis	shortcourses@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Singalonga	Liz & Philip Attenborough	singalonga@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Strollers	Liz Attenborough	strollers@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Table Games	Sue Spolton / Margaret Nunn	games@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Table Tennis	Alan Hodkinson	tabletennis@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Tarot	Angela Cornish	tarot@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Theatre Trips	Barbara Ives	theatre@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Ukulele For Fun	Philip Attenborough	ukulele@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Vegetarian Cookery	Anne Wilkinson	vegcookery@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Short)	David Rose	shortwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Medium)	John Tedstone	midwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Walking (Long)	Mark Thornley	longwalks@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Watercolour	Margaret Huckerby	painting@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Weekenders	Siobhan Lee / Margaret White	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	12:00 – Pickleball2 13:30 - Gardening 14:00 - Water Colours	10:00 - Walking (Long) 13:00 - Rummikub 2	09:15 – Easy Wheelers 10:00 Committee Meeting	10.00 - Calligraphy 14:00 – Pickleball 14:00 - Canasta	09:30 – EasierCycling 09:30 - Late Breakfast 14.00 – Table Tennis		9:00 - Easy Wheelers
2	10:00 – Ukulele 12:00 – Pickleball2 12:00 - Pub Quiz & Lunch 14:00 - Rummikub 1 14:00 – Chair Based Exercise 15:00 - Tarot	13:00 - Rummikub 2 14:00 - Crafty Knitters 18:30 - Bridge	09:15 – Easy Wheelers	14:00 – Pickleball 14:00 - Canasta	Day – Discovering Brittain 09:30 - Easier Cycling 14.00 – Table Tennis 19:00- Mah Jong		9:00 - Easy Wheelers
3	10:00 - Walking (Medium) 12:00 – Pickleball2 13:45 – Papercraft 19:00 – Wine Lovers 19:30 - Wine Appreciation	10:30 - Singalonga 13:00 - Rummikub 2	09:15 – Easy Wheelers 14:00 – History 19:30 – WineTasting 13:45 – Members Meeting	10:00 - Walking (Short) 14:00 – Pickleball 14:00 Canasta	09:30 - Easier Cycling 10:00 – Science 14.00 – Table Tennis 19:00 - Table Games		9:00 - Easy Wheelers
4	10:00 – Ukulele 10:30 – Vegetarian Cookery 12:00 – Pickleball2 13:30 - Flower Arranging 13:45 - Discussion 15:00 - Tarot	13:00 - Rummikub 2 18:30 - Bridge	09:15 – Easy Wheelers 12:00 - Luncheon	10:00 – Easy Walkers 10:00 - Strollers 14:00 - Pickleball 14:00 – Scrabble 14:00 - Canasta	09:30 - Easier Cycling 10:00 – Drama 14.00 – Table Tennis	14:00 - Week-ender’s Coffee	9:00 - Easy Wheelers 15:00 - Kurling
5	12:00 – Pickleball2	13:00 - Rummikub 2	09:15 - Easy Wheelers	14:00 – Pickleball 14:00 - Canasta	09:30 - Easier Cycling 14.00 – Table Tennis		9:00 - Easy Wheelers

Various Dates:

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