



# **NEWSLETTER**

**Issue –January 2025**

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

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Guest Speaker : Ranald Macdonald**

Ranald will give a Powerpoint presentation about the work of Aquabox, demonstrate how our water filter works to produce drinkable water and show the contents of one of their humanitarian aid boxes

**Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

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

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had the Christmas that you desired whether that was a hectic social round with family and friends, more laid back and relaxing or even time spent abroad.

Our U3a certainly made sure there were things to attend, if that's what you wanted. Speaking of events as you know we did ask for voluntary contributions at the events for the foodbank. I just want to thank all of you who attended those events (and some who dropped off foodstuff and money to me directly) for your generosity to the foodbank. In total we raised £325 in cash and a sizeable amount of goods too. It makes me proud to be a part of an organisation that helps others in their times of need.

Well, I can hardly believe it's another new year, where did 2024 go?. One thing I know for sure is that 2025 is likely to go just as fast, if not faster. Are you one of those people who make new resolutions? I confess I have stopped, probably because most years it was the same – lose some weight after all those Christmas and New Year celebrations!

This year I'm looking ahead at what we already have planned and what else we might want to fit in. As well as attending our normal u3a activities, we are hoping we've managed to get into the new group Pauline and Mark are starting. I was told in no uncertain terms that there was no favouritism for the Chair or friends. Who knew Pauline could be so stern! Only joking, I am sure anyone who has spoken to Pauline, knows she told me very nicely. Luckily, we did get onto the one-off trip to Melrose organised by Mark Thornley, so that's something to look forward to. However, Ann McDowell has given me more work to do, inspiring me to make at least one outfit with a Scottish theme. We shall also be trying to get tickets to the u3a social event being organised around VE day, when Jonny Victory (great entertainer) will be making a return visit to Hucknall. Our wine group is also hoping to do a vineyard tour in the summer, possibly teaming up with other wine groups. What busy bee's we are going to be. I am not quite sure how we are going to fit our caravanning holidays in, but fit them in we shall.

Resolutions or not, I hope you enjoy your groups or activities in the coming year. Don't forget that we are always looking for leaders to start new groups. After all, if something interests you, it probably interests others too.

All the best

**Tina Holmes, Chair**

## Monthly Meetings

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

**January Meeting – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**February Meeting – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

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

### Future Speakers

February – Mo Cooper – “The Good, The Bad, The Reality”

March – Jerry Jarvis – “Nuclear Submarines”

April – Mike Storr – “Masters of Mirth – The Sequel”

## New Group

### Kindlers Group

Proposed new reading group to be called the 'Kindlers'.

The group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month 1pm - 3pm at the leader's home. At the previous Reading Group it became increasingly difficult to obtain enough copies of books from the library for us all, so I am proposing this new group. Each month a member of the group chooses a book from 'Kindle' which we will all read then meet to discuss.

The first meeting will be February 5th, to discuss how to go forward and what book to read. Tea and biscuits will of course be available.

If interested please contact via the group contact details at the end of the newsletter.

## Christmas Lunch and Social Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

The ever popular 'sit down' Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by 144 diners. For comfort and safety that is the maximum number that can be accommodated for this event.

Our meal was provided by Cathy Tomlinson and her staff and we thank them for the quality of food and service on the day. It's a big undertaking to get all the food and equipment from their base at The British Legion over to JGC. It's a bit like an army field kitchen on the move.

Our thanks are also extended to Kim and the staff at JGC for setting up the room, the sound equipment and for making the bar available all afternoon and most of all for being very welcoming.

Following the meal there was a short interlude for Terry Hill to delve into the basement of his book of bad jokes for which this year he introduced the 'groan' factor. (The bigger the groan the cornier the joke) Thank you to Terry.



Next up was our main entertainment with a set from local singer Jess Johnson. Jess has a lovely voice and covered different types of popular songs. She tapped into what we know and like and the dance area near the stage soon became full of rhythmic dancers- showing that our u3a members have still 'got it' at 60 plus. Thank you to Jess for her entertaining session to end an enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks to the social subcommittee members for organising the event.  
And finally thanks to all those who attended and supported it.



# SO, YOU THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL



OR, DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOU REALLY KNOW ?

IS IT TIME TO PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST ?



Tickets will be on sale at the **January & February** meetings for **£12** and will include a meal of **SAUSAGES, MASH, PEAS, ONIONS & GRAVY**



The Quiz will start at 8pm and finish at approx. 10pm

The Bar will be open with waiter service during the Quiz

Quiz teams will consist of a maximum of 6 people to a table



**It would be helpful if you could buy your teams tickets together, or send a representative to buy your teams tickets, to avoid being separated**

If you are a smaller group, or on your own, you will be placed into a team

**THERE WILL BE A PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM**



Who ?

Where ?

What ?

When ?

Have ?

Why ?

Which ?

Would ?

Does ?

Was ?

Could ?

Did ?

How ?

Is



## News From the Groups

### Calligraphy Group

Calligraphy transcribes as the art of beautiful handwriting. The Calligraphy Interest Group writes classical calligraphy styles, some of which include foundational, italic and gothic scripts. There are two spaces available on the course. Please contact the Group Leader for more information.

Venue – John Godber Centre, Time – 10.00 am to 12.00 noon, Day – First Thursday of the Month, Leader – Glenna Gash, Contact – calligraphy@hucknallu3a.org.uk

Glenna Gash

### Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

Police prevention – why no patrols?

It was felt that crime should be reported whatever, although there are positive and negative reports of whether this leads to convictions and a result. Reduction in police officers and no police stations locally, difficulties within the call centres controlling police. Who should pay for shoplifting. Do we need more prisons and probation – are these a University of Crime?

How is the American Justice System different from our own?

The group discussed the differences between the two systems. The opinion was not to want the American system. It was questioned about why cases took so long to come to court.

Should cannabis be a prescribed medication for certain conditions?

This was a very interesting discussion about not only the use of the drug and the advantages to certain conditions but how although NICE are aware of the advantages and actual saving of money when given responsibly. Saving NHS money where it can make a difference is costing individuals around £700 a month to buy privately.

Comparing Christmas past and present. Money spent on Christmas decorations and fireworks.

Christmas festivities have changed dramatically over the years. The commercial side is very big business putting pressure and expectations on families. It is now cost, cost, cost and fuelled by adverts on TV etc.

Public money is spent on Christmas decorations and fireworks at very large displays. It was questioned whether this is appropriate spending of public money.

The next meeting is on Monday 23rd December at the John Godber.

### 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.

Special forthcoming Event Films ( West End Productions) which are booking now as follows:-

The Royal Ballet's production of The Tales of Hoffman filmed live Wednesday Jan 15th and showing at 18.45 and lasting 4 hrs 5 mins.

Macbeth starring David Tennant on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at 19.30 and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb at 15.30

The Importance of being Ernest from the National Theatre production filmed live showing here on Thursday Feb 20<sup>th</sup> at 19.15 lasting 180mins

The Royal Ballet showing Romeo and Juliet on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 19.15 lasting 210 mins

The Royal Ballet showing Swan Lake on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 19.15 lasting 210 mins.

Booking Number 0115 704 4004

Alan Snape

### **Gardening Group**

There is no meeting this month so our next meeting will be on February 3, at the JGC, in the large hall upstairs, at 1.30pm. The talk is A Spring Garden. I look forward to seeing you there.

Anne

### **History Group**

Just in case there are any new members interested in joining our group I keep explaining where we meet which is Central Methodist Church on Baker Street, opposite the Market Place. There is a small car park behind the church. The time is 2pm to 4pm. The next meeting is the 8th of January a week before our usual date due to changing dates for other meetings. The speaker is Tony Rotherham who is going to tell us about Robin Hood - Fact or Fiction - which sounds very intriguing. If you have friends who are not online please explain to them. A quick note about money as from this first meeting in 2025 we need to start paying £2 again. Does everything have to go up - in this case the answer is 'yes'?

A short reminder that our meeting in February has changed as well to the 12th of February for the same reasons as before.

Bye for now, I'll see you on the 8th January,

Maureen

### **Litter Picking Group**

Members have obviously had other things to do on the run up to Christmas. However, one member has managed to collect 9 bags of rubbish and other members have collected small amounts of litter on their perambulations and disposed of it in the nearest litter bins. No doubt there will be plenty for us to do when normality resumes.

On behalf of the Litter Picking Group may I wish all members of Hucknall & District u3a a healthy and happy 2025.

Val (Gant)

## National Trust Group

National Trust visit to York on Tuesday 3rd of December.

Members of the group gathered on Hucknall Market to travel in a brand new £250,000 coach supplied by Millennium Travel from Mansfield. The coach providing a very comfortable journey up to York.

Once in York the group went their own way as members seem to have planned out their day.

There was plenty to do as we enjoyed visits over the day to the Christmas Market, the Minster, the Railway Museum, The Shambles, a certain famous tea rooms and many of the local museums, shops and other attractions. Some well organised members had even prebooked their lunches.

The weather was cold but dry and eventually sunny to help make a lovely day out. Departing at 4.30 pm we made our way back to Hucknall arriving by 6.45 pm.

Next year's programme begins in March and goes through to October with visits to National Trust properties around the country.

Once venues and coaches are confirmed then details will be sent out.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the group this year.

Regards

Barrie

## Science Group

We had an interesting and varied final session of 2024. We started with our series of '5 minute 'talks. Group members each have a scientist from different eras and from different disciplines. The talk is to highlight the significant contribution they have made.

Our thanks to: Anne Sibley for  
Bob McEwen for  
Val Kelly for  
Christine Faithfull for  
Lynda Jackson for  
Bob Gow for  
Tony Whilde for  
David Vincent for

Gertrude B Elion  
Barry Marshall  
Howard Florey  
Alfred Wegener  
Elizabeth Friedman  
Wilder Penfield  
Willem Rontgen  
William Perkin



William Perkin discovered the dye for the colour purple and David recalled his unrealised teenage ambition to own purple mohair jumper-known locally as 'Hairy Marys'.



After the break we held a science and trivia quiz won by Bob Gow, Anne and Ian Murray.

January 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting 10am to 11.45ish JGC

We have a guest speaker David Wheeler from the Hucknall Flight Test Museum which is based on the Rolls Royce site.

Following the talk if time permits we will continue with the 5 minute talks.

Happy New Year to All

David Rose

## **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

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

Our final walk of 2024 was a local 4 miles which started and finished at Brooke Farm Linby.

We were fortunate to find tables in this popular venue which was becoming very busy around 12 noon.

It's a rare event to visit Brooke Farm Café and not see any other u3a members.



January 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 - This will be a linear tram walk.

The plan is to meet at the tram stop at 9.20am to catch the first tram after 9.30am.

We travel to Bulwell Forest alight the tram and then walk back to Hucknall tram stop via Bestwood Country Park and Mill Lakes. We will cover a distance of 4.2 miles. It is all on good paths with some pavement walking and is generally flat with gentle undulations through Bestwood.

Happy New Year to All

David Rose

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

The December walk was an 8 mile circular hike which started by the River Trent at Fiskerton. The route took us to Farndon before looping around the big complex that is Staythorpe Power Station.

The power station is fuelled by natural gas (methane) and the site once housed 2 coal fired plants. The area is a focus for pylons which transmit the power across the county and beyond.

We took a coffee break near these 'iron giants' by the river at Staythorpe



The route continued to Averham and onto Rolleston for a late lunch stop behind the village hall.

Following lunch we completed the last section via the impressive water powered Mill at Fiskerton to the car park.



The next walk is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Mark Thornley

## Weekenders Group

Weekenders have been really busy since our trip to Loughborough. We have been to the Silver Screen twice to see 'Lee' and 'Hidden Figures'. Both amazing films which really set you thinking.

We did a tram trip to the Lakeside Lustre craft show, beautiful stuff but pricey, lovely Christmas decorations though.

Then another recent tram trip to Bardills, My word the wind was vicious, but the cafe was worth the trip, the cakes were amazing.

We have had the usual birthday lunch at the Broomhill and then had a lovely Christmas lunch there as well. We had our Christmas fuddle at Margaret's where Baileys squidgy cream was discovered, definitely recommended.



Some of us will have been to see the Nutcracker and also attended the family carol concert at the Concert hall by the time we get to January, so belated Christmas wishes from all of us and hoping that 2025 will be just as exciting.

## ***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 Britain	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

Kindlers	Siobhan Lee	kindlers@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 Hodgkinson	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**

<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>	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 13:00 - Kindlers	10.00 - Calligraphy 14:00 – Pickleball 14:00 - Canasta	09:30 – EasierCycling 09:30 - Late Breakfast 14.00 – Table Tennis		9:00 - Easy Wheelers
<b>2</b>	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 Britain 09:30 - Easier Cycling 14.00 – Table Tennis 19:00- Mah Jong		9:00 - Easy Wheelers
<b>3</b>	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 <b>13:45 – Members Meeting</b>	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
<b>4</b>	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
<b>5</b>	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.**