



NEWSLETTER

Issue – February 2025

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

19th February 2025

Guest Speaker : Mo Cooper

The Good, The Bad and The Reality.

Stories about Women who contributed to Nottingham's history. Mo is a community historian and heritage manager based in Nottingham. My passion is the history of communities - how do they impact on their locality, and how does the built environment impact on a community.

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 1st March 2025

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

What a cold and blustery January we had, I hope you all kept yourselves warm and occupied. I must admit that I don't really like the cold, so I'm longing for spring to arrive and some warmer weather.

I'm afraid I don't have much on the news front but there is still plenty happening within the u3a. As well as our usual groups and activities, at least one of our members has had a very interesting meeting recently.

Jean Cragg, was one of the paramedics chosen to meet the HRH Prince William at the College of Paramedics Conference. The Prince spent time talking to paramedics and speakers before the conference where he was made Patron of the paramedic's professional body. In his speech he paid tribute to the nations paramedics working in 'highly stressful and often distressing circumstances'. A statement I am sure we can all agree with.

Jean kindly supplied a photo of the meeting, even from the back I think we can recognise the Prince.



For those of us not meeting august personages, don't forget that we have a quiz night on the 28th February where you can enjoy a fun evening served up with a meal of sausage and mash. Tickets will be on sale at the February monthly meeting, please remember that card payments are preferred.

Finally, we will also be taking renewal payments at the February meeting for anyone who still hasn't renewed their membership yet. Again card payments are preferred, but Greg will be available for cash or cheque renewals too and of course you can do it on line too if you prefer.

Tina Holmes, Chair

Monthly Meetings

Please note the changes to the date of the monthly meeting in February 2025.

February Meeting – Wednesday 19th February 2025

Future Speakers

March – Jerry Jarvis – “Nuclear Submarines”
April – Mike Storr – “Masters of Mirth – The Sequel”
May – Dr Anne Featherstone – “The Victorian Fair”

Potential New Group

An idea has been put forward for a potential new Interest Group. There isn't a Group Leader as yet and the group can only be taken further if someone takes on the challenge. Help is always given to new Group Leaders.

The idea is to have a mixture of subject content, to include:

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

If you would like to volunteer to lead the group please get in touch with Sue Tedstone at the Monthly Meeting or email coordinator@hucknallu3a.org.uk

Bridge Group Vacancies

The group has been running for over two years and we do now have room for 2 more members. Ideally we would like you to have some knowledge of the game. It's a sociable group and we do help each other.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the Byron Bar at the John Godber Centre (18:30 – 21:00).

If you are interested please contact Sue Tedstone (Group Leader) on bridge@hucknallu3a.org.uk or at the February Meeting.

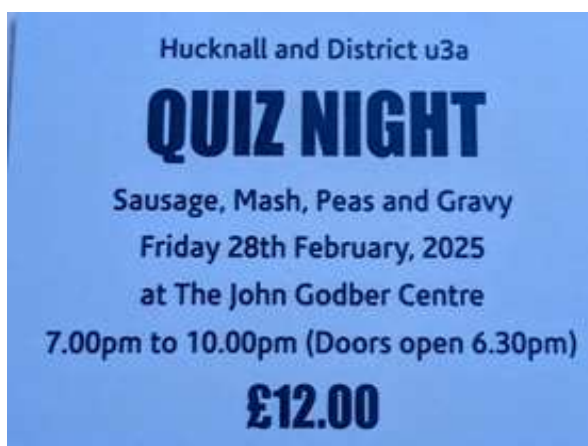
Hucknall u3a Quiz Night

Now open to family, friends and members of other u3as

A quick reminder about our Quiz Night (plus Sausage and Mash)
Tickets will be for sale at the **February 19th** Monthly Meeting
Teams of 6 -if you are not in a 6 it is not a problem - we can place you into a team.



The cost is £12.00 each with cash or cheque payable to 'Hucknall and District u3a'
or better still please pay by card



News From the Groups

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for January included:

Should extinct animals be brought back to life?

Views discussed included that evolution had changed life over the years and that we would be interfering with nature. Different countries could have different views, an example given was the reintroduction of red squirrels versus not reintroducing dinosaurs. A vote was held where (apart from three abstentions) it was felt that the answer was a no.

Should all the old buildings with names relating to the Slave Trade be renamed?

A lively discussion about how in many places (i.e. museums) material has been removed which referenced any involvement in the trade. Locally Trent and Portland university buildings had links along with many National Trust buildings and discussion about how many of the people involved in the trade had been major benefactors in their communities.

What are your thoughts of the handing over of the Chagos Islands to the Mauritias by our Government?

A group member gave background details to this subject. Much of the handling over a handover was very political for all the countries involved.

Grooming

A discussion about the current situation which is faced by communities on how this is happening in areas.

More information about Hucknall should be included in local news?

This discussion will be continued at our next meeting. First comments were that it was felt that Hucknall was being ignored in some situations.

The next meeting is on Monday 24th February 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.

Recordings of live performances are being shown at The ARC here in Hucknall and also at The Bonington in Arnold. Arc details are as follows:-

The National Theatre's production of The Importance of Being Ernest (180 mins) on Thursday Feb 20th at 7 p.m.

Thursday 27th Feb The Royal Ballet and Opera present Swan Lake at 19.15.

Thursday 20th March Royal Ballet and Opera present Romeo and Juliet at 19.15 p m _ 3 hrs and 30 mins long.

Alan Snape

Flower Arranging Group

The group members were set a challenge for this month. The idea was to bridge 2 containers that were the same to each other. As always the members rose to the challenge. We had jam jars, tin cans, teacups and saucers amongst the variety of containers used. A variety of items were used for bridging from ivy trails, medalino sticks, twisted willow. Members were set homework for next month's arrangement and an Easter themed arrangement will be demonstrated.



Gardening Group

By the time you read this we will have had our February meeting, a talk on A Spring Garden. We are currently taking names for our first trip, on March 3rd, to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, leaving Ogle Street at 9.30 am. The cost is £20.

There are some gardens opening in February for the NGS, so I thought some of you might be interested if the weather is favourable!

15 and 16 Feb – The Dower House, Melbourne, DE73 8JH

- Oak Cottage, Well Lane, Swadlincote, DE11 8AG

- Church Farm, Church Lane, West Drayton, DN22 8EB

22 and 23 Feb - Hedgehog Hall, 3, Loddington Rd, Tilton on the Hill,

LE7 9DE

- The Old Vicarage, The Fields, Middleton by Wirksworth,

Matlock, DE4 4NH



Just a reminder that we are having our plant swap a month earlier this year, at our April meeting, so if you are starting to plan your growing for this year, or indeed have already started, and you have more than you need, please bring some along to exchange with others. Patricia Rayner is coming to that meeting to talk about Japanese Gardening, She was snowed in when she was due to come in 2024, so we look forward to her talk this year.

Anne

Growing Old Disgracefully Group

A group of ladies from the God Group enjoyed a visit to the Mary Potter Heritage Centre, situated in the park.

We were made very welcome and learned about Mary Potter and her work helping the poor and unwell both in Nottingham and around the world.



Tea and biscuits rounded the afternoon off. The centre is well worth a visit.

History Group

For the benefit of any new members who might like to come to our group we meet at Central Methodist Church at 2pm to about 4pm. The price to come to the meetings is £2 which covers the cost of the room, a speaker and refreshments. Thank you very much to the kitchen helpers as it is a really important job you do providing drinks and biscuits during the meeting.

At the last meeting we had Robin Hood who came to speak to us dressed in his greenwood clothing. It was a shame he didn't want to use the microphone. I don't suppose he would have had one in the forest anyway so it was a problem for members who couldn't hear him very well. Robin had done loads of research about life and times and it did show. He did also bring items round to show us and


we were allowed to touch them. His clothes, and equipment were all natural fabrics (animal skin) and mostly made by himself.

Stephen Walker is coming to talk to us on the 12th February about 'Moving on - A study of migration of millworkers to Darley Abbey'. It could also read from the river Leen to the river Derwent. Kathy and Sandra are hoping to take your names and money for the visit to the Holocaust Centre at a cost of £17.50 on 6th April.

After that we will be back on our usual 3rd Wednesday in the month.

Maureen

Litter Picking Group

In January members of the group collected 13 bags of litter which is quite a lot taking into account the mainly inclement weather, so thank you litter pickers!. For the whole of 2024 a total of 215 bags of litter were collected and correctly disposed of by the group . Sadly this is only a small proportion of rubbish dumped in and around Hucknall but we are doing our best to help improve our environment so if anyone knows of any particular grot spots please do let us know.

Val (Gant)

Luncheon Group

The luncheon group's first outing for 2025 was to the Burnstump, not too far in case the weather turned wintry.

Our next venue for February is 'Millies the Restaurant' at Armstrong Mills in Ilkeston. Our visit will be combined with a 'shopping' trip as several High Street shops are located in the building including an Antique Centre, Men's wear and of course Women's wear.

We are booked into the Ego Ashfield at Sutton in Ashfield for Wednesday 26 March. There are choices of menu to suit most palates and we will be taking names at the next monthly meeting along with a £5.00 a head deposit.

We are currently in the process of sorting out venues for the future and promise to keep you informed.

National Trust Group

The following visits have been arranged for 2025,

Monday 24th of March to Packwood House, Warwickshire.

Tuesday 29th of April to Attingham Estate, Shrewsbury.

Wednesday 28th of May to Beninborough Hall, York.

Thursday 19th of June to Powis Castle, Welshpool.

Monday 14th of July to Charlecote Park, Warwickshire. T.B.C.

Tuesday 19th of August to Lyme Park, Cheshire.

Wednesday 24th of September to Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire.

Thursday 30th of October to Nostell, West Yorkshire.

AND

Tuesday 2nd December to Chester Christmas Market.

Visits usually depart from Hucknall Market at 8.30 am and return from the venue at 4.00 pm.

We will be travelling with Vallance Coaches this year.

An email will be sent to all group members in February re: coach costs, payment methods etc.

Bookings will again be taken a calendar month in advance of the visit.

Barrie

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

The group met up at the Spot On Club in January to enjoy a couple of hours of snooker and to discuss ideas for this year's visits. The group usually enjoy one get together each month and ideas for this year included, skittles at Hucknall British Legion Club, outdoor bowls at Titchfield Park, Laser Quest and visits to places such as Nottingham Rugby, the Lace Market Theatre for a backstage tour, to Linney's Printers at Mansfield and to the Rolls Royce Heritage Museum.

Members share the planning and organising duties between them so that the workload is not too onerous for any one member

The group presently has 30 members and is presently full.

Barrie

Science Group

At the January meeting we welcomed a very enthusiastic guest speaker David Wheeler.

David presented a very interesting and comprehensive talk about the progress of the soon to be opened Rolls Royce Hucknall Flight Test Museum. He began with a brief history of the Hucknall site which began in 1920's as an RAF station and in 1934 became home to the Rolls Royce Flight Test Establishment where prototype piston and then jet engines were secretly built and flown.

The new museum is dedicated to giving the public an opportunity to have a unique insight into Hucknall's secret aviation history.

Many residents of Hucknall from the late 1930s to 1971 will probably have fond memories of the almost constant background noise booming out from the test beds.

For more information: look at their website for opening dates and details of volunteering opportunities at the museum. : hufflighttestmuseum.co.uk



Next Meeting - Friday February 21st 10am JGC

We have a presentation by Ian and Anne Murray who have completed lots of research into Black Holes which are regions of space-time where gravity is so strong that no matter or electromagnetic energy (e.g. light) can escape it.

I will also be telling you about our 'science away day' visit on Friday May 16th.

The coach and mystery venue are booked and details will be sent to members before our February meeting.

There may be time for some of the 5 min talks which will also feature as a significant part of the March meeting so it's best to 'Be Prepared'.

David Rose

Singalong Group

At our first Singalong of the year the theme was songs from films.

After the break we enjoyed watching the film Christine and David Vincent produced for the U3A Christmas event.

Our next theme is Dance which will be "directed" by the Vincents.

All are welcome

Strollers Group

For our first outing of the year a group of thirteen hardy Strollers ventured out on a very wet Thursday morning to stroll around Titchfield Park.

We were lucky to be allowed inside the Chapel in the graveyard which hasn't been used since the start of Covid. It has been left just as it was after the last service was held there, hymn books, organs and official documents all collecting dust. It's now used by the gardeners as a store. Maureen had a few tales to tell about the park and the graveyard too!

A coffee in the cafe and home to dry out.

Theatre Trips Group

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

Vegitarian Cookery Group

After the Christmas break, January's meeting was well attended and members enjoyed tasting the recipes of the day. A big thank to all those who helped in any way , with signing in to loading the oven to washing up. It was very much appreciated.



The next meeting will be on Monday February 24th, when three different recipes will be demonstrated and tasted.

Anne Wilkinson

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

Our January walk began with a tram ride from the Hucknall terminus to Bulwell Forest.

It was a cold but crisp sunny day which was perfect for winter walking. We began with a fairly short section of urban walking along Bestwood Road before crossing the A611 Hucknall Road to reach the Robin Hood Way footpath, which eventually led to a photo opportunity at the Winding House in Bestwood Country Park.



18 Happy Wanderers

The return section was on footpaths to skirt Mill Lakes before heading along the not so pretty Wigwam Lane back to our starting point.

February 20th Walk - In winter months we try to keep travelling to a minimum so this month we have an easy 4 miles starting from the Park Drive car park at Titchfield Park.

If the car park is full street parking is available close by.

Meeting Time - Meet at 9.30am for a 9.45 am start please.

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)



Our popular photo quiz took place again in January, in and around Nottingham City Centre. Our 22 walkers, assembled into four teams, were each given a sheet with 28 photos and a list of streets. The object was to locate as many individual features as possible – these varied from small stone carvings to date plaques, street nameplates, lamps and a variety of usually old items, often being several floors up. The photo shows 3 of the plaques we were all looking for.



Each group needed to work out a route, with locations spreading out as far as Sneinton Market and up to the Ropewalk area. A good plan was to have a short coffee stop in the nearest Wetherspoons (other pubs are available), to try and optimize the route, which came to over 4 plus miles for each group. Care needed to be taken to avoid giving away locations, particularly if another group was sighted coming the other way!



Thanks to John Saunders and David Jackson for once again compiling the quiz. After an interesting morning for everyone, in reasonably benign weather, they set themselves up in the Three Crowns pub at Theatre Square, where the winning team was decided, and where we settled down to a welcome buffet.

This walk marked the start of our 2025 programme. New members are always welcome – just use the tab on our website to get in touch.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

Hardwick Hall via Lady Spencer's Wood, walk of 8.92 miles, Date: 9th January 2025

The walk commenced from Teversal Visitors Centre under a crisp winter sky, with temperatures hovering around 5°C. The path to Hardwick Hall wound gently uphill, offering panoramic views of the frosty countryside. The trail, well-marked and lined with bare hedgerows, provided a tranquil atmosphere, punctuated by the occasional call of a robin or the rustle of dry leaves.

After approximately 45 minutes of steady walking, Hardwick Hall came into view, its Elizabethan grandeur standing stark against the pale sky. The grounds, partially dusted with frost, were quiet, allowing for peaceful exploration of the exterior. A short rest was taken here to admire the scenery and enjoy a warm flask of tea.



The return journey led through Lady Spencer's Wood, a secluded haven where towering oaks and beeches created a serene canopy. The woodland path was soft underfoot, scattered with fallen leaves. The air was invigorating, carrying the earthy scent of damp moss. Several squirrels were spotted darting between trees.

The circuit concluded back at the visitors' centre after a total of around three hours, leaving walkers refreshed and inspired by the landscape's wintry charm. This route is highly recommended for its natural beauty and historical highlights.

Mark

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
Singalong	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 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
2	10:00 – Ukulele 12:00 – Pickleball2 12:00 - Pub Quiz & Lunch 14:00 - Rummikub 1 14:00 – Chair Based Exercise	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
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 15:00 - Tarot	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.