



# **NEWSLETTER**

**Issue – March 2025**

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

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Guest Speaker : Jerry Jarvis**

**Nuclear Submarines – The Race to fix the Nerve Agent Detector**

Threats from Saddam Husain and others to use deadly nerve agent. Our new detector failed to work and drove a massive effort to correct it including sessions in the secret weapons establishment in Porton Down. See how the detector worked and be amazed at the reason for the failure.

**Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 28<sup>th</sup> March 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

I write this after two consecutive days of sunshine, a first for this year. The sun might not have the intensity of that being enjoyed by our Chair, Tina & her husband, out in the Caribbean but it is certainly getting people up, out & about & with a spring in their step.

Getting up & about is what u3a encourages us to do & I hope that those who attended the recent Quiz Night found the event both entertaining & informative. If your Membership Secretary casually mentions in passing that he was in the winning team, I'm afraid it's true! Helping the wider community is another characteristic of u3a members, for example the Litter Picking group.

Many of you who attended the January Members meeting will have heard Ranald McDonald talk about the aid organisation Aquabox, who provide practical resources when natural disasters strike. Their forte is a simple mechanical pump that can quickly & easily turn polluted water into water fit to drink. Aquabox have sent a letter of thanks for the £250+ collected at the meeting & last week I delivered a substantial quantity of bath towels & cloth, donated at the February meeting, that Aquabox use as packing material & to make other products. They welcome midweek visitors to their facility near Cromford – see their website for details.



You may have received through your letterbox a copy of the free newspaper from Ashfield DC, "Your Ashfield". As usual Hucknall is somewhat under-represented in the articles so if any u3a member would like to contribute & let the wider community know of our activities ADC can be contacted via their website.

Finally, it is sad to report the passing of Dorrie Kirton, possibly THE founding member of Hucknall & District u3a in 2008. Dorrie, who had multiple interests had joined Ashfield u3a and thought that there was a need for a group in Hucknall. She arranged an initial meeting to gauge interest & about twenty attended, with Richard White appointed as the first Chairman (having membership no.1). Currently we have over five hundred members so I reckon she was spot on & our u3a certainly meets the needs of many local residents. Rest in peace Dorrie, we owe you a lot.

## Bob McEwen Vice Chair

## Monthly Meetings - 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.

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

May – Dr Anne Featherstone – “The Victorian Fair”

June – Tim O’Brien – “History of RAF Newton”

## Quiz Night

On Friday evening on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 12 teams contested this prestigious event.

The quiz was a mix of question styles that led to some amicable discussion and interaction between the team members.

It was designed and run by the Quizmaster our Vice Chair Bob McEwen ably assisted by his wife Janice.

The food which preceded the quiz was sausage, mash and peas catered by Barlow’s Butchers.

The winning team took away a prize that promised to be a ‘Caribbean Experience’ (basically tins of pineapple) but most of all the prestige of beating some stiff competition.

We extend our thanks to Bob and Janice to David Barlow and team and to Kim and staff at JGC for their support and warm welcome for another u3a social event.



The u3a 2025 Egg (and Pineapple) heads

Coming Soon- Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> an afternoon celebration of VE Day- see the poster in this newsletter for more details.

Social Sub Committee

 **HUCKNALL & DISTRICT U3A**   
invites you to an afternoon celebration  
**THE 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of VE DAY**

featuring

**JOHNNY VICTORY**



**“Singing the sounds of those memorable years”**

on

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

at the John Godber Centre

Doors will open at **12.30pm**

1940's / 50's Buffet, served from **1.00pm - 2.00pm**

The entertainment will be from **2.00 – 2.45pm**

with a comfort break from **2.45 – 3.15pm**

The performance will resume at **3.15 – 4.15pm**



Tickets will on sale for **£12** at the  
**March & April** Monthly Meetings

**OPTIONAL 40's / 50's FANCY DRESS**





## News From the Groups

### Easy Walkers Group

As it was a beautiful day we were able to do the walk around Papplewick which had been cancelled in January due to the inclement weather.

Our leader took a wrong turn but we were soon back on track ending up at the site of the old lido before returning to Brooke Farm for refreshments.

Next venue to be advised.

### Film & Culture Group

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

Alan Snape

### Flower Arranging Group

February's flower arrangement involved sculpting and embellishing. The ladies had to sculpt a block of oasis, then embellish it with pinned leaves, then fill the centre with spring flowers. As always the ladies rose to the challenge.



The next meeting is March 24th, when the ladies will be doing an arrangement for Mother's Day, turning a pretty box/container into a present. April's meeting is on the 28th. There will be no demonstration by Siobhan, but the group can still meet and create their own arrangements. May - there is no meeting - bank holiday. June 's meeting is the 23rd.

New members welcome

## Gardening Group

Our March meeting is a trip to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on the 3rd.



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 on April 7th at the JGC, 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

## History Group

The History Group meet at Central Methodist Church at 2pm to about 4pm. The price is £2 to cover the cost of the room, a speaker and refreshments. Please note: next month we are back to our normal meeting of the third Wednesday in the month which is 19th March when Denis Hill is coming to tell us all about Kirkby Castle. I have become a little fed up with people telling me there wasn't a castle at Kirkby - "Oh yes there was" and Denis will explain.

Last month Stephen Walker came to tell us about a Study of Migration of Millworkers to Darley Abbey. It was interesting to see the original census returns and other records used in his work as he checked out where the millworkers had come from. The Evans family who owned the mill very close to the river Derwent seemed to be decent employers at the time.

Some time ago I said the u3a magazine was talking about family sayings and Christine Faithful has taken on a project to record them. She has written the next paragraph to explain. An example of one of my mum's is "We need to get that mess or room 'firked' up". She said it when the room was untidy and we had left toys all over.

See you on the 19th March. Maureen

Hucknall u3a History Group is trying to get together the materials for a project to celebrate the sayings, that families in everyday life use among themselves, to describe things such as the weather e.g. Its black over Bill's mother's; when its about to rain. This is used by many people. We believe there may be many more (not just about the weather!) which are not so well known. Some maybe even completely personal to one family but passed down the generations. It would be of great interest, we think, not just to the History Group, if enough words of wisdom could be collected to make a booklet. Members of the group have already been provided with a slip on which to write their favourite sayings and we would like to expand this project to the whole of our u3a. There will be slips available at the next full u3a meeting for anyone who might wish to contribute. Sayings from where ever they originate in the country will be very welcome.

Christine Faithful

## **Litter Picking Group**

With the onset of longer daylight hours and an improvement in the weather, litter louts seem to have been out and about more – but so have our litter pickers who have managed to clear our areas of 25 bags of rubbish during February. The most bizarre item which one litter picker found this month in Washdyke Lane Park was a large traffic bollard which has since been placed next to a litter bin in readiness for collection by the council.

Starting on Monday 3rd March Ashfield District Council are rolling out The BIG Ashfield Spring Clean as part of their commitment to make Ashfield a cleaner place to live, work and visit. Residents are invited to dispose of a small amount of bagged household waste during their designated week and on top of this, Flying Skips will be out and about across the District for you to dispose of extra waste, toys and bric-a-brac. See the Ashfield District Council website for full details.

Val (Gant)

## **Luncheon Group**

A group of 39 members met for lunch at 'Millies the Restaurant' at Armstrong Mills in Ilkeston on Wednesday 26 February. Along with the meal, members were able to shop and browse around the centre.

The next gathering is on Wednesday 26 March when we will be visiting the 'ego Ashfield' at Sutton in Ashfield. We have visited several years ago, there are a few places left with choice of menus to suit.

Whilst we visited the 'Willow Tree' in Basford last year, by popular demand we have booked it again for our Wednesday 23 April St George's day outing. We will be taking names and menu choices at the March monthly meeting.

We are currently looking into a carvery for May followed by something a little different in June, a 'late late breakfast' at lunchtime. More details will be available at the next meeting.

## **National Trust Group**

The visits arranged for this year can now be confirmed along with the coach fare.

Monday March 24th, Packwood House, Warwickshire. £15.pp.

Tuesday April 29th, Attingham Estate, Shrewsbury. £16 pp.

Wednesday May 28th, Beningbrough Estate, York. £15 pp.

Thursday 19th June, Powis Castle, Welshpool. £ 16 pp.

Monday 15th July, Charlecote Park, Warwickshire. £15 pp.

Tuesday 19th August, Lyme Park, Cheshire. £13 pp.

Wednesday 24th September, Kedleston Hall, £11 pp.

Thursday 30th October, Nostell, Wakefield. £12.

Our Christmas visit this year will be to Chester on Tuesday 2nd of December. The coach fare being £16.

Bookings for all the visits can be made a calendar month before the visit.

Our first visit filled up very fast and where viable if numbers on the waiting list allow then we will attempt to hire a second smaller coach.

Group members will be updated on a regular basis over the year.

Barrie and Sue

## Pub Quiz & Lunch Group

A couple of photos from today's Pub Lunch and Quiz.



We had a good selection of raffle prizes and there's a photo of some of the quizzers deep in thought.

A few teams didn't think they'd done too well, but there wasn't that much of a gap in the scores.

The winning team score was 20, followed by 19 in 2nd place.

25 members came along today.

## Science Group

Our February meeting was led by Ian and Ann Murray who had completed lots of in depth research into the topic of Black Holes and beyond.

The resulting PowerPoint presentation was outstanding with descriptive diagrams, explanations and linkages that made this complex area of physics more accessible.

Below is my attempt at a summary.

This is a Black Hole Sagittarius A\* (at the centre of our Galaxy) which was discovered in 1974 and photographed in 2017.



'Black holes, wormholes, and the event horizon are intriguing concepts in theoretical physics, largely explored by brilliant minds like Einstein, Hawking, Susskind, and Maldacena. A black hole is a region



in space where gravity is so strong that even light cannot escape it, leading to an event horizon—the boundary beyond which nothing can return. Theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking made significant contributions, famously predicting that black holes can emit radiation, now known as Hawking radiation. Leonard Susskind and Juan Maldacena furthered our understanding of black holes through their work on string theory and the holographic principle, which states that all the information within a volume of space can be described by the information on its boundary.

Wormholes, theoretically predicted by Einstein's general relativity, are hypothetical tunnels connecting distant parts of the universe, potentially allowing for faster-than-light travel `

Our thanks are extended to Ann and Ian for their preparation and presentation.

Next Month: March 21<sup>st</sup>

I am away on the u3a Melrose trip and Bob McEwen and John Tedstone are kindly leading the session this month which includes a presentation by John on an interesting group called 'The Lunar Society'

David Rose

### **Singalong Group**

Our meeting in February was presented by Dave and Christine Vincent, the subject being "Dance".

There were some oldies we all knew and a few surprising ones, everyone agreed it was a fun morning. Thanks to Dave and Christine.

The meeting in March is a continuation of January's theme of Body Parts!

New members are welcome.

### **Strollers Group**

On a beautiful sunny day a group of us enjoyed a pleasant stroll around Colliers Wood calling in at Reuben Shaws Coffee Shop en route.

Some of our members had not been here before but will no doubt happily make a return visit .

### **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

### **Vegetarian Cookery Group**

A good number attended February's meeting when we tasted a different version of cheese scones and a delicious potato and parsnip bake. Again, a big thank you to those who helped me in the kitchen and with all the serving, clearing and washing up. It is always appreciated. Our next meeting is on March 24th when we will again be trying different recipes. This group is now full and cannot take any new members for now.



Anne Wilkinson

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

Our 4.1 mile February 20th walk was locally based starting from Titchfield Park.

We progressed via Bulwell Hall along part of the Robin Hood Way (which starts at the Castle and finishes at Edwinstowe) to Mill Lakes and back through Butlers Hill into the park.



A very popular cartoon character game is 'Where's Wally'

In our Short Walks photographs we play a similar game called 'Where's Kevin'? Can you spot him?

Can you spot him?

The next walk is on March 21<sup>st</sup> and details will be confirmed later.

David Rose

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

In the spirit of the University of the Third Age, our Medium Walks group set off recently from the University tram stop for our first ramble of 2025. We followed a route through the newish Science Park, round the much older Dunkirk pond, then over the main railway line using the Stewart Adams bridge, named after the inventor of Ibuprofen. After a pause to watch cars being very quickly reduced to bits in the cruncher at the Sims Metals recycling site, we carried on to the canal towpath at Thane Road. The old footbridge over the canal which we had planned to use is currently closed for renovation, so we carried on around the new road at the perimeter of the Boots site. A large amount

of housing is currently being built, and we wondered about the future of the part of the site still in use by Boots.

We then reached the western end of the University campus, and decided to try out the facilities of the Student Union at the top of the hill – these were found to be ideal, both inside and outside, and the weather was as good as can be expected for mid-February.

Our March walk will be another local walk, at Bestwood Country Park. We always welcome new members, just use the tab on the homepage of our website to get in touch.

John Tedstone

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

Our latest walk was to Haywood Oaks and Blidworth Woods, the weather kept fine for us, with bright sunshine. The walk was 8.34 miles and on very good Forestry Commission paths, which meant we weren't walking through mud. The walk was mainly through woodland which was very nice; through Blidworth where we stopped for lunch. After which we continued our walk through fields, again on good paths, where we saw two Red Kites.



Then through Blidworth Bottoms and woodland back to the carpark; a big thank you to all who turned out, fourteen in all, a good turnout for the time of year. Everyone commented on what a good walk it was and how much they had enjoyed it which was very nice. Our next walk is Tansley Knoll and Lumsdale Falls, which is near Matlock.

Mark

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

<b>Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Contact E-Mail</b>
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
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**

<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	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	13:00 - Rummikub 2 14:00 - Crafty Knitters 18:30 - Bridge	09:15 – Easy Wheelers <b>13:45 – Members Meeting</b>	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 14:00 - Tarot	09:15 – Easy Wheelers 14:00 – History 19:30 – WineTasting	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.**