



NEWSLETTER

Issue – April 2025

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

9th April 2025

**Annual General Meeting followed by
Guest Speaker : Mike Storr**

Masters of Mirth – The Sequel

An affectionate look at more of my favourite Music Hall laughter makers, how Music Hall began, my favourite characters (Joyce Grenfell, Stanley Holloway, Cyril Fletcher, Al Read to name but a few), and examples of their acts including their famous monologues

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 2nd May 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

Isn't it lovely that spring is finally here, the nights are drawing out and the days are getting a little bit warmer. I must admit that we really enjoyed our two holidays in March, not least for the weather, surprisingly in both of them!

We did of course expect good weather in the Caribbean and were not at all disappointed with temperatures ranging from 28 to 30 degrees. The cruise was lovely and it was nice to visit a few different islands this time around. It wasn't quite so nice flying back to a very cold and wet Birmingham airport.

Still, only four days at home and then we were off to Melrose in the Scottish borders. I have to say the weather far exceeded expectations. I spent two weeks in the Caribbean with no sign of any sunburn, a few days in Scotland and I got sunburn on my face when we did the walk – despite sun cream!. If you get the chance to look at some of the photos you can see the fun we all had, a well organised trip thanks to Mark Thornley. However, despite some lovely trips to Jedburgh and Edinburgh the highlight for me was watching an otter catching his food in the river Tweed. Gary and I spent about 20 minutes watching him, it was brilliant.

I should also mention that we went on the discovering Britain trip in between those two holidays. I think everyone enjoyed Ely despite a bit of hail at one point. We have some truly historic and beautiful places in Britain and it's easy to forget just how much history in buildings and landscape that we have on our doorstep. Thanks to Pauline Archer and Mark Thornley for starting this group.

Between the National Trust, gardening, science, discovering Britain and all of the other groups who visit various venues on a more ad hoc basis, we can't complain about our access to a wide range of interesting and informative places. All part of the joy of being members of a healthy, well supported u3a. So thank you to all our members.

Tina Holmes, 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

May – Dr Anne Featherstone – “The Victorian Fair”

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

July – Brenda Ainsley – “The Climate crisis & some solutions”

VE Memories

Personal Memories VE Day Celebrations 1945 Can you help ?

Have you any personal recollections of the first V.E. celebrations. If you have and you are willing to share them. Please contact. christinevincent1951@gmail.com

VE Day Celebration Event Friday 9th May

There are a few tickets left so if you want one of these:



Look out for the glamorous 1940's ladies selling them at the back of the hall. for **£12.00** each at the April 9th Monthly Meeting



News From the Groups

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

More information about Hucknall should be included in local news

It is felt that Hucknall does not get it's news reported in the media. An example of this is the Your Ashfield free paper that has been distributed in Hucknall, although we are a part of Ashfield we are not represented as other areas are. It was suggested that all the group members should contact ADC (email address: info@ashfield.gov.uk) to ask for more coverage. Also, to take the issue to the Hucknall general meeting and ask if they would like to contact ADC with similar comments.

Roadworks at this time of the year

We talked about how, at this time of the year roadworks and indeed many areas of funding (education, public spending) have to spend funds to use them before the end of the financial year and how money was often wasted by doing this.

Knife Crime

We had a discussion around how children get knives of all sorts, from Zombie knives to kitchen knives, how they all contributed to the danger of harm when used. Points raised included peer pressure and parenting.

Behaviour of officials in Football celebrations

The issue of whether the actions during celebrations following winning a major tournament where a team player was kissed on the lips was a violation of improper behaviour. Different views were expressed and discussed.

Conservation Officer

Ashfield has had very little input of a Conservation Officer for a few years and although Ashfield District council should have one it has not been the case. A question was raised as to whether such an officer should make a decision before buildings are demolished. This could save buildings of historical importance.

Nottingham/Nottinghamshire boundaries

A short time was spent looking at different opinions on whether different areas should come under city or county.

The next meeting is on Monday 24th March 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.

Alan Snape

Flower Arranging Group

The Flower Group became a victim of NT's groups success this month as it clashed with a trip to Packham. What a gorgeous day for a trip. Anyway although there were only a few of us we had a good natter and the ladies produced some lovely containers.



It was decided that as Siobhan would not be available for April that class would be cancelled, but it is hoped that the group would attempt the arrangement demonstrated and send Siobhan photos. May there is no meeting as it is a bank holiday. So the next meeting is June 23rd see you all then.

Gardening Group

Last month's meeting was a visit to Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The weather was glorious and we were able to wander the grounds without coats! There is so much to see in this historical botanic garden, which has remained intact since 1829. There are over 10,000 plants and we saw many spring bulbs, shrubs and trees all flowering. The 4 Victorian Glasshouses contained an amazing variety of plants, including cacti, lemon trees, gardenia, orchids and many others. There is also an Alpine Garden, a Bog and Fern area, a Japanese Garden – the theme of our meeting in April, a Pinetum and for the young an Adventure Playground. The shop and nursery area had a good variety of gardenalia to tempt visitors to part with some money!.



The cafe was unfortunately out of action but we were well served with hot drinks by a young man with a pop-up drinks van and it was perfect weather to sit out with our packed lunches. It is well worth a visit if you have never been.

Anne

Growing Old Disgracefully Group

The second group to visit The Mary Potter Heritage Centre enjoyed an afternoon learning about Mary Potter and her life's work , both in this Country and abroad.
If you should get the chance to visit - do, it's well worth it!



History Group

Our March meeting brought Denis Hill to explain to us about the mystery of Kirkby Castle. Although it was shown in the older maps of the area nothing seemed to be left on the ground. (I think some members thought it was a scam because there was no such thing.) The location proved to be a good place for a castle with extensive views over the river Erewash. It seemed on the whole it was a fortified manor house rather than a 'Disney type' castle. Denis is a fantastic speaker and in his presentation the images were extremely good - he had also brought some books of what the Kirkby Archaeological Group found as they researched the subject. Denis also brought with him 2 pre-used working projectors which Greg passed on to Liz Attenborough (technical equipment manager) for the benefit of any of our u3a groups. Thank you Denis.

The meeting next month is a visit to the Holocaust Centre at Laxton by coach; I have suggested we take a packed lunch just in case their building and alteration work is not completed. The coach has a full complement of members: leaving Hucknall Ogle Street at 10.30 am and leaving the Centre at 4pm.

At the Indoor meeting on May 21st at Central Methodist Church David Amos is coming to tell us about Annesley Part II.

Also Kathy and Sandra will be taking names and money £10.50 (to cover cost of coach only) for our visit to Lincoln on June 18th.

Maureen Newton

Litter Picking Group

In March a total of 20 bags of rubbish were collected by members of the group.



One member, Maureen, sent out a request for help in clearing litter around the bushes near Butler's Hill Tram stop before the spring growth. There were a few offers of help but eventually this request was met by David R. Together they collected 6 bags of general rubbish, several tins of 'stuff', a nitrous oxide (laughing gas) cylinder, a pair of pants, a shirt, a coat, 2 bags and an umbrella frame. It was difficult for them getting to rubbish in the brambles but the area now looks much tidier so a big thank you goes to Maureen and David for their efforts.

If anyone knows of any 'grot-spots' which needs our attention please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Val (Gant)

National Trust Group

National Trust visit to Packwood House, Warwickshire.

The first visit of 2025 got off to a very good start as we enjoyed very smooth and traffic jam free journeys to and from Packwood House. The weather also played its part with the sun shining down all day.

Packwood is a lovely venue boasting a very interesting main house where enthusiastic volunteers kept you well informed. The group were all given timed entry tickets for their tours which begin from 11.00 am at fifteen minute intervals.

As the sun continued to shine the organised garden tours proved popular with the group while others enjoyed the lakeside walk or walks which took you round the beautiful local countryside where new born lambs and spring flowers adorned the fields. A lovely setting.



There was still plenty of time to visit the large well stocked cafe, the plant sale area and gift shop.

Leaving promptly at 4.00 pm we were safely back on Hucknall Market shortly after 5.30 pm after a very good day out.

Please note the visit to Charlecote Park will take place on Monday 14th of July and not on the 15th as stated in the last u3a Newsletter!!

Barrie

Science Group

Our April 18th meeting is at 10.00am to 11.45am in the main hall (Portland) at JGC

John Tedstone has prepared a presentation about an interesting group who called themselves the Lunar Society. The members became known as 'Lunarticks' The Lunar Society of Birmingham was a British dinner club and informal learned society of prominent figures in the Midlands Enlightenment, including industrialists, natural philosophers and intellectuals, who met regularly between 1765 and 1813 in Birmingham. At first called the Lunar Circle, "Lunar Society" became the formal name by 1775. The name arose because the society would meet during the full moon. It still exists.

Original members included James Watt, Erasmus Darwin, Josiah Wedgwood and Matthew Boulton.

John will have much more to tell us about this interesting group.

After a short break there will be a presentation about the RAF Cosford Museum and a video which highlights the contribution to aerospace and flight made by 'Hucknall Heroes'

David Rose

Strollers Group

On a beautiful Spring morning our Strollers group alighted from the tram for a walk through the Arboretum and round to the Forest where we were able to sit outside and enjoy a coffee in the excellent Coffee Shop.

It was interesting to see the aviaries are still standing in the Arboretum, including a memorial plaque to Cocky the Cockatoo who lived to a ripe old age, most of us remembered him from our childhood visits!

Another lovely walk !

Theatre Trips Group

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

War Horse , Royal Concert Hall, Saturday 17th May at 2:30pm, Tickets £65.50

Les Miserables Theatre Royal Wednesday 28th May 25. at 2.30 Tickets £40.50

Kinky Boots at Theatre Royal Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at 2pm. Tickets £51.50

Fiddler on the Roof Concert Hall Thursday 21st August 25. at 2pm. Tickets £52.00

Mathew Bourne: The Midnight Bell Theatre Royal Saturday 6th Sept 25 at 2.30pm. Tickets £46.50

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.

Northern Ballet: Gentleman Jack Theatre Royal Saturday 16th May 26.at 2.30pm Tickets £51.00

Priscilla Queen of the Desert Theatre Royal Thursday 30th April 26. at 2pm.Tickets £46.50

Barbara

Vegetarian Cookery Group

At March's meeting we tried 3 different recipes. These were Glamorgan Sausages, in a tray bake form, Smokey Leek and Hazelnut tart and Apple sauce cookies. Judging by the empty plates these went down well! The meeting in April will be on Monday April 28th.

This group is now full and cannot take any new members for now.

Anne Wilkinson

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

The short walk on Thursday April 17th starts from the large lay by next to Greasley Church.

Church Road Greasley NG16 2AB

Meet at 9.30 am for a 9.45 am start

The route has some gentle undulations but no long steep ascents.



At the end we pass through the church yard with an optional visit to the 'Parish Oven' café which is run by volunteers for a drink and maybe more.

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Medium Walk – Bestwood Country Park

Our walk for March was a local walk, starting from Bestwood Village. After chatting to the leader of another walking group from Mansfield, we set off through an area where a lot of horses are stabled, and then onto the trail along the route of the old railway branch line to Calverton. We then continued on part of the Robin Hood Way, and through Killarney Park into the Country Park, having chatted to a passing walker who was distinctive in a bright red fleece, from appearing on Bargain Hunt, the TV series.

After some of our group opted for the steeper option on the next section, we re-assembled for the picnic stop, where there is a good view across to Hucknall and the Annesley woods. Thanks to Steve and Anne Lawrence for planning this walk.

Our April walk will be at Elvaston Castle, and one week later than usual, on Monday 28th April, due to the later Easter holiday.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

On the 4th of March, we embarked on an 8.30 mile, circular walk from Tansley, taking in Tansley Knoll and Lumsdale Falls before returning to the village. The weather was on our side and it was sunny for the majority of the walk.

Setting off from Tansley, we followed a well-marked path up to Tansley Knoll, where we were rewarded with panoramic views over the Derbyshire countryside. The gentle ascent provided a good warm-up, and the terrain was a mix of grassy fields and stone paths and reasonably dry and to our relief not too much mud.



From the knoll, we descended through woodland and open farmland towards Lumsdale, where the historic valley and waterfalls awaited. The Lumsdale Falls were in full flow, cascading over moss-covered rocks. The ruins of the old mills along the valley added an atmospheric touch to the walk. The damp paths near the falls required careful footing, but the scenery made it worthwhile.

The return to Tansley followed a mixture of woodland trails and country lanes, offering a peaceful conclusion to the walk. Overall, the route provided a mix of scenic views, local history, and natural beauty, making it a rewarding excursion, finished off with a pint in the Tavern pub at Tansley.

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 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

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	13:00 - Rummikub 2 14:00 - Crafty Knitters 18:30 - Bridge	09:15 – Easy Wheelers 13:45 – Members Meeting	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 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
4	10:00 – Ukulele 10:30 – Vegetarian Cookery 12:00 – Pickleball2 13:30 - Flower Arranging 13:45 - Discussion	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.