



NEWSLETTER

Issue – May 2025

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

14th May 2025

Guest Speaker : Dr Anne Featherstone

The Victorian Fair – Freak shows and Fisticuffs

Think of the Victorian fair and the exhibitions, shows and booths which made it so popular. This talk looks at the history of the fair and explores some of the fascinating amusements on the 19th century fairground.

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 30th 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

As I write this Gary is working hard in the allotment. With the warm weather we have been having everything has started sprouting and both allotment and garden are looking well. It's amazing how much better the weeds do than the plants! In between breaks we are working hard on keeping the weeds under control. Still it's keeping us busy and getting us out in the fresh air.

We visited Ludlow for a few days this week in our first outing with the caravan. If you haven't been it's well worth a visit. We met up with friends who hadn't been to Ludlow before and it was nice showing them the castle, the church and the many different Tudor and Georgian buildings. It certainly exercised our brains trying to remember how to spot the older buildings masquerading as Georgian ones. Tips passed onto us when we did a guided walk around the town a few years ago. I must admit it was also great to walk around a vibrant market, the cheese stall was irresistible with so many choices of local cheeses as well as ones from further afield. In the end we settled on three, two local (one "gritty" Ludlow cheddar and a Shropshire blue) and a portion of cambozola (a sort of cross between gorgonzola and camembert). Paired with some olives and salami's it made a lovely tea.

As usual the Social Sub Committee have been hard at work and I must admit I'm looking forward to the VE day tea (9th June 2025) they have organised with Jonny Victory entertaining us. It should be a great event with such a first class entertainer and I hope to see many of you there.

I'm off to put my gardening gear out in the sunshine. I hope all of you get plenty of opportunities to get out in the lovely weather we keep having.

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

June - Tim O'Brien - "History of RAF Newton"

July - Brenda Ainsley - "The Climate crisis & some solutions"

August - Dr Tim Gray MBE - Chairman EMICS

VE Memories

Does you recognise any one in the photo. June Remington is the one standing on a chair at the back with a white bow, If you recognise anyone please let Christine Vincent know.



News From the Groups

Discovering Britain Group

On 11 April in glorious sunshine we visited Leicester where the remains of Richard III body was found. The newly opened Richard III Visitors Centre proved to be informative and very well presented. They have preserved the ground where his body was found in the former site of Grey Friars Priory and then his final resting place which is in Leicester Cathedral.



Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

Energy Prices

A member of the group gave an insight to some important and interesting facts about how we have arrived at a position where we are reliant on fuel from across the world. How our reserves are much lower than in years gone by. We questioned whether we could use the coal that we have in this country.

Young men in society

Points that were made about how young boys behave in school. Not having good role models particularly where there is bad parenting or where in some single parent families, boys had no male role model to follow.

Tattoos

We discussed how tattoos were now much more commonplace than years ago. We talked about how opinions of tattoos can influence how others see a person. The cost of getting tattoos was discussed, in particular where low income families can spend vast amounts of money on tattoos but cannot afford to pay for essentials.

Mobile phones – how to be safe and understand them

Whilst 'smart' phones are very popular and can do many functions as well as a simple phone i.e. emails, internet etc., it is not always possible to understand how to access and use these functions or

more importantly put things right when it appears that things don't work. Places assume that users have smart phones when this is not always the case and in some circumstances folk miss out on important information and appointments.

The idea of a workshop to help with mobile phone use was suggested.

Civil servants

The work of civil servants was discussed. Whilst it is necessary for this work it was felt that the profile and power behind their work can have its own agenda in the country, regardless of who is leading the country at any one time.

What's App groups

The use of WhatsApp groups was discussed and it was decided to try it out to improve communication within the group.

The next meeting is on Monday 28th April 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

Gardening Group

Last month's meeting was a talk from Patsy Rayner who spoke most interestingly on Japanese Gardening. She has a son living there so has visited several times and now tries to incorporate some of the ideas into her own plot. She showed how easy it is to add some to our own gardens, including height, to reference Mount Fuji, and gravel or moss paths to represent dry river beds or springs, or to use moss and simple green planting instead of varied flowering plants. Quite a change to what we are used to seeing and doing here. May's group meeting is a trip to Middleton Hall, near Tamworth.



Anne

History Group

It is quite difficult to say much new about the Holocaust Centre, but I think we all enjoyed?? not the correct word I know; but I do think we enjoyed each other's company. The visit began well with Vallances Coach and Chris the driver whom we have had many times before. I think I will have to buy him a new joke book though. On such a cold day the hot drink on arrival was very welcome and we drank it as we watched the introductory film. Wandering round the exhibits made us wonder how

supposed human being could do such awful things to other humans. The talk by two younger people explaining how their grandmother or grandmother in law survived through the years of ordeal was amazing and she is still alive aged 98. A little later the drinks and cakes at the cafe plus souvenir shop were well attended before our coach was homeward bound back to Hucknall. I felt this was an example of cruelty to some sections of people (had they heard of ethnic cleansing then?) that we should all try to ensure does not happen in the future. Incidentally It was suggested that we go again in a couple of years to see if the building alterations are completed. What do you think?

May 21st is the date for our next indoor meeting at Central Methodist Church, time 2pm, when David Amos is coming to give us "A Brief History of Annesley Part II". I'm sure those of you who heard part one will want to know the rest of the story which he puts over so well.

Before that though on May 14th at the main u3a meeting, John Godber Centre, Kathy and Sandra will be taking your names and money for the Lincoln visit June 18th: cost is £10.50p which is just the coach fare. We leave Hucknall Ogle Street 10.30am - leave Lincoln 4pm. The table for bookings will be in the refreshment area.

Bye for now

Maureen Newton

Kurling Group

Another happy person scoring her first bullseye. So why not come and join us at St John's Church Hall on the 4th Sunday of the month



Litter Picking Group

Members of the Litter Picking Group took advantage of April's lovely sunny weather and in total collected 21 bags of rubbish from our area. Two new members to the group, Jill & Sue, went out on their inaugural litter pick, thus 'doing their bit' to help make our environment a better place to live. Thank you and well done Jill & Sue. Should anyone else wish to join our litter picking group please contact me as per the interest group details at the end of the newsletter. A tabard and equipment will be provided.

Val (Gant)

Luncheon Group

In April one of the largest luncheon groups attended the Willow Tree in Basford, Nottingham for a two course lunch. The service was excellent, the food was hot and it was agreed everyone enjoyed themselves.

On Wednesday 28 May the group are going to 'Hole in the Wall' at Underwood. There is a choice of menu for those wanting other than the carvery, two courses £11.99 or three courses £14.49. Currently we have spaces for anyone interested in going, however we will need names and menu choices during the next two weeks.

For our June gathering we are trying something different, we are having a 'Brunch' or (late breakfast) at the Royal British Legion in Hucknall. We know the 'late breakfast' group enjoy a wonderful breakfast there so we have adapted the feast to the luncheon group and although we are starting a little later, the meal will resemble a breakfast and all the trimmings. Only a few places left, anyone interested will have to register their names for the reserve list.

We hope to advise of our July and August events next month in the newsletter. For those members who regularly attend our Christ-mas lunch at the Albert Hall in Nottingham, please note that the date has changed slightly to TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER instead of the regular Wednesday.

Mah Jong 2 Group

There is to be a second Mah Jong group to run every Tuesday at the Station Hotel in conjunction with Rummikub 2.

Starting at one o'clock.

Anyone interested please contact Sue Foss

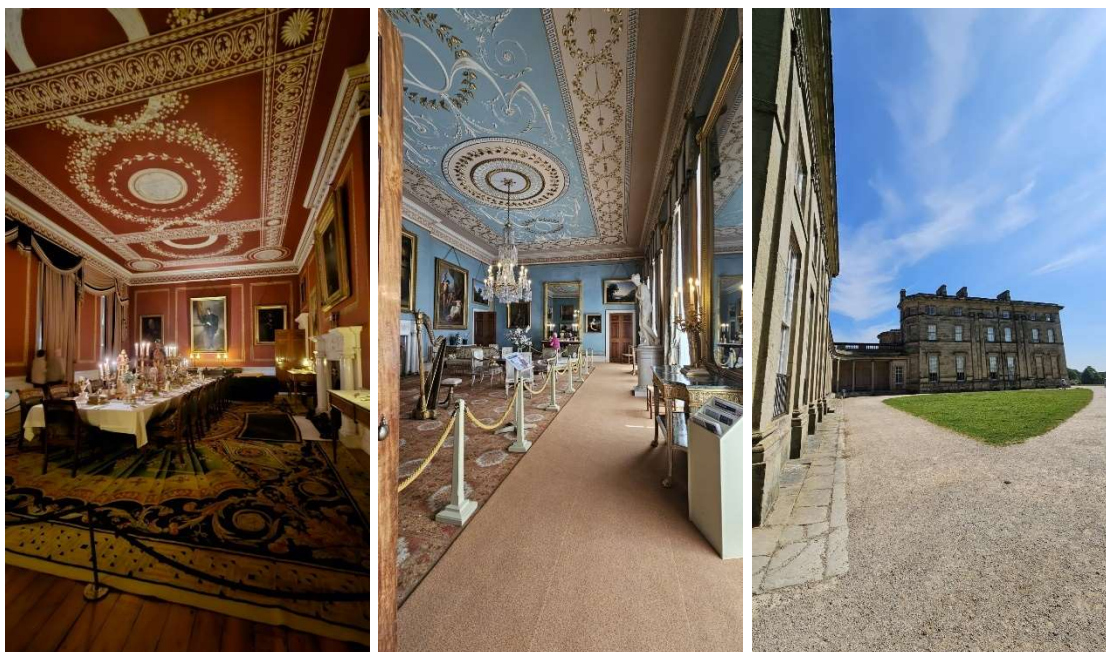
National Trust Group

Visit to Attingham Park on Tuesday 29th of April.

The group met up in glorious sunshine for the visit to Attingham Park and after leaving at 8.30 am we were at the venue two hours later. We were met on arrival by a NT member of staff, Will, who took time to give us maps, information and all the details needed for us to make the most of the day.

The property is the second most visited NT site in the country and in the lovely sunshine there was plenty to enjoy. The Mansion proved popular with some members joining organised tours or a Tour of Hidden Attingham which allowed visits to rooms and areas usually closed off to the public.

Members made the most of the estate itself walking by the river and through beautiful countryside, on walks of varying distances.



There was still time for a cafe stop and a visit to the NT shop before gathering at the coach for the return journey.

A really god day out!!

A big thank you to Mick, our coach driver, who found an alternative route from the A50 /M1 junction when the road signs displayed that the M1 had delays of over an hour because of a lorry fire.!

We arrived back safely in Hucknall by 7.15 having enjoyed a very good visit.

The next visit takes us to Beninborough Hall near York on Wednesday 28th of May.

Barrie

Science Group

May 16th is our visit to RAF Cosford.

Please note we will now meet the coach on Ogle Street at 8.30am. This is to allow a cushion of time in case of traffic delays.

Departure time is 3.15pm ETA back in Hucknall 5.00pm.

June 20th Meeting : We are paying 'catch up' and we have two presentations:

John Tedstone on the 'Lunarticks' and Christine Vincent with Niels Bohr- a Nobel Prize winning Danish physicist.

There is also an opportunity for any members wish to do their outstanding' 5 minute scientists' talks.

David Rose

Theatre Trips Group

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 April's meeting a large attendance tried 3 different recipes. These were Spinach and Cheese crustless Quiche, Summer picnic swirls using frozen pizza dough, and old fashioned ginger biscuits. As usual everything was consumed and all enjoyed the different flavours. There will not be a meeting in May as it will be the Bank Holiday so the next meeting will be on Monday June 23rd.



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

Anne Wilkinson

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

The April walk was a circular route from Greasley Church.

Led by Terry Hill we started by taking the footpath appropriately signposted to 'Bogend'.

It crosses the Gilt Brook and although there are some duck boards it can be muddy. Fortunately following the dry spell it was good underfoot. We then followed part of the Robin Hood Way through Watnall Woods and over the field paths back to our starting point.

The Parish Oven café at the back of the church hall was a welcome sight and we sat outside in the sunshine with our end of walk drinks.



May 15th Walk

Please note the date as this is the earliest date for our 3rd Thursday walks as May 1st was a Thursday.

Our starting point for this just over 4 miles easy walking route is the free:

Thieves Wood South Car Park located off the B6139 between Ravenshead and Kirkby in Ashfield. Full details will be sent to the group a week before the walk date.

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Possibly our warmest April walk so far started at Elvaston Castle, near Borrowash, and just over the border in Derbyshire. The estate is owned by Derbyshire County council, and became one of the first Country Parks, in 1970. The castle, which is not open to the public, was the home of the Earl of Harrington, and mostly dates from the early 1800s, although part dates back to 1633.



We had a pleasant stroll through the grounds, pausing for our mandatory group photo, then left the park to follow the River Derwent, along the Derwent Valley Way. This was a new area for us to explore, and only about 35 minutes drive from Hucknall. We retired to the Queen's Head in nearby

Ockbrook afterwards, although several members of the group took a wrong turn on the way there, and didn't arrive! Thanks to Gill Hunt for organizing this walk.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

The April walk started from Vicar Water Country Park- which is just to the south of Clipstone village. It has been created on the site of a former colliery, transforming this former industrial site into a heath land, woodland and grassland and offers spectacular views across to Derbyshire and Lincolnshire.

At the centre of the park is Vicar Pond, a large fishing lake created by the fifth Duke of Portland in the 1870s. In the past the lake has been used for boating and swimming.

Vicar Water is actually the stream that flows through and we could see the work being carried out to restore its original meandering course to the River Maun.

Part of our walk was through Kings Clipstone then along the River Maun and another conservation area called Spa Ponds before returning to our starting point



The next long walk is on May 6th

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
Mah Jong 2	Sue Foss	
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 13:00 – Mah Jong 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 13:00 – Mah Jong 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 13:00 – Mah Jong 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 13:00 – Mah Jong 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 13:00 – Mah Jong 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.