



NEWSLETTER

Issue –September 2025

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

10th September 2025

Guest Speaker : Bob Massey

Inventions by mistake: well-known products or devices that were invented by accident or mistake.

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 26th September 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

I don't know about you but I found August a strange month. We didn't have the blazing sunshine of July but neither did we get a lot of rain to water our gardens. In the garden all of our fruit seemed to come together, including the blackberries that you don't really expect to be ready at the start of August. Still we can't complain, we had a bumper crop of all the fruit this year. To me it seemed to be a month of being busy but not seeming to achieve much. Perhaps the apparent hastening of the seasons is making me feel a little rushed too. Certainly the month seems to have flown by.

Our speaker for September is Bob Massey who will be telling us about inventions by mistake. Is that the same as when you are cooking sometimes? You intend to make one thing and end up with something entirely different as your hand slips with the spices? Perhaps not but I'm interested to find out more.

Just a quick reminder that if you haven't already got your tickets for the Fab two on 26th September they will be on sale at the September meeting. A Beatles tribute band should be a great night of entertainment.

Last but not least we are still looking for someone to take on the role of Vice Chair come April. If you think you might be interested speak to Bob McEwen or myself. You could even come to a Committee meeting to check out what it's like to serve on the committee. I promise we don't bite.

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.

NOTICE

Experiencing the loss of someone you care about can be profoundly heart-breaking and overwhelming. At such a time any correspondence sent to the deceased can cause further upset & pain. If you learn that a Hucknall u3a member has passed away, please promptly notify the Membership Secretary or any Committee member. This will help us try to avoid u3a communications causing unnecessary distress to the family. Thank you.

Future Speakers

October – Andrew Lound – Mystical Brittain

November – David Coleman, Pitman

December – No Speaker



HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a

invites you to an evening
of entertainment & dancing with

'THE FAB TWO'

a BEATLES Tribute Band



Friday 26th September 2025

In the Main Hall at the John Godber Centre
from 7.30pm until approx. 10.00pm



Doors will open at **7.00pm**

Comfort break at **8.15pm**

Fab Two to commence at **7.30pm**

2nd **Fab Two** Session from **8.45 - 9.45pm**

Tickets will on sale for **£8** at the **August & September** Monthly Meetings

There will be no catering at this event but you are welcome to **BRING YOUR OWN FOOD**



Optional 60's Fancy Dress



News From the Groups

Discovering Britain

On Friday 8th August we took our monthly trip to Stratford on Avon; It was a beautiful day though a bit hot for some.

Stratford-upon-Avon, a historic market town in Warwickshire, England, is world-famous as the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Visitors can explore several significant sites linked to the playwright's life.

Shakespeare's Birthplace is a restored 16th-century timber-framed house on Henley Street where Shakespeare was born in 1564 and spent his early years. The home offers period furnishings, rare documents, and live performances by costumed actors, giving an authentic glimpse into Tudor life.



Anne Hathaway's Cottage, located in the nearby village of Shottery, was the childhood home of Shakespeare's wife. This picturesque thatched farmhouse, surrounded by beautiful gardens, features original furniture, including the "Hathaway bed." The cottage reflects rural Elizabethan life and courtship traditions.

New Place was Shakespeare's grand family home, purchased in 1597, where he lived for the last 19 years of his life and wrote many late works. Although the original house was demolished in the 18th century, the site is now an open garden with sculptures and exhibits that evoke the spirit of his creations.

Together, these landmarks form the heart of Stratford's Shakespearean heritage, attracting millions each year to walk in the footsteps of England's greatest playwright.

Mark Thornley

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects this month included:

AI – what it is and how it is used?

Various views on AI were given on the use of this technology. Younger generations may like it and regularly use it. Fears were about how these programs give fake representation, no control on authenticity and danger and deceit to viewers. When used to check letters and applications it can make a perfect letter or application by correcting any errors.

Voting at 16 years of age?

With new changes to the law on voting we explored how the four nations had different rules on voting, these changes would make the whole nation equal. We discussed whether a young person of 16 years old would have the skill and knowledge on making decisions.

Should doctors go on strike?

In discussing this the group overwhelmingly said that they should not strike. There were other issues around university debts, retention and working levels, not only with doctors but with nurses and other health workers that should be addressed.

Technology versus no technology?

An example of this was given, where going for a meal they had to order and pay at the table on a smartphone. This could be impossible for some diners. Whilst there are many positive examples of new technology which is embraced there are some people who are being left behind especially the older generations.

Should the TV licence fee be scrapped?

We discussed if the licence fee was value for money or should it be scrapped. It was felt that the cost was expensive and did not give good value for money. The channels and services have changed so much since it was first introduced and now could be seen as outdated.

The next meeting is on Monday 22nd September 2025 at the John Godber.

Easy Walkers Group

Our August walk through woods and open fields , taking in views of the Solar Farm and the old Brick Yard (which prompted memories of the Sunday Markets gone by) was enjoyed by twelve easy walkers. We ended up at the Nabb Inn for refreshments.

The walk was longer than usual, I'll ensure the next one is a little shorter!

Film & Culture Group

This group exists simply to notify members of Hucknall u3a what films are being shown locally and when, plus other information on musical and local drama events. To receive a copy of this information please forward your email address to member, alansnape@hotmail.co.uk and I will forward the latest bulletin to you.

At the ARC Cinema here in Hucknall on the 12th September we can see the release of Downtown Abbey 3 and also the 40th Anniversary showing of Back To The Future.

On 26th September the Strangers Chapter 2 is being shown on its release date and on the 3rd October is the European Premiere of film STEVE starring Cillian Murphy.

The 10th October is the release date of TRON: ARES - a highly sophisticated programme named Ares is sent from the digital world into the real world on a dangerous mission marking human kinds first encounter with A.I. beings.

Alan Snape

Gardening Group

In August, members heard about flowers beginning with the letter A. These included Acacia, Abelia, Acanthus, Acer, Aconite, Agapanthus, Agave, Alchemilla, Allium, Alstromeria, Amaryllis, and Anemone to name just a few of the 70 that I found. A good number attended in spite of the weather – it poured with rain just at our meeting time!- and the holiday season. But then we know that gardeners are intrepid and positive characters!



September's meeting was a trip, this time to Harlow Carr, more details next month.

On October 6 we are back at the JGC for a talk by Camilla Anderson on Arts and Crafts and the Edwardian Garden .

All are welcome as we are an open group.

Anne

History Group

For the benefit of new members let me explain that for our indoor meetings the History Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Central Methodist Church. It means the next one is on the 17th September starting at 2pm but please be there a little earlier. The cost is £2 per person. David Skillen is our speaker who is excellent at giving entertaining information of historical subjects and his topic this time is Belper in the Industrial Revolution with the talk called 'Knitters, Nailers and Traitors'. We have seen him before when he entertained our main u3a meeting at John Godber Centre telling us about 'The Gretna Girls and the Devils Porridge' so I'm looking forward to hearing about Belper.

At this meeting members will be able to collect a flyer containing information about dates, speakers and visits for 2026.

Our next meeting is a visit to The National Justice Museum on October 15th. I was told that they have had major changes since lockdown which means that if anyone had been before they would find a great difference for the better especially because I booked us a guided tour this time. Travel arrangements will be making our own way by tram (alighting at Lace Market), train or Trent bus, meeting at the cross near Nottingham Contemporary building at 15 minutes to 2pm. Myself, Kathy & Sue will start taking names for booking the visit at our main meeting at John Godber on the 10th September.

See you all soon so bye for now,

Maureen Newton

Litter Picking Group

Combined with the holiday season and another very warm month, August has not been conducive to members spending a lot of time outside collecting rubbish. Nevertheless, 14 bags of litter have been removed from our environment by the group. One member who regularly litter picks on a park has noticed that despite there being ample litter bins at strategic points, during the school holidays there is an increase in litter strewn about the park even in the trees! At least 'back to school' is nearly upon us. If anyone is interested in joining our group please contact me as per details at the end of the newsletter.

Val Gant

Luncheon Group

By way of a change the 'Luncheon Group' enjoyed an 'evening' gathering this time at Bibiana on the High Street for their August venue.

In September we are booked in at Bistro Pierre in Nottingham. Unfortunately they have limited seating and the list is about full, however if you want to leave your name with us for the 'reserve' list, we will keep you informed.

Our October venue is the Gedling Inn & Kitchen in Gedling on Wednesday 29. Please note the date is a week later than we normally meet. We will be taking names and a £5.00 per head de-posit at the September monthly meeting. The menu offers a 'share deal', so if possible please make arrangements when booking who your meal buddy will be.

We have not made any bookings for November as there are other meal dates around the same time.

CHRISTMAS MEAL - TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2025 - ALBERT HALL, NOTTINGHAM

We will taking deposits for the Christmas meal at the September monthly meeting. The deposit is £12.00 per head 'CASH ONLY'. We will try and get the Christmas meal menu out before the monthly meeting so we can also take menu choices.

Once again thank you for your support

Ann & Rose

National Trust Group

National Trust visit to Lyme Park in Cheshire on August 19th.

Departing at our usual time of 8.30 am from Hucknall Market we enjoyed a pleasant and very scenic journey through the Peak District up to Lyme Park. On arrival we were greeted by members of staff from Lyme Park who issued maps, tokens to enter the house and spent time explaining the facilities and tours on offer for the group.

The House, gardens and estate are very extensive and covering everything in a day presents a challenge.

The estate is very well staffed with volunteers who were both enthusiastic and knowledgeable.

Over the day members had the opportunity to go on a behind the scenes tour of the House, attend a series of talks concerning the history of the Estate, tour the superbly maintained gardens, walk around any of the pleasant walks around the estate and possibly catch sight of the deer who were roaming around. There was a choice of cafes available which baked many of the items on site also a selection of shops including a gift shop, plant shop and second hand book shop.

All this before entering Lyme House itself with its twenty four splendid rooms adorned with period furniture.

Arriving finally back at the coach for the journey home we all agreed that Lyme Park is one of the gems in the National Trust collection with an army of volunteers helping to make the visit one to remember.



Next month the group will be heading to Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire when due to the shorter journey time we will be departing at the later time of 9.30 am.

Barrie and Sue

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

August saw the now combined groups of Grumpy Old Men and Not So Grumpy Old Men meet up together for the first time at Titchfield Park for a session of lawn Bowls.

Meeting up at 1.00 pm the group had a session of instruction and practice helped by members of the bowls club. Breaking after an hour for refreshments the group then returned to the greens for a further session of bowling.

A big thank you to everybody at the bowls club for their support and tuition.

A meal at the Broomhill Restaurant followed to complete a lovely afternoon.

September takes the group on a visit to the Flight Museum at Rolls Royce and then on to visits to the Newark Air Museum and the Sherwood Observatory in Sutton.

Barrie

Science Group

Science September 19th

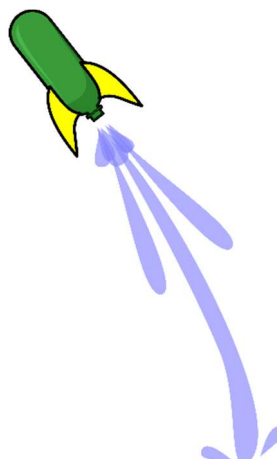
The plan is to reconvene at Bestwood Country Park for our indoor/outdoor meeting.

We will have the use of the Dynamo House and kitchen for drinks.

Outside we will be launching rockets and aeroplanes.



Not one of these!



But more like this 'water rocket'

There will also be an aeroplane making and flying competition with a prize and obviously prestige for the winner.

Thanks to Bob Gow for arranging the venue and to Margaret from the Dynamo House café kitchen for allowing us to use the facilities.

There will be an opportunity of a guided tour for anyone who has not made a visit to the unique Winding House or for anyone who wishes to have another look.

More details will be sent to all Science Group members later.

David Rose

Singalong Group

Our last Singalong was presented by Dave and Christine Vincent, the subject being "Love".

Their choice of music was enjoyed by all, even Dave's favourite "Doo Wop"!

Thanks for a good morning.

Our next theme will be One Hit Wonders.

Strollers Group

A local walk from Titchfield Park through to Bulwell Hall Golf Club via Farleys Lane was the choice for our latest venture.

It was a little longer than expected but everyone enjoyed the walk and chat.

(and the coffee at the Golf Club was welcome too!)

Details of our next walk will follow.

Theatre Trips Group

Riverdance 30: The New Generation at Royal Concert Hall Saturday 4th October 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £53.00.

Top Hat, Theatre Royal Saturday 11th October 2.30 Tickets £56.00

Northern Ballet MERLIN Theatre Royal 2.30 Saturday 18th October Tickets £38.00 We need 10 members to get this price. So please put your names down.

Charlie & The Chocolate Factory Theatre Royal on 29th October 2025 at 2.30pm Tickets £27.00.

2026

Matthew Bournes's The Red Shoes, Theatre Royal, 7th February 2:30pm Tickets £62.50

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

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

Faulty Towers: The Play, Theatre Royal, Saturday 6th June, 2:30pm, Tickets £57.50

Barbara

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

Unfortunately, Bennerley Viaduct postponed our planned guided walk with 48 hours' notice.

It has been rearranged for October 16th.

September 18th Walk

It is 2 years since we visited Gedling Country Park. The full undulating circuit is about 3.9 miles. There have been a few changes and as always, weather permitting there are extensive views across the county and into Lincolnshire.

At the end there is a welcome café which should be less busy now the school holidays have finished.

One change is the car parking which is a very reasonable £2.00 per vehicle.

Meet at the lower car park at 9.45am for a 10am start, Gedling Country Park, Spring Ln, Nottingham NG4 4PE

David Rose

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

On 5th August, a circular walk took place starting at Holmbrook Valley Country Park, a green space known for its meadows, ponds, and woodland paths. The morning began under mild summer skies, with participants setting out from the park's visitor area. The route first followed winding trails through wildflower grasslands, offering views of butterflies and songbirds.

From Holmbrook, the walk continued towards Barlow Country Park, passing along shaded lanes and hedgerows. This section provided a mix of open fields and gentle climbs, with opportunities to spot waterfowl in the park's wetlands. A short rest stop allowed walkers to enjoy the peaceful scenery and take photographs.

The route then led to Linacre Reservoir, a tranquil stretch of water surrounded by trees and reeds. Here, walkers paused to watch ducks and geese, while enjoying a cooling breeze across the water. The reservoir path looped back towards Holmbrook, linking up with woodland tracks that gradually descended into the country park.



In total, the walk covered approximately 8.5 miles, combining varied landscapes and habitats. The group returned in the afternoon, pleased with the relaxed pace, sociable atmosphere, and the chance to explore three distinct local nature areas in one rewarding circular route.

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
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	mah.jong2@hucknallu3a.org.uk
National Trust	Barrie & Sue Saunders	nationaltrust@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Not So Grumpy Old Men	Barrie Saunders / John Tedstone	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 Hodgkinson	tabletennis@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Tarot	Angela Cornish	tarot@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Theatre Trips	Barbara Ives	theatre@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Ukulele	Philip Attenborough / John Pretty	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; 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.