



NEWSLETTER

Issue –December 2025

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

17th December 2025

Christmas Social - Films

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 2nd January 2026

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 have to say that the Christmas meals and other events seem to have started even earlier this year. Perhaps that is just the knock on effect of the amount of u3a events we are both invited to. As I write this we have already had two Christmas meals so far and it isn't even December. We had so many meals booked I was worried I would overload on Turkey, so I decided I wasn't having Turkey at every event. Unfortunately at the two I've already attended I discovered I'd ordered different kinds of fish. I do hope I haven't ended up ordering the fish dish for all of them! Luckily, we've been invited to our eldest son's for Christmas dinner, so I can be assured I'll get my turkey with all the trimmings then.

The Social Sub Committee have put on the Christmas lunch again this year and it is already sold out. We aren't able to make it this year but I am sure it will be lovely as usual. The details for the Christmas film are included later in the newsletter which I admit I am looking forward to seeing. There is just something about Christmas films that never fails to please. If you are attending either of these events we will be collecting for the Hucknall food bank. Cupboard staples or cash donations are both welcome. Please note that due to the timing of the events most of the food will not reach the food bank in time for distribution before Christmas. So please make sure the best by dates of any food contributions are post January 2026.

I look forward to seeing quite a few of you at the different meals and events we still have to attend. However, I wish each of you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

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

January 2026 – Bob Reed – Let's Talk Toilets
February 2026 – Noel Kelly – Commonwealth War Graves Commission
March 2026 – Alistair Littlewood – Tales from the Vikings

Social Events 2026

Dates for your diary :-

Friday 20th March Afternoon Games

Friday 26th June Evening 60s and 70s Disco

Friday 18th September Evening Bestwood Male Voice Choir with a new programme

Monday 7th December Christmas Meal and Social

Wednesday 16th December Afternoon Christmas Film



CHRISTMAS FILM SHOW – FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH



Doors Open 12.45pm

1.15pm to 2.45pm A Christmas Story

2.45pm to 3.15pm Refreshment Break

3.15pm to 3.45pm 'The Disappearing Husband'

"A Christmas Story,"

A Christmas Story is a nostalgic holiday comedy set in 1940s Indiana, following young Ralphie Parker's quest for a Red Ryder BB gun. Blending humour and warmth, it captures childhood dreams, family quirks, and festive traditions. Iconic moments include the leg lamp, the tongue-on-a-pole dare, and Ralphie's relentless wish despite warnings he'll "shoot his eye out." Its timeless charm and relatable family chaos have made it a perennial Christmas classic cherished across generations.



and the premiere of a supporting short film, **"The Disappearing Husband."**

Following from a chance meeting with an old friend a recent retiree begins to wander off at random. Where to? Nobody knows. A case for shady moustachioed private detective Vince and his equally dodgy assistant. (They are not that good, but they are cheap)

Hucknall Food Bank Donations

At the film show there will be a voluntary collection of non-perishable food and cash.

News From the Groups

Discovering Britain Group

On Monday the 6th of October, we enjoyed a delightful day trip to the picturesque town of Bakewell. The weather was pleasant, with clear skies and a mild breeze, which made exploring the town especially enjoyable. Our first stop was the Bakewell market, where we spent time browsing the many stalls offering local produce, handmade crafts, and baked goods. The atmosphere was lively, and the friendly stallholders added to the charm of the experience.

After exploring the market, we visited the famous Original Pudding Shop, where we purchased some traditional Bakewell puddings to take home. We also stopped at the Old Cheese Shop nearby, sampling and buying a selection of locally made cheeses.

For lunch, we went to the Red Lion Inn, a cosy and welcoming pub that served hearty meals and excellent service. Following lunch, we made our way to the Old House Museum, one of Bakewell's oldest buildings. The museum's fascinating exhibits gave us an insight into the town's rich history and heritage.



Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable day, filled with good food, interesting sights, and a lovely sense of local tradition.

Mark Thornley

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

What are your opinions about Andrew and the future of the monarchy – revisited from last month - Following last month's topical discussion we reflected on what we now know about the outcome. Although we are envied for our monarchy from across the world, calls for deporting and punishing were not supported, points were made about whether he had actually committed crimes and that the charges media fuelled by homing in on him, when other high profile people were almost certainly involved, they have not been investigated.

Grooming and sex workers - Exploitation and grooming is a serious problem with people drawn into situations which they cannot escape from, especially youngsters under the age of consent. Sex workers have always been around. Laws around how they can be kept safe were discussed.

Is there still a class war in this country - Overall the answer was 'yes'. Qualification and background can still be taken into account in many professions and careers of their children. Comments included, 'jobs for the boys'. There are still barriers caused where people are educated and contacts within professions. Historically, some jobs needed contacts/relatives already doing the job.

Should wealthy pensioners give up pension - A lively discussion about how pensions work. One point was that if you have saved for retirement it seems unfair that you should be unable to have the same rights to people who have not saved. There seems to be a lack of information to guide people through their rights.

Christmas presentation - A light-hearted last item where everyone agreed that many of the gifts given are not really needed and ended up as charity gifts raising money for worthy causes.

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

Easy Walkers Group

We had a journey out to Highfields University Park in November where we enjoyed a pleasant walk around the lake and campus, followed by Coffee in the Students Refectory.

Our proposed visit to The River Leen exhibition however ,was foiled due to a heating failure.

Hopefully we will revisit in the New Year.

Thanks to our walkers for your continued support.

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.

Alan Snape

Gardening Group

In November the group welcomed back Karen Gimson who gave a very amusing, and interesting talk on 365 Days of Colour in the Garden. She also gave us suggestions for places to visit as well as lots of hints and tips, such as cutting snowdrop bulbs into 6 pieces to get more of them. We were informed that we were the friendliest group in the East Midlands circuit, and she has visited lots of different groups so she would know! What an accolade! We will certainly be having her back to the group in future.



There will be no meetings in December and January, and we are taking names and monies for our February trip to Easton Walled Gardens to see the snowdrops.

Anne

History Group

At the meeting on November 19th Trevor Lee came to tell us about entertainers who had been born in Nottinghamshire. So we discovered that some favourite people we hadn't realised were born locally. Lesley Crowther was among them with Cavan O'Connor; Constance Shaclock (Who had sung in so many of Hucknall's Churches) and of course Eric Coates. How good it was as well to hear their voices or music so thank you Trevor (whom else could we think of who would have the technology to allow us to hear these performers)?

On January 21st, at 2pm, Central Methodist Church, Alex Rose, who was recommended by Anne Wilkinson, is coming to talk to us about 'A Literary Ramble Around Nottingham'. Instead of counting sheep what about trying to name local authors or artists and see if Alex agrees?

Happy New Year to history buffs,

Maureen Newton

Luncheon Group

The luncheon group is visiting the Albert Hall in Nottingham for their traditional Christmas lunch on Tuesday 16 December. For those members attending they need to be there between 11.30am and 12 noon. The rear door will be open for those having difficulty in walking.

In 2026 our first venue is the Tea House (The Golf Club), currently the list is full and we have a reserve list.

On 25 February we are booked in at 'Vaadi' a local restaurant (used to be The Maltshovel) on Annesley Road. They have a lunchtime menu of 2 courses for £19.95 or 3 courses for £22.95. We will taking names and a £5.00 per head deposit at the January meeting.

May we take this opportunity of wishing all our members a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ann & Rose

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

In early October seventeen Not So Grumpy Old Men visited the Newark Air Museum, probably the most impressive private aviation museum in the UK. The static display outside includes the iconic Vulcan bomber, the Hastings transport aircraft, crucial to the Berlin airlift & the maritime reconnaissance giant, the Shackleton – shown in the picture.

There are two indoor exhibition halls, containing a variety of jet & piston engined airframes, with a special emphasis on RAF training types over the years, used to train fast jet & multi engined pilots, navigators, bomb aimers et al. In addition there are numerous airframes from the US, French, Polish & Swedish air forces.

By special dispensation Grumpies had the opportunity to get in the cockpits of numerous aircraft types, both large & small (I'm talking airframes not Grumpies!).



The museum is open all year & has a plethora of aviation related material, both historical & contemporary. If you haven't visited it's well worth considering making the effort. I'm sure you will not be disappointed.

Bob McEwen.

Pickleball Group

On Saturday 22nd November a team of 8 'Picklers', made up from the Monday and Thursday pickleball groups, took on a team from LoCo Pickleball for a friendly competition. LoCo are a local, non u3a, team, meaning some of them were much younger than us!

Both teams consisted of four ladies and four men and we played a mixture of doubles and mixed doubles, swapping partners each time. Games were played for 11 minutes, rather than to the more usual 11 points. Carol, who is the coach for LoCo, took charge of the whistle and schedule and the scoring was done by adding each teams score at the whistle to provide a cumulative score per team.

It was neck and neck all afternoon with the lead passing backwards and forwards. Hucknall u3a team went into the final round with a 5 point lead, but unfortunately LoCo had a strong round, beating us 287 to 282 overall. Just 5 points in it shows what a great afternoon it was and how evenly matched the teams were.



Middle Picture : From left to right: Mick Frings, Steve Swift, Karen Guy, Diane Swift, Hayley Leeming, Phil Pickwick, Dave Jackson, Julie Bridges

We finished off the afternoon with a trip to the Horse and Groom at Linby for a very well earned drink and some great conversations with our opponents. Everyone agreed it had been a really enjoyable afternoon and we are hoping for a rematch soon.

Karen Guy

Science Group

In part one we shared a presentation about medical advances during the 1950s.

It is a time when many of us were growing up, and the decade marked major progress in individual medical interventions and in public health.

To summarise some key advances.

Jonas Salk's injectable polio vaccine and Albert Sabin's oral version dramatically reduced the disease. Advances in heart surgery introduced artificial valves, pacemakers, and routine open-heart procedures. Dialysis programs began, while vaccines curbed the Asian flu. New antibiotics and tranquilizers emerged, alongside recognition of the cancer risks linked to smoking.

We also shared a celebration of two significant birthdays of David Wormald and Lynda Jackson 1955 and 1935 babies. But which was which?



After the break using small cardboard and bigger plastic 'jet propelled' model planes group members carried out a practical investigation into how aeroplane wings and angle of launch affect flight path and distance.



Our next meeting is on Friday December 19th - Bob McEwen is the Quiz Master for our end of term quiz, and in the Blue Peter tradition you will be making something to take home afterwards.

David Rose

Singalong Group

One word song titles was the last subject choice at Novembers singalong. There were lots to choose from so we may revisit that subject some other time.

Our theme for December is Christmas!

All the old favourites, not many new ones to choose from unfortunately!

Strollers Group

A journey on the Tram to Highfields University Park began our November walk.

A stroll around the lake where we saw Heron and Cormorants plus the inevitable Geese was enjoyed by us all.

We even met the Easy Walkers Group en-route but declined their offer to join them and went to the cafe by the lake instead where some of us visited an exhibition of Feather Sculptures.

Hopefully we will revisit the Park next year before the River Leen exhibition finishes.

Theatre Trips Group

Saturday 12th December 25. Oliver Twist at Derby Theatre 2.30pm Tickets £36.00. Christmas Shopping before theatre.

2026

Saturday 7th February 2016 Mathews Bourne's Red Shoes at Theatre Royal 2.30pm Tickets £62.50.

SUNDAY 3rd May 2026 Six the Musical at Theatre Royal 2.30pm. Tickets £42.50.

Saturday 16th May 2026 Northern Ballet Gentleman Jack at Theatre Royal 2.30 Tickets £41.00.

Saturday 6th June Faulty Towers The Play at Theatre Royal 2.30pm. Tickets £57.50.

Barbara

Vegetarian Cookery Group

The group met in November and were shown a vegetarian option for a Christmas Day dinner, in addition to alternative cheese scones and Florentine cookies. All were enjoyed as usual. It was good to get back to the meeting after an absence of two months. There will be no meeting in December as it will be too close to Christmas, so we meet again in January and the recipes for 2026 are all ready and waiting!

My thanks to those who help in any way with these meetings, it is always much appreciated.



This group has a limit on numbers, but we do have a couple of vacancies now as some members have other commitments on a Monday. If anyone is interested in joining us please do have a word with me at the main u3a meetings.

Anne Wilkinson

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

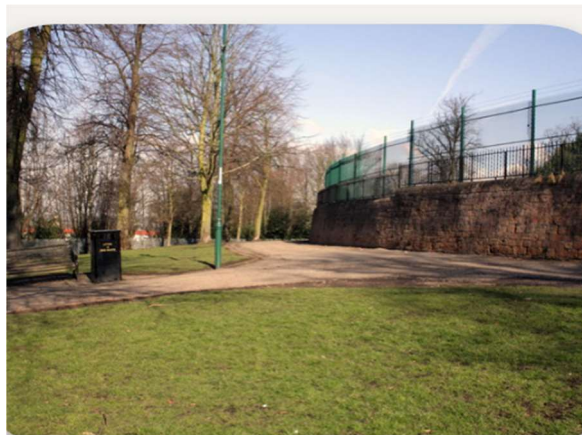
The November walk was led by Liz and Phil Attenborough

On a sunny, frosty Thursday morning, 12 "short walkers" made their way via Waterloo Promenade to the Arboretum, walking up Elm Avenue to the high point of the Bellevue Reservoir - a little-known landmark which serves the City of Nottingham where we enjoyed uninterrupted views over the city.

Belle Vue Reservoir is a hidden Victorian engineering gem, built in the 1850s to secure the city's water supply. Located near Mapperley Road, it consists of two underground chambers holding millions of litres. Rarely seen by the public, its brick vaults and arches showcase remarkable craftsmanship

A stroll back over the forest recreation ground to where we boarded a warm tram back to Hucknall.

A very interesting and informative walk.



December Walk

On Thursday December 18th we are catching the 9.39am 141 bus from Linby.

Our walk is 4 miles from Larch Farm into Newstead Abbey grounds via Kirkby Road and Haggnook Wood. We will have a café stop at the Abbey before returning to Papplewick and then onto Linby.

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Our last walk of 2025 was at West Hallam on an ideal day for walking, after the deluge a few days previously. Our walk leaders Steve and Anne Lawrence had made a few adjustments to avoid a path which had become a stream over the weekend.

Starting from the Newdigate Inn, we followed a circular route taking in many of the walking routes within Shipley Park. Looking across the lake, new housing has taken the place of the American Adventure theme park of the 1980s, probably for the good! The park was looking attractive in autumn colours, and there are several cafes which have appeared, I think, since our group first walked this area some years ago.



Can you spot the Mole ?!.

Our next walk will be on January 19th – this will be our Nottingham City Centre photo quiz, being organized again by John Saunders and David Jackson.

We always welcome new Medium Walks members – to get in touch, just use the contact email on the Hucknall U3A website.

John Tedstone , Group Leader

Watercolour Group

A number of paintings by the Watercolour group has been put on display at Hucknall Library during November, the paintings show how skilled our artists are in the group.

Thank you to Brenda Wheat of the group who organised the display and to the Library.



Maggie Huckerby , Leader of U3A Watercolour group

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 | excercise@hucknallu3a.org.uk |
| Crafty Knitters | Barbara Hill | craftyknitters@hucknallu3a.org.uk |

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Discussion | Christine Beer | discussion@hucknallu3a.org.uk |
| Discovering Britain | Pauline Archer / Gill Hunt | 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 | Karen Guy | 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 |
| 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 | 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 |
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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 | 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.