



NEWSLETTER

Issue –January 2026

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

14th January 2026

Guest Speaker : Bob Reed – Let's Talk Toilets

Why should we want to talk about toilets, you may ask?. Well, in 2020, around 3.5 BILLION people around the world did not have a safely managed toilet and nearly HALF A BILLION had no toilet at all.

Why should we care?, Why are there so many people without one?, What can be done about it?, What could you do?, You'll have to come along to my serious yet entertaining talk find out!.

Robert trained is a Civil Engineer and has spent more than 40 years working in emergency relief and poverty alleviation. He has mainly specialized in water supply and sanitation for low income communities and post disaster relief. Up to 2015 he spent 30 years lecturing at Loughborough University undertaking a wide range of teaching, research and consultancy activities related to his specialisations.

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

Happy New Year everyone.

After a hectic start to December I must admit things slowed down nicely allowing us plenty of time to get everything done in time for the big day. Of course that was made easier as our eldest son was cooking Christmas dinner and what a fabulous job he did. I was particularly grateful as I hadn't ordered Turkey for any of the Christmas meals we went to. I must remember to not do that next year!

As I look back at 2025 I'm pleased with all we managed to fit in. However, I own up that the planned wine trip with our wine groups did not materialise, I just ran out of time to get it organised. However, Gary and I did get to France in our caravan so we haven't lacked for wine over the year! Highlights of the year for me have been the Melrose holiday, Discovering Britain days and VE day with Jonny Victory. All interspersed with our usual groups and activities. It's certainly been a fun packed year.

I'm looking forward to what the next year holds, both with the u3a and our own activities. Of course, after April I will no longer be on the Committee but that won't stop me being actively involved. Speaking of which, many of you will know that I have been inspired by Mark Thornley to organise a trip to Exmouth in October. If all goes well I will liaise with Mark on continuing to look at group holidays. It's certainly something that gets a good response from members.

I hope something inspires you this year, to either join a new group, try out one of the social events (if you haven't already done so), or even decide to start a new group yourself. Whatever you do don't forget to keep laughing and learning, it's the best tonic available!

One final note, we have received a kind thank you from Trevor Clay at Hucknall Engage for the donations received from you at the Christmas events for the foodbank. This year we raised £148 as well as a generous amount of goods.

I wish you all the very best for the year ahead.

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

February 2026 – Noel Kelly – Commonwealth War Graves Commission
March 2026 – Alistair Littlewood – Tales from the Vikings
April 2026 – Edward Cook – Re-Wilding

NOTE – February Meeting

Please note that the February meeting will take place a week later on the 18th February 2026

Hucknall u3a Christmas Lunch 2025

On Monday, 1st December 2025, our u3a community came together for the much-anticipated Christmas Lunch, marking the start of the festive season in grand style.

The event saw an impressive gathering of 144 members, all eager to share good food and laughter.

JGC was beautifully adorned with traditional Christmas decorations, setting a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

We were treated to a delicious Christmas meal with all the trimmings, followed by a tempting array of puddings, finished off with mince pies.

Special dietary requirements were thoughtfully catered for, ensuring everyone could indulge in the seasonal fare.

Festive entertainment followed the meal with singer Jess Johnson, and several lively members danced the afternoon away.

The Christmas Lunch continues to be one of the highlights of our social calendar.

We would like to thank Cathy Tomlinson who caters for this event, Jess Johnson for the entertainment and to the staff at JGC for making us very welcome at this and other events.



A date for your diary: The Christmas Lunch next year (2026) is on Monday 7th December.

Social Sub Committee

Christmas Film Show Wednesday 17th December

Our first film was a 30-minute short titled 'The Missing Husband' from the 'Kept Woman' film studio.

This soon to be classic was produced and directed by David and Christine Vincent and featured several u3a groups and members.

Basically, a recent retiree goes missing from home, but his family have no idea where he goes or what he does when he gets there.

They employ dodgy private detectives Hugh Dunnit and Charlie Clueless who after a few false leads eventually track him down to The John Godber Centre and discover that he has joined the u3a.

Here he is hiding behind the snowman at a Singalonga group session.



This was followed by a refreshment break thanks to Christine and John Berrill and their volunteer team with mince pies, sausage rolls and some very moreish vegetarian rolls (that soon disappeared) expertly made by Anne Wilkinson.

Following the break our feature film was *A Christmas Story*, a cult festive comedy film released in 1983. Set in the 1940s, it follows young Ralphie Parker as he navigates the joys and mishaps of a family Christmas in American suburbia.

Ralphie's greatest Christmas wish is to receive a Red Ryder BB gun, but he faces repeated warnings that he'll "shoot his eye out". The film is celebrated for its nostalgic look at childhood, quirky humour, and memorable moments, which have made it a classic holiday favourite for audiences of all ages.

David Rose

News From the Groups

Discovering Britain Group

On 14 November, we visited Cambridge for a day of exploring its historic architecture, cultural landmarks, and unique academic atmosphere, except as it was atrocious weather and threw it down with rain all day, our exploring was somewhat curtailed. However the first stop was King's College, where the magnificent chapel dominated the scene with its soaring fan vaults and centuries-old stained glass. Standing in the courtyard, we gained a strong sense of the university's long intellectual heritage.

From there, we walked to the Corpus Clock, an eye-catching and somewhat unsettling installation. Its grasshopper-like "Chronophage" creature dramatically marked the passage of time, drawing crowds of intrigued onlookers. A short walk further brought me to the Round Church, one of the oldest buildings in Cambridge. Its circular Norman design provided a stark contrast to the surrounding Gothic and modern structures.

Crossing the river, we paused at the Mathematical Bridge, famous for its elegant wooden engineering and the persistent myths surrounding its construction. The nearby Fitzwilliam Museum offered a rich cultural experience, with exhibits ranging from classical antiquities to European paintings, allowing for a brief but rewarding immersion in art and history.



We ended the day hurrying along back to the bus, where we were able to get warm and dry off a little.

Mark Thornley

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

Should we stop this media focus on Andrew now? - Without exception the result of a vote on this showed 100% of the group felt the hounding should stop.

Should GB continue with the re-wilding projection birds and animals? - There were mixed answers to this question. Worries were expressed about some species and whether the current situation had evolved or human intervention had led to where we are now. This gave us the question of whether humans should interfere in nature.

What do you think of DIY rooms at your Dr's surgery? - A member of the group told us that a recent visit to the Dr's surgery was conducted in a room with no member of staff present, just a series of questions and tasks for example blood pressure to monitor. Results from this would be monitored by

AI and necessary actions taken from this. Questions were raised about how this would work and how it could compare with face to face appointments.

Should a law be passed to prevent Doctors going on strike? - A lively item with no conclusion. Whilst workers have a right, by law, to withhold labour if they have a protest or issue it was felt the whole case was not really what the public see.

What's your view on Christmas? - Everyone had a different take on Christmas, overall the commercial Christmas that we now see, starting earlier every year did not portray the Christian meaning of the event.

A welcome cuppa was accompanied by a fuddle that members brought to share before the meeting drew our 2025 Discussion Group to an end as we now look forward to 2026.

The next meeting is on Monday 26th January 2026 at the John Godber.

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

There is no meeting in January so the next meeting of the Garden group is on February 11 2026, when we visit Easton Walled Garden to see the snowdrops and other spring bulbs. We still have a few vacancies for this trip if anyone would like to join us. Please see us at the back of the hall at the January main meeting. A Happy New Year to all our members.



Anne

History Group

The History Group starts the new year of 2026 with a talk from Alex Rose called 'A Literary Ramble Around Nottingham'

All the groups indoor meetings are held at Central Methodist Church on Baker Street but there is a car park at the rear on Titchfield Street. Meetings start at 2pm, usually there is a break for refreshments and closure is about 4pm. Later there will be details of the visits booked for this year plus costs and times of departure and return.

A special wish from the team of helpers is for History Group members to have a happy and healthy 2026.

Maureen Newton

Luncheon Group

Our December Christmas lunch at the Albert Hall, Nottingham turned out to be a really successful event. Even the weather remained fine for the 81 people who attended, hoping to book again for Christmas 2026.

We have a full complement of names with a reserve list for our January outing to the Golf Club.

At the January monthly meeting we will take names, a £5.00 deposit and menu choices for 'Vaadi' on Wednesday 25 February.

May we take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ann & Rose

National Trust Group

National Trust visit to Chester Christmas Market on Tuesday 2nd December

Our last visit of 2025 saw the group leave Hucknall enroute to Chester in beautiful sunshine. As we prepared to leave we were able to watch lorries arriving with some very large funfair rides for the Hucknall's light switch on the following day.

Arriving in Chester just after 11.00 am we were dropped off by the Grosvenor Park which was close to the city's main attractions.

Over the course of the day the historic Roman city offered multiple activities and attractions. The Cathedral, which is over a thousand years old was beautifully adorned with dozens of decorated Christmas trees.

The city is also home to the largest Roman amphitheatre in Britain. Walking groups were there in large numbers as were groups of schoolchildren all suitably attired to take part in their Roman day.

A walk on the Roman city wall was a must for many group members along with a sedate boat trip along the River Dee.

The Christmas market stalls, housed in the usual wooden chalets sold a variety of Christmas gifts and seasonal food and drink. Allowing time for lunch and a visit to the many shops including the eight hundred year old "Rows" made for a very full and enjoyable day.



Returning back to Grosvenor Park for 4.15 to meet the coach our driver, Wayne, got us safely back in Hucknall for 7.15pm.

The group now enters a winter break and resumes its visits in March with a visit to the Dunham Massey Estate.

Barrie & Sue

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

In late October a group of twenty two 'Grumpies' were allowed out later than usual to visit the new Planetarium at Coxmoor Road, Sutton in Ashfield. In 1969 an advert in the Mansfield Chad brought together a group interested in astronomy & a few years later an observatory, with a 24" reflecting telescope was constructed on the present site. The planetarium and science centre itself is a much newer addition, opening in November 2024 after being funded by the local council and the Levelling Up Fund, to the tune of £5.3 million. The planetarium is built on top of a disused Victorian reservoir next to the original observatory.



Our first stop was to view the moon through the main telescope – it was almost within touching distance! It's an impressive building and piece of kit, built & maintained by volunteers. Indeed, the whole enterprise is staffed by volunteers who give freely of their time to explain their interest & enthusiasm for studying the night sky to less educated folks, like the Grumpies.

Next stop was the planetarium for a film show about the amazing sights to be seen through telescopes & from space exploration. An overhead half-dome screen 30'+ across immerses the viewer in space. Added to very comfy tilting chairs the whole experience is quite awe inspiring and calming. So much so that the Grumpies set a record for having a whole row of viewers fast asleep!

Sherwood is the first observatory to be built for ten years in this country & one of very few with public access. It is an amazing asset to have on our doorstep & a visit is highly recommended. Thanks go to John Berrill for organising.

Bob McEwen.

Science Group

For our final meeting of 2025 Bob McEwen had prepared a very interesting and varied quiz. Some of the questions were about the topics we covered this year, and some were based on the fiendish format of 'Only Connect'

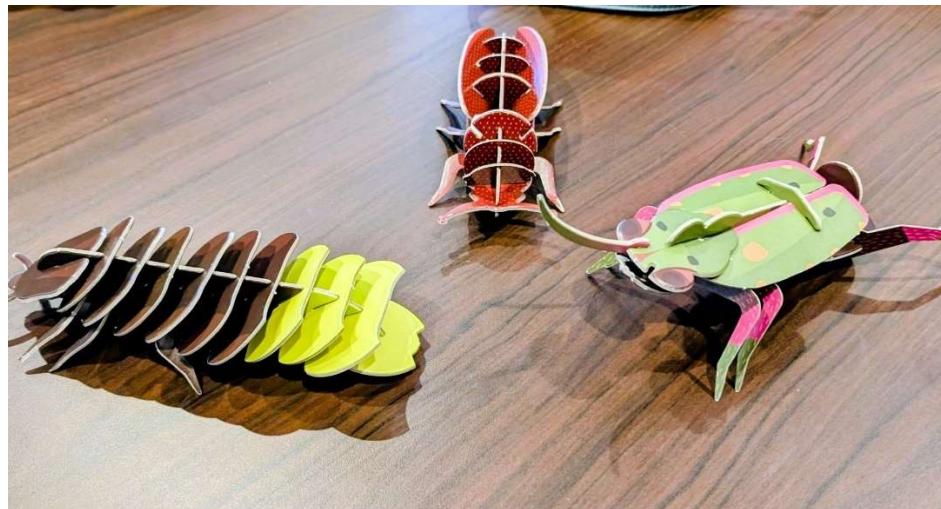
Another round was to add missing vowels to complete the names of well-known scientists.

e.g. L_ _S P_ ST_ _ R (Louis Pasteur) The one that defeated everybody was:

DL VL CBYRN Can you do it? (Answer at the end of this article)

Following a break for tea/coffee and mince pies we moved on to assembling models of woodland insects and members of the spider family.

The templates were donated by Greenwood an initiative to enable Nottinghamshire's communities to create, enhance and enjoy woodlands and other accessible green spaces in a sustainable way and Miner2Major whose nature projects focus on the landscape, habitats, species and trails of Sherwood Forest which locally includes Moor Pond Woods in Papplewick. All to the benefit of native wildlife and habitats.



Thanks to everyone for their contributions this year as we look forward to 2026.

January 16th Meeting 10am at JGC

Seating is out for the annual Pantomime so we will be at the back of the hall.

John Tedstone will be sharing his recent visit to the medical history section at the London Science Museum, and I have a presentation about what is on offer at the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds which is the venue for our science visit on Friday May 15th.

Finally, you will have the opportunity to select an invention which is the theme for our '5-minute talks'.

And the mystery scientist is ADA LOVELACE BYRON

David Rose

Theatre Trips Group

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 next meeting will be on January 26 at the church hall for St Peter and St Paul's on Ruffs Drive. After the Christmas break we shall be doing recipes that can be used for picnics or days out or even gatherings at home. As always the recipes can be adapted for large or small gatherings.

A Happy New Year to all members of the group.

Anne Wilkinson

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

Unfortunately, the December walk was cancelled but we will be doing the same walk to start the 2026 programme.

We will catch the 141 bus at 9.39am in Linby village. Alight at Larch Farm followed by a walk back to Linby with a toilet and café stop at Newstead Abbey.

Remember your bus pass.



David Rose

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
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 Hodkinson	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

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 - Weekender'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.