



NEWSLETTER

Issue – March 2026

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

11th March 2026

Guest Speaker :

Alistair Littlewood – Professional Storyteller

The topic for our meeting is Tales from the Vikings

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 27th March 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

My garden is telling me spring is on the way, even if the weather is preventing us from doing much. Luckily the u3a is also telling me spring is in the air. Discovering Britain and the National Trust Group have restarted their day trips and some of us are also about to embark on Mark Thornley's spring break to Ilfracombe.

I am reliably informed that our speaker this month has a very hard act to follow, the talk on the commonwealth graves being positively commented on by many. Well done Chris for getting us such a good speaker for the most well attended monthly meeting for some time. No doubt many of you who attended in February were there to renew your membership. I am pleased to say that at the last count 460 people had already renewed, leaving only 40 or so left to do so. The new sum up machines were well received and I'm pleased we organised two of those for the renewals as I am told that it helped keep the queue moving fairly quickly.

While it's good that so many people have renewed their memberships promptly I am disappointed that no-one has yet offered to take up the membership secretary role on the committee. With so many members surely someone must have some spare time to take on this important role. If no-one steps up an existing committee member can for a short period cover the role as well as their existing role. However, this is not sustainable or indeed fair to whoever ends up with the additional work. If we do not find someone to take on the role the committee will have to consider whether or not Hucknall and District u3a can continue. This doesn't have to be a long term commitment as while most committee members are in place for 6 years, you can chose to do only 4 or even 2 years' service. Please think hard about whether you can help the committee and keep your u3a going.

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

April 2026 – Edward Cook – Re-Wilding
May 2026 – Michael Burton – The River Trent
June 2026 – Marcus Alton – Brian Clough

Games Afternoon Friday March 27th

Let the Games Begin: An Afternoon of Friendly Fun

Doors Open 1.00pm Finish time 3.30/45pm

Games start 1.30pm, end 2.30pm.

Teams of 4 competing for prestige and prizes

2.30pm to 3.00pm Plated afternoon buffet

Silent Quiz during the food break.

Sticky Thirteen 3pm. Event ends 3.30/45pm, doors close 4pm.



Tickets are £8.00 each and will be on sale at the March 11th monthly meeting.

Social Sub Committee

News From the Groups

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

How we felt after the visit from Neil Reddish to discuss police work.

Everyone was happy and felt that we had learnt from the visit.

Further questions were raised about how you deal with anything which is found and needs to be handed in as there is no customer desk in Hucknall. Should cyclists have number plates? How to police the checkouts and self-service tills in supermarkets and costs. Look at the cost of policies that that cannot be administered in practice.

Tax on pensions - We discussed how tax was set on pensions. The subject of the WASPI women with the change of pension age means waiting longer to retire. How the 'perks' of things like bus passes were administered.

Coal fired power stations - The Drax power station is now using wooden pellets instead of coal and the costs and implications were discussed. Points given were, co2 emissions are higher not lower, offset emissions to country of origin of the wood. Trees are not being replaced. Net zero. Cost of getting materials for power along with the demise of the coal mining industry.

Number plates for bikes - Could this really work?

Who we could ask to visit the group from the community?

Ideas were asked for bringing other community people into the meetings so that we can hear about how they work.

The next meeting is on Monday 23rd March 2026 at the John Godber.

Easy Walkers Group

A walk along the bottom of the Ranges onto Black Pad and back to Linby was enjoyed by 15 Easy Walkers. Obviously a coffee at the end of the walk (2.5 miles) at Brooke Farm was much appreciated.

Thanks to those who walked with us.

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.

Garden Group

The February meeting was a trip to Easton Walled Gardens on a grey, rainy day. Fortunately the rain stopped as we arrived so we were able to enjoy the lovely grounds in the relative dry. There was so much colour in the gardens, cerise cyclamen, blue iris, yellow aconites, daffodils, pink and white daphne as well as the multitudes of snowdrops. It was a very fragrant tour as we enjoyed the spring scented blooms. It is a garden well worth a second visit, and has extensive grounds to accommodate all visitors as well as two tea rooms! In true u3a fashion.



The March meeting is a talk at the JGC on Pots of Perennials and we will be taking monies for April's trip to Lamport Hall at that meeting.

Anne

History Group

Usually the History Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month but in February it was the fourth Wednesday, the 25th. We always meet at Central Methodist Church at 2pm to about 4pm. Unfortunately the speaker was unable to come due to a hospital appointment so it was, as The Good Old Days Music Hall master said, Chiefly Ourselves.

Members learned and were reminded about lots of things such as David Attenborough has family links with Hucknall, calling occasionally at Sawly to chat with one of our members. What do you know about who used shears, shawls and school pinafores; do you have an autograph book because there may be interesting names inside? Did you enjoy visiting Papplewick Lido before the land was sold or discover a little about Portugal's history? Even Samuel Pepys got a mention. Very well done to everyone who took part.

Next month on March 18th (back to our normal day) our old friend Robert Mee is coming to tell us about the History on the Erewash Trail. We missed him last year due to Covid and look forward to seeing him again with his excellent presentations.

Maureen Newton

Litter Picking Group

Once again the litter pickers have been busy clearing litter from our environment during February. This month's 'grot spot' was The Ranges in Hucknall where 2 members collected 7 bags of rubbish and a tarpaulin – and they could have collected a lot more had they not run out of bags. They had to leave behind a duvet which due to the rain was too heavy and bulky to carry and weirdly most of the 'rubbish' they collected consisted of small bags of single bananas, lots and lots of unopened packets of crisps and other 'party' litter. It's an area to keep our eye on.

Luncheon Group

The February gathering for the Luncheon Group was held at 'Vaadi' the Mediterranean Restaurant on Annesley Road in Hucknall. The members enjoyed a choice of either 2 or 3 courses and the service was excellent.

The next gathering has been booked for Wednesday 25 March at the Springfield Inn at Lowdham. We have already taken some names and menu choices, however we do have several spaces left for anyone interested. For those members who still need to make their menu choices, we will be in touch over the next week or so.

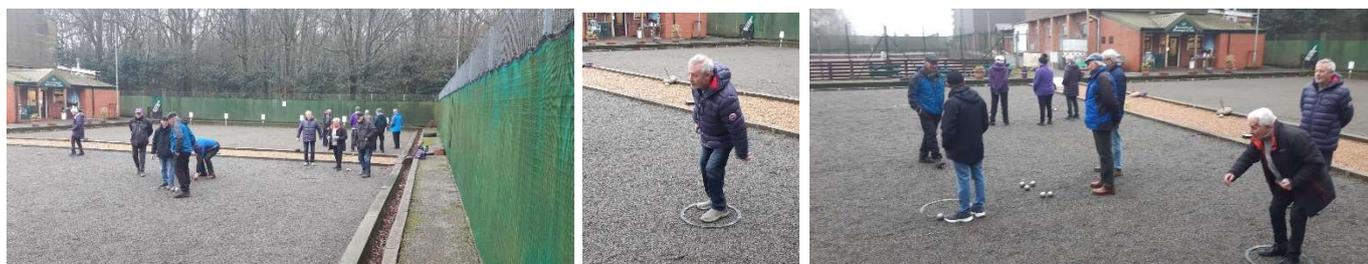
On Wednesday 22 April we have booked lunch at the Three Ponds at Nuthall. We will be taking names and menu choices from their 'lunchtime' menu at the U3A monthly meeting on Wednesday 11 March.

We would like to thank the members for their help and support in running the Luncheon Group.

Ann & Rose

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

Treize vieux grincheux jouent à la pétanque. - So we assembled with not a beret or Gauloise between us, (well Tony had a Woodbine!) in the early morning mist at Ravenshead Petanque Club ready to learn the finer points of the game we've probably all played on the beach. On the specially prepared gravel terrain were marked out several pistes or lanes. We played in pairs, each player having three boules. The starting player stands in a small cercle, laid on the ground, feet close together. Indeed this is where the game gets its name from pieds tanqués, "feet planted" (on the ground), a name that eventually evolved into the game's current name, pétanque. The jack or cochonnet is thrown between four & six metres & the thrower then throws their boule attempting to nestle close by. The opposition then have a turn & if they fail to get closer continue to throw their boules until they are nearest. Then the turn changes. When all twelve boules have been thrown the score is agreed and added to the team score. Mènes, or ends continue until one team has scored thirteen points. Time allowed for all of us to play several completed games. Indeed, the success of the visit could be judged by the fact that the last four had to be dragged from the piste, before they went into overtime.



Thanks need to accorded to the good folks at Ravenshead Petanque Club for making us so welcome and to our organiser & coach Monsieur Christophe le Garnier.

Bob McEwen

Science Group

At the February meeting John Tedstone described the history and development of Battersea Power Station, an Art Deco landmark on the Thames.

It once powered a fifth of London. Its iconic chimneys made it a cultural symbol, appearing in films and album covers. After decades of dereliction, it's now a vibrant hub of homes, shops, leisure, and restored industrial heritage, blending past and present. John then concluded by comparing electrical energy sources between the 1950s and today.

We then went back in time to Shropshire, Coalbrookdale and the Iron Bridge which sit at the heart of the Industrial Revolution. Coalbrookdale's pioneering ironworks powered new technologies, while the Iron Bridge, opened in 1779, became the world's first cast-iron bridge. Together they transformed engineering, reshaped global industry, and remain striking symbols of human ingenuity in the Severn Gorge.



Finally, we thank the 5 members who gave their '3-minute talks' about the invention of:

Smoke alarms, pacemakers, wheelie bins, credit cards and the tin opener.

March 20th Meeting - Jolanta has prepared a very interesting presentation about the discovery and development of radioactivity with a focus on the work and life of Marie Curie.

There will be time for more '3-minute'talks after the interval and contributions from willing volunteers will be most welcome.

David Rose

Singalong Group

Our meeting in February was a little challenging as we found some older Tom Paxton and Peter, Paul and Mary songs to sing, sometimes we need a bit of a challenge!

Our group continues to thrive and new members are always welcome to join us.

Strollers Group

A shorter but dry walk around Titchfield Park was the venue for the Stollers Group. A point of interest was the well maintained Polish War Graves, which those of us who had been at the last U3A Meeting discovered that these are maintained by the War Graves Commission.

A leisurely coffee break in the very busy Park cafe ended our morning.

Theatre Trips Group

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.

Jersey Boys at Concert Hall on Saturday 4th July at 2.30pm. Tickets £61.50.

Operation Mincemeat at Theatre Royal on Saturday 1st August at 2.30pm Tickets £60.50

Mamma Mia The Musical Concert Hall on Saturday 3rd October at 2.30pm Tickets £59.50

High Society on Saturday 7th November 2026 at 2.30pm Tickets £65.50.

Barbara

Vegetarian Cookery Group

The February meeting saw the group tasting a Potato and Rosemary Boulangere and Vegetable rolls made with spinach, cheese and courgettes. Again there was very little waste so everyone obviously enjoyed them and probably didn't need lunch afterwards!



The next meeting will be on Monday 23 March at St Peter and St Paul's hall on Ruffs Drive at 10.30 am.

We still have a couple of spaces in this group so if anyone is interested please contact me at the main u3a meetings.

Anne

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

The February walk was cancelled due to heavy rain. The next walk is on Thursday March 19th.

It will be the planned February walk from Bestwood Country Park Car Park

Following the rain the photograph shows the mud and flooding on the path round Mill Lakes last week.



Details will be sent to the group nearer the time.

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

We continued our custom of choosing a city walk for each February, and walking on firmer ground, while seeing locations which members of the group may not be familiar with.

We set off from the Nottingham station tram stop, after finding one of our members who went temporarily missing. We walked along the canal towpath towards Trent Bridge, then into the old Cattle Market site, after looking at the football heroes mural and sculpture near Notts County's ground. An interesting feature at the Cattle Market entrances is the bulls' heads on top of each gate post, which are listed structures.



Crossing Lady Bay Bridge, we paused to look at the new footbridge, built in Hucknall, and recently installed over the river. Once opened, this will link Colwick Park with Holme Pierrepont, for walkers and cyclists.

After a welcome coffee stop at the Trent Bridge Inn, we carried on along the Wilford side of the river, getting very wet in the process. After pausing at the War memorial on the Embankment, we returned via the Meadows area, noting the very different styles of housing, where 3-storey Victorian villas contrast with the 1970s redevelopment.

Finally, it was back to Hucknall on the tram, and in some cases via Wetherspoons. Our next walk will be on Monday 16th March, at Brinsley.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

The February walk which started from The Nabb Inn was ably led by Angela Francis.

To avoid waterlogged fields and muddy footpaths we began an urban route to a footpath next to Eelhole Farm. From there the route was mainly through woodland and eventually returned via The Misk Hills and 'Grannie's Steps'.



Tuesday March 3rd - Steve Evans will be leading a walk which starts at Calton Lees car park at the Chatsworth Estate Garden Centre , DE4 2NX

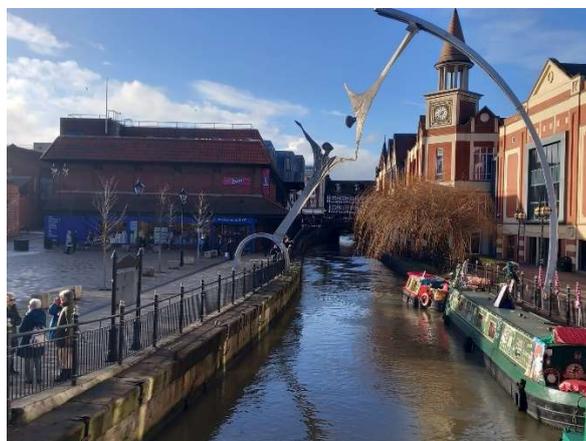
28 miles from Hucknall, about 50 minutes driving, Meet at 9.45 for a 10.00am start

The walking distance is just over 8 miles, and the car park should be free (until Easter)

David Rose (on behalf of Mark Thornley Group Leader)

Weekenders Group

Our January has been quite quiet. As usual we have had our Broomhill lunches. One was really special as it was a 90th birthday celebration. We did have an evening out to the John Godber Centre to see the Lovelace Theatres production of the Wizard of Oz. The wicked witch was terrifying. We welcomed 2 new members to a planning meeting. Our last outing was to Lincoln on the train. Some of us went up to the Cathedral for some lovely coffee and brunch at the Zoot café



On the way down this really powerful statue was in the museum grounds. Titled a Mighty Blow for Freedom (1988) Micheal Sandle depicts a bronze figure smashing a TV. The other members strayed down the hill to visit the shops but also had a nice walk in the sun along the river which looked

remarkably like they've had a day out to Amsterdam. The statue is called Empowerment which represents the engineering background to Lincoln.

We don't have much planned for February, but later in the spring we are going for a trip on the Flying Scotsman and Whitby.

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
Easier Cycling	Angela Cornish	easiercycle@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Easy Walkers	Philip Attenborough	easywalkers@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Easy Wheelers	Jim Spray	cycling@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Garden	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
Pickleball Advanced	Karen Guy	pickleball@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 – Garden 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 12:00 Pickleball Advanced	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 12:00 Pickleball Advanced 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 12:00 Pickleball Advanced 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 13:45 – Discussion	13:00 – Rummikub 2 13:00 – Mah Jong 2 18:30 – Bridge	09:15 – Easy Wheelers 12:00 – Luncheon 12:00 Pickleball Advanced	10:00 – Easy Walkers 10:00 – Strollers 14:00 – Pickleball 14:00 – Scrabble 14:00 – Canasta	09:30 – Easier Cycling 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 12:00 Pickleball Advanced	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.