



# **NEWSLETTER**

**Issue –April 2026**

**Web Address: [www.hucknallu3a.org.uk](http://www.hucknallu3a.org.uk)**

**Next Monthly Meeting**

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – AGM Meeting**

**Guest Speaker :**

**Edward Cook – Re-Wilding**

The talk involves a quiz, props, and a focus on the science and what we can all do to improve our gardens/land for wildlife. Plants for voluntary purchase

**Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

**Please forward articles for the next newsletter to [hucknallu3anewsletter@live.co.uk](mailto:hucknallu3anewsletter@live.co.uk) and remember to send a copy to the [webmaster@hucknallu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@hucknallu3a.org.uk) for inclusion on our website**

## Message from our Chair

Spring has arrived again and our garden and allotment have burst into life. Which means of course in u3a terms that another year has passed and we are about to have our AGM. It also means that this will be my last newsletter introduction. I have to say that being Chair has been interesting, challenging and rewarding, sometimes all three at once!

Of course that doesn't mean that I won't be involved in the u3a. I have the alfa trip I am leading in September when we are off to Exmouth. The wine group Gary and I lead have decided to be adventurous and venture on a trip abroad next year to do some wine tasting. A gastronomy river trip sampling the food and drink delights of Portugal along the way, I can hardly wait. I may even do another Alfa trip in 2027, we shall have to see.

I think one of the beauties of being a part of an organisation like the u3a is that it allows you to experience more. Whether that's taking part in one of the many groups we have, enjoying one of the holidays, experiencing fun at one of the socials that are regularly arranged or getting more involved.

It takes lots of people working together to make such a large group as ours thrive. We have so many roles that people can contribute in, the occasional tea server, organising the monthly tea rota, group leaders, register keepers, group leaders helpers, newsletter editor, social subcommittee member and committee members, Each role is different and requires different skills, with some being ad hoc or infrequent, while others require more of a person's time to attend meetings or even social events.

The reality is that we all help one another out whether that's on the committees, in the groups with people standing in for others when they are on holiday or have other commitments. What we can't do is manage without enough hands to make things work. That's especially true of the main committee where being a full member down will put a lot of pressure on existing committee members who are already doing the work involved in their own role.

So in my last newsletter I am asking you all again, consider if you can join the committee as Membership Secretary. You will be supported in learning the role, if you need equipment you don't currently have, we can supply it. Everyone who comes onto the committee does a role differently, because we are all different. We all find our own ways to make the role work round our existing commitments/lifestyle, so that we can continue to function as a whole. Last, but definitely not least, my own experience is that whenever you volunteer you get far more back than you put in.

So it's goodbye from me as Chair but definitely not goodbye from me in the u3a.

**Tina Holmes, Chair**

## Monthly Meetings - Safety

As always please use the rear doors off the car park for access and ensure that you register yourself as attending, if leaving before the end of the meeting, it is important for health and safety that you sign yourselves out.

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, then please make your way to the rear car park by means of the rear doors if possible. The assembly point is the Scout Hut in the far corner of the car park.

Please wear your name badges, it is far easier to strike up a conversation if folk know your name.

Please remember to volunteer for the tea & coffee rota if you are able.

### Future Speakers

May 2026 – Michael Burton – The River Trent  
 June 2026 – Marcus Alton – Brian Clough  
 July 2026 – Danny Wells – The English Garden

## Social sub-Committee Games Afternoon

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 72 members enjoyed an afternoon of friendly competitive games.

In Part One Teams of 4 competed against each other to play: Bar Skittles, Shut The Box, Executive Golf, Shuffleboard, Basket Toss Connect 4, The Bomb and Sticky Ball Darts.



At the break we enjoyed an excellent buffet provided by Cathy our regular caterer and tea and coffee were provided by Christine and John Berrill.

During the break teams completed a silent quiz and it could have been the food or the quiz, but following a hectic playing session hush descended in the hall.

To complete the afternoon Melvyn led 2 card games of 'Sticky 13'

When players started to declare 'last card' the tension was palpable.

A prize of a pack of Cadbury's Cream Eggs was awarded to the winners of the quiz and Sticky 13 games.

For the Team Games two teams tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place a tie breaker game was won by Kay Twells, John Twells , Marion Curran and Alan Curran who received eggs and a golden cup.



The Social Sub Committee wish to thank all competitors, the staff at JGC and Cathy for supporting this fun event. A date for your diary is Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> Disco and Hog Roast.

## News From the Groups

### Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

The proposed UK tourist tax - We had a description of what the new proposals were being suggested. Opinions were given about how this would have an impact on areas around the country and different possibilities about how this tax could be administered. There were positive and negative points raised.

A I , how it influences are lives, can we believe what we are told? - A member of the group gave an explanation of what A I is. Examples of where it is being used were driverless cars, teachers, medical diagnostic work and treatment. Questions around, how to trust and how useful going forward gave for a lively debate. Stories were shared about TV programs looking at issues and results.

Getting odd jobs done - The issue of how to feel safe when needing work done around your home raised the question of who can you trust. In general, word of mouth recommendations from friends and family was felt to be the best way forward. It was strongly recognised that there is much apprehension around inviting strangers to complete work. The risk of being ripped off financially was another factor.

Windpower - We heard that wind power was being turned off at source when we didn't need it. The suggestion was that it should continue working and then give it away to customers rather than not using the installations. It was agreed that it was a good theory but wondered whether it could happen.

The next meeting is on Monday 27th April 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](mailto:alansnape@hotmail.co.uk) and I will forward the latest bulletin to you.

### Flower Arranging Group

Sadly the flower group has had to close due to dwindling numbers. Thank you to everyone who tried to keep it going. I learned a lot and hopefully passed on some of the hints and tips I have learned over the years.

Siobhan

### Garden Group

The meeting in March was a talk on different perennial plants that can be used in pots as a change from annuals. The meeting this month will be a trip to Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire. There will be no meeting in May as it is a Bank Holiday. Anne



## **History Group**

Our indoor meetings are always held at Central Methodist Church on Baker Street at the time of 2pm - 4pm.(ish) Usually it is £2 per person to cover the cost of a speaker and the hire of the room.

At the March meeting Robert Mee came to tell us about the History along the Erewash Trail. He explained the trail was 30 miles as a round journey from Langley Mill to Long Eaton and back so in one hour we would have to move at 30mph to get the whole trail covered. He thought that each town we passed could really have a talk of its own but he showed 'then and now' images as we went along. Perhaps some of us could drive over to the river Erewash which isn't very far away to see some of the sights he showed.

The April meeting is a visit to The National Arboretum by Vallences coach leaving Ogle Street in Hucknall at 10.30am on Wednesday 15th April. We leave the Arboretum at 4pm.

For our May meeting we are back indoors to hear David Speed telling us about 'Beauvale Priory - Between Two Worlds'.

Maureen Newton

## **Luncheon Group**

A gathering of almost 40 members attended The Springfield Inn at Lowdham for the March outing. The food and service was excellent.

Our next booking on Wednesday 22 April is The Three Ponds at Nuthall. The list is currently full and we also have a reserved list. For those members who still have to make their menu choices, we will be in touch over the next week or so.

At the next monthly meeting on Wednesday 8 April we will be taking names and menu choices for our May outing to The Nags Head at Woodborough on Wednesday 27 May.

We are currently discussing a local venue for an evening event during the lighter nights, possibly a different night to Wednesday. We would welcome members comments and if they would be interested.

Again we would like to thank everyone who helps and supports the 'Luncheon Group'

Ann & Rose

## **National Trust Group**

Seventy members of the National Trust group started out from Hucknall Market at 8.30 am to travel across to Cheshire to visit the Dunham Massey Estate on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Traffic was relatively light on the journey and we arrived within two hours. Both coaches arrived together and NT cards were soon checked and maps and general information given out.

First point of call for many was the cafe for a midmorning drink.

The Estate is one of the jewels in the National Trust portfolio and seeing everything in a day was a challenge!!!

The House itself reflected four hundred years in the life of the Booth and Grey families demonstrated over two floors. The parkland is extensive with a wide range of walks ranging from two miles and longer. Fallow deer roamed the grounds and the extensive gardens were a real highlight for many members.



Sadly, the Mill was closed but the roomy restaurants, ice cream parlour, extensive garden shop and gift shop were all open and popular.

Although the group had previously visited in September 2023 the group verdict was that this was one of the best estates visited.

As usual everyone was back on the coach by 4.00 pm and another good journey saw us back in Hucknall by 6.00 pm.

A lovely day to start this year's visits.

Next month's visit takes us to Upton House across in the West Midlands

Barrie

## Science Group

At our March meeting group member Jolanta Adamczewska gave a very interesting presentation about the life and work of Marie Curie who was a pioneering physicist and chemist.



Marie was renowned for her groundbreaking research in radioactivity. Born in Poland, she moved to France where she became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize—and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields. Her discoveries, including polonium and radium, greatly advanced medical science and nuclear physics. Her dedication to research and education left a legacy, inspiring generations of scientists.

Jolanta also clearly explained the complexities of atomic structure, the types of radioactivity and their properties.

After the break Sue Tedstone described how she and her grandson assembled a lizard robot from a challenging electronic model kit. The robot had a stroll around the room cleverly avoiding obstructions along the way.



John Tedstone then gave a short history of the invention and development of model making and our finale was a 3-minute video created and narrated by Christine Vincent about the invention of tarmac (tarmac) with some additional information about current research aimed at solutions to make it better (at repairing potholes!)

Next month Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> We have a guest speaker Sandra Hart who is a Notts u3a member with a talk entitled

'City of Bees'.

After the break we will continue with the 3-minute talks about inventions.

David Rose

### **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**

Members at the March meeting watched a demonstration of a Red Pepper Dinner loaf and Glamorgan and Dijon Mustard spirals, and tasted them after they were cooked. Again there were no left-overs so no waste!



The next meeting will be on Monday 27 April at St Peter and St Paul's hall on Ruffs Drive at 10.30 am.

Anne

## Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

The March walk was a route from Bestwood Country Park which included a circuit of Mill Lakes. Unfortunately, although the paths were drying out, we did find some mud along the way.

However, the weather was much improved with some sunshine and temperatures warm enough for David Wright to slip into his shorts.



### April Walk

The April walk is on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>. The walk, a mix of urban and countryside starts from the parking layby outside Greasley Church. It is a variation on a walk we have done before with the addition of a literary theme.

After the walk I can recommend a visit to the Parish Oven Tea Rooms behind the church hall.

Meet at 9.30am for a 9.45am start

Further details will be sent to the group before the 16<sup>th</sup>.

David Rose

## Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

After two amazing walks based within Nottingham City, our third walk of the year was centred within the Hidden Valleys area in the countryside north of Hucknall. In spite of wind chill temperatures of 5degrees and the prospect of muddy conditions 21 walkers assembled at Brinsley Lodge Inn. As promised, we were soon presented with mud; tractor ruts compounding the issue. Ascending the path to the top of the rise we turned East and were again confronted with boggy conditions; ("How can it be so wet up at the top of a hill?". "A lot of rain!!!". Proceeding through fields, along gravel tracks and farm tracks we accessed the mineral line that used to serve the Brinsley colliery, eventually arriving at the infamous Yew Tree pub. (closed in 2010, converted to an Indian restaurant, derelict, a cannabis farm 2017; now a private dwelling) Taking a path North we arrived at our coffee stop at Underwood Hill. At this elevated point we were amazed at the number of landmarks that could be identified on the horizon; - Radcliffe power station, Eastwood church and the Jessop monument to mention a few. Many such vista were appreciated along the walk as we continued through Westwood and Jacksdale. We also had horse' encounters, inquisitive steers and the ever-present mud. After 6 miles several walkers had a well-earned pub lunch; all took home two souvenirs – muddy boots and mucky trousers.



An enjoyable rural walk.

John Tedstone

### **Walking Group (Long Length Walks)**

Our March walk began at Calton Lees, near the magnificent Chatsworth House, on a crisp spring morning. From the car park we set off along a quiet lane towards the small hamlet of Calton, passing Calton Houses and the charming Russian Cottage as the countryside gradually opened around us. The route then led us into the picturesque village of Edensor, where we paused to visit St Peter's Church. In the peaceful churchyard are the graves of Kathleen Cavendish, Marchioness of Hartington and sister of President John F. Kennedy, whose life was tragically cut short in 1948, and also at the resting place of Deborah Cavendish, one of the Mitford sisters, who married Andrew Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire.

Leaving the village, we walked back past the sweeping parkland surrounding Chatsworth House before tackling the steady climb of 163 steps to the Hunting Tower. The effort was rewarded with fine views over the estate, where we stopped for a well-earned lunch. Refreshed, we continued our route past the tranquil Emperor Lake, and then crossed the open landscape of Beeley Moor with its ancient Neolithic stone circle. Finally, the path curved back through rolling fields to Calton Lees, completing a memorable and varied countryside walk.



Many thanks !

Mark

## ***HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a INTEREST GROUPS***

<b>Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Contact E-Mail</b>
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
Dance On	David Wright / Christine Eagle	danceon@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	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
<b>1</b>	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
<b>2</b>	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 <b>13:45 - Members Meeting</b>	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
<b>3</b>	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
<b>4</b>	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
<b>5</b>	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:**

Dance On ; 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.**