



NEWSLETTER

Issue – May 2026

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

13th May 2026

Guest Speaker :

Michael Burton – The River Trent, England’s Heart

England’s prosperity was built along the waterway which, since ancient times, has been a great border - the country's north/south dividing line. Great men, great queens, and great innovation mark the Trent’s history. Yet it is, for all that, a mysterious river; silently and secretly doing its own thing and not fully known or understood.

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 29th May 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 moved into my current home in Hucknall in late 1979 & have been too idle to move since!

During my career, as a teacher, I taught in Beechdale, Wilford, Edwinstowe, Keyworth & Bramcote. Never near home.

I played rugby at Moderns RFC at Wilford & lacrosse for Nottingham University at Beeston.

As a consequence all my friends and colleagues lived a distance away. Apart from a few neighbours & the occasional shop-keeper I knew very few people living in my local area.

That all changed when I joined Hucknall & District u3a. Pickleball, Science, Not So Grumpy Old Men & International Dining mean that I rarely walk down the High Street without bumping into several friends from u3a, for which I am very grateful. For me, making new friends is one of the great strengths of the u3a organisation & I trust many of you have had a similar experience.

Any u3a succeeds or fails due to the level of input put into activities by the members.

The u3a Trust provides a framework & structure but it's down to individual u3as as to how organised they are. Fundamental to all successful u3as is an effective committee and an essential cog in this mechanism is the Membership Secretary. Unfortunately we still have a vacancy for this role & I find it hard to believe that amongst our five hundred members we do not have quite a few members who have the necessary skills, acumen & sense of service to make this role a success.

The usual term of office is two years & I can assure anyone interested that you will be fully supported in taking on such a position. In addition, ask any current or past committee member & I am sure they will agree that they got a great deal of satisfaction from their role.

If you are interested please make yourself known to me, Gary Holmes, Kevin Varey or any committee member.

Thank you.

Bob McEwen, 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

June 2026 – Marcus Alton – Brian Clough
July 2026 – Danny Wells – The English Garden
August 2026 – Bharat Patel – Reporter & Producer



HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a

invites you to a

60's/70's Summer Disco and Hog Roast

Friday 26th June 2026

In the Main Hall at the John Godber Centre
from 7.00pm until 10.00pm

Doors will open at **6.30pm**
Meal Break at **7.45pm**

Disco will start at **7.00pm**
2nd Dancing Session at **9.00pm**



Tickets will be on sale at the **May & June** meetings
Price per person **£15.00**



News From the Groups

Dance on Group

Our Dance On group is a hit!

After only 1 month our new interest group is thriving. We meet in different local venues to dance the evening away to Motown and soul music played by DJ's using vinyl records and turntables. There are now 3 events per month.

We haven't quite danced till dawn yet, but we're getting close. It's a very enjoyable evening out with a group of u3a members.

Discovering Britain Group

On 10 April we visited the historical city of Oxford, known as the City of Dreaming Spires. With its 38 college's and a mix of ancient and modern there was plenty to see and do.

The Bodleian Library is the country's second largest library and the most photographed building is the unusual Radcliffe Camera, while the Ashmolean and Natural History Museum are packed with art, historical and archaeological items.



The Botanical Gardens on the River Cherwell didn't disappoint. Frequently listed among the most beautiful in the UK it serves as a peaceful green paradise for plant lovers. At the end of the day although weary it was agreed Oxford is a beautiful city.

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

Portable Solar Panels : The use of portable solar panels that plug into mains electric was discussed. Although common in places like Germany the use has not been commonplace in UK. They cost about £800 and can charge some but not all appliances. Other ideas like the use of windmills/turbines, tidal power were talked about. The 'not in my backyard' thinking was adopted by communities.

Building on the Misk Hills, Hucknall : A subject close to the hearts of locals as the loss of the green area is debated and fears for the loss of green space. The impact of building if it proceeds without infrastructure being in place will be felt by every household living in the area.

Who buys all these new houses that are being built? : Who will buy the houses if built? Do we really need the amount of houses? Should single occupants of large houses move into smaller units to release family homes? These questions resulted in a lively discussion in the group.

Learning to use sign language : The use of sign language could be learnt by members to help understanding. Either British Sign Language or Makaton signing is used in many schools and community, the idea will be taken to Hucknall u3a committee as a possible idea for the general members.

Should cyclists have insurance and should they have bells on their bikes. : An overwhelming 'yes' for cyclists to have insurance. How this could be done practically could be difficult, however responsibility should be taken by cyclists in the same way as car insurance etc.

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

Members are welcome to meet on Monday 25th May at 10.00 am at Hucknall Wetherspools.

Easy Walkers Group

A walk over Bennerley Viaduct was enjoyed by the Easy Walkers Group in bright sunshine.

It is hoped that by the middle of the year the visitors centre and cafe will be open so we will be returning to check it out again no doubt.



It's a pleasant three mile walk with rewarding views over the Erewash valley. Well worth a visit.

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

Last month, members enjoyed a beautiful day out at Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire. It has a large hall full of interesting paintings and objects. The volunteers really know their information and obviously enjoy sharing with visitors. It is well worth a visit. We also enjoyed a walk around the extensive gardens and had the Stables to ourselves to eat our packed lunches. The Hall is not open on Monday and Tuesday apart from booked groups so we were well looked after.



There is no meeting in May as it is the Bank Holiday and June's meeting is a trip to St Ann's Allotments in Nottingham. Please let us have your name if you are interested.

Anne

History Group

Our April meeting was a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum by Vallences Coach.

Vallences give us an excellent service ,from the earlier booking point of view, and the journey.

The drivers are always polite, helpful and on this journey were treated to some music I think we all enjoyed. The Arboretum is always worth another visit. This time as well as the train with the wonderful guided tour and commentary - talks were offered such as 'Shot at Dawn' explaining why this happened.

At the next 'Main Meeting' at John Godber Centre we will be taking names and money (bring your cards if possible) for the next visit on 17th June to Matlock Bath & Masson Mill Museum.

Our next indoor meeting at Central Methodist Church which will begin at 2pm is on May 20th. It is a talk from David Speed who will tell us all about 'Beauvale Priory - Between Two Worlds'.

Bye for now, Maureen

Litter Picking Group

Towards the end of March one of the group's prolific litter pickers asked for some help in clearing a vast amount of litter around the Butler's Hill Tram Stop. As a result, on an overcast Monday morning 5 volunteers collected a massive total of 25 bags of rubbish and other items from the area. Even then, one member had to contact the council to collect some other fly tipped waste. The area certainly looked tidier for their efforts so a huge thank you and well done to those 5 volunteers.



If anyone knows of any other 'grot spots' that need our attention please let us know and we will endeavour to get it sorted. Also, if anyone else wishes to join the group please let me know via contact details at the end of the newsletter.

Val (Gant)

Luncheon Group

The luncheon group's April outing was to The Three Ponds at Nuthall. Almost 50 members attended and agreed it was value for the money.

The next gathering is booked for Wednesday 27 May at The Nags Head in Woodborough. For anyone interested in joining us, we have a few places left, we will be taking names and menu choices at the next monthly meeting on Wednesday 13 May.

Since our last newsletter announcements we have now booked 'Moda' the local Italian restaurant for TUESDAY 23 JUNE in the evening at 5pm. The change of day was to take advantage of the discount available on Tuesday evenings. Again we will be taking names, menu choices and £5.00 deposit at the May monthly meeting.

We would like to thank everyone who helps to support the 'Luncheon Group' it is much appreciated.

Ann & Rose

National Trust Group

National Trust Group visit to Upton House near Banbury. on Tuesday 21st of April.

On a sunny if slightly chilly morning the group left Hucknall Market Place for our journey down to Upton House.

Arriving just after ten thirty to we had a brief talk given by the volunteers at Upton before collecting our timed entry tickets to the House.

The House was used as a country retreat for Viscount Bearsted's family in the 1930's before being gifted to the National Trust some years later.

The House is now home to some of the best collections of paintings and porcelain in Britain with a total of over three thousand items on display.



The terraced gardens on the Estate were very colourful and proved very popular.

A number of lovely walks were available in the grounds along with a large restaurant , gift shop and second hand book shop and plant shop.

All in all a lovely venue.

In May we visit Croome on our third visit of the year.

Barrie

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

April saw 12 Not So Grumpy Old Men return to channel their inner Botham in an indoor cricket contest. The rules of engagement were explained (more than once!) to the players, led by Team Captains Ian Murray & Dave Kay. Dave's team batted first, each player facing the onslaught of 2 overs of exceptional bowling where accuracy, both of length and width, seemed to be unimportant. As wickets started to fall, one player scored 4's and 6's and another fell into his own wicket! Ian's team took to the crease and one player needed a runner which led to confusion and hilarity when 2 batsmen ended up in the same place. With the rules now at least partially understood, the teams squared up for a second game. Amongst cries of " 'ow is 'e "and "leg before wicket" the honours ended even with both captains claiming a game.



Fortunately for the standing of international cricket there were no scouts from the England selectors to identify the raw talent on display.

Thanks to John Beharall for organising

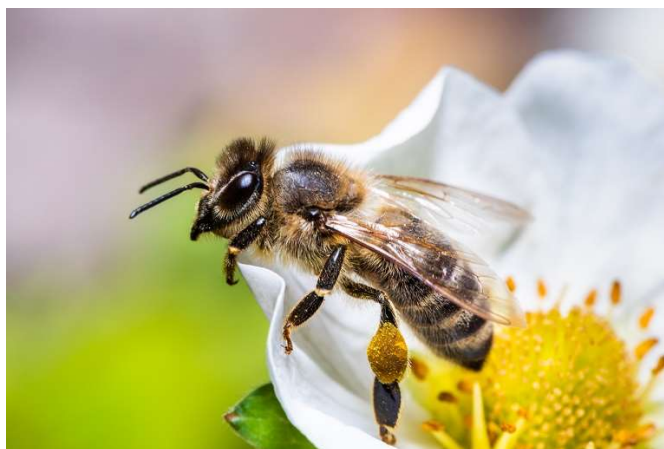
Science Group

At the Science Group meeting on Friday 17 April, members enjoyed a fascinating illustrated talk entitled "The City of Bees", given by Sandra Hart, a Nottinghamshire u3a member and experienced beekeeper.

Sandra invited us to see the beehive as a bustling city, where thousands of individual bees work together in a highly organised and efficient society. She explained the different roles within the hive, including the queen, workers and drones, and showed how each contributes to the survival and success of the colony.

The talk covered the lifecycle of honeybees, their remarkable methods of communication, and the complex cooperation that underpins hive life. Sandra also highlighted the crucial role bees play in pollination and the wider environment and touched on the challenges facing bee populations today.

Illustrated with objects and examples drawn from practical beekeeping experience, the presentation was both informative and accessible, prompting plenty of interest and questions from the group. It was an engaging and thought-provoking talk that was much appreciated by members.



Following the break, the meeting continued with two of our regular '3-minute talks'- Alan Newton with the Wind-Up Radio (together with some interesting facts about the inventor Trevor Bayliss) and Anne Murray who led us through the invention and development of the sewing machine. Anne is well known locally as a singer, and her apt final note was about the man who we most associate with sewing machines-Isaac Merritt Singer.This rounded off another enjoyable and varied Science Group session.

Next Month: May 15th is our visit to The Museum of Medical History in Leeds

Briefly: Meet at 8.45am for the coach departure of 9.00am from Ogle Street

Full details will be sent out nearer the time.

David Rose

Singalong Group

Due to other U3A events we were a smaller group singing along to songs vaguely related to hobbies and occupations. We are still finding new songs and welcome any suggestions.

The meeting in May will be led by Dave and Christine Vincent, the theme being "Doo -Wop " songs.

All are welcome, details of the venue are on the website.

Strollers Group

Oldmoor Wood Strelley was the venue for our latest stroll to view the Bluebells and we were not disappointed, they were beautiful in the sunshine.

The wood is managed by the Woodland Trust and is well maintained and open to all. Coffee afterwards at the Mulberry Tree, a very busy coffee shop but well worth a visit.

Theatre Trips Group

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 April meeting welcomed more new members to the group so we are now full. If anyone else is still interested please contact me with your name and I will put you on the waiting list. Members again enjoyed tasting three recipes, two savoury and one sweet, that can all be made easily and for either main meals or accompaniments.



There will be no meeting in May as it is a Bank Holiday so the next meeting will be on Monday June 22, at 10.30 am. See you all there!

Anne

Walking Group (Short Length Walks)

On 16 April, the walk set off from St Mary's Church, Greasley, a medieval parish church rebuilt in the late 19th century after mining subsidence. Paths through Colliers Wood, once shaped by deep coal mining and later reclaimed as green space, led towards Eastwood Hall Park, former grounds of the Walker family and later coal-industry headquarters. Passing Durban House, built in 1896 as Barber Walker mining offices linked to D. H. Lawrence's family, the route continued along Victoria Street to the D. H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, his 1885 home. It then followed Walker Street, where the Lawrence family later lived, reached Beauvale Board School, opened in 1878 and attended by Lawrence as a child, before returning on footpaths to Greasley.

On our return some of us paid a visit to 'The Parish Oven' café behind the church hall.

The name brings back memories of the local expression that someone with: 'a mouth like a parish oven' is imagined as having a mouth that is constantly open and working—talking non-stop and often loudly. It's usually humorous or mildly critical, not a compliment.

The photograph is a relatively new mural on Victoria Street Eastwood near the museum.



May 21st Walk : I'm away and Mark Thornley the long walks group leader has volunteered to lead a local walk. Details will be sent to the group nearer the time.

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Our April walk started from Ogston Reservoir, not far from Brackenfield and Wessington, on the way to Matlock. After a very muddy walk last month, we had near perfect conditions on a sunny day. This walk may prove to be our most strenuous of the year, and after passing the sailing club we climbed quite steeply, until we were overlooking the Amber valley. Our coffee stop overlooked the abandoned workings of Milltown Quarry, one of a number in the Peak District, and we decided that it was probably millstone grit, rather than the limestone found to the south. Further on, we had a go at 'guess the house price' again, after our efforts last year near Grindleford and Hathersage, and research later found that we were quite close with our estimates.

We passed very few other walkers, so had to resort to a selfie for our usual group photo. We also noted that we hadn't seen any sheep or cattle anywhere, although we did see occasional building work. A quiz question on a sign post, about the link between Ogston sailing club and Sydney Harbour Bridge found us resorting to the power of AI at the end of our walk.



Many thanks to Kevin Varey for researching this walk, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Our next walk will be on Monday 18th May; new members are always welcome, just use the tab on our website page.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

On 7th April the long walk group walked from Silverhill Car Park to Pleasley Headstocks via the Teversal Trail. Returning via the Skegby Trail

A 9 mile circular, undulating in parts but generally an easy-going walk on traffic-free trails, starting at Silverhill Car Park, passing the 'Testing for Gas' miners' statue, continuing along the Teversal Trail to lunch at the Pleasley Headstocks and museum, then returning via the Skegby Trail—and the bonus was a nice sunny day



The walk Highlights included:

- Mining heritage landmarks, including the "Testing for Gas" statue.
- Long, traffic-free sections on the Teversal Trail and Skegby Trail.
- Pleasley Headstocks industrial heritage site and museum.
- Great in dry, bright weather with plenty of open views

May 5th Walk : An 8-mile walk is planned to start from Ashover. Meet at the Ashover Parish Hall free car park (please park at the far end). Milken Lane S45 0AD at 9.45am for a 10am start

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

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 (Monday)	Vaughan Gallagher	pickleball@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pickleball (Wednesday)	Karen Guy	pickleballwed@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Pickleball (Thursday)	Karen Guy	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 – Pickleball 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 (Experienced)	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 – Pickleball 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 (Experienced) 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 – Pickleball 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 (Experienced) 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 – Pickleball 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 (Experienced)	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 – Pickleball	13:00 – Rummikub 2 13:00 – Mah Jong 2	09:15 – Easy Wheelers 12:00 Pickleball (Experienced)	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.