



NEWSLETTER

Issue –June 2026

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

10th June 2026

Guest Speaker : Marcus Alton – a local author and former BBC and commercial radio journalist, who has been described as a Brian Clough expert

I began my writing career at the Newark Advertiser newspaper 40 years ago and then joined BBC Radio Derby and BBC Radio Nottingham. My latest book is Brian Clough, The Lost Tapes· and I have lots of great stories about the legendary Nottingham Forest manager, including the times I interviewed him.

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 26th June 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

Chance encounters can be so surprising & inspiring and two in one day proved just that.

Whilst dog walking & bird watching in Blidworth Woods my wife & I discovered a beautiful broad leaf glade as we took a path we'd not trodden before. We sat on a fallen tree trunk to wait to see if any woodland birds would grace us with their company.

Instead a spaniel & its owner, a gentleman of "u3a age" , arrived and he (the owner not the dog!) quoted a single line of verse that summed up the scene delightfully. Whilst chatting we discovered that he had an enthusiasm for poetry & that he did, indeed, write poetry himself. He quoted a short self-penned poem on "What is Love", that was delivered immaculately & left Jan & I quite moved. We said our goodbyes & went in opposite directions, unlikely to meet ever again. On the same day, whilst driving, I passed another gentleman, of similar years, on a heavily loaded bicycle.

Further along the road I had need to stop & when I returned to my car he was waiting at the side of the road, looking around, looking at his phone & looking confused. "Can I help?" I asked. "No thanks", he replied "I'm just waiting for my companion to catch up." "Looks like a serious expedition" I commented. "Land's End to John O'Groats" he replied. "And that route brings you through sunny Hucknall?" I asked. It turned out that he & his Norwegian companion were aiming to camp in Sherwood Forest, in the "Heart of England". As his companion arrived we said hello & I asked, flippantly, if she had cycled from Norway as a warm up for this trip. "No" she said, "I did that last year!!". Three complete strangers who left me feeling good about the day & what people of a certain age can achieve.

A u3a member who leaves others feeling good is Jean Green. A few months ago she appealed for donations of wool, as she makes Twiddlemuffs for patients/residents with dementia & she would like to thank everyone who helped her out. This month she wants to add the finishing touches to said items so she is asking for members to donate medium size buttons & bows. If you can, please bring them to the next monthly meeting or get in contact with me via our website. Take care,

Rob 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

July 2026 – Danny Wells – The English Garden
August 2026 – Bharat Patel – Reporter & Producer
September 2026 – Stephen Booth - Writer

Notts u3a Petanque Competition

On 18th May, a day with 3 seasons' weather, Hucknall u3a Petanque team were Gold winners in both doubles and triples matches in this u3a Petanque competition with entries from 8 u3a teams.

Our success was a result of great teamwork. 4 new players played like naturals, playing together with our more experienced players who offered excellent coaching tips. Great playing, nerves of steel, and all planning was done on an empty wooden cutlery packet.

All taking part should be proud of our success. No trophies, no prizes, just well. deserved prestige.

Hucknall team players were:

Shirley Towle
Julie Bridges
Janet Pickering
Richard Smeathers
Howard Bodill
Jo Ferguson
Peter Chantry
Anne Boucher
Chris Eagle

The u3a groups who entered were:

Burton Joyce – 2 teams
Worksop – 2 teams
Hucknall
Southwell
Ashfield
West Bridgford

Thanks to Neil Hunt of Arnold u3a for organising the competition and Nottingham City Petanque Club for hosting the event.

Chris Eagle

Social Sub Committee Announcement

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

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

Friday 26th June 2026, Price £15 pp

Doors open 6.30pm, Disco 7.00pm, Meal 8.00pm, Disco 9.00pm, Close 10.00pm
Bar open.

Hog Roast to include – A selected free range pig, sage and onion stuffing (made with Lincolnshire sausage meat) Bramley apple sauce, bread rolls and superb crackling.

Tickets on sale at the May and June monthly meeting, payable by card, cash or cheque.



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

Discovering Britain Group

Our day trip to Kingston upon Hull offered a fascinating mix of history, culture, and modern attractions. The journey began in Hull's charming Old Town, where cobbled streets and historic buildings create a vivid sense of the city's maritime past. Narrow alleys, traditional pubs, and Georgian architecture gave the area a welcoming character.

The next stop was the Street Life Museum, which provides an engaging look at transport history. Vintage cars, bicycles, horse-drawn carriages, and recreated street scenes made the museum both educational and entertaining. Nearby, the Hull and East Riding Museum displayed impressive archaeological treasures, including Roman artefacts and prehistoric remains, offering insight into the region's ancient past.



Lunch was enjoyed at Trinity Market, a lively indoor market filled with independent food stalls and local produce, although some preferred a pint and Fish and Chips at the local Wetherspoons. Afterwards, a visit to Hull Minster revealed magnificent Gothic architecture and a peaceful atmosphere.

The day concluded at The Deep, Hull's spectacular aquarium, where sharks, rays, and colourful marine life provided a memorable ending to an enjoyable and varied day.

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

June's meeting will be a trip on Monday 1st June, to St Ann's Allotments, in Nottingham. More about that in the next newsletter. There was no May meeting as it was the Bank Holiday.



Enjoy your plots as they flourish in this warm weather!

Anne

History Group

Our group meets at Central Methodist Church on Baker Street on the third Wednesday of the month when we are indoors from 2pm to 4pm. The venue is handy for car parks, bus stops and drop offs. Last month our speaker was David Speed who told us all about 'Beauvale Priory - Between two Worlds.' We learned about what life was like in Medieval times for the monks who lived at the Priory in the 'beautiful valley' and how money was donated to the cause. Eventually of course during the reign of Henry VIII it was dissolved; the monks sent away and the priory lands sold. I think most of us felt it would be good to do a site visit. Something for the future.

On June 17th we are to visit Matlock Bath and Masson Mill; leaving Hucknall Market at 10.30am. After lunch we are back on the coach to Masson Mill for a guided tour; leaving at 4pm for the journey back.

What a shame that the three of us; Kathy, Sue and I decided to cancel the visit to the Observatory. There seemed to be so many rules that our group would have to follow such as: times, number of visitors, no refreshments, costs, and others with which we felt unable to comply. (How on earth would we manage without the refreshment break?) Maybe a review of the rules for larger groups would be in order. and we can think about a visit later. We will be in the refreshment room at the main meeting in John Godber on 10th June if you need to ask questions

Our next indoor meeting is Wednesday September 16th when one of our favourite speakers, Ann Featherstone, is coming to tell us about the history of post war baking. Might we get some samples?

Maureen Newton

Litter Picking Group

Despite the hot weather during May the litter pickers have cleared 13 bags of rubbish from the environment. Hopefully now that children have returned to school after half term parties on Washdyke Lane park and The Ranges should ease a little and maybe our dedicated litter picker, accompanied by his dog, will have slightly less rubbish to collect.

New members to the group are always welcome. For further information see the Litter Picking Group details at the foot of the newsletter.

Val (Gant)

Luncheon Group

We could not have picked better weather for the Luncheon Group's latest adventure to The Nags Head in the beautiful village of Woodborough. The food and service were excellent.

We have booked 'Moda' the local Italian Restaurant on Annesley Road, Hucknall for TUESDAY 23 JUNE at 5pm. Whilst this is slightly removed from our regular fourth Wednesday the decision was taken in order to take advantage of their 20% reduction on a Tuesday evening. We will be taking names at the next monthly meeting for the reserve list.

We will also be taking names and menu choices at the next monthly meeting for our July outing to 'The Junction' in Sutton in Ashfield on Wednesday 22 July. Prices start at £18.00 for two meals, two courses for £13.95 or 'Golden Greats' which allow even further options.

Just as a reminder, we have confirmed the booking for our annual Christmas Lunch at the Albert Hall in Nottingham for Wednesday 16 December, 2026. We hope to be taking names at the August monthly meeting for those members interested in attending.

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports the luncheon group.

Ann & Rose

National Trust Group

National Trust visit to The Croome Estate on Wednesday 27th of May

After the hottest recorded May day ever the group travelled to the Croome Estate in Worcestershire for our first ever visit to the venue. Arriving at around 10.30 in bright sunshine we were soon enjoying the beautiful estate.

The heart of the Estate is the House which was the brainchild of the 6th Earl of Coventry, an 18th century trendsetter who worked closely with the best talent of the time, Robert Adam and Lancelot (Capability) Brown to plan the House and Estate.

The House is not a typical National Trust property, with eighty percent of the collections missing and replaced by temporary exhibitions.

The Estate, with its specular views of the Malvern Hills, was only acquired by the National Trust in 1996, a move that saved it from being totally lost to visitors.



On the Estate lies a serpentine river, a tree lined lake, and elegant garden buildings, a perfect place to spend a summers day.

As you walk one of the four marked walks you can view, kestrels, herons, swans and Canada geese .

In previous times the Estate has housed a Catholic School and during the second world war a secret RAF camp employing over two thousand staff.

All this with a large cafe, walled gardens, a shuttle coach around the Estate and plant and book shop meant that there was plenty to occupy the group.

Leaving promptly at 4.00 pm we were safely back in Hucknall just after 6.30 pm

Next month we travel to Ickworth Estate in Suffolk.

Barrie and Sue

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

Not So Grumpy Old Men don the Hi-vis jackets

Many local residents will have watched with interest the steel construction that grew & grew in the Britons Fabricators yard at the junction of Nabbs Lane & Watnall Road. It was eventually revealed to be a new foot/cycle bridge to span the River Trent between Lady Bay and the Colwick Waterside area and by the time you read this, the bridge should be open for use.



The NSGOM were invited to visit Britons site on Watnall Road & spent considerable time with the company MD, Dean Morcom, who explained how the company was formed, how it operates & the many steel fabrications they have produced & installed in the past fifty years. These include many footbridges over motorways, railway lines, rivers, canals & the like. A huge number of motorway gantries, that provide signage & up to date information, have been fabricated in their Hucknall yard alongside more "exotic" projects such as the staging for a Beyonce performance! All the materials they use are sourced in the UK.

We were very impressed by the scale of activities on site, on how forward looking the company is, with apprenticeships etc., & by how much time they were prepared to give to us!

A most worthwhile experience.

Pickleball Group

For anyone who hasn't come across pickleball before, it is a mixture of various other games, tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is played on a badminton court but with a low net and bats (paddles) like a large table tennis bat and a plastic ball with holes in it!

We currently have 2 pickleball groups, Mondays and Thursdays for mixed ability, sociable sessions.



If you are interested in joining any of the groups please contact Vaughan for the Monday group or Karen for the Thursday group.

Karen Guy

Science Group

Our Science Group enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds on 15th May, a trip that proved both entertaining and wonderfully informative.

The museum's immersive galleries brought the history of healthcare vividly to life, from the bustle of Victorian street medicine to the remarkable advances of modern surgery.

A highlight of the day was our group talk, *Bloody Barbers and Splattered Surgeons*, which explored the grisly world of early medical practice with plenty of humour and just the right amount of squeamish detail.

After the talk, members once again wandered through the galleries at their own pace, comparing past treatments with today's science and sharing lively conversations along the way. We rounded off the visit with a relaxed chat in the busy café, reflecting on how far medicine has come. A thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking outing for all.



Carry On Doctor



Some of the group members in front of the museum

David Rose

Singalong Group

Our thanks go to Christine and Dave Vincent who led Singalong in May, the theme being "Doo-wop" . It was enjoyed by all .

Our theme next time has been chosen by a couple of our group members.

Theatre Trips Group

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

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

This group is now full. If anyone else is still interested please contact me with your name and I will put you on the waiting list.

Anne

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Over the nearly sixteen years since this group was founded, we have roamed far and wide, but until our most recent walk, we have only ventured into Staffordshire once I think.



So we set off this time from Branston Water Park (Branston of pickle fame), and having all successfully negotiated the quite difficult access off the A38, we followed a very pleasant stretch of the Trent and Mersey Canal. The Water Park originates from gravel workings, which are still operative. A surprisingly steep climb, although we had been warned, brought us to our coffee stop at Battlestead Hill, with views south towards the West Midlands.

We were too late for the bluebells in the woods this year, and crossing a footbridge over the A38, we came to our lunch stop, once again at the canalside, where a number of narrow boats were moored. We returned to the water park along the towpath, with both the Burton breweries in sight, after an interesting walk. The forecast for the day suggested that we might get wet, but the only rain we met was a downpour on the M1 returning to Hucknall.

Thanks to Steve and Anne Lawrence for organizing this interesting walk, and for the detailed directions off the A38!

Our June walk will be to Car Colston; to join this group, just use the email tab on our website.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

Walking Group (Long Walks) - May 5th Walk from Ashover

Our May walk set off from Ashover's village hall under clear, sunny skies — perfect weather for exploring this beautiful corner of Derbyshire. We climbed steadily toward Appletree Knoll, rewarded with wide views across the hills, before continuing to Northedge Farm and the quiet Press Reservoirs.

The route then led us through the dappled shade of Sleigh Wood and past the Great Ponds of Stubbing, where the water was calm and bright in the afternoon sun. A gentle descent brought us to Bole Hill Quarry and through Alton, adding a touch of local history to the day. We finished back at the starting point and some local liquid refreshments

Our thanks to Steve Evens for once again for leading this interesting 8-mile walk.



On the trail



The rocky outcrop-the lunch stop with a view

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	exercise@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Crafty Knitters	Barbara Hill	craftyknitters@hucknallu3a.org.uk
Dance On	David Wright / Christine Eagle	danceon@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	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 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 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	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	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.