



NEWSLETTER

Issue –July 2026

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

8th July 2026

Guest Speaker : Danny Wells

The English and Gardening A social history of an English obsession. Danny Wells is a history enthusiast and qualified history teacher with a MA Degree in Architectural History (Univ. of Keele).

He has a love of social and cultural history and established 'Breathing Life into History' in 2004, encompassing talks, courses and guided historical tours. Gardening continues to be hugely popular in modern day Britain. This talk explores the development of gardening and the meanings and symbolism invested in gardens.

The focus is Georgian and Victorian England and the first half of the 20th century.

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 31st July 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 wife has recently taken up a new activity, but one that is most certainly not suitable for a u3a Interest Group, namely Pyjama Gardening. With recent weather being, as Caroline Aherne of the Fast Show described it, "Scorchio", my wife has taken to waking early & watering, with a can let it be noted, in probably the coolest part of the day. Adaptability is the name of the game, when it appears very hot summers are here to stay. Suddenly a twenty minute ride to the air conditioned shops in an air conditioned car is a treat & relief. Walking round the supermarket for 45 minutes is a pleasant respite from the inferno outside instead of being something of a chore. I would hope that the government will initiate "Cool Hubs" in the same manner as Warm Hub refuges were set up during extended cold periods.

Question, "what links Scottish Country Dancing and Disco?" I hear you ask. "Hucknall u3a" is the answer. GODS & Grumpies got together for a foray into the former, ably led by Anne McDowall, who took some of us back to our youth as we sashayed, skipped and do-si-do'd through a range of gentle & not so gentle Scottish dances & reels, refreshed with Irn Bru & Scottish shortbread! In late June our Social Sub-Committee (SSC) organised a 60s-70s Disco & Hog Roast, and a most enjoyable evening it was. What was most impressive was that there was somebody dancing to every song that was played & for much of the evening the dance floor was full. Thank you to the SSC members who each year quietly go about organising, setting up & clearing away a variety events for us all to enjoy. Their next event will be a concert performed by the Bestwood Male Voice Choir on the evening of Friday 18th September. Watch out for tickets going on sale in the near future.

Take care, Bob

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

August 2026 – Bharat Patel – Reporter & Producer

September 2026 – Stephen Booth – Writer

October 2026 – Jenny Allison – Over 50's Pain Reduction

News From the Groups

Bridge Group

The Bridge Interest Group has 2 vacancies if anyone would like to give us a try.

An understanding of how the game is played would be an advantage but plenty of help is available.

We meet in the Byron Bar at the John Godber Centre, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

If you are interested please contact Sue Tedstone

Discovering Britain Group

On 12th June, our group enjoyed a fascinating visit to the historic city of St Albans, exploring its rich heritage and many notable landmarks. The day began at St Albans Cathedral, an impressive structure with origins dating back to Norman times. Its magnificent architecture, stained glass windows, and peaceful atmosphere provided an excellent introduction to the city's long history.



From the cathedral, we visited the Abbey Gateway, a striking medieval building that once formed part of the great abbey complex. We then continued to the St Albans Clock Tower, the only surviving medieval town belfry in England, which remains a distinctive feature of the city centre.

A visit to St Albans Museum offered insights into the city's development through the centuries, while the nearby Verulamium Museum showcased the area's remarkable Roman heritage. The exhibits, including mosaics, pottery, and artefacts, vividly illustrated life in the ancient city of Verulamium.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a leisurely walk through Verulamium Park, taking in the lakes, open green spaces, and the remains of the Roman walls. The visit concluded with time along the bustling High Street, where historic buildings, shops, and cafés combined to create a lively and attractive atmosphere. It was an enjoyable and informative day for all participants.

Mark

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

Revisiting the subject of tax on pensioners income - Following on from reports published recently we discussed the freezing of tax allowances on people of pensionable age. With thresholds remaining at the same level until 2030/31 this group may see an impossible situation. Can we trust what we are seeing in the media? What will happen to the young people who may never have the opportunity,

after paying university loans and buying a house, to afford retirement. Are we really the lucky generation?

Ghost jobs? - We discussed ghost jobs, where jobs are advertised but do not actually exist, a figure of maybe 25% of advertised jobs maybe ghost jobs. We went on to talk about how getting a job had changed over the years. Mostly knowing someone who put in a good word or just being in the right place at the right time was how jobs were filled in years gone by.

Why do we have so many changes of Prime Ministers? - Whilst not talking politics this proved to be an interesting subject. Do PM positions answer to the good of the country or at the wrath of the media. The public are never happy with decisions made. What could be done differently. Watch this space !!!! (The current PM resigned on the day of our meeting so we will wait and see!)

What will happen when social media is banned for young people - Will young people get around the new laws that will ban young people from social media or will they get around the new laws. What will replace social media now as activities like youth clubs and similar have closed over the years

The next meeting is on Monday 27th July 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.

Garden Group

Last month members enjoyed a trip to the allotments at St Ann's in Nottingham. It was a very interesting visit, full of history. There are 75 acres of allotments, which includes 32 miles of hedges that need trimming and cutting. Sounds like a lot of work! There is one allotment that has been kept as it was when they were set up, with a small building where the families used to spend week-ends as they tended their rented plots. Apparently some families even lived there completely when they were homeless. The site has some areas now where horticulture students can study and learn all about plants and their growing needs. There is a classroom, greenhouse and beds to trial different plants and shrubs. Although it was forecast to be a very wet day the rain held off and we enjoyed a dry wander around the site.



The next meeting is a talk about Ramblers, Scramblers and Climbers at the JGC. All are welcome.

The August meeting is a trip to Queen's Park in Loughborough followed by a visit to Gates Garden Centre.

Anne

Growing Old Disgracefully Group

On Monday 1st June, the Growing Old Disgracefully ladies met up with the No So Grumpy Old Men at our favourite venue, the John Godber Centre.

The afternoon was dedicated to a Scottish Dance Experience where an exciting, energetic and fun afternoon was had by all. Even before we started 'tripping the light fantastic' there was a real buzz about the room. From dapper gentlemen wearing tartan ties and braces, shirts, waistcoats, trews and tammies, to ladies wearing tartan sashes adorned with beautiful Celtic broaches and skirts. It was lovely to see them giving a nod to my Scottish heritage.



Our gathering and dancing to some wonderful old Scottish tunes brought back many memories for me as a PE teacher in Glasgow when I first qualified. Country dancing for a few weeks was always the prelude to the Christmas parties, when the boys would join the girls in the gym. However I have to say our GODS and NSGOM were less shy about taking hands than the lads and lassies were back then!!

Dusted down and heart rate back to normal, we all enjoyed some light refreshments including some traditional cake and biscuits and a blether about how enjoyable and successful the whole experience was. And I have to say every man and women lived up to their title.....GOD and NSGOM.

Thank you to all for a wonderful afternoon

Anne

History Group

This month we were on a visit to Matlock Bath and Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mill which is the water powered cotton spinning mill on the river Derwent. The mill was built in 1783 and is part of the World Heritage Site. It was originally powered by a water wheel but turbines were installed in 1928 until hydroelectric generators in 1995. Masson Mill is now a museum. Members were split into groups to be taken round the museum on guided tours. The guides were amazing, full of knowledge about Arkwright, machinery, mill workers and helped us understand the building. One of our best visits I thought.

There are no meetings until September now when we have Ann Featherstone coming to tell us how our mothers and grandmothers managed to cook decent meals in the days just after the war when most things were still on ration. I will look forward to seeing members on Wednesday 16th September; time 2pm at Central Methodist Church.

Maureen Newton

Luncheon Group

Tuesday evening, one of the hottest evenings on record a group of over 40 members attended the local Italian Restaurant 'Moda' on Annesley Road in Hucknall. Fortunately they have air-conditioning which made it so much more comfortable, the food and service was excellent.

Our next outing is to the 'The Junction' in Sutton in Ashfield on Wednesday 22 July. We have a full list of members wishing to go, however we are taking names for the reserve list should anyone cancel.

At the next monthly meeting we will be taking names, menu choices and a £5.00 deposit for The White Lady Restaurant at Ravenshead for Wednesday 26 August.

Just a reminder that we will be taking names only at the August monthly for the Annual Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 16 December at the Albert Hall in Nottingham.

Thank you to the members of the Luncheon Group who support us.

Ann & Rose

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

Nineteen members of the NSGOM group recently attached blues and twos to their cars and went up to Mansfield to learn about the history of the Nottinghamshire Fire Service.

Located at the front of the former Notts Fire Service training school in Mansfield, the site also houses the present Mansfield Fire Station. The Museum is run by a Trust and relies heavily on volunteers.

The aim of the Trust is to collect and preserve fire service items from as far back as the Great Fire of London but also showing many local items, for example from Thoresby and Welbeck Estates.

Assembling together inside the museum we were given a very informative history of the fire service, which included being shown, a leather bucket and "squirter" used in the 17th century. We then went on a comprehensive tour of the museum seeing firefighting equipment, uniforms, helmets and various fire engines themselves.



We are lucky to have one of the few such museums in the country on the doorstep and we enjoyed a couple of hours learning so much about the history of the fire service.

Huge thanks go to group member Dave Robbins for planning the day and also to volunteers, Richard and Paul, who led the visit and were a fountain of knowledge.

The visit was completed with a meal and drink at the Rushley restaurant in Mansfield, before returning back to Hucknall.

Science Group

We had an eclectic mix at the meeting on June 19th.

The first half of the meeting was Bob McEwen who revealed 'The Science of Golf.'

He explained that golf is a game built on elegant physics. Every shot begins with energy transfer: the club accelerates, storing kinetic energy that is released into the ball at impact.

The sweet spot maximises this transfer, giving higher ball speed with less vibration. Launch angle and spin then determine the ball's flight. Backspin creates lift, helping the ball rise and stay stable in the air.

Even small changes in force or angle produce big differences in outcome, making golf a precise blend of biomechanics and physics.

Bob concluded by describing that many technical advances have filtered down from the professional game to grass roots level.



Cross section of an average quality golf ball.

Cross section of an average quality golf ball.

After the break John Tedstone recounted the lives and scientific interests of:

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu born in 1689, at Holme Pierrepont Hall.

She was an early adopter of inoculation against smallpox and helped bring the practice to England, influencing others to adopt it too.

and Joseph Bramma who was born near Barnsley in 1749.

At 23, he walked to London to seek his fortune. Now called Joseph Bramah, he became a prolific inventor best known for his flushing water closet, 'unpickable' lock and hydraulic press.

To conclude David Vincent recounted some interesting and humorous aspects of Gypsum mining in Nottinghamshire and we had 3-minute invention talks from David Naylor with the safety pin and Sue Naylor with the electric kettle complete with her family heirloom of a shiny copper example.

Our next meeting is Friday July 17th at JGC at 10.00am. David Rose

David Rose

Theatre Trips Group

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

A smaller group attended June's meeting, probably due to the heat but those who did attend enjoyed the usual three recipes, and as ever there were no left overs! Thank you to those who helped in the kitchen, organising the room and with serving out the plates of food. We cannot do it without you! There will be no meeting in July, but as August has 5 Mondays we can fit one in then, on Monday August 24th.



This group is currently 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 (Short Length Walks)

On June 18th our walk started from the car park at Burntstump. **(Approx. 4.5 miles)**

From the car park we made a full circuit of the cricket pitch. From the far side we followed the path out to Rigg Lane, then continued downhill to join the broad track of the old railway line. This straight, level section led to Sansom Woods following the main path through the trees.

To return we picked up the Robin Hood Way as it wound back through mixed woodland, returning past the Rugby Ground before neatly arriving back at the car park.



July 16th Walk - This will be an urban walk taking the tram into Nottingham to walk to the new made in Hucknall 'Briton Bridge' over the River Trent.



Full details will be sent out w/c 9th July

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Our June walk took us to the east of Nottinghamshire, and the rolling countryside between the villages of Car Colson and Kneeton. Starting from the green at Car Colston, we headed west over the A46 (using the bridge!) and stopped to look at an abandoned farm, deciding that the roof tiles at least looked good for re-use.

We paused at the quiet hamlet of Kneeton, for our coffee stop outside the church. From here, it is a short walk steeply downhill to the River Trent, but we carried on, heading back over the fields to our start point. At our picnic stop, a few of our walkers were attracted by an abandoned hut (ideal for shepherds or a B&B) with convenient old garden chairs.



Back at our start point, we had drinks in the Royal Oak, a pub for around 200 years with a vaulted brick ceiling.

Thanks to John Beharall and Steve Lawrence for planning this walk – our July walk will be at Foremark Reservoir, near Melbourne.

John Tedstone

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

The walk on 2 June commenced from Staunton Harold Visitor Centre on a pleasant day, providing ideal conditions for exploring the varied landscapes around the reservoir and surrounding countryside.

Leaving the visitor centre, the group followed the path alongside Staunton Harold Reservoir, enjoying expansive views across the water before reaching White Leys. From there, the route continued through Calke Park Nature Reserve, where the rich mix of woodland and open habitats offered plenty of interest. A short distance further brought us to the tranquil setting of Betty's Pond, a popular spot for wildlife.

The walk then passed through the Calke Abbey Grounds, skirting Deer's Cote Spinney and continuing towards Standley's Barn. The route followed the edge of Poker's Ley's before entering the village of Ticknall, where walkers enjoyed views of the historic village and surrounding countryside.



Leaving Ticknall, the group entered Staunton Woods, following well-maintained woodland paths beneath a canopy of mature trees. The route then crossed Gorsey Leys, an attractive area of open countryside offering excellent views across the estate.

The final section returned to Staunton Harold Visitor Centre, completing a varied and enjoyable circular walk featuring reservoirs, woodland, nature reserves, parkland, and village scenery throughout.

Mark

Weekenders Group

Our group has been rather busy over the past few weeks. We caught the train to Ilkeston to visit Armstrong Mill - not just for coffee and cake, some of us treated ourselves to some bargains.

Many of us were poorly in June so we cancelled our planning meeting. We all felt better a few days later to make it to the Badger box. Very impressed, this might be our go to lunch venue.

The highlight of May was a trip on the Flying Scotsman. This is now based at Ruddington Railway Museum. Naturally we were in steerage in the last carriage, so we all got our 10.000 steps in.



June had a bus pass day out to Shipley Park and garden centre. In early July we have a bus pass day out to Loughborough and to round off July we are off to Whitby for ice creams and fish and chips.

HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a INTEREST GROUPS

Group	Leader	Contact E-Mail
Book Club	Denise Greenfield	bookclub@hucknallu3a.org.uk
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
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 (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
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 Hodgkinson	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

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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) 10:00 – Watercolour for Beginners 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 14:00 – Book Club 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	10:00 – Watercolour for Beginners 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, Yo-Yos

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.