



NEWSLETTER

Issue –September 2026

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

9th September 2026

Guest Speaker : Stephen Booth

Stephen Booth is an established and popular writer of crime novels, mostly set in the Peak District and featuring two main characters, Ben Cooper and Diane Fry. His talk is about his books and how he became a writer, and is fascinating.

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 2nd October 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

As the long awaited rains arrive this elongated (to some, interminable!) summer of sport draws to a conclusion, bar one remaining test match vs Pakistan. The Women's 6 Nations rugby tournament, the Football World Cup in the US, Mexico & Canada, tennis from Wimbledon, golf from Birkdale, a contracted Commonwealth Games from Glasgow, European athletics from Birmingham, the worldwide Nations Championship of Rugby Union, the cricket test series against New Zealand & Pakistan & many other events provided many thrilling moments that in turn provoked joy, amazement or abject misery as competitors succeeded or fell short in their ambition to win. However, the image that remains strongest with me took place on the pitch but not during the play of a game.

Sean Fitzpatrick is one of the greatest captains the New Zealand All Blacks rugby team has ever produced. He was a Rugby World Cup winner in 1992 & won 92 international caps. At the recent match vs South Africa his role was simply to bring on the trophy & leave, but that changed when he was handed his nations flag whilst "God defend New Zealand" was played. He cut a lonely figure, stood apart from the mighty All Blacks of today, whilst the anthem played. Sensing this, the All Blacks captain, Ardie Savea, shuffled the whole squad sideways and put his arm around Fitzpatrick, pulling him into the lineup. It was hugely symbolic, once an All Black, always an All Black, the current wearers of the famous shirt acknowledging those that have gone before. Not a great goal scoring feat nor a masterful golf shot but it will be THE sporting image of 2026 for me. Hucknall u3a might not be the All Blacks but I'd like to think we'd look out for one another should the occasion arise.

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

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

November 2026 – Dale Richardson – Notts Protect

December 2026 – Christmas Social

A varied and memorable programme awaits, bringing together a wide range of choral music in one special evening performed by Bestwood Male Voice Choir



At the John Godber Centre Ogle Street Hucknall

Friday 18 September 2026

7:00 PM - 10 PM



Concert Programme

Doors Open 7:00 pm

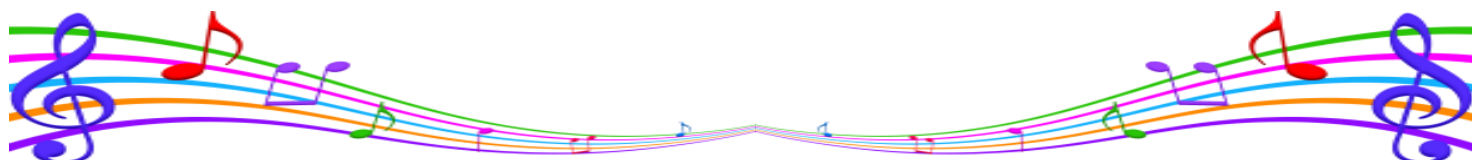
First Performance 7:30 pm – 8:15 pm

Interval 8:15 pm Coffee/Tea and cake will be served

Second Performance 9:00 pm – 9:45 pm

The Bar will be open for drinks

Tickets will be on sale for £10 per person at the September u3a monthly meeting, subject to availability



News From the Groups

Discussion Group

Discussion subjects for this month included:

Should 16/17 year olds get the vote? - A statement was made that if you can join the army at 16 you should be allowed to vote, after discussion we learnt that going to a conflict was not allowed to under 18 year olds. Many questions followed around whether they would be able to make constructive decisions of their own or would be swayed by parents/other influences like social media etc. There was mixed support and an unanimous vote was made not to support the move.

Should we say sorry for things that happened years ago in history? - Over time different countries and groups of people have said sorry for historical things that have affected life. Examples of these were babies being adopted from unmarried mothers, slave trades, indigenous people mistreated. Although it was recognised that these were very difficult times, it was not felt that current countries/communities should be held accountable and say sorry for things that cannot be changed.

What will robots do next? - We discussed the Humanoid Olympics currently being held in China and a current TV programme called Ann Droid. Although much of what we see is light hearted we talked about the possible, much more serious future of robots in the world. They are already used in much of industry and play a part in many areas. Over time will they become more and more powerful within our lives.

The next meeting is on Monday 28th September 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

What an amazing day we all had on August 3rd. The Garden Group went to Queen's Park at Loughborough and then to Gates Garden Centre. The park at Loughborough was so beautiful, full of flower beds of so many colourful flowers and hanging baskets- it was breathtaking. The children's playground was full of happy children. There are some memorials, not only for the World Wars but for the Covid Pandemic, for Loughborough's War Dog and Loughborough's War Horse too. There is also Britain's biggest bell in the park which was made in Loughborough.



There is a most unusual clock which is called the Hope Bell and has the poem "Immortality" engraved on the gold ribbon around it. It was very moving. This park is well worth a visit. But take a £1 coin with you for the loo!

Onwards to the Garden Centre, a VERY large Garden Centre with an enormous amount of plants, trees, pots, seeds and everything you need for the garden, as well as a coffee shop and restaurant of course. Not only that but a retail outlet too for a bit of retail therapy. I couldn't believe how big the place was. We all had a great day out.

Thanks to Pam Farrell for this report and for the photographs.

The next meeting is on September 7th at the JGC and will be a talk on flowers beginning with S. The October meeting at the JGC is on the 5th and will be a talk by the lovely Lizzie Impey from Ravenshead. All are welcome.

Anne

History Group

The Autumn season begins at 2pm on September 16th at Central Methodist Church. Ann Featherstone is our speaker this month to tell us all about "Mashed Potato Sandwiches, Bottle Top Tinsel: Rose Bruckner's Postwar World of Home Baking". This will be a time for some of us to remember many items including clothes and groceries being on 'coupons'. As History Group members know I have been working on 2027 meetings and visits and hope to have flyers ready for members at this meeting.

October is the month for us to visit Newark Air Museum so Kathy and Sue will be taking your names and money £23 at the September u3a meeting at J. Godber.

Looking forward to seeing members again, bye for now, Maureen

Luncheon Group

For the August meeting over 40 members attended 'The Willow Tree' restaurant in Basford. We were made very welcome, the food was delicious and the service excellent. Several members suggested we visit more often.

The September meeting is on Wednesday 23 September and we have arranged to visit 'Ye Olde Bridge Inn' at Oxtun. There is a choice of starters, main courses and desserts, vegetarian options are available. Two courses for £21.00, 3 courses £26.00. We have several places left if anyone would like to join us.

On Wednesday 28 October we are booked in at 'The Toby Carvery', Sutton in Ashfield. Vegetarian options are available for those who prefer an alternative. We will be taking names and a £5.00 deposit at the September monthly meeting.

At the September monthly meeting we will also be taking the £15.00 deposit for the annual Christmas meal at the Albert Hall in Nottingham (CASH ONLY). As previously announced this event is open to all members. The date is Wednesday 16 December, a three course Christmas meal, served around 12.30pm. The total cost is £34.00 per head (this includes a tip for the staff). We will be collecting the balance of £19.00 per head at the November monthly meeting.

Because so many activities are taking place nearer Christmas we have decided not to arrange anything for the Luncheon Group in November.

We are always grateful for the support we receive from our members in the Luncheon Group.

National Trust Group

National Trust visit to Chirk Castle on Tuesday 25th of August.

One of the longest journeys in this years programme took the group to the stunning Chirk Castle across in Wales. Arriving safely after a two and a half hour journey. Our driver dropping us off at the entrance to the castle to avoid the need to make the long and uphill journey from the coach park.

Even before arriving we were treated to a beautiful view of the castle with a narrow boat crossing an aqueduct which runs near to the castle.

As families made the most of the castle during the summer holidays there was a very busy feel to the day. The tours of the castle began at midday so many members chose to start the day by viewing the extensive and beautifully kept gardens or walk around the extensive estate.

Inside the castle demonstrated over 700 years of history. The castle is the last castle covering this period still lived in today.



Lavish tapestries, paintings and furniture are found throughout the castle. The many rooms include a long gallery, kitchens, dining and drawing rooms and a grand staircase. A truly splendid building.

A large cafe, a gift shop, a book shop and plant shop were also to be found on site.

With the weather being kind to us we all enjoyed a great day in a truly lovely setting.

The return journey saw us back in Hucknall for 7.00 pm.

September sees us visit the Shugborough Estate in Staffordshire before our final visit of the year to Fountain's Abbey in October.

Barrie

Science Group

The main aim was to conclude our invention's theme.

We began with 'Miss Shilling's Orifice'.

Beatrice "Tilly" Shilling (1909-1990) was a British aeronautical engineer, motorcycle racer, and inventor best known for her work during the Second World War. She studied engineering at the University of Manchester and later joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment, where she developed the RAE Restrictor, famously known as "Miss Shilling's Orifice." This simple device helped prevent Rolls-

Royce Merlin engines in Spitfire and Hurricane aircraft from losing power during steep dives, improving the effectiveness of British fighter planes.

This was followed by group member contributions:

Jolanta told us about the invention of instant coffee which was first patented in 1890 by David Strang in New Zealand, using a dry hot-air process to create soluble coffee powder. Earlier liquid essences existed, but Strang's invention made true powdered instant coffee possible.

Christine Faithfull explained how the highlighter pen was invented by Dr. Frank Honn in 1963. He developed the first highlighter, which used transparent fluorescent ink to make text stand out without obscuring it.

Mary Hole's talk about the treadmill had a surprisingly grim origin. In 1818, British engineer Sir William Cubitt introduced the penal treadmill as a form of hard labour for prisoners. It consisted of a large wheel with steps attached to it, and prisoners had to keep climbing as if walking up an endless staircase.

Another highlight was Imelda's talk about the disposable nappy which was developed in stages rather than invented by one person on a single date.

Jean Arrowsmith concluded with Bubble Wrap, invented in 1957 by Alfred Fielding and Marc Chavannes, originally as wallpaper, before becoming the packaging material we know today.

We finished with a short quiz about inventions.

No meeting in September. Our next meeting is October 16.

David Rose

Theatre Trips Group

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

U3A Holidays Group

A Wee Scottish Adventure – The Edinburgh Tattoo Trip

Forty-three intrepid members of Hucknall U3A, including 39 from Hucknall and four from Ashfield and Mapperley, set off on a Wednesday for our Scottish adventure — and, thankfully, nobody was left behind!

Our first stop was the stunning Georgian market town of Richmond, where some of us enjoyed a picnic lunch by the waterfall before continuing on to the beautiful town of Melrose, which was to be our home for the next few days.

Thursday brought our first excursions, taking us to see the magnificent Kelpies. These enormous horse-head sculptures certainly gave us something to admire. We then headed to the impressive Falkirk Wheel, a remarkable feat of engineering. Some of us understood how it worked; the rest of us were happy just to watch it go round!

Friday was our big day in Edinburgh. There was plenty to see and do, with members exploring the city's many attractions and enjoying the wonderful atmosphere. But the main event was still to come — the world-famous Edinburgh Tattoo.

And what a spectacular evening it was! The music, dancing, military precision and sheer atmosphere made it an unforgettable experience.

Saturday was designated a day of rest. Many took the opportunity to enjoy a lovely walk along the River Tweed into Melrose, taking in the magnificent ruins of Melrose Abbey and visiting the Roman Museum.

All too soon, Sunday arrived and it was time to say goodbye to Melrose and head for home. Making another important photographic stop — this time at the Angel of the North.



It was a fantastic few days filled with friendship, laughter, sightseeing, music and plenty of Scottish scenery. The Edinburgh Tattoo was certainly the highlight, but the whole trip was a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable break.

Christine West

Vegetarian Cookery Group

August's meeting had to be cancelled but there is a meeting this month, on Monday September 28th, when 3 recipes will again be demonstrated and tasted.

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)

This month our short (4 mile) walk was planned and led by Phil and Liz Attenborough who write:

A small but select group of walkers braved the threat of rain and enjoyed a very pleasant walk round Martins Pond, Harrison's Plantation and the Raleigh Pond Nature Reserves at Wollaton, before venturing into Wollaton Park.

Not many people are aware of these ponds, but they are well worth a visit, they all have connections with the old Nottingham Canal.

PS it didn't rain until we got back to Hucknall!



Our thanks to Liz and Phil.

The next walk on Thursday September 17th will be led by Mark Thornley

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

Our August walk was a 6.2 miler in the Peak District. Starting from the mediaeval village of Over Haddon (famous for fasting damsels and home to the inspiration for James Bonds' M), we descended to the hamlet of Alport, where the rivers Lathkill and Bradford meet. Once the hub of lead mining, Alport was an ancient trading route and, according to a wall plaque, has a particular dislike for vagabonds, so we moved onto Youlgreave, where, the Main Street has a 19th century water cistern; Thimble Hall (the smallest detached house in the World, where a family of 8 lived) and a converted Co-op building that houses the Youth Hostel, where one of our male walkers once slept in Ladies Underwear (the name of the gents dormitory, not what you were thinking!).



Fortunately, the weather was overcast, a welcome change from the recent heatwave and having descended once more to the River Bradford, we took a coffee break before embarking on the ascent back to Over Haddon.

With lunch at the highest part of the walk and then losing altitude again, we had an exhilarating final 20 minutes uphill to the car park. It's called the Peak District for a reason!

Watercolour Group

A number of Artists went to paint at Riley's Pond in Papplewick by kind permission of Leen Valley Angling managers of the private pond.



Picture one is by Liz Kirk, Picture two is by Brenda Wheat.

Maggie

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

[illegible]

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	10:00 – Watercolour for Beginners 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.