



NEWSLETTER

Issue –October 2026

Web Address: www.hucknallu3a.org.uk

Next Monthly Meeting

14th October 2026

Guest Speaker : Mike Burton

Tea & the Empress of China

An illustrated talk by Mike Burton

China tea was a British obsession. It sparked a global battle which ran for two centuries, leading almost to the collapse of the world's biggest country. China's saviour was a no-nonsense princess who shrewdly kept the predatory trading powers at arm's length. This is a story of spies, greyhound-like ships and a successful plan to "transplant China into India" – and all because we love our "cuppa."

Members please note - this talk will start at 2pm and we will enjoy our cuppa afterwards!

Note – Deadline for submission of Articles for the next edition of the newsletter is 30th 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

Interest Groups are the heart & soul of all u3a branches. There is one interest group that runs in every u3a in the land. I say "runs", perhaps I should say "walks", as walking groups, short, medium, long, easy, rambling & strollers are everywhere. It's good to see that outdoor activity is so prevalent in our organisation.

You may not be aware that membership of Hucknall u3a also gives you access, where there is capacity, to participate in Interest Groups in other u3as. Let me give you a few examples to whet your appetite.

Both Arnold & Ashfield offer Art appreciation. If its languages you want to learn or brush up on Arnold offers French, German, Italian, Spanish & Latin! Calverton & Eastwood offer variations on Photography & at Ashfield you can get crafty Dressmaking & Quilting. Ashfield has a Ten-pin Bowling Group & at Calverton you can enjoy the gentle art of Tai Chi. As always the names of the groups probably don't tell the whole story, for Eastwood has a Gogglebox IG & a War Babies and Boomers Group. If you are interested in what other u3as are offering then their websites are the ideal starting point.

All interest groups need a leader to organise the meetings, but this person doesn't necessarily have to be an "expert". It's often a case of a group learning together. So, as always, if there's an IG you would find interesting & it doesn't exist, speak with Sue Tedstone, our IG Co-ordinator, who will see what might be possible.

If you are in a position where travelling to other venues is a problem, or there's nothing that takes your fancy might I point you to the national u3a website u3a.org.uk There you will find opportunities to Learn Online, join Interest Groups Online, there is a sources Blog, a Radio Podcast & a listing of Events & Workshops. There are photography, art & writing competitions and even if you don't enter it's always interesting to see what other members submit. There's a Puzzles & games section, which include regular Logic & Maths challenges, and Aileen's Game, a Wordle like puzzle, which I recommend, if words are your thing.

So all in all, there's a lot out there to engage us, all of it provided by volunteers. One last thought – please give them a well-deserved "Thank you" occasionally.

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

November 2026 – Dale Richardson – Notts Protect

December 2026 – Christmas Social

January 2027 – Jane Barnes – Tales of Dairy Farmers Wife



COME ALONG AND JOIN US FOR  A CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG 

and a **2 COURSE CHRISTMAS MEAL**

at the John Godber Centre on

Monday 7 December 2026



Phil & Liz Attenborough are bringing their 'Singalong' equipment to get us all in the festive spirit!
Join in with some good old Christmas favourites



Doors will open at 11:30am and Lunch is served from 12:15pm

Your menu choice is required when buying your ticket

The Menu Selections available are:

MAINS:

Roast Beef Dinner
Chicken wrapped in Bacon
Veggie Pie
Ploughmans - Jacket Potato
Served with Cheese and Ham **OR just Cheese**

DESSERTS

Lemon Meringue Pie & Cream
Biscoff Cheesecake & Cream
Cheese & Biscuits



Followed by
Coffee **or** Tea and Mince Pies



Entertainment will be from **2.30pm – 4.00pm**

Tickets will be on sale for **£23** at the **October & November** meetings.

Payment by card appreciated. Limited tickets available – don't miss out!

If you wish to be seated with friends, arrange this with them beforehand and purchase the tickets together. Also let us know of any dietary requirements



News From the Groups

Discovering Britain Group

We enjoyed a day trip to Durham, exploring the historic city and taking in some of its most impressive sights. Our visit began with a walk through the old town, where we wandered along the attractive, narrow streets and admired the characterful historic buildings, independent shops and cafés. The city has a wonderful atmosphere, with plenty of interesting corners and viewpoints to discover.

A particular highlight of the day was our extended visit to Durham Cathedral. This magnificent building is incredibly impressive, both from the outside and within. We spent considerable time exploring the cathedral, admiring its remarkable architecture, beautiful stained glass and fascinating history. The scale and atmosphere of the cathedral made it one of the main highlights of our visit.



We also enjoyed a pleasant riverside walk along the River Wear. The path provided lovely views back towards the cathedral and castle, with the river, wooded banks and surrounding countryside creating a peaceful contrast to the busy city centre. The walk was especially enjoyable because of the changing views as we followed the river.

Overall, it was an excellent day out, combining history, architecture, walking and beautiful scenery. Durham proved to be a fascinating and enjoyable city to explore, with plenty to see and do.

Mark

Discussion Group

Some months ago we discussed inviting some young people from the National School to talk about their lives and prospects. After much deliberation amongst the students and their tutor, they have decided to meet with us at our meeting in November. This prompted a discussion with us at our meeting this month to deliberate on several topics.

Firstly we needed to agree where to meet them. It was agreed that it would be most convenient for us to go to the school. We all agreed that they should be addressed as young people. The topics that we decided needed to be addressed were, most importantly, what they thought their prospects are regarding employment. Can they get help and advice in that matter, what are the advantages of staying at school and how do they spend their free time outside of school.

Other topics discussed which had no connection to the pupils were: Space travel in the future, what is a Data Centre = (somewhere that stores technical data from all sources), and efficiency of 'Care Systems'.

We look forward to carrying some discussions on to the next meeting!

Easy Walkers & Strollers Group

The Easy Walkers and Strollers groups met at Langley Mill Canal Basin to walk together along the Erewash Canal in beautiful sunshine enhancing the Autumn colours.

Whilst the Strollers took the shorter route, the Easy Walkers continued along the canal to Shipley Lock.

We all met up at the New Horizon Church Coffee Shop, which is well worth a visit.

Easy Wheelers Group

After four impressive years "in the saddle," Easywheelers Cycle Group leader Jim Spray took to the lanes one last time in his official role, guiding the team in his usual position as the back marker on a relaxed and good-humoured farewell ride.

Starting from Hucknall Leisure Centre, we headed out along the Newstead Trail, enjoying familiar stretches of woodland and open views as we headed towards Newstead Abbey.

From there, the group continued through to Blidworth and on towards Calverton.

Jim had chosen the route to have a well-earned coffee stop at his favourite café in the small Calverton shopping precinct. However, we were in for a surprise-it was closed.

Decision time -Greggs in the precinct or riding on to Springwater Golf Club a new venue for the group to a café that didn't disappoint.

At Springwater Jim was presented with a card, chocolates and gift voucher by the Easywheelers route masters John Saunders and Brian Carr.



The return leg was via Burntstump with the long climb up Gravelly Hollow .

Jim may be handing over the reins, but hopefully his legacy of safe, sociable cycling will keep rolling on.

David Rose

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

The meeting in September was a talk on flowers beginning with S. and included herbs, shrubs, summer annuals, perennials, trees and plants from other countries. As the climate seems to be changing we all need to look at the plants we try to grow and maybe try others from hotter climes to see if they will succeed in our current weather.



October's meeting will be at the JGC as usual. All are welcome to this open group.

Anne

History Group

Ann Featherstone was our speaker last month telling us about 'Rose Bruckner and her Postwar World of Home Baking'. It was an amazing presentation. Apparently, Rose was the second most famous British woman in the U.S.A. after Elizabeth who became our Queen. The words combined with the images Ann used had most of us nodding, checking with neighbours and remembering so much of our childhood. What a performance Ann gave to all of us. Even the following day in Tesco members were still chatting about the talk. Thank you Ann.

On the 21st October the last visit this year is to the Newark Air Museum so if members fancy the trip (at the time of writing this report a few seats are available) come for a chat at the next main meeting at John Godber on the 14th October.

Looking ahead to the next indoor meeting at Central Methodist Church on the 18th November Ian Morgan is coming to tell us about 'Pestilence, Intrigue and Murder'. This talk was scheduled for last February but Ian had a hospital appointment and the talk rescheduled.

bye for now, Maureen

Luncheon Group

Our September gathering was at 'Ye Olde Bridge Inn' at Oxtun. Because our regular date clashed with another group outing our numbers were down a little, however the food was excellent along with very good service.

Later this month on Wednesday 28 October we are visiting 'The Toby Carvery' at Sutton in Ashfield. We currently have a few spare places for anyone who would like to join us. We require your names and a £5.00 deposit, if interested.

Just as a reminder we will be collecting the balance of £19.00 per head for the Christmas Lunch at the Albert Hall in Nottingham at the November monthly meeting on Wednesday 11 November (CASH ONLY).

As previously announced we have decided not to arrange anything for November, lots of other events taking place.

Thank you to all our members who support the 'Luncheon Group', it is much appreciated.

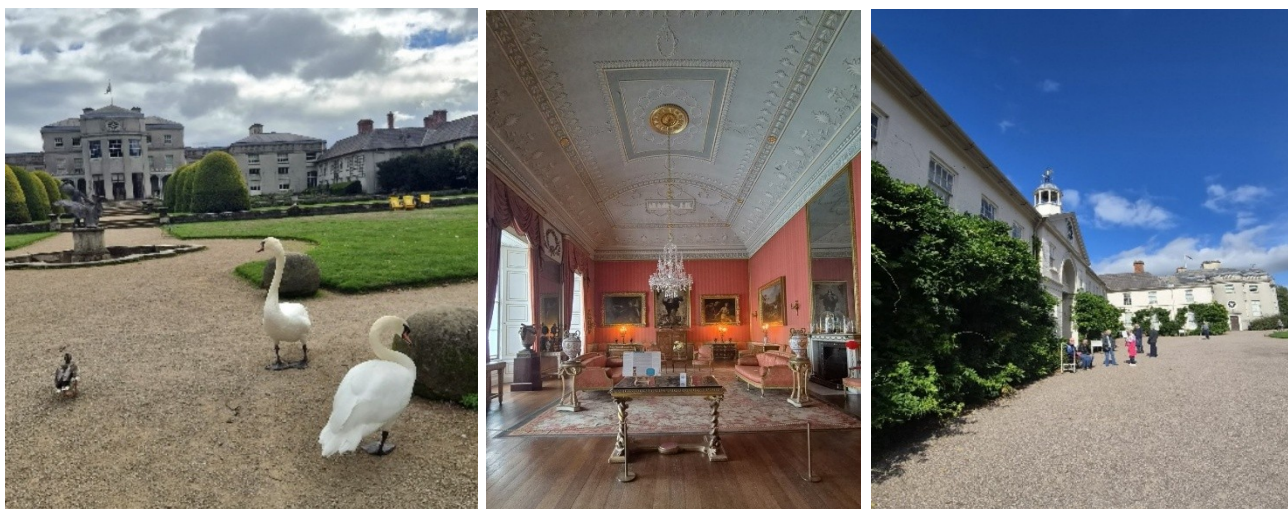
National Trust Group

National Trust visit to the Shugborough Estate in Staffordshire on Wednesday 23rd of September.

It was the usual 8.30 am departure time from Hucknall Market place for one of the shorter journeys of the year to the Shugborough Estate in Staffordshire. Driven by one of Vallances newly recruited drivers, Steve, we were safely at the destination by 10.00 am. However, as we were ready to leave the coach, we were met by the sound of the fire alarm going off in one of the main buildings which delayed us very briefly and was certainly a new experience for the group!!

The Estate is vast and with the weather turning increasingly sunny we began our day.

Once described as " A Staffordshire paradise, a rich blend of landscape monuments and architecture " Shugborough is indeed a very impressive estate.



The House is Georgian mansion of global treasures, complete with servant's quarters and the apartments of Patrick Lichfield the fifth Earl and fashion photographer. The gardens and pleasure grounds feature a walled garden, arboretum and terraces all alongside Europe's widest yew tree.

The Park Farm is home to a tea room and a working model farm with Longhorn cattle and Southdown sheep. Added to the beautiful walks, gift and book shops and Mansion restaurant there was much to explore over the day.

Departing promptly at 4.00 pm we were back in Hucknall for 6.00 pm after a very enjoyable day out.

October takes us to Fountains Abbey in North Yorkshire.

Sue and Barrie

Not So Grumpy Old Men Group

Over twenty members of the NSGOM visited the Titchfield Park Bowls Club on Friday 4th of September. Some NSGOM are also members of the Bowls Club and they helped organise the day and lead the coaching.

Arriving promptly for a 1.30 pm start and chosen our bowls we began by splitting up into small groups and spent time aiming to get the bowls into a small football type net and on to a target mat.

Overall gold medal winner was Philip Attenborough. Breaking off for tea and biscuits after an hour we then returned to the grass to play matches. The weather remained favourable and we finished an excellent afternoon by retiring to the Broomhill for a meal and drinks.



Huge thanks go to John Saunders and fellow bowls club members for organising a great afternoon.

October gives the group the chance to undertake a session of painting organised by Ian Raynor and we finish the year with our Christmas Lunch at Ramsdale Golf club.

Barrie Saunders

Singalong Group

"Songs you enjoyed when 16" was the theme of Septembers Singalong.

Our thanks go to Christine and Dave Vincent who led the session, which was very much enjoyed by all. We continue to find different themes and always welcome members suggestions. Indeed, October's meeting features music chosen by two of our members.

Theatre Trips Group

High Society on Saturday 7th November 2026 at 2.30pm Tickets £65.50.

Barbara

Vegetarian Cookery Group

It was good to get back into the routine of cooking and tasting at the September meeting. A big thank you to all those who helped in the kitchen including my sous chef! Three recipes were made and tasted and everything was eaten as usual. The next meeting will be on Monday October 26th at the usual place.



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)

U3A Short Walk Report –Tuesday 17 September – 4.5 miles

Our September short walk set off from the Bird in Hand pub in Blidworth, where we gathered under bright early-autumn skies. The morning had that perfect September feel—cool enough for a light jacket, warm enough to enjoy the open fields ahead.

The route began with a gentle climb through a patchwork of fields, several of which were home to curious horses and a small group of alpacas who watched our progress with dignified interest.

We continued south-west toward Ravenshead, following well-trodden paths that dipped and rose across farmland. A short stretch along Little Rickets Lane gave us a breather on firmer ground before we joined the familiar waymarks of the Robin Hood Way.

A highlight of the morning was the stop at the Fountaindale monument, tucked quietly among the trees. This historic marker—linked to local Robin Hood lore—offered a moment's pause and a chance for a group photo before we pressed on.



The final section formed a looping, undulating return across more fields and hedgerows, giving wide views back toward Blidworth and Ravenshead.

The gentle rises made for a pleasantly varied finish, and spirits stayed high as the pub came back into sight.

On a warm day a drink at the pub was most welcome.

Our October 15th walk is a route over Bennerley Viaduct

Details will be sent to the group by 7th October

David Rose

Walking Group (Mid Length Walks)

On this sunny morning, 10 u3a walkers assembled at Riverside Gardens in the historic town of Belper. Dominating the area is Strutt's North Mill (UNESCO) built in 1804. Having crossed the Derwent we began a steady ascent out of the town. the Derwent valley coming into view.

The Mid Shires Way took us onto the Roman road below Chevin Hill, a tree lined path linking Belper to Strutt's second mill town of Milford. Near the start of North Road, the trees open up to give a panoramic view of Belper. This was Strutt's vision for his town, and in the main this is how it remains today.

Near the end of this section there was a crashing sound, broken branches and leaves fell and one of our group was hit – by a golf ball. A cry of 'fore' was heard, followed by two more projectiles. The first ball had hit John on the knuckle of his right hand, with no serious damage fortunately.

Emerging at the top of Sunny Hill, lunch was taken after first investigating the very tall tower, constructed for waste removal from the railway line below, or as a sighting or semaphore tower. Descending the steep hill, we followed the course of the Derwent back towards Belper, stopping to view the Milford tunnel constructed by Stevenson in 1838. This grade 2 structure takes the Midland Main line under the Chevin hill.



An enjoyable walk 6.8 miles through Strutt' country.

Dave Kay

Walking Group (Long Length Walks)

Ambergate to Cromford and Shining Cliff Woods Walk – 1 September 2026

On Tuesday, 1 September, we set off on an enjoyable and challenging linear walk, beginning with a train journey from Ambergate to Cromford. From Cromford, we started our return journey on foot, following a varied route through open fields and beautiful Derbyshire countryside.



The walk provided plenty of variety, with quiet country paths, expansive views and some lovely stretches through woodland. As we made our way towards Alderwasley, the route became more demanding, with a number of steady ascents and descents. Although the terrain was not excessively difficult, it certainly provided a good stiff workout and was a rewarding challenge for the group.

From Alderwasley, we continued through the attractive Shining Cliff Woods, enjoying the peaceful woodland surroundings and the changing scenery. The final section brought us back towards Ambergate, completing a satisfying circular-style return to our starting point.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable walk, combining countryside, woodland and some worthwhile hills. The weather was kind to us, making the conditions ideal for walking. Everyone appeared to enjoy the route, and the combination of scenery and physical challenge made it a particularly good day out.

Mark

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
Easy Walkers	Philip Attenborough	easywalkers@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 – Friday Cycling 09:30 – Late Breakfast 14:00 – Table Tennis		
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 – Friday Cycling 14:00 – Table Tennis 18:00 – Mah Jong		
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 – Friday Cycling 10:00 – Science 14:00 – Table Tennis 18:00 – Table Games		
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 – Friday Cycling 14:00 – Table Tennis	14:00 – Week-ender's Coffee	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		

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.