

September 2022



There are some wonderful events planned across the East Midlands, to celebrate u3as 40th Anniversary in u3a week, including three big Network events. An enormous amount of work has gone into organising these events. I am looking forward to attending and I hope u3a members from across the region are too!

Derbyshire Network

Photography Competition - there are two topics: 'The Spirit of Derbyshire' and 'The Spirit of the u3a' 

Following the closing date on August 31st all photographs will be available to view on the Derbyshire u3a Network website and Facebook page

Derbyshire u3a Network's Walking Baton Relay

Groups from 16 of Derbyshire's u3as will be walking to pass on a baton, finishing in Alvaston park at 1.30pm on **Friday 23rd September**. Derby u3a begin this event on 7th September, accompanied by well-known walker, John Merrill. The Baton will continue on its journey around Derbyshire being passed on by each of the 16 other u3as. The final section will be covered by Melbourne Area Derby u3a to complete the circuit.

Northamptonshire Network of u3as in association with Chester House Estate

21st September 12.00 – 4.00

Official Opening 12.00 - 12.45pm

Threshing Barn open to visitors with displays from all participating u3as

Wellingborough Tai Chi 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

Wellingborough Ukulele Groups 2.00 pm – 2.45 pm

Completion of Mile-a-Member Challenge in front of Chester House 2.45 pm – 3.30 pm

Thrapston Making Music Group 3.30 – 4.00 pm

Higham & Rushden Singing for Fun Group

Throughout the Day Tours of Chester House site and Archaeological Resource Centre.

Nottinghamshire Network

24th September, Highfield's Park, University Boulevard, Lenton, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Itinerary

12:00- 1:00	Arrive to set up, bring your own chairs etc.
1:00	Workshop u3a Steel Band
1:30	Welcome from the Lord Mayor of Nottingham. Beacons arrive from three routes after their journey round the county Speeches
2:00	Surprise event
2:30	Workshop u3a Steel Band
3:00	End

Workshops

A reminder about a new programme of Online Workshops. Details are, of course, on the national website.

The next online workshops taking place in September and are open for any u3a members to book are as follows:

- **9 September:** Running your u3a – information for Trustees to help them understand their role and responsibilities
- **20 September:** Recruiting and Valuing Volunteers – how to recruit, retain and support volunteers across a u3a
- **21 September:** Interest Groups Matter – for Committee Members, Group Leaders, Group Coordinators or anyone thinking of taking on one of these roles
- **29 September:** Keeping It Legal – information about the key areas all u3as need to be aware of and understand, including data protection, equity and inclusion and safeguarding

The workshops are a great way to learn and to meet other members from across the u3a movement. For further details, timings, and links to book please visit: www.u3a.org.uk/advice/workshops

u3a events

As well as the Network events outlined above, I know that many u3as are planning special occasions to celebrate with their members and to raise the profile of u3a, attracting new members. Bingham u3a, in Notts, held a successful event in June.

On the 2nd June, Bingham u3a had a Picnic in the Park to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Picnickers were entertained to two full-on sets by the fabulous local Toot Hill Swing Band and its young vocalists plus 12 enchanting solos by local pupils of singing coach Beccy Burgess. The picnics went down, the wine flowed, and yes - the sun shone all afternoon! Chairman John commented: "This is a celebration not just for u3a members, but also for the Band and the singers, because this is the first time they've been able to perform in front of a live audience for two and a half years and many of the young singers had never sung in public before, let alone to 200 people. It's important to remember that events like this don't just happen overnight - they're the result of hundreds of hours of work by many people."

I hope all the events are as successful as Bingham's!

Third Age Trust AGM

As you know, the Trust will hold its AGM on October 6th. I do hope all u3as have registered to vote. Some important issues have been proposed, and many amendments received, so it is very important that you use your vote.

Trustee for the East Midlands

This is the last Newsletter I will send out as your Trustee. The last four years have been extremely worthwhile and interesting and I am sad that no-one has come forward to succeed me. I do hope that, when the next opportunity arises, some members will give it consideration. I am happy to discuss what is involved with anyone interested.

I want to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged me during my time as your Trustee. It has been an honour to meet so many members who give up their time, enthusiasm and commitment to our inspirational u3a movement.

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