

Ever wondered what is the best kept secret in the villages around Branston? Judging by the reaction that we often get when we mention “U3A”, it’s just that – the U3A. So, in readiness for the U3A Day planned for 3rd June we are advertising our presence! The U3A is open to all in “the third age”, that is those who are retired or semi-retired.

In case you are wondering what the name “U3A” means, well, “3A” is “third age” and “U” is “University”, which is often seen as being off-putting. Well, rather than thinking of the traditional meaning of University with its intellectual, qualifications-based overtones, think of it more as being “universal”, in the range of interest groups and topics that are available, and in that all members are encouraged to participate, not only in learning and receiving, but also in leading and contributing.

This concept might seem a little daunting, but a number of our members have gained a great deal in discovering that they have talents and abilities they never realised they had, and have been able to do things that they previously thought were simply for other people. And this has seen their self-confidence and sense of self-worth rise. No need to worry, by the way, we do try to avoid making anyone uncomfortable in the process. Examples of this approach include members of the walking groups take turns in planning, checking and leading walks and Armchair Travel members take turns at giving presentations of their travel experiences.

Branston and District U3A covers the area from Canwick to Scopwick and beyond. We offer almost 30 interest groups, and if there is none to suit you, we welcome the opportunity to start something new. So, whether your interest is anything from Ancient History to Walking; Art Appreciation to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics), Croquet to Photography, there will be something to suit you.

Each month we have a full meeting, usually with an invited guest and it provides a great opportunity for socialising. Our March meeting is members-only AGM, but you will be welcome to join us on April 28th at 1.30pm for 2.00pm at Branston Village Hall to hear Kay Guglitta speak on the Heritage and Future of County Shows. Admission is £1 for members, £2 for visitors. The full list of speakers as well as details of our interest groups can be found on our website, www.branstonu3a.org.uk where you will also find our contact details. Our voicemail enquiry line is 07459 470 995.

So if you are looking for somewhere to meet like-minded people, to widen your horizons or to indulge further in your particular interests and activities, why not give us a try? You are welcome to attend a couple of meetings before you join, and fees are very reasonable. Annual fees for joining the U3A are £13.00 for individuals, £24.50 for couples.

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