

My U3A Journey by Christine Yates

When my husband died in October 2011, the bottom fell out of my world.

I was helped and supported by my very good neighbours, and one of them suggested that I join U3A. She was a member of Mansfield U3A, but the membership was full, so I was directed to Dukeries U3A which meets in Jubilee Hall in Ollerton. As I live in Mansfield Woodhouse, I decided this would be ideal for me.

From the moment I walked into the room, in November 2011, I was made to feel so welcomed, and I decided to put my name onto the Sunday Lunch List.

During the meeting, I found out that there would be a Christmas Party for members in December, and because I felt so comfortable in such a friendly atmosphere, and as my spirits were lifted for the first time since my husband past away, I decided to take a bold step, and join the group there and then! My name was added to the party list, and I chose a dish of food I would bring.

Over the months, I also joined the Gardeners' Group, the Ramblers, the Tuesday Lunch Group (yes, I love eating out) and I went on day trips, theatre visits and also a holiday break.

Since 2011, I have regained my confidence and I now have wonderful friends, including one I knew for 20 years before.

Over more recent years, I have now volunteered my time to run a lunch group, co-ordinate group leaders and the social team and I am an active member of the lively committee as well.

Dukeries U3A is a smaller group compared to other groups in Nottinghamshire but it has much to offer. If you want to enrich your life, come to meet us, any third Monday in each month, at 12.45 at Jubilee Hall, Ollerton. A warm welcome awaits you too.

Joining U3A is one of the best things I have ever done in my life and I would recommend it to anyone.

Visit u3asites.org.uk/dukeries/welcome