

My U3A Story – Linda Bond

I am sure some of you can relate to this! Retirement, no more going to work, time to get into the garden and take more holidays, Yippee!!

But after the initial euphoria, I realised that I missed the regular company and although we had lived in Ollerton for over 30 years, as I had worked away from the village, we really only knew our neighbours. In the Roundabout I read about something called Dukeries U3A, (University of the Third Age) as it was known as then, not Third Age Group. I was a bit unsure, (the 'University bit 'was off putting,) but as the meetings were held just down the road, my husband and I decided to take a look. It was not a bit 'high brow'. The speaker was good and there were a lot of activity groups on offer. We decided to join there and then and go to the Amblers' walking group and as Terry assured us he could teach us to play bridge, we joined that group too.

That was in 2011. After some months we soon began to wonder how we could contribute to this great organisation. To cut a long story short, we agreed to lead the Ramblers for those who wanted to walk longer distances and led this for 6 years. We both served on the Committee for a number of years, I served on the Social Committee for several years and thoroughly enjoyed helping to arrange dances, parties, Quiz's etc. Now at 79 , I still collect the information and print the Newsletter, with the help of John Harris, and run Pub Games and the Uke N' Sing group.

I have had so much pleasure from the U3A over the years. We did learn to play bridge and still play. I learnt to play the Ukulele (sort of, but getting better !!), but best of all, we laugh, learn and play with some lovely people and have made some deep and lasting friendships through our participation in the Dukeries Third Age Group.