

NEWS FROM THE EAST



January 2021

Your regional team keeping in touch with u3as across the six counties of the East of England

National chair in hot seat

THERE'S a rare chance to ask questions that never seem to be raised when the man at the top attends 3 question and answer sessions across the region.

He will tackle anything that's relevant to this organisation!

Organised by the East Region team, all u3as in our six counties have been invited to send representatives.

Due to current pandemic circumstances they are all being held on Zoom and, where possible, geared to locations.

So January 19 deals mostly with Essex, February 3 Herts and Cambs and February 16, Beds, Suffolk and Norfolk.



Third Age Trust chairman Ian McCannah visits the East for three Q and A sessions.

The meetings are planned to be as informal and relaxed as possible.

Which means u3as have a great chance to ask about the thinking behind current policy decisions, how they are made and thoughts that drive the communications about them.

The topics are entirely down to those who attend and the questions asked.

Great start for new East forums

IAN's New Year visits follow the first regional forum in December, when he was one of three guests.

A bumper attendance of more than 80 from u3as across the region's six counties discussed national matters, the new branding and peer support groups.

Guests presented on the three topics and answered questions.

There were queries still to be dealt with for Ian so he has agreed to return for the solo sessions mentioned above.

Now further forums are being planned for

2021 with planning for U3A Day; putting the Third Age Matters editor in the hot seat; inductions for new u3a committee members and discussion on holding AGMs during the pandemic, all in the pipeline.

The forums have been launched by the regional support team as a new way of communicating what's happening in the u3a and providing assistance.

So there's the mixture of special topics and helpful debates of the likes of online AGMs where u3as who have already done so can assist those facing the task.

Don't forget Date of the year is national U3A Day on Wednesday June 2.

Easing the shackles of covid

VACCINES being received by a number of our older members ... with more on the way for the rest of us ... show there is light at the end of covid's dark tunnel.

Which, of course, gives us hope that 2021 will set us firmly on the return to the u3a we love.

Being together studying, socialising or simply enjoying each other's company, is what many of us put as the main benefits of the organisation.

So, the regional team suggests all u3a committees start thinking about activities in the month's ahead.



Those that are completely closed could look at reviving by launching some online gatherings and activities.

Others that have kept running should maybe expand what is being offered through the likes of Zoom.

And everyone can think and plan about how groups could operate with restrictions.

Ware's hugs in the festive post

MEMBERS of Ware U3A all received Hugs in the Post for Christmas.

Children at Christchurch Primary, Sacred Heart, Middleton and Presdales schools answered a request to help brighten the festive season for members.

It came from Ware chairwoman Jan Wing who asked pupils to create personally designed cards with appropriate messages.

They were supported by Hertford Regional College Level 1 Design Students.

Altogether they made some 800 special Christmas cards.

The unique greetings were part funded by a covid grant from Ware Town Council and a Tesco Bags of Help grant from earlier in



A selection of some of the 800 unique Christmas cards made to cheer up Ware U3A.

the year.

Both were used to pay for the necessary materials used in the enterprise.

The latter cash also provided IT help and equipment for members to be able to use digital platforms to keep in touch with their interest groups together, of course, with friends and family.



Keep everyone in touch with u3a goings-on

YOUR regional team encourages you to suggest to all your u3a members on email that they sign up to receive the national monthly u3a newsletter and weekly newsletter express so they receive all u3a updates directly to their inbox. Details at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

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