

# NEWS FROM THE EAST



June 2021

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

## Appeal for IT advisers

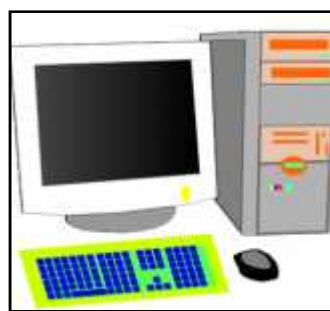
THE East of England Region is planning to provide IT support to u3as who are in danger of being left behind by technology.

We are looking for members willing to help those who are struggling to do all they want in today's digital world.

Life without access to modern technology is tough and isn't going to get any easier.

We want to hear from those people go to with their IT problems so they can help other u3as.

They don't have to be Bill Gates. Just to have a working knowledge of the tech world and an ability to help others with patience and understanding to make best use of the tools now available to them.



Help the region add digital expertise to its new IT advice team.

Please forward this appeal to anyone you feel would be willing to be placed on the East of England Region's IT Helper Register, so they can email your trustee, Barbara Cordina - [barbara.cordina@u3a.org.uk](mailto:barbara.cordina@u3a.org.uk).

This is part of a new national IT Adviser strategy being trialled in this region.

## Choice of new chair is yours ...



Liz Thackray



Beryl Shepherd

MAKE sure your u3a takes part in the vote for the new chair of the Third Age Trust.

Details on exactly what you have to do to choose between Liz Thackray and Beryl Shepherd are with all secretaries now.

Liz says: "My vision for the future of the u3a movement is one which celebrates, but does not revere, its past, while exercising agility and confidence in adapting to new challenges, sometimes requiring difficult decisions, thus ensuring future generations of 'third agers' have opportunities to live, laugh and learn the u3a way".

Beryl says: "My vision is for an expanding, member based, u3a that fulfils its Three Guiding Principles that I have helped to achieve".

There is more AGM information on the chair and other contested posts on the national web site at:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/agm-2021>

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# Celebrating in



Aylsham U3A market stall from across the street.



Picnic in the park at Buntingford.



Banner of activity triangles is a different display idea from Broxbourne.



Enjoying the sun at Cheshunt's info stand.



u3aday u3aday u3aday

# our six counties

THOSE members who took part in the first national u3a day on June 2 report having an enjoyable time in great weather.

The public were very pleased to see us out and about with our message of what u3a offers.

As well as the u3as pictured here, others involved included Ver-Colne Valley with a walk; Peterborough issued a promotional video; Harpenden distributed posters and had an info stall; Leighton Linlade enjoyed a walk while Hitchin used social media to show taster and example sessions.

Others report saving themselves for publicity around expected re-starts at the end of the summer.

Meanwhile the trust is holding a series of online review and feedback sessions ,, before a late summer survey ... to gauge when to hold its planned second u3a day next year.



Above ... information stand at Lea Valley.  
Below ... litter pickers at Witham and District.



## Jean makes national creative writing shortlist

CONGRATULATIONS to Jean Warren of Aylsham U3A on being selected for the shortlist of the 2021 Real Story Beginners section of the annual King Lear Prizes.

Jean now has an anxious wait while the judging panel select winners of the annual national competition for over 65s.

Her story, Apple Blossom Time, entered under her full first name of Jeannette, was chosen from among 15,000 entrants, so she is already on top of the pile.



Not bad for a u3a member who took up writing aiming 'to pass the time' after her husband's job took them to be based in Oklahoma, before settling in Norfolk.

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## Forum sets a record!

INTEREST in getting started again saw an attendance record set for the help, support and advice Regional Forums.

How to do so safely was covered by the national Advice and Volunteer Manager Jane Bailey

Her session on June 25 saw 94 of our 140 u3as represented and no fewer than 166 members logging on for the afternoon.

The event was recorded for those who missed out and access details have already been sent to attendees and u3a chairs to share with others.

Other forums in the pipeline include one on *Exploring World Faiths* booked for July 7 at 10am.

And two on *Finance*, on July 14 and 16, both at 10.30am and geared to dealing with issues brought about by the current covid situation.

Ample time will be left to deal with queries and questions as experience has shown that few u3a problems are the same.



Meanwhile the Regional Team continues to offer *induction sessions* for new committee members because, again, all our AGMs are held at different dates on the calendar.

Led by national and regional Trust Volunteer Ruth Freedman the next one is on the morning of August 17.

Details have already been sent to branch secretaries.

Don't forget too, that liaison has also been established between u3as and the Regional Team through Member Link and the Trust Volunteers would be very pleased to speak to you.

Finally, our PR and Media Adviser Ray Hardisty is on hand to assist with publicity, marketing and outreach queries.

### Brand Centre stock update

**TWELVE** new branded items, from shirts to caps and tote bags to pens, are now available with more arriving all the time. Keep checking: <https://u3abrand.org.uk>

## Contacting the East of England U3A

Trustee Barbara Cordina .... [barbara.cordina@u3a.org.uk](mailto:barbara.cordina@u3a.org.uk)

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Regional PR and Media Adviser Ray Hardisty .... [rayhardisty.east.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:rayhardisty.east.u3a@gmail.com)

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