



## November 2020 Newsletter

### Message from the Chair

In the last Newsletter I advised you that as we have not been meeting and had not had an AGM there were a number of issues that need to be resolved including terms served by Committee Members and that I was awaiting advice from the National Office on any action we needed to take and I was hoping that the Committee was going to receive some advice before I sent out the last Newsletter.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September, some guidance was placed on the U3A Web site and on 14<sup>th</sup> October we received some answers from Sam Mauger, the U3A Chief Executive we need to hold an On-Line A.G.M.

Following some preliminary work on what we need to do, we have consulted the Third Age Trust National Office and on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October agreed a plan of action with them as follows:

1. Advise Members that there is a need to amend the Constitution as it is outdated and would not be approved by the Third Age Trust.
2. Hold a Zoom Committee Meeting (held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November) to approve the content of this Newsletter.
3. Hold a Zoom Executive Committees to adopt the Third Age Trusts Model Constitution with minor amendments. This was agreed at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
4. Send the adopted Constitution to the Third Age Trust for their approval
5. Hold an AGM by E-Mail and post so we know everyone has received the information and, in that meeting, advise Members that we have received approval for updating the Constitution.
6. In the AGM information advise Members of Nominations for Executive Committee posts, how and when we will collect and pay fees to The Third Age Trust Etc.

In order that we can follow the agreed plan of action we are sending this Newsletter to all Members of Great Oakley and District U3A.

### Committee Update

It is with regret that we have to report that Lynne Bradshaw decided to resign from the Committee and the role of Group Co-Ordinator.

I am sure that you all appreciate the invaluable assistance Lynne gave to all of our Members since joining our U3A and in her role on the Executive Committee and as Groups Co-Ordinator. Lynne was instrumental in setting up a considerable number of our groups and became an active member of several of the groups until they became established.

It is doubtful that several of our groups would exist today without her help.

The Committee wish Lynne all of the best for the future and look forward to her continuing as a Member of Great Oakley and District U3A.

### Membership Reminder

Please advise Helen Watts by E-Mail to [Membership.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Membership.gou3a@gmail.com) if your contact details have changed to ensure that you receive information.

If you hear that someone who has E-Mail and has not received this Newsletter it means that we do not have their email address recorded correctly or it may have gone to Junk in an email account. In order to rectify this please ask the member to email the membership address above.

If anyone has a BIG birthday, Anniversary or if you hear a member is ill please let me know by e-mail to [chair.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:chair.gou3a@gmail.com). Or [Membership.gou3a@gmail.com](mailto:Membership.gou3a@gmail.com).

### Any Volunteers or Nominations?

Under any U3A Constitution there is a limit on time that Members can serve on the Executive Committee to try and ensure that members views are always being reflected.

In order that we can hold the A.G.M in an ordered fashion it would be helpful if we could receive Nominations for the Executive Committee in the near future.

### Committee Membership

The committee needs to have a Minimum of 5 Members.

Those five members hold the following Officer posts:

- Chairperson and Trustee
- Vice Chairperson and Trustee
- Secretary and Trustee
- Treasurer and Trustee
- Membership Secretary

And we currently we have the following Non-Officer Posts:

- Social Secretary / Speakers
- Group Co-Ordinator
- Web Co-Ordinator
- Members Representative

### Our Members

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Derrick Borman who was a founder member of Great Oakley & District U3A.

Derrick worked in Local Government for more years than most of us can remember.

In his employment and in retirement he was always known as being a True Gentleman who was never to be seen without a smile on his face.

Derrick had always been an active member of our U3A and his smiling face will be missed.

We extend condolences to his relatively large family that included his wife, Children, Grandchildren and two great grandchildren for their sad loss.

Irene Moulding, one of our members in the craft group and her local WI has been beavering away during Covid working on charity items. Dunelm in Kettering has been supplying her with fabric end rolls, out of date samples and returned items to work her magic. These have included making Quilts for the special care baby unit at KGH, Mors bags for a shop in Kettering, bags for zimmer frames in care homes, sponge bags for people taken unexpectedly into hospital, quilts for the women's refuge, 54 microwave bowl cozies and recently a quilt for a young adult leaving the care system. What an amazing and generous member!

### National Office News

The National Office has forwarded information on the “**National Winter Learning Programme**”.

It was advised that dates would be the subject of change but all of the Groups will exist.

All initiatives are available at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>. The initiatives are intentionally released on a stagger to keep people’s interest and participation over the winter. Events which require members to book are at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>. The website will be updated regularly so members should be encouraged to keep checking these pages.

### National poetry competition.

Nationwide search to find the best poem penned by a U3a member.

**Programme of free talks** delivered by members (currently being sourced). Talks are released on a stagger so people don’t bulk book. Talks confirmed to date:

- Mayan civilization,
- How to write your living history
- Yoga (booking not yet released)
- Bridge tutorials for beginners and improvers (booking not yet released)
- Crown green bowling (booking not yet released)
- Philosophy (booking not yet released)
- Cryptic crosswords (booking not yet released)
- Japan (booking not yet released)
- Other TBC.

**Made it! Make it! gets a Christmas update** – people will be encouraged to send in pictures and explanations of how they have made decorations/items for Christmas and the festive season. This will use the same pages with updated wording and a push on social media. **From 12<sup>th</sup> October, regular weekly updating.**

**Poetry reading.** Encouraging members to read their poems aloud. Led by a u3a member. First session **14<sup>th</sup> October, 2:30pm**. Second session TBC. Booking at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

**Winter Watch.** Members send it pictures of winter gardens, scenes, animals etc. **Launching 20<sup>th</sup> October, regular weekly updating.**

**Battle of Britain and the Blitz.** Members are encouraged to send in their stories of their experiences/ those of their families and friends. Stories will go up on the website. **Launch date by 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**

**Paint or Draw (POD) - The monthly art challenge.** Similar to u3a Eye. Members send in pictures of their original artwork on a monthly theme. Up to 15 images are chosen for the online gallery. No prizes, just prestige. **Launch date: 26<sup>th</sup> October.**

**U3A Math’s Week (“Don’t retire from math’s – count yourself in!”).** Three events planned (publicity released 8<sup>th</sup> Oct including a prize draw) and booking at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>:

- **U3A Radio Podcast** – Second programme to be released **17<sup>th</sup> November.**
- **Friday watercolour painters** - A series of five workshops led by a u3a member where participants are shown how to produce a to produce a finished piece of artwork at the end. Pictures of the final artworks to go up on an online gallery. **Starts 20<sup>th</sup> November. Advertised at:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

1. **Programme of ‘external’ talks.** Includes to date:
  - National Gallery – Life and paintings of Artemisia (£5) on 24<sup>th</sup> November
  - Guildhall Art Gallery – Pre-recorded talk about the Romans. Date TBC
  - National Trust – History of the National Trust (free). Date TBC
  - British Library – Christmas literature (free). Date TBC
  - Southwark Cathedral – TBC
  - National Army Museum - TBC

2. **Christmas Choir** – Group carol singing led by the U3A member who led the previous choir sessions. **10<sup>th</sup> December.** A new weekly choir initiative, working towards a recorded song to start in January 2021.

3. **Ongoing initiatives at:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>
  - U3A Eye – Fortnightly photograph challenge on a different theme each time.
  - Math’s challenge – weekly
  - Quiz – weekly
  - Birdwatch – Continuous with weekly updating
  - Creative Covid Collaboration – Members create ‘squares’ to form a digital patchwork. Continuous
  - Ideas to keep learning – weekly
  - Diary – now closed, submissions for each week to the end of July available to read
  - Creative Writing Competition 2020. Winners announced. The 13 regional winners’ stories are available to read
4. **January** - A series of Winter Schools are planned for 11<sup>th</sup> Jan – end of Feb 2021.

### Committee Member - Reminder

Chair: John Bugby  
Vice Chair: Terry Arnold  
Secretary: Phil Watts  
Treasurers: Doreen and Damian Tracey  
Groups Co-ordinator: Jane Parker  
Membership: Helen Watts  
Social / Speakers: Dorothy Masters  
Members Rep.: Maureen Lavin  
Members Rep. Jane Parker