

Network News



News updates from Leicestershire & Rutland Network of U3As – 01/09/2020

THE U3A NATIONAL HIGH STREET PROJECT



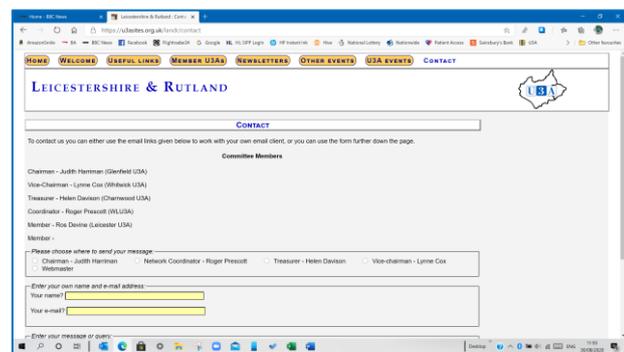
An introduction to this project has appeared recently in the U3A national newsletter. Now it's time for action! Will U3As please send the enclosed information sheet out to members as soon as possible please as there is a first phase finish date in September? Volunteers are needed to start taking notes and photos during September so timing is important. The PDF with the same title as above is attached. Thank you.

U3A/IAM DRIVING SAFELY POST LOCKDOWN WEBINAR

This webinar was held on 26th August with over 60 U3A members from the East Midlands region attending. For anyone who was unable to join the seminar it was recorded and is now available on YouTube as a private listing for viewing by U3A members only using this link: <https://youtu.be/lqSQzOOqOgg>. Will you pass this on to your members please?

NETWORK WEBSITE – HELP NEEDED!

We are in the process of updating the Network website and would like your help. It will show all the things you would expect, like copies of Network and Regional Newsletters and their attachments, details of events and meetings planned and links to other sites that may be of interest to you. It will also show details of the committee and committee meeting minutes.



But we also want it to reflect our two counties, so we'd like a couple of photos, pictures or drawings from each U3A that reflect your own unique area/activities etc. If you feel they need a couple of lines of explanation, that's fine (but no more than that please). Photos/pictures in .JPG, .JPEG or .PNG format please but not .RAW and not more than 10MB in file size. A mix of colour and black & white would be good.

Please send your contributions by email to: webmaster@landru3a.org.uk.

NETWORK ACCOUNTS

A copy of the accounts for the 2019/20 financial year is enclosed for your information. These will need to be formally accepted at the meeting on 30th October. The other item to be proposed is that the Network Subscription should be free for the 2020/21 financial year and just £10 for the 2021/22 financial year. This will also need to be voted on at that meeting. We will be asking for the names of delegates (2 per U3A) later this month. As you might expect this meeting will be held using Zoom.

PDF enclosures with this Network News: National High Street Project, Network Accounts.

Find out more about your U3A Network on our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/landr>
To contact the Network please email: coordinator@landru3a.org.uk



Learn, laugh, live

The U3A National High Street Project

25 August 2020

A major national U3A research project is under way which will look initially at local high streets before and after Covid-19, with the main survey taking place in September.

U3A members are being asked to register [now](#) so that they can record details of premises in their local high streets and shopping areas in September, gathering information about businesses that were trading at the end of March. Members are being asked to walk down their local high street (whatever this may be called), take notes of what businesses there are and take photos of the shop fronts. This information will be fed into a database with September 2020 as the base line.

Researchers can then revisit the same high streets in 18 months' time to note any changes that have taken place. The findings, including anecdotes from U3A members who recall high streets of the past, will form a landmark report for publication by the Trust in 2022, so helping to raise the U3A's profile in its 40th anniversary year.

Activities undertaken by U3A members include Research, Shared Learning projects, Local History and Living History. This means that after the initial survey has been completed, members can pursue their interests in any local area which has been surveyed, creating a longitudinal study – a research design that involves repeated observations of the same variables (eg people) over short or long periods of time (ie it uses longitudinal data). These are of necessity local projects which will be initiated, designed and run by local U3As.

The project was dreamt up before Lockdown by Peter Cox of North London U3A and a member of the U3A National Research Network. With a former career in retail, he was interested in comparing today's high streets with those of the past.

However, the Pandemic means the project either had to be abandoned or re-purposed. This means the information needs to be gathered as quickly as possible since people may not remember what shops were there before Covid-19 struck. If just ten per cent of U3As take part, that would be a significant amount of information.

The rise of internet shopping and more office workers working permanently from home are just two of the reasons that high streets and towns could change in the future. Fewer office workers and commuters will have an effect on cafés and sandwich shops, while many people who have mastered online shopping may continue to do that into the future.

"So what happens to the businesses after Lockdown?" asks Peter. "There'll be some winners: some people may prefer to shop in their local parade rather than go into town or to a shopping mall, where social distancing is more difficult. We may find new usages for our high streets. We want to be able to show these changes."

"We don't know precisely how our shopping areas will change in the long term, but we do know the effects in many places will be dramatic. By the end of the survey, we will be better able to answer the specific question: *How exactly has COVID-19 changed the places where we shop?*"

There are many other projects taking place on this topic but the U3A project will be unique in that it will be the only one where individual U3As, groups of U3As or local Networks, have created separate projects as a result of the survey. Mike Klein who is a principal at shops2020 and a U3A member has worked with Peter on the pilot surveys to advise on best practice.

[There's still time for you to volunteer to take part in this monumental project.](#)

For more details about how to take part, please complete the Registration Form that you can find [here](#) or go to (<https://u3alondonregion.wufoo.com/forms/s175dvlto40lqop/>).

Enquiries to Michaela Moody, Lead on the project: michaela.moody@u3a.org.uk

		Leicestershire & Rutland U3A Network		Accounts 2019-20			
Income				Expenses			
Date	Payee	Amount £	Comment	Date	Payee	Amount £	Comment
24/03/19	S. Leics Quiz Night	112.00	Quiz night income	01/11/18	Glenfield	195.71	Network meeting
				01/03/19	S. Leics	111.06	Quiz night expenses
Mar-19	Network lunches	60.00	Lunch donations	01/03/19	Glenfield	193.87	Network meeting
						500.64	
				27/03/19	Balance as 27/3	2,274.43	
						1,773.79	
15/05/19	S.Leics U3A	1,945.79	Initial Balance from Moneykeeper by cheque			1,945.79	
12/07/19	Glenfield U3A	8.00	Indonesian venue overpayment	18/06/19	Syston Comm. Council	13.50	Meeting room- Committee meeting
23/10/19	J R Hartopp	5.00	Bridge Day 20/11/19	12/07/19	Glenfield U3A	65.60	Venue - Indonesian Culture
23/10/19	D W Collins	15.00	Bridge Day 20/11/19	15/08/19	K & L Patton	60.80	Indonesian - expenses
23/10/19	J W Strand	10.00	Bridge Day 20/11/19	15/10/19	Glenfield U3A	129.60	GL Forum Venue: Park House, Glefield PC
23/10/19	W & A Hetherington	10.00	Bridge Day 20/11/19	30/10/19	Hinckley U3A	91.57	Network Quiz 3/10/19-Prizes: £29.50, plates £22.07, Venue £40
23/10/19	J R Cameron	5.00	Bridge Day 20/11/19	09/11/19	Glenfield U3A	144.10	Network 1/11/19 Venue: 57.60 Food 86.50
23/10/19	Liecester U3A	5.00	Bridge Day 20/11/19	09/11/19	Judith Harriman	17.67	GL Forum refreshments 25/11/19
15/11/19	Helen Davison	70.25	cash from Network Lunch	24/11/19	Cynthia Baker	14.80	Travel: Committee/Network/Workshop
26/11/19	Janice Strand (Hinckley)	37.50	payment for Bridge Day Lunch (non-attenders)	24/11/19	Helen Davison	50.29	GL Workshop/Forum and travel expenses
				05/12/19	Jim Miller	59.90	Bridge Workshop expenses
		165.75		05/03/20	John Heal	16.79	Network Website Domain - 2 years
						664.62	
				31/03/20	Balance	1,446.92	Bank Statement 1446.92