

Network News



News updates from Leicestershire & Rutland Network of U3As – 19/10/2020

Army Flying Museum – Lockdown Lectures



The Army Flying Museum at Middle Wallop, Hampshire are running a programme of online lectures which are FREE TO VIEW. The recorded lectures are followed by a live Q&A when they are first broadcast. The archived lectures (and recorded Q&A) are now on their website for a period of time for members to view at their convenience.

To view series 2 of the Lockdown Lectures go to:

<https://www.armyflying.com/lockdown-lectures/>.

They are just about to launch a third series. The lectures are military history and aviation themed and cover a range of different topics. The first lecture is at 7pm on Monday 19th October and the title is: Intelligence Failures of the Battle of Britain. Details are on the website.

Network Meeting by Zoom – 30th October 2020

The following u3as have registered delegates to attend the Zoom Network Meeting on 30th October:

Ashby, Charnwood, Glenfield, Great Glen, Kibworth, Loughborough, Market Harborough, Oadby & Wigston, South Leicestershire, West Leicestershire & Whitwick.

If your u3a is not on the list and you wish to have delegates attend please email the co-ordinator with names and email addresses as soon as possible please.

Further documents are enclosed ready for the meeting (all in 1 PDF document):

- ✚ Regional Trustee Newsletter – October 2020
- ✚ Network proposed constitution amendments
- ✚ Minutes of 2019 AGM Meeting

All communications should be sent to: coordinator@landru3a.org.uk.

*PDF enclosures with this Network News:
Additional Documents for Network Meeting.*

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



October 2020

First of all, I do want to thank all of the Committee members and group convenors who have been working so hard for the last few months to keep as many U3A activities going as possible. I have heard from many of you, with both successes and challenges, and it is really appreciated. Some groups are finding very innovative ways of meeting, and I particularly like this account of a wine group meeting at Sutton Bridge.

In order to maintain the social interaction yet keeping group size under 6, the membership, currently 8 would be split into two groups and meet at each of two members' houses, preferably in the garden, weather permitting but if not inside observing social distancing and other requirements. In order to maintain overall linkage a Zoom Link would be established to enable a cross group discussion of the wines provided.

This apparently worked very effectively and will be repeated. Of course, part of our region is now in Tier 2 restrictions which is making things even more challenging. It may not be perfect but meeting virtually is certainly much better than nothing and I am pleased that many U3As are continuing to encourage virtual meetings for groups and for their main monthly meeting.

GOING FORWARD TOGETHER 28th October 10.30 – 12.30

This event is now almost fully booked, which is wonderful. I have been asked if it can be recorded and I am hoping that this can be done and made available to those of you unable to join.

Third Age Trust AGM

This was held, as a virtual event, on 29th September. I am sure a lot of you attended as more than 700 members did! It was a very complicated event to arrange but ran smoothly. 6 new Trustees for the Regions were introduced and a motion passed to increase the subscription to TAT to £4 from April 2022. This is the first increase for a decade. I know members sometimes feel frustrated at the length of time it takes office staff to reply to queries. The truth is that the office has a very small staff for the number of members we have. This increase will allow the organisation to move forward by improving the infrastructure technologically and administratively.

If you have any feedback about the way the AGM was managed please let me know, as that will be helpful for future arrangements.

Networks

Almost all of the Networks in the region have now had, or have planned, virtual meetings. These have been extremely helpful in sharing information between U3As. Communication between U3As

about AGMs, keeping interest groups going, Risk assessments and other issues continues to be supportive and helpful.

Network Link

A virtual Network Link meeting was held on the 13th October. Attendance was much larger than at previous actual meetings and it was really good to see 6 out of the 7 East Midlands Networks represented. I am sure they will report back to their Networks.

National website

Do keep an eye on the website and on the monthly newsletter. New initiatives are planned for the winter, which sound very interesting, as well as more virtual events. The upgrade of the website continues, so it does look different but should become increasingly easy to use.

There is a lot of awareness that the winter ahead will be difficult. A working group, led by Michaela Moody, is discussing ideas for alleviating the darkness! Perhaps your U3A is planning some sort of winter festival?

I look forward to joining some of you at your Network meetings. Please do continue to stay safe and well.

I can be contacted on: jean.hogg@u3a.org.uk or phone: 0744 322 1688

Jean Hogg Trustee East Midlands



The Third Age Trust

Tel: 0208 466 6139

www.u3a.org.uk

Registered Charity: 288007

Registered Company: 1759471

VAT Reg No: 821 0156 79

The following paragraphs should be added to the Constitution:

6 MANAGEMENT OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND NETWORK OF u3as

- (viii) The holding of an AGM may be by a meeting with representatives of member u3as present in person or by utilising video-meeting techniques (e.g. Zoom and Microsoft Teams) both having equal status.
- (ix) Leicestershire & Rutland Network of u3as is formally affiliated to the u3a National Organising Body, The Third Age Trust and is a charitable organisation by virtue of its stated objects, but not a Registered Charity as the annual turnover is likely to remain below the level requiring registration with the Charity Commission.

*Amendments to the Network Constitution
to be approved at the
Network Representatives Meeting
on Friday 30th October 2020*

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND U3A NETWORK GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 29th MARCH 2019

Venue: The Sports Pavilion, Gynsill Lane, Glenfield

	Action
<p>Present: Ashby, Charnwood, Enderby, Glenfield, Great Glen, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Melton Mowbray, Oadby and Wigston, South Leicestershire, Syston and District, West Leicestershire, Wycliffe Lutterworth</p>	
<p>Apologies: Countesthorpe, Rutland, Whitwick, Cynthia Baker (Network Assistant)</p>	
<p>Welcome: Linda Patton, as Chairman, welcomed all representatives of the attending U3As and Jean Hogg, our National Trustee.</p>	
<p>Notes of previous meeting: Notes of the previous meeting were circulated and approved with the following correction: West Leicestershire did not have a Chinese culture group but Loughborough does.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising: <u>Website:</u> Rob Harriman (Webmaster) informed the meeting that members could contact him via the web-site with anything they would like him to include; he had brought the web-site up to date. <u>Safeguarding:</u> Helen would circulate details of Safeguarding information</p>	<p>All HD</p>
<p>Report from the Money-keeper: David reported that at the present date there is £2079.66 in the account. He suggested that we did not have a holiday from paying subs but that the figure payable in the year by each participating U3A should be a smaller amount. Syston suggested that we pay £15 for the year 1/4/2019 to 31/3/2020 and this was seconded by Wycliffe and agreed by the members.</p>	<p>DK/HD</p>
<p>Network Constitution: A copy of the proposed Network Constitution had been distributed before the meeting and it was proposed by Hinckley and seconded by Glenfield that we accept it. The membership present agreed.</p>	
<p>Appointment of Network Committee: Judith Harriman was proposed as Chairman by Leicester and seconded by Loughborough. Members voted to appoint her to this post. Cynthia Baker was proposed as Secretary by West Leicestershire and seconded by Syston. Once again the members agreed. Helen Davison was proposed as Treasurer by Great Glen and seconded by Hinckley. We agreed with this appointment. Lynne Cox had agreed to stand as vice-chairman; she was proposed to this post by Leicester, seconded by Enderby and the members agreed. Three further members were voted on to the new committee; these were Rose Gale, Ross Devine and Robert Mansfield. Charnwood proposed them, Glenfield seconded their appointment and the members agreed.</p>	

Websites: National: www.u3a.org.uk

East Midlands: www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk

Leics & Rutland Network: <https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=764>

Network Coordinator: helen.davison1@ntlworld.com

<p>Appointment of Account Signatories: Helen Davison (Treasurer), Judith Harriman (Chairman) and Cynthia Baker (Secretary) were proposed as signatories of the new Leicestershire and Rutland Network of U3As by West Leicester, seconded by Wycliffe and the members voted to agree this arrangement.</p>	
<p>Regional Trustee Report: Circulated with these Minutes</p>	
<p>Future workshops/events: Fourteen U3As attended the successful Network Quiz held by South Leicestershire U3A on Tuesday March 26th which was won by a team from Lutterworth U3A. Hinckley U3A will arrange another in September or October 2019. Leicester U3A felt that there is room for another U3A in the Braunstone area of Leicester. Both Helen Davison and Lynne Cox (Trust Volunteers) would be willing to help if there is a nucleus of people from this area who would like to start a new U3A. There was a suggestion that an Inter-network Bridge competition be arranged. SLU3A would ask an interested member if he would help to organise this. Helen said that she would look into arranging a day to which we could send members to share their knowledge of language groups, web-master skills, history and science and technology. Lynne Cox and Linda Patton had responded to a message sent to all U3As regarding a chance to send members to learn more about Indonesian culture. Enquiries will be made and details sent to all members asap as the Indonesian Embassy representative is only in this area until July. It was suggested that a suitable venue would be the Mountsorrel Memorial Centre. Leicester will make a presentation at the next Network Meeting about how to generate new groups.</p>	<p>Hinckley</p> <p>Reg. Trustee & Trust Volunteers</p> <p>SLU3A</p> <p>HD</p> <p>Lynne Cox/Linda Patton</p> <p>Steph Smith</p>
<p>Round Robin: Ashby: have 290 members, 80 of whom have joined in the last 18 months, but wonder whether they should split due to lack of space in their meeting hall. They have presentations by two groups at each general meeting. Enderby Area: have a stable membership and a very successful New Age Kurling team. Glenfield: do not have a paid speaker at their AGM but invite members to talk about their hobbies and interests. Great Glen: have a membership of 400 which is growing. Many who attend the general meetings belong to no groups. They have an open day each year. They have split the Book group into two and have members who would like to join an astronomy group but no-one willing to lead the group. They are soon to lose two of the venues in which their interest groups meet. Hinckley: have an "I always wanted to do that" group. Another new group is Vinyl Records. They had 15 new members after an advertisement. It is their 25th anniversary this year and they are celebrating with a Strawberry Tea in June. Leicester: have taster sessions where potential members can attend meetings and groups before joining to see if the U3A suits them. They also have a "How hard can it be?" group where members try their hand at new skills for example archery. They have many new groups starting including Orienteering, Gilbert and Sullivan, Paranormal, World History, Ten Pin</p>	

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<p>Bowling, and Ukulele starting within the next week.</p> <p>Loughborough: have a very elderly, but committed membership</p> <p>Melton Mowbray: hold two meetings each year for new members where they tell them the history of the U3A and explain its structure. The Chairman also gives a talk on the local radio station about the U3A.</p> <p>Lutterworth: had celebrated their 15th Anniversary in 2018/19 with a Murder/Mystery evening and a lunch.</p> <p>Oadby and Wigston: advertise in a local magazine that goes to all local households. They also advertise on two local electronic screens.</p> <p>South Leicestershire: have a Transport Group which occasionally invites outside speakers to address the group but often simply involves members speaking about forms of transport that interest them. They also have a “Railway Exploration” group. They have several members who have joined as a result of a volunteering workshop and they are contacted by a New Member Liaison member soon after joining to see how they are enjoying their membership.</p> <p>Syston: have a disabled member on their committee who helps them to ensure that events are more inclusive for all members. They also have meet-ers and greeters at the door at general meetings so that new members can be introduced to a friendly face.</p> <p>West Leicestershire: have a rota at their general meetings on a loose and friendly basis at which members are told by Group Leaders what goes on in their various groups.</p> <p>Whitwick:. Have a “Time to remember” group where members share their memories in a structured way. This was developed from the Memory Course. Interested U3As should contact Lynne Cox at: lynne.cox99@gmail.com</p> <p>Wycliffe: Groups which used to be attended by a majority of male members have been subtly altered by including the history of the subjects in for example the engineering group so that there are now many women attending. They also have a “Gentle cycling” group.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Glenfield said that they would like a rota so that other U3As can set up the tables and chairs and serve the coffee and biscuits at the beginning of each Network meeting. Stuart Galloway will draft a rota which will be sent to Helen for distribution.</p> <p>Jean Hogg said that the Advice section of the Third Age Trust web-site is being changed and there will be advice there about many of the problems outlined by members at the meeting today.</p> <p>Helen asked us all to thank David for his work over many years as our Money-keeper.</p> <p>Linda thanked Glenfield for their hospitality yet again; the venue is perfect as is the lunch they arrange.</p>	<p>Glenfield/Stuart Galloway</p> <p>All</p>

The meeting ended at 12 noon.

Date of next meeting:

The next Network meeting will take place on **Friday November 1st** at The Sports Pavilion, Gynsill Lane, Glenfield LE7 7AG at 10 am.

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Delegates to Leicestershire & Rutland Network Meeting 29th March 2019

Ashby	Tony Smith
Charnwood	Lynne Cox, Helen Davison
Countesthorpe	Apologies
Enderby Area	Mike Maloney
Glenfield	Stuart Galloway, Judith Harriman
Great Glen	Robert Mansfield
Hinckley	Janice Strand
Leicester	Steph Smith, Ros Devine
Loughborough	Ruth Swales, Gillian Bayley
Lutterworth	Linda Patton, Ken Patton
Market Harborough	-----
Melton Mowbray	Alan Barton, Morag Timbrell
Rutland	Apologies
S. Leicestershire	Helen Salisbury, Rose Gale
Syston & District	Michael Wherton, Christine Ringrose
W. Leicestershire	Norma Smart, Lyn McDermott
Whitwick	Apologies
Wycliffe Lutterworth	Nigel Burt
Webmaster	Rob Harriman
Money Keeper	David Kyle
Regional Trustee	Jean Hogg

Leics & Rutland U3As opted out of Network:

Blaby

Bradgate

Kibworth

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