

News updates – 5th January 2021

Network News is for u3a committee members – please pass relevant details to your membership




Happy New Year

Happy & Healthy New Year

After the year we all experienced in 2020 we can only hope 2021 gives us the opportunities for a more normal existence and to get our u3a activities back to a more normal footing. However, we'll no doubt combine some of the new skills we've acquired into our u3a programmes to enhance our offering to our target audience, especially those limited by health, location etc.

New Colour-coded Headings

Something new, and hopefully helpful, for 2021. Topic headings are now colour-coded as below. If anyone is colour-blind and has difficulty with the colours chosen, please let me know so that changes can be made. Contact details at the bottom of each page.

-  Items for information, mainly for committee members
-  Items requiring your action, usually to send to your members
-  Dates for your and/or members' diaries

Engaging With Non-Internet Users – Thursday 14th January at 10:00am

This is the first offering from your Network for 2021 and will only work with your support. Here's a reminder about what we hope to achieve: The aim is to get together u3a committee members, interest group contacts and any others (including individual members), to build a toolkit of practical ways to support individual u3as, interest groups and u3a members who are concerned about using "technical" methods of communication.

To make this work we're looking for those who would like some help and those who can provide help to take part. Although the meeting will be on the Zoom platform, anyone with a phone can dial in to add their concerns and views or pass them to committee members to pass on for them. Registration for this event is not necessary to encourage those nervous of technology to contribute.

We need your ideas and suggestions, and we need you to take part. Here are the contact details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87659860083?pwd=NOZPU2QxWnF4bzVtaXc2aWdjNGZwQT09>

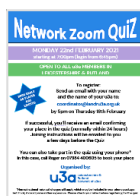
Meeting ID: 876 5986 0083

Passcode: 325438

Full details on the enclosed PDF.

Find out more about your u3a Network on our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/landr>
To contact the Network please email: coordinator@landru3a.org.uk

Network Quiz – 22nd February 2021



If you haven't already done so, and even if you have, will you please bring the Network Quiz to the attention of all your members. A promotional flyer is enclosed with this edition of Network News. It's hoped to get as near to a full-house as possible this time around.

There is also a short video available on YouTube promoting the Quiz - [CLICK HERE](#).

Network Group Meeting & AGM – Advance Notice

The next half-yearly meeting for nominated delegates will be on Thursday 25th March 2021 starting at 10am. The meeting will be held on the Zoom platform unless there is any major (and unlikely) change in government regulations by then. Full details will follow in due course.

Speaker Swap

This is an initiative to swap talks between interest groups in different u3as, starting with British History Groups. Further details can be found in the attached PDF ready to be passed to the Group Leader of your History Group(s).

Anyone interested should go to the website using the link at the end of the PDF article and complete the questionnaire to register by 31st January 2021 (ignore the date at the top of the questionnaire which was for the pilot scheme only).

U3A or u3a? That is the question!

The following statement has come from Hilary Jones, Vice Chairman of the Third Age Trust:

"In its publicity items, and references to the movement in articles, the Trust will refer to the movement as u3a in lower case. This is to reflect the fresh and more modern look of our logo. Although the Trust recognises that each u3a is an independent charity administered by its elected committee, it hopes that you will adopt this change in your written items including on your websites where possible.

This guidance however does not apply to your legally registered name – for example when dealing with your banks – where you may be registered as U3A or University of the Third Age.

The Trust will begin implementing a consistent use of the lower case u3a on its many platforms in the coming weeks."

Just In

News from a member of Hinckley u3a. Apparently, when you get the phone call about the COVID vaccination they ask for your NHS number. Because people don't know it and must go and look for it, this is causing substantial delays in reaching enough people. So, have your 10-digit NHS number (XXX XXX XXXX) handy by the phone ready for the call.

PDFs included with this Network News are:
Engaging With Non-Internet Users (details & Joining Instructions)
Network Quiz – Poster
Speaker Swap – British History Groups

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To contact the Network please email: coordinator@landru3a.org.uk

Most u3as have members who either can't or don't wish to take part in meetings arranged using the Zoom platform. They may also not have email (or not wish to use it for various reasons). It maybe they don't have a computer, laptop or tablet so feel they can't take part. As a result, they are missing out on current u3a activities.

This is the first offering from your Network for 2021 and will only work with your support. Here's some details about what we hope to achieve:

- ❖ The aim is to get together u3a committee members, interest group contacts and any others (including individual members), to build a toolkit of practical ways to support individual u3as, interest groups and u3a members who are concerned about using "technical" methods of communication.
- ❖ To make this work we're looking for those who would like some help and those who can provide help to take part. Although the meeting will be on the Zoom platform, anyone with a phone can dial in to add their concerns and views or pass them to committee members to pass on for them (see below).

Registration for this event is not necessary to encourage those nervous of technology to contribute.

We need your ideas and suggestions, and we need you to take part. Here are the contact details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87659860083?pwd=NOZPU2QxWnF4bzVtaXc2aWdjNGZwQT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5986 0083

Passcode: 325438

If you don't have a computer, laptop or tablet you can still take part using a standard landline phone (but without the video) or a mobile phone.

Call 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240. You will be asked to enter the meeting code number, which is 876 5986 0083 following which you'll be asked to enter the Passcode, which is 325438. There may be a pause before you get through to join the meeting.

WARNING

The above phone numbers are charged at normal national rates. These will probably be included free in your phone package if you have one. Otherwise please check with you phone operator well before the meeting as the call could prove rather expensive.

Network Zoom Quiz

MONDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2021
starting at 7:00pm (login from 6:45pm)

OPEN TO ALL u3a MEMBERS IN
LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND



BOOK EARLY
AS PLACES
ARE
LIMITED

To register:
Send an email with your name
and the name of your u3a to:
coordinator@landru3a.org.uk
by 5pm on Thursday 18th February

If successful, you'll receive an email confirming
your place in the quiz (normally within 24 hours)
Joining instructions will be emailed to you
a few days before the Quiz

You can also take part in the quiz using your phone*
In this case, call Roger on 07984 400605 to book your place

Organised by:

u3a Leicestershire &
Rutland
Network of u3as

*Normal national-rate call charges will apply which may be included in your phone package, but if not, it could prove rather expensive. Please check your rates before registering for the quiz.

Speaker Swap

What is Speaker Swap?

Speaker Swap is an initiative to swap talks between interest groups in different U3As.

There are an estimated 1,000 plus British History groups within the movement. They can cover a vast range of aspects of the subject – colonial, economic, military, monarchy, social, etc.

Within these many groups, there will be papers produced by members on a vast range of areas for study and discussion, and these could be made available beyond the confines of individual groups.

Following a suggestion from a British History Group Leader/Convenor, we are exploring, against the background of lockdown restrictions we are all facing, whether there is interest in creating a central database of subjects covered by groups across the country, initially within British History, with a view to brokering introductions between interest groups from different U3As so they can offer reciprocal learning sessions and talks.

What we want to do

The aim would be to facilitate contact across the U.K. between groups covering the same topic. The intention is to run this suggestion as a pilot, focused only on British History in the first instance and, if successful, to roll it out to other subjects offered by U3As. For example, British History Zoom meetings could be set up between two groups. One group would present their research, on a specific historical event or individuals, followed by a discussion involving the members of both groups. Or alternatively, one member with a particular interest may wish to offer a talk to another group with a similar focus. The intention is for this to always be a reciprocal arrangement so that groups would effectively swap talks and have mutual discussions.

These are very much the early thoughts on how this initiative may work and I am sure that members will suggest refinements of this proposal and / alternative ways to achieve the same objective.

How to get involved

As a starting point, if you are interested in this idea, please access this link and complete the questionnaire:

<https://U3Auk.wufoo.com/forms/reciprocal-talks-and-sessions-british-history/>

Please note that completion of the questionnaire means that your details (name, U3A and email address) will be made available to other U3As so that they can contact you to discuss a potential reciprocal partnership.

We are currently in the process of making contact with those who have already submitted your details in the first batch. The next deadline for responses is 31st January 2020.

After this date, it is hoped that we will be able to draw up a list of talks/presentations that can be circulated to interested parties and then swapped between them.

A volunteer will collate the initial responses and send them out – then it is down to Group Leader/Convenors to contact each other.

Ian McCannah – Subject Adviser, British History

This article is also available on the national u3a website – [CLICK HERE](#).