

News updates – 16th March 2021

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

New Colour-coded Headings – Reminder

Topic headings are now colour- and symbol-coded as follows:



For Committee



Send to Members



Diary Dates



Next Group Meeting & AGM – Thursday 25th March – HELP!!!

A
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GENTLE
REMINDER

If you haven't yet replied with the names of who will represent your u3a at the next Group Meeting, can you please now do so as soon as possible. Thank you. This is an important meeting not to be missed. If you've mislaid the meeting documents [CLICK HERE](#) and then click on Network AGM 2021 – you can either print or download the file directly from the Network Website.

We're also asking you to put forward 3 suggestions of activities (especially for u3aday) that can help us all (or just your u3a) move forward, and to send an email by **Tuesday 23rd March** with an outline of those suggestions.

We'll collate them to avoid duplication at the meeting and

enable us all to spend the time discussing as many different ideas as possible.

Please email your suggestions to coordinator@landru3a.org.uk. Thank you.



Possible Speaker – Dr Garth Gilmour

National Office have been approached by Dr Garth Gilmour, a Biblical Archaeologist who is offering several possible talks, either in-person or by Zoom. The details provided are provided in the PDF file attached.

Please note the details do not come with any recommendation as this is a recent approach from Dr Gilmour.



Volunteers Needed as School Readers

Hazel Richardson is a member of Charnwood u3a and has sent the following message:

'Many members may know about the School Readers charity, and, like me, already volunteer at their local school. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, volunteering since March 2020, has had to stop. But in the coming months, hopefully, the situation will change.

I have been a volunteer at my local school, in Loughborough for about 3 years, and work with Key-stage 1 children, who range from 5-7 years old. Before I had to stop, I worked all day on a Tuesday, with 4 classes. It was my choice to do this, as I knew the very young ones needed help to enable them to progress.

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

The amount of time you can give is up to the volunteer, and the school will be grateful for any help. As little as an hour is appreciated!

Although the amount of time spent listening to a child read is small, the child gets a lot from it. Sometimes, just listening and having a conversation is what a child needs.

It is the most rewarding thing I have done, and it was through the U3A that I found out about this charity. Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville area are particularly short of volunteers. Information and training is given by the school, and safeguarding is especially important.

The poster below gives details how to apply. Of course, the usual DBS checks have to be conducted and the cost is picked up by the school. In addition to that, Covid testing will probably be done by the school whilst we are in the pandemic.

Something I didn't know, until I read their poster, is that you can nominate the charity (and hundreds of others) when using SmileAmazon. No doubt Amazon has featured largely in the past year, and so by using the outlet, we can make a small difference to a chosen charity- mine is School Readers.

Please think about giving up a little bit of time to help children read. Without being able to read and understand, our life choices are limited. '

Further details are provided in the attached Recruitment Message document.

Trust Membership Subscriptions 2021-2022 – Just in case you missed it!

"With effect from 1 April 2021, the **£3.50 Membership Subscriptions that u3as pay to the Trust will be calculated on the number of members as at 31 March 2021** and not on the highest number of members during the year to 31 March.

We recognise that u3as may see a fall in their membership numbers and hope that this change will avoid your having to pay the Trust for members who have not renewed their individual subscriptions."

This is reproduced from the document sent by Kevin Traynor, TAT Finance Manager on 29th January 2021, reference EM 21-01b.

Diary Date – Third Age Trust AGM 2021 – 26th August 2021

Notification. The Company Secretary, Samantha Mauger, gives notification of the date of Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust 2021 in order to allow for member u3as to prepare for the meeting. Notification is hereby given that the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust will be held as a hybrid meeting allowing delegates to attend in person (subject to government restrictions in place at the time) or online on: Thursday 26th August, commencing at 11.15am (time and venue for those wishing to attend in person to be confirmed). This will be a hybrid meeting for members to attend in-person or online.

*PDFs included with this Network News are:
Possible Speaker – Dr Garth Gilmour
Recruitment Message – Mar 21*

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

Potential Speaker – Live or Zoom – Dr Garth Gilmour

The following was received via the u3a National Office website.

Dr Garth Gilmour <gadighg@protonmail.com>

I am a Biblical Archaeologist, D.Phil. from Oxford (1995), based there till 2016. I lived in Israel from 2016–2019, leading a local NGO* there, and returned to the UK late last year. I would be happy to offer lectures to the U3A, on Zoom or in person (when permitted).

I live in Stonesfield, near Witney in Oxfordshire.

My talks are slide led, so with PowerPoint, and range from the popular to more academic.

Topics include:

1. The archaeology of David and Goliath: A recently discovered fortress overlooking the Valley of Elah in Israel.
- 2a. The archaeology of the Philistines, part 1: Boorish louts or cultured sophisticates?
- 2b. The archaeology of the Philistines, part 2: The Empire strikes back.
3. One God or Two? Official and popular religion in ancient Israel and Judah.
4. Two recently discovered seal impressions from Jerusalem – Hezekiah and Isaiah.

If you would like references, I'd be happy to direct you to people who could give them.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely
Dr Garth Gilmour

Please note Dr Gilmour has not been contacted to check on u3a membership or the cost of his presentations. That should be done by individual u3as, if interested.

*NGO – Non-Governmental Organisations set up to do good work, not for profit.

Volunteers needed to listen to children read in primary schools

Could you become a Schoolreaders volunteer and help children catch-up on vital reading skills?

The impact of Coronavirus on education means that thousands of children won't have had the opportunity to practice reading during lockdown. In a normal year, one in four children leave primary school unable to read well. Estimates suggest that many primary school children have fallen further behind in reading, with the most disadvantaged pupils now 7 months behind their peers. Children who struggle with reading are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed as adults.

Schoolreaders needs more volunteers, especially in Coalville, Leicester and Loughborough, to support children's reading and help them catch up on their lost education. If you want to make a difference to a child's life, apply to become a Schoolreader. No qualifications are needed; just a love of reading; some spare time each week and a willingness to go where the children need you most. The process to become a Schoolreader takes a few weeks, so please apply now so you can be ready to start as soon as it can be arranged.

To join us, please visit the website www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form or call 01234 924111 for further information.

*This picture was taken before social distancing rules were introduced. All of our volunteers must adhere to school and government guidelines when in school.

Charity Number: 1159157

