

News updates – 19th May 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



NETWORK QUIZ for u3aday – 2nd JUNE – **LAST CHANCE**



Will you please remind your members about the quiz as the take-up so far has been well below what we'd hoped for. It doesn't matter whether your u3a is taking part in the u3aday activities or not, your members can still join the quiz and will be made most welcome. Registration is open until 5:00pm on 2nd June but please ask them NOT to leave it until the last minute to register if possible. It will be a FUN evening with the emphasis on laugh a lot, learn a little. A copy of the poster is attached. Thank you.



DEVELOPING/ESTABLISHING YOUR FACEBOOK PAGE – May 25th



Don't forget to join this Zoom Instructional Session starting at 10:30am on 25th May. Whether your u3a uses Facebook or not it's worth spending an hour or so seeing what it can do for you – it's likely to be a good investment of your time for the future of your u3a. Jean Jackson from Lichfield u3a is a very knowledgeable speaker. Zoom details are:

Time: May 25, 2021 10:00am login for 10:30am start

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85157810586?pwd=NWJJPWlllWkRaRlVTRlhWeG5tTUI6dz09>

Join the Zoom meeting using the Zoom App:

Meeting ID: 851 5781 0586

Passcode: b1.g9%



HOW TO RUN MEETINGS IN ALTERNATIVE WAYS – June 8th

This is a topic that we've been pushing National Office to get to grips with since the beginning of this year so don't miss the opportunity to join this extremely important session. Many of us have been thinking about ways of holding "hybrid" meetings as the COVID restrictions are relaxed, what technology and costs may be involved. Now is your chance to find out. Zoom details are:

Time: Jun 8, 2021 10:00am login for 10:30am start

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82305634529?pwd=VVBhdjtuUUVUUXJlQjVFN2NMMkUyZz09>

Join the Zoom meeting using the Zoom App:

Meeting ID: 823 0563 4529

Passcode: \$mV4L#

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

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL TRUSTEE

Just in case the information hasn't reached you yet, I'm pleased to report that Jean Hogg has decided to stand for a further 1-year term as our Regional Trustee for the East Midlands Region.

NEW SPEAKER – BRAD ASHTON



Brad has now retired from a highly successful career as a comedy scriptwriter and, as you will see from the many testimonials on the attached sheet, has been entertaining groups all over the country, by Zoom. Fee details are on the sheet. We haven't checked his u3a member status.

NETFEST – PROGRAMME & REGISTRATION LINKS



Just In! The full programme and details of how to register have been launched late this afternoon. Whilst some of the sessions will mainly be of interest to those who represent u3as at Network Group Meetings, other sessions will appeal to u3a Committee members and especially Chairs. The theme of the week is "Celebrating, Connecting, Communicating" and is for Networks to gain a higher profile throughout the u3a movement. I hope you'll agree that we do a reasonable job of keeping you informed in our 2 counties, but there's always room for improvement and change, and some of the sessions look really interesting, whereas other are simply essential. Make sure you view the attached details in landscape format.

u3aday and the lead up to it



Just to let you know that I've recorded an interview about u3aday for BBC TV East Midlands which should be aired on East Midlands Today on 2nd June between 6:30–7:00pm. There may also be some publicity in the week before u3aday on the same programme so keep your eyes peeled. Roger

Next Network News

All being well the next edition of *Network News* will be shortly after u3aday.

PDFs included with this Network News are:
 Network Quiz Poster – 2nd June
 New Speaker – Brad Ashton
 NetFest Programme



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

u3a Network Zoom Quiz

WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021

STARTING AT 7:30PM FOR ABOUT 1½ HOURS

Open to all u3a Members (& prospective members) in
LEICESTERSHIRE, RUTLAND & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**BOOK EARLY
AS PLACES
ARE LIMITED**

To register:

Send an email with your name and the
name of your u3a (actual or intended) to:

coordinator@landru3a.org.uk

as soon as possible

If places are still available, 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

*Part of the national
u3aday celebrations*



This will be a

FUN QUIZ

Not to be taken too seriously

*Specially created for
Singles and Couples
to take part by Zoom*

Organised for your enjoyment by:

u3a Leicestershire &
Rutland
Network of u3as

& u3a Northamptonshire
Network of u3as

7, Abbotshall Avenue, Southgate, London N14 7JU
Phone: 0208 886 5343 Email: ashtons@email.com

I have recently given 45 comedy talks via zoom to groups like yours. They were very successful as the feedbacks will verify. The talks are aimed at cheering the audiences up in these times of so much gloom and doom. Many clubs have deliberately delayed an already-booked Guest Speaker on a dry subject in order to fit mine in while zoom talks are the order of the day.

After reading the feedback quotes below, you may consider doing do the same.

My talk is entitled THE JOB OF A LAUGHTIME in which I recall the fun I have had writing either Radio or TV series for top comedians including Tommy Cooper, Les Dawson, Dick Emery, Frankie Howerd, Bruce Forsyth, Hylda Baker, Hattie Jacques, David Frost and Bob Monkhouse. The talk contains many humorous backstage stories with some startling surprises. My special fee for a zoom talk for charity groups such as yours is just £75.

If you are interested, please phone or email me to check my availability.

EMAILS WITH FEEDBACK COMMENTS AFTER MY ZOOM TALKS FOR U3As

HUTTON U3A: Thank you so much for your fantastic talk this afternoon. I know we all enjoyed it by the general comments and laughter. You certainly have a wealth of information and jokes about numerous names in Show Business.

SAFFRON WALDON U3A: I just wanted to thank you so much for your wonderful talk today. It was very entertaining, enlightening and humorous. All members of our committee agreed you were superb, and we have received lots of positive feedback from our members. So well done and perhaps we can see you again sometime in the future.

NORTHAMPTON U3A: I only have one word to say about today's talk; bloody great that's two words, but who's counting. Thank you again. The comments after you'd gone were all very positive.

NEWMARKET U3A: Just wanted to thank you once again for an excellent and entertaining talk yesterday. It went down very well with our members and lifted all our spirits. You certainly met some interesting people during your long career as a comedy writer.

HARBORNE & EDGBASTON U3A: Thank you for entertaining 72 of us this afternoon. It was most enjoyable to go down Memory Lane with those wonderful and unforgettable stars.

LOWESTOFT U3A: Many thanks for your talk. I received several messages of thanks from our members.

LOSTWITHIEL U3A: Your talk today was well received.

NEWHAVEN & PEACEHAVEN U3A: Thank you very much for your brilliant presentation last Thursday afternoon. We have had many emails from our members saying how much they enjoyed your talk. It certainly made us all laugh, something we really need at this moment. Perhaps at another time we could book you again.

HARROGATE U3A: Just a short note to thank you so much for your wonderful presentation this morning. You've obviously met (and written for) most of the comics that graced the 20th. century and better still, you can remember them, their high points and their foibles. You have a great method of presentation that make you a joy to listen to.

SPALDING & DISTRICT U3A: Thank you for delivering your talk to us in Spalding and area. You certainly have a good repertoire of jokes to call on, and certainly put us in the right frame of mind for Christmas. I could hear a lot of laughter as you were telling your jokes, and of course as a professional one joke leads to another memory, so you can produce a good string of them.

LEDBURY U3A: Just to say thank you for your talk, which as you gathered, was well received. This was a good start to our series of monthly meetings, and the first zoom meeting was relatively well attended.

CHALFONTS U3A: Thanks for the interesting and amusing talk yesterday afternoon. Feedback from several members said they thoroughly enjoyed the snippets and insights of some of the people you dealt with.

WOLLATON U3A: Thank you for a wonderfully enjoyable talk this morning, absolutely fascinating and also funny, in the nicest sense of the word.

WARE U3A: Thank you for a very entertaining talk yesterday.

S.W.HERTS U3A: I'm contacting you to thank you so much for the brilliant talk you gave on zoom to our groups this morning. I have had several members ring me up to say how much they enjoyed your talk that certainly brightened up a Monday morning.

BARNET U3A: Many thanks for giving such an amusing insight into the world of comedy writing and comedians you have worked with.

DORRIDGE U3A: Many thanks Brad. Really enjoyed the session. Cheered me up enormously.

HORSLEY U3A: It was great to have a giggle together, especially after these months of lockdown. Perhaps we'll come back for another injection of humour next year.

BLACKMORE VALE U3A: Thank you very much for lifting our spirits this afternoon. What fascinating people you have met in your illustrious career.

FEEDBACK AFTER TALKS FOR PROBUS CLUBS.

WRINGTON VALE PROBUS CLUB: May thanks for your very interesting talk with our club yesterday.

CROYDON SOUTH PROBUS CLUB: Thank you so much for giving us such an entertaining and informative talk on Friday last. Several of our members have emailed to say how much they enjoyed your humour and admired your memory over all these years. If we get the opportunity to book you again sometime, we'll look forward to hearing about all those other great comedians you didn't reach in your time with us.

CATERHAM PROBUS CLUB: Many thanks for an excellent talk this morning.

HARROGATE PROBUS CLUB: Thanks for your excellent talk on Wednesday. It was very much appreciated by all of our members, and I will be getting back to you shortly to arrange an encore.

FEEDBACK AFTER TALKS FOR ROTARY CLUBS

CIRENCESTER ROTARY CLUB: Thank you so much for such an entertaining evening. I for one was sorry that your talk had to come to an end. From what I could see of the other Rotarians and their smiley faces, you certainly knew how to get and keep them laughing. I will certainly be in touch later in the year for another of your talks.

BOLTON DAYBREAK ROTARY CLUB: Many thanks for your very entertaining presentation to us on Friday 26th. March.

BALDOCK ROTARY CLUB: On behalf of the Baldock Rotary Club, I would like to thank you for your most entertaining presentation. With zoom meetings we are able to gauge how they are going down with the audience by looking at their faces.

THATCHAM ROTARY CLUB: I really enjoyed your talk and look forward to hearing your other talk sometime when the committee plan their next year's programme.

TRINITY ROTARY CLUB: Thank you very much for your presentation last night. It was most entertaining.

DUNSTABLE ROTARY CLUB: Many thanks for your talk last night, Brad. The feedback I have had is that you were entertaining and amusing with some fascinating tales. It was a very enjoyable evening.

FEEDBACK AFTER TALKS FOR ODDFELLOWS GROUPS

BRISTOL ODDFELLOWS: I just wanted to say thank you so much. I've already received excellent feedback from multiple attendees.

READING ODDFELLOWS: Just wanted to say thank you very much for your talk today. I have received lots of emails saying how brilliant it was.

FEEDBACK AFTER TALK FOR W.I.

WARLINGHAM W.I.: Many thanks for your excellent talk last evening. It was interesting and entertaining, and I know that our members enjoyed listening.



Netfest Programme and Registration Links - 14th June – 18th June 2021

Date & Time	Mon 14 th June	Tues 15 th June	Wed 16 th June	Thur 17 th June	Friday 18 th June
Morning 10.00-12.00	<p>Presenter: Hilary Jones</p> <p>“What Networks do”</p> <p><i>Co-host: Barbara Cordina</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Sam Mauger</p> <p>“Networks, Constitutions and Licence Agreements Made Simple</p> <p><i>Co-host Barbara Cordina</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Derek Harwood</p> <p>“Peer Support Networks”</p> <p><i>Co-host Jane Bailey</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Derek Harwood</p> <p>“Slow-Ways Project”</p> <p><i>Co-host Hilary Jones</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Margaret Fiddes</p> <p>“PR Introduction for Networks”</p> <p><i>Co-host Allan Walmsley</i></p>
Afternoon 13.30 – 15.30	<p>Presenter: Liz Thackray</p> <p>“Alternative ways of running meetings – hybrid and other options”</p> <p><i>Co-host Hilary Jones</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Liz Drury</p> <p>“Network Communication Challenges”</p> <p><i>Co-host Jane Bailey</i></p>	<p>Presenter: John Bent and Julie Travers</p> <p>“Click and Save Scheme”</p>	<p>Presenter: Avis Furness</p> <p>“Successful Networks”</p> <p><i>Co-host Derek Harwood</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Allan Walmsley</p> <p>“TGIF (Thank Goodness It’s Friday)”</p> <p><i>Co-host Avis Furness</i></p>

NetFest 2021 is a week of events selected and designed with the theme of ‘Celebrating, Connecting, Communicating’. Along side sessions filled with useful information this will provide an opportunity for networks to come together to discuss issues, exchange ideas and share solutions.

Details of each presentation and link to registration form:-

MONDAY 14th JUNE

What Networks Do: This session will explore the benefits of belonging to a network - Hilary Jones discusses the variety of networks, what they do and the key advantages of u3as coming together. We will hear from a variety of networks how they help and support each other with shared events and learning activities. Ian McCannah will talk about the future of networks within our organisation and there will be time to swap ideas with each other in breakout rooms.

Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-networks-do-tickets-155602397961>

- **Alternative ways of running meetings – hybrid and other methods:** Liz Thackray discusses different types of meetings, different purposes and context and the practical requirements for hosting small, medium or large hybrid meetings.
Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alternative-ways-of-running-meetings-hybrid-and-other-options-tickets-155603071977>

TUESDAY 15th JUNE

- **Networks, constitutions and Licence Agreements Made Simple. Sam Mauger presents** - A short session explaining the purpose and practice of Network organisational documentation with the Trust
Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/networks-constitutions-and-licence-agreements-made-simple-tickets-155603402967>
- **Network Communication Challenges:** Liz Drury leads a discussion on successful communications in Networks - what are the challenges? what has been successful? Examples of inspirational websites and effective group mass emails
Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/network-communication-challenges-tickets-155603966653>

WEDNESDAY 16th JUNE

- **Peer Support Networks: Derek Harwood discusses** What are Peer Support Groups (PSGs)? Does your Region or Network support them? How might you join one and what is the purpose of PSGs? As a committee member or holding a specific role in your u3a why might you stand to gain the most from being a part of a peer support group? Join us to discuss the answers to these questions and share experiences about this effective support tool for members.
Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peer-support-networks-tickets-155604889413>
- **Click and Save Scheme: Julie Travers to present** an overview of this scheme and take questions. The u3a Click and Save is a scheme which offers a rebate for u3a members when shopping with selected retailers. Members who register could see annual savings on a range of shops, supermarkets, restaurants, and services including big brands such as Sainsbury's, M&S and Costa Coffee.
- *Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/click-and-save-scheme-tickets-155605800137>*

THURSDAY 17th JUNE

- **Slow-Ways Project: Derek Harwood introduces the** Slow Ways initiative to create a national network of walking routes connecting all of Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages. Using existing paths, ways, trails and roads, people can use Slow Ways routes to walk between neighbouring settlements and combine them to create longer distance trips. There are over 7,000 Slow Ways stretching for over 100,000km which need to be 'reviewed' and 'surveyed' and this is where u3as can play a part. Come and find out more about this national initiative.

Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/netfest-programme-slow-ways-project-tickets-155627902245>

- **Successful Networks:** Avis Furness presents on Successful Networks - Given that u3a Networks come in all shapes and sizes, how can we measure "success"? We will look at the experiences of different networks, large and small, discover how they have achieved their aims, how they have coped with the past year, and discuss new ideas for the future.

Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/successful-networks-tickets-155607310655>

FRIDAY 18th JUNE

- **PR Introduction for Networks:** Margaret Fiddes will be addressing the question - So what is PR and how can I make the best of it? This session will cover an introduction to the tools at your disposal and ways to get your message heard.

Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pr-introduction-for-networks-tickets-155608291589>

- **Thank Goodness It's Friday:** Allan will host a session looking back at the highlights of the week in a light-hearted manner. What worked well and what could we have done better? How can apathy and reluctance be overcome and how can networks put some of these ideas into practice? So grab a coffee and join in the debate.

Link for registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/thank-goodness-its-friday-tickets-155609334709>