

All articles have a colour-coded side bar as follows:

For Committee/Specific Roles

For Members

Diary Dates

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## *National Elections – Deadline 17th June 2022*

In case you haven't seen the Newsletter Extra sent out by Sam Mauer this week, the deadline for nominations for TAT Vice-Chair is this Friday, 17th June. So, if you want to make a nomination, you need to get your skates on as time is running out!

Nominations are also sought for the post of Regional Director (aka Regional Trustee) for the East Midlands, as Jean Hogg has to stand down this year having completed 4 years in the role. The same deadline, this Friday, also applies to this role.

A PDF is attached with links to the information you need.

## *Regional Trustee Newsletter*

The most recent Newsletter from Jean Hogg is attached for your information and to circulate as you see fit. Jean does highlight that we now have a PR Adviser for the East Midlands Region – Diana Lucas of Northampton u3a. You can contact Diana – by email initially – at [pr.eastmids@u3a.org.uk](mailto:pr.eastmids@u3a.org.uk).

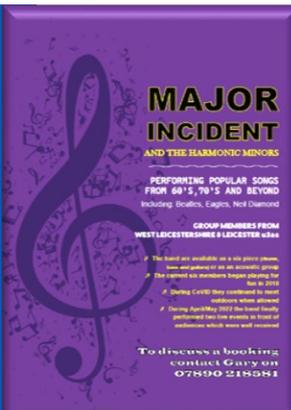
## *Is Your Website Fit For Purpose?*

Diana has already been busy by looking at all the u3a websites in our region and has provided some thought-provoking comments. It's the responsibility of committees to determine the content of the websites and to make sure it is fit for purpose. The webmaster's role is primarily to translate that information into a format suitable for display on the website. All too often webmasters are left to create the information and have to constantly badger members and committees to provide both copy and photos. We have some excellent websites in our Network area, but we also have some that need a serious re-think. Now's the time for that re-think, when many are suffering reduced membership following the lockdown and the urgent need to recruit new members to ensure the continuity of committees and interest groups and u3as as a whole. Your website is your shop window!

## *Are You Ready? Are You Ready For This?*

This isn't quite what you might think! "Major Incident" is a band formed by members of West Leicestershire and Leicester u3as who are now willing to perform at your u3a. Their repertoire includes songs from the 60s, 70s and beyond and consist of guitars, bass, drums and vocals. If you have a smallish hall for your meetings you may wish to select their acoustic option. Full details are on the PDF flyer enclosed with this edition of *Network News*.

For more information call Gary on 07890 218581.



# THE LATE-SUMMER QUIZ

MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2022

Starting at 7:00pm Finishing around 9:00pm

u3a

By Zoom

FULL DETAILS ON PDF POSTER ENCLOSED WITH THIS *Network News*  
(Images available in various formats for newsletters & websites if required)



## ***Potential Speaker – Space Detectives***

It's a fact that many u3a members have an interest in space exploration, whether it's just a passing interest or an involved regular interest. This range of talks being offered by Jo Richardson adds a different dimension to other talks currently available. Please pass the enclosed PDF to your Speaker Finder/Programme Organiser.

The Next *Network News* will be around 29th June.  
Any items for inclusion should be submitted by 26th June please.

Documents attached to this *Network News* are:

**National Elections – Deadline Looming**  
**Regional Trustee Newsletter**  
**"Major Incident"**  
**The Late Summer Quiz**  
**Space Detectives**

Find out more about your u3a Network at <https://u3asites.org.uk/landr>  
To contact your Network email [coordinator@landru3a.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@landru3a.org.uk)



## Don't Miss Your Chance to Stand in our Director Elections

The AGM 2022 is coming up and the closing date to stand in the Director Elections is by the end of the day **on Friday 17 June**.

- Applications are needed for the officer role of – Vice-Chair
- Members in the East Midlands Region are invited to stand for election for the role of – Regional Director (aka Regional Trustee)  
Any u3a member can stand for a role in their region – they just need to be supported by two u3as in that region, including their own u3a.

The buttons below will provide the links to the information you need:

Mailing About Director Elections	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Trustee Briefing Pack	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Nomination Form	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Supporting Statement Specification	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
Vice Chair Trustee Role Description	<a href="#">Click Here</a>

# u3a East Midlands Trustee

## Newsletter

June 2022

I am writing this during the Jubilee weekend but also at the end of Volunteers Week, which makes it a very suitable time to thank you all for everything you continue to do to support the u3a movement through your own u3as and Networks. I know that some of you have held 'Picnics in the Park' this week and hope that you enjoyed them whilst also raising the profile of your u3a.



### u3a week

The next opportunity for publicity and events is u3a week, which runs from September 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, giving you the opportunity to plan your event at a convenient time for you. I know that some of the Networks in the East Midlands are planning joint events involving most of their u3as. Northamptonshire is involved in 'Walk a mile a member' and both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are planning events involving the passing on of a beacon. I really look forward to hearing more about those and it would also be wonderful to hear about events happening in other areas.

We are now fortunate to have a PR Adviser, Diana Lucas, from Northampton u3a. Diana has a great deal of experience with PR and you can contact her on:

[pr.eastmids@u3a.org.uk](mailto:pr.eastmids@u3a.org.uk)

At the moment she would prefer to be contacted by email or to speak by phone or virtually, and would also be interested to meet groups of Publicity officers. She has spent a great deal of time looking at many of your websites and has asked me to pass on the following advice.

### Advice on websites

After a quick look at every website on the region (over 100) I can see how you all present yourselves and where you are located. Whilst there are some excellent websites, I have the following significant observations:

- There is little recognition of the different audiences your websites are there to attract. Everything is there for everyone (the world) to see including tea making and unapproved minutes. I noted only three sites that actually considered this, where members sign in for access to additional information.
- There are numerous websites still using the old u3a logo. The strange thing is that some have used the new logo on their newsletter or vice versa. If everyone consistently uses the new branding across all materials it bonds the u3a organisation as a collective. Diluting the brand has the opposite effect.

- There are some whose colours, choice of fonts and in one case language ‘May we remind you ...’ are not just off putting but also make your content inaccessible to some audiences.
- Some sites had a great welcome; ‘Great you’ve found us!’ ‘Try before you buy’. Others sadly either gave no enticement to join or it was not easy to find joining instructions. You all need members to survive so it should be in your face on the landing page.
- There are 12 websites that are not secure sites, i.e., do not have a padlock on the address bar. This means they can be hacked. A particular concern as you are publishing peoples’ contact details and also this does not give a visitor confidence that they can safely do business with you.
- A general point – Content must be up to date. It is better to have less content than show a message in late May that says ‘Latest News: Hope to see you in February’.

Diane Lucas June ‘22

### **Network Link**

The next Network Link meeting is on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. I do hope that someone from every Network attends as these are very helpful sessions. There has been a request to discuss how u3as prepare for an unexpected emergency, such as the illness of a Treasurer. Please bring your suggestions!

### **SPRING QUIZ GOES INTERNATIONAL**

The 5th Zoom Quiz arranged by Leicestershire & Rutland Network of u3as, and the 3rd run in conjunction with the Northamptonshire Network was very successful. Wings were spread even wider and all u3as in the East Midland Region were invited to take part. And they certainly did! What I wasn’t expecting was those taking part from Scotland, Austria and Dubai!

Around 100 members battled it out over 8 rounds of 10 questions each round which ranged from ‘The Written Word’ to ‘Ireland’ and ‘All About Chocolate’ to ‘Music Intros’. Some took part on their own, some as duos and some as teams of up to 4, with a handicap system to even things out. The very worthy winners (duo) came from Oundle u3a in Northamptonshire.

Feedback indicated that the quiz was enjoyed by all, with requests for a further one later in the year. It really was great to see members from all over the Region having an enjoyable evening together yet apart! Do watch out for information about the next one.

Roger Prescott Network Co-ordinator Leicestershire & Rutland Network

[Anniversary certificates](#) - Do contact the u3a office if you would like an anniversary certificate.

### **Support for u3as**

A great deal of work is taking place to improve the national website, including the Advice section. You should find it easier to find what you need! Also do remember to keep looking at the ‘Events’ tab for details of workshops and other learning events.

Two notices from non\_u3a organisations you may find interesting.

Family History conference – poster sent separately. Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Buxton. U3a members have attended in the past.

Festival of Arguments 13/18 June <https://www.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/festival> If you are interested in discussions on Ethics, follow this link.

I can be contacted on: [jean.hogg@u3a.org.uk](mailto:jean.hogg@u3a.org.uk) or phone: 0744 322 1688

**Jean Hogg** Trustee East Midlands



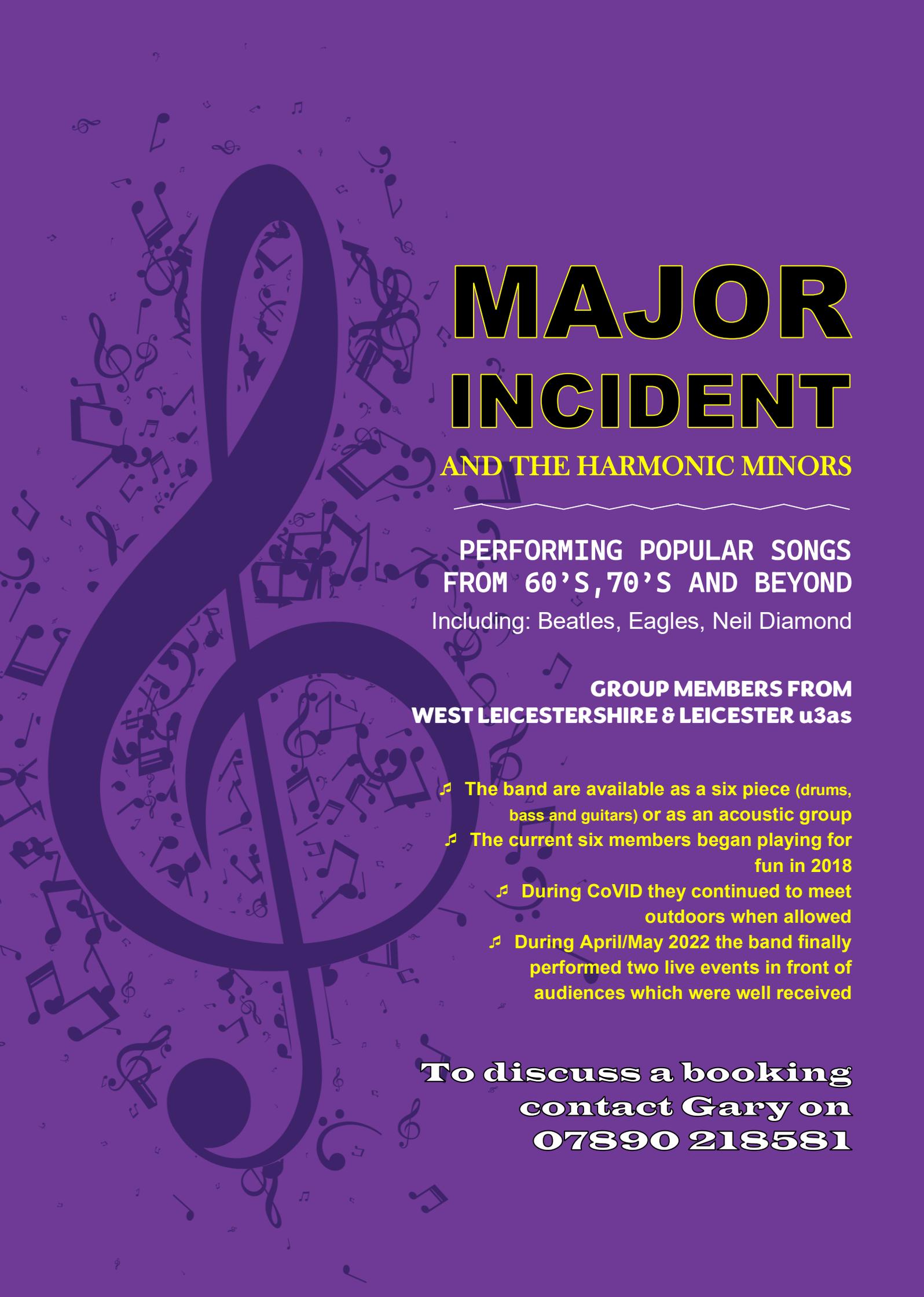
The Third Age Trust

Tel: 0208 466 6139

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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# **MAJOR INCIDENT**

**AND THE HARMONIC MINORS**

**PERFORMING POPULAR SONGS  
FROM 60'S, 70'S AND BEYOND**

Including: Beatles, Eagles, Neil Diamond

**GROUP MEMBERS FROM  
WEST LEICESTERSHIRE & LEICESTER u3as**

- ♪ The band are available as a six piece (drums, bass and guitars) or as an acoustic group
- ♪ The current six members began playing for fun in 2018
- ♪ During CoVID they continued to meet outdoors when allowed
- ♪ During April/May 2022 the band finally performed two live events in front of audiences which were well received

**To discuss a booking  
contact Gary on  
07890 218581**

# THE LATE-SUMMER QUIZ

u3a

By Zoom

MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2022

All u3a members in the  
East Midlands can take part:

Singles 😊

Couples 😊😊

Teams (up to 4) 😊😊😊😊 🚫😞

A handicap system makes it fair for all

No limit on the numbers from  
each u3a

To Register send:  
Your name & email address  
Name of your u3a  
Team name (if any)

To: [u3alatesummerquiz@gmail.com](mailto:u3alatesummerquiz@gmail.com)

You'll receive a confirmation email  
within a couple of days  
and Zoom details on Sept. 16th

REGISTER NOW – PLACES ARE LIMITED!

The quiz will start promptly at 7:00pm – login from 6:45pm

We aim to finish around 8:45–9.00pm

There will be a 10-minute comfort/drinks top-up break after Round 4

Answers will be given after Rounds 4 and 8

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live  
East Midlands Region



## SPACE DETECTIVES

I can deliver the talks either in person or online. I have listed below the titles and a brief synopsis of what they entail. As previously advised, I have already delivered quite a few for various U3A groups within my local area. These have always been well received and in fact quite a number of clubs have made repeat bookings.

Quite aside from running my own company Space Detectives, I am also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, Exmoor National Parks' designated astronomer and one of the 6 current Space Ambassadors working on contract for the European Space Education Office.

Talks Available to Book:

**Our Place in Space** - A journey through our Solar System and a close and detailed look at some of our nearest Celestial neighbours. We examine the Geocentric models of old and how the heliocentric idea was born.

**In the Starry Sky** - Gaze into the night sky and hear about the myths and legends that surround the star constellations. What skies would have our ancestors have seen and how much of a problem is it really today in trying to keep our skies truly dark.

**Hunt for The Northern Lights** - Follow Jo on her real-life journey to the Arctic Circle in 2019. Listen to how the lights are formed and when is the best time to witness them for yourself. In this talk we also examine International folklore surrounding the Aurora and take on board some tips and trick on how to photograph them.

**Alien Worlds** - In the last 25 years, we have managed to go from knowing of no other planets around distant star systems to discovering over 3000! In this talk we look at how science has advanced in this field and how real-life planetary hunters go about finding those elusive exoplanetary systems.

**On Board the ISS** - Jo has been a UK European Space Ambassador for over 6 years and in that time, she has had the great pleasure of working on the Tim Peake Primary Project which involved over 1700 schools in the UK. This was in celebration of Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station in 2015. In this talk, we follow his mission, from training, to launch, to the science carried out and day to day life onboard one of humankind's greatest achievements off the Earth - The ISS.

**A Night of 1000 Stars** - Jo is the designated Astronomer for Exmoor National Park Dark Sky Reserve and has been involved with the park since 2011. Exmoor National Park was the first Dark Sky Reserve in Europe and in this talk, we discover the reasons why Exmoor is such a special place and how she works hard to inspire, educate and enlighten all those that live and visit.

**The Moon** - From its formation, right through to proposed missions of the future, in this talk we discuss our nearest space neighbour and why it has held such fascination with humans throughout the centuries.

I hope this helps. Let me know if you need anything else.

Kind regards

**Jo Richardson FRAS Space Detectives ESERO-UK Space Ambassador**  
07859066400 [spacedetectives.com](http://spacedetectives.com)