

Network News

All articles are colour-coded as follows:

For Committee/Specific Roles

For Members

Diary Dates

Special Events/Features

In This Issue

Diary Date

Drone Photography

TAT Board – Report

Possible Visit?

Member Workshops

Next Edition/Thanks



IMPORTANT DIARY DATE



→ NETWORK GENERAL MEETING ←

The next Network Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd June 2023 starting at 9:30am and finishing, after a light lunch, at 1:30pm.

This will give members a chance to meet our new Regional Trustee/Director, John Lewis, whose appointment should be confirmed by National Office at the end of March.

It is therefore hoped that all u3as within the network will be represented at that meeting if at all possible.

NEW INTEREST GROUP IDEAS – DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY



DJI Mini 2 Drone

Keeping up with new technology is not the easiest subject for a new interest group unless you have someone who has a keen interest in a particular subject or a couple of members whose knowledge combined can open new opportunities. Terry Eato and Jim Tyson at Harborough Welland u3a have done just that. Terry has flown model aircraft for many years and more recently added drone flying. Jim has added his photography and IT skills.

Together they've started a new group and are already achieving some incredible results. Attached is a PDF with more information about the group and also some examples of arial photos of Foxton Locks. Jim has also produced an amazing video of St. Denys, Kelmarsch – [CLICK HERE](#) to take a look.

Now it's down to you. Using your unique experiences, see what you can achieve by linking with a fellow member (or members) to create something just a bit different.

TAT BOARD MEETING 22nd February 2023 – SUMMARY REPORT

Enclosed as a PDF is a copy of the summary report of the February TAT Board Meeting. Please circulate as you think fit. The focus of the meeting was to review the financial position as at the last quarter of 2022 in the light of the AGM "situation"!



THREADS THROUGH CREATION – PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL

This may be of interest to arrange a visit to this exhibition. It's only available from 22nd March to 30th April and full details can be found in the PDF enclosed. Please be aware that although there is no specific charge for the visit it does say "entry for visitors is by donation". There are 12 huge embroidered panels inspired by Genesis, that's the first book of the Bible, not the rock group!

MEMBER WORKSHOPS – SOME SUBJECTS!

The Third Age Trust has developed workshops in partnership with u3a members to provide support, information and advice for all u3a members. The workshops are delivered online using Zoom, by Trust volunteers who bring their experience as Trustees, u3a Chairs and Committee members. The workshops are informal and informative and provide a great opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with u3a members, share best practice and experiences and learn with others from across the UK.

RUNNING YOUR u3a – INFORMATION FOR TRUSTEES

Monday 3rd April 10:00–12:15

FINANCE MATTERS

Wednesday 22nd March 10:00–12:30

RECRUITING & VALUING VOLUNTEERS

Wednesday 29th March 10:00–12:15 & Tuesday 25th April 10:00–12:15

GROWTH MATTERS

Monday 27th March 10:00–12:15 & Friday 21st April 10:00–12:15

INTEREST GROUPS MATTER

Tuesday 14th March 10:00–12:15 & Friday 28th April 10:00–12:15



INSURANCE

Tuesday 28th March 10:00–11:30

RUNNING DISCUSSION GROUPS

Wednesday 5th April 10:00–11:00

KEEPING IT LEGAL

Tuesday 18th April 10:00–12:30

RECRUITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS – LEARN & SHARE

Monday 13th March 10:00–11:30

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION AWARENESS

Thursday 23rd March 10:00–12:30



CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Tuesday 21st March 10:00–11:00 & Tuesday 16th May 10:00–11:00



ZOOM FOR HOSTING MEETINGS

Friday 31st March 10:00–11:00



WHAT IS BEACON? AN INTRODUCTION

Tuesday 4th April 10:00–11:30

For more information about each workshop and how to book [CLICK HERE](#)

The next *Network News* will be around 20th March.
Any items for inclusion should be submitted by 17th March please.

Documents attached to this *Network News* are:

Harborough Welland u3a Drone Photography Group
Summary Report of TAT Board Meeting 22nd February 2023
Threads Through Creation – Peterborough Cathedral

My thanks to Harborough Welland u3a for submitting 2 articles.

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

Information on the HWu3a Drones and Photography Group

The group is run like most other u3a groups in that we have a group leader, which is me, and I bring the aviation and flying knowledge as I have been for many years a model aircraft flyer and more latterly a drone flyer. We have a sort of second in command (Jim Tyson) who brings the photography and IT skills to the group. Currently we have 6 full flying members who own their own drones and 3 members who are planning the purchase of a drone.

To allow the non-owners and others thinking of joining the group to gain flying experience, the HWU3A committee recently authorised the purchase of a second-hand drone. This drone has proved invaluable as it offers some flying experience for the members without their own drones and others wanting to sample the flying of a quite capable model drone. The choice of drone was important as one that comes in as weighing under 249 grams benefits from every open rules imposed by the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority). The only qualification needed for those owning their own drone is an operator license which involves a CAA on line test and a fee of £10. The members that fly the U3A drone operate under my operator license which makes things perfectly legal. Incidentally, the drone we purchased and one we would thoroughly recommend is the DJI Mini 2 which can be purchased as a "fly more" combo for about £350 second hand.

The main challenge in operating the drone is, for some surprisingly reason, not the actual flying as that is relatively easily mastered and, with some practice, accurate positioning of the drone can be achieved. The main challenge is positioning the drone so that still shots and video can be taken making best use of the unique aerial view a camera equipped drone offers. Even with an introductory drone like the Mini 2 some stunning still images and video can be taken from a perspective not possible with a conventional camera on the ground!

In the group we have me, who brings the aviation and model flying experience ensuring we operate in a safe and legal environment, Jim Tyson, who has had a little drone flying experience in the past is also a valuable member on the photography and IT aspects of what we do. The other interested members seem to have come from one of our u3a photography groups or have no drone flying or photography experience.

The most interesting aspect of operating a drone is the amazing opportunity to view things like buildings, landscapes and other activities from a perspective just not achievable with "normal" cameras and phones. As an example, we been following the progress of 2 Steeplejacks who are working on a local village church. The video and still pictures offer an amazing insight to the sheer bravery of these guys and, as an added benefit, we were able to show them images of the spire before they started the work, which not only helped in their planning of the work but also helped in keeping them safer on the job!

One aspect that we never envisaged when starting the group was the interest shown by other groups in the possible results of our activities. We have recently been asked to film in a church (yes, we can fly indoors as well). The activity was a drum practice organised by our "New Experience" group and certainly provided a different view of the event. We have also been approached by one of our cycling groups for some video shots which would be used to promote their activities on line.

Our Market Harborough historic group have requested some aerial pictures of the town for inclusion in a second book they are writing.

When invited, we also like to do talks to a variety of groups, making them aware of what one of our drones can do.

Our plans for the future are to continue the flight training programme and visit some of the many fascinating buildings and locations we have in the Harborough area.

Terry Eato
Group Coordinator



Third Age Trust

Board Meeting: 22 February 2023

Summary Report to be used when sharing with members

The main focus of the meeting was to review the financial information available for Q3, the year to date period ending 31 December 2022.

- **Q3 Outturn vs Budget.** The outturn for Q3 showed a significant improvement on budget figures caused mainly by cost savings and slowing progress on a number of key projects areas. In particular, expenditure associated with the Sitebuilder replacement and initial proposals for the Learning Hub had both been reduced, although some costs may transfer to the next budget year. Savings had also been achieved as expected staff recruitment was phased across the year. A Finance News Extra will shortly be issued providing more detail.
- **2023/24 Budget.** The budget for 2023/24 is still being finalised and will be presented to the next Finance Committee and thoroughly discussed at the next Board meeting in March. A number of uncertainties remain including future inflation rates and membership income.
- **Multi-year Forecast.** Recognising these uncertainties, the longer term position beyond 2023/24 will also be reviewed at the Board in March
- **Investment Policy.** The Board approved an update to the Investment Policy which focused on a conservative approach including term savings accounts with the main banks, and avoided any investments that attracted high risk.
- **Start Up Expenses.** The Board endorsed an approach to claiming and payment of expenses to new u3a members (eg Steering Committee) and Trust Volunteers associated with start up u3as, where a local bank account had not at that stage been established.
- **Conference 2023.** Following a snap poll sent to all u3as in February, there was a clear majority against holding a conference in 2023. Although only 23% of u3as had replied, 66% were against holding a conference this year, most citing cost as a significant factor.
- **Open Board Meetings:** In the interests of transparency, the Board initially discussed the feasibility of live streaming face to face Board meetings. As live streaming entails a number of complexities, more details will be prepared for the March Board meeting.
- **Trustee Nominee Hustings:** Report back from the Hustings - 6 candidates are nominated for the West Midlands, Wales and East Midlands trustee positions, no nominee received for the London position and the process will be re-run in London almost immediately. Voting commences week beginning 20 February with successful candidates being declared on 27 March.
- **Membership Fee Breakdown:** A simple breakdown of expenditure from the £4 annual membership fee was developed and discussed, and it will be circulated to u3as and included on the website as part of the Post AGM transparency programme.

Please note that official minutes are the true record of discussions and decisions taken at Board meetings. This is a summary of the main discussions and should not be taken as an authoritative statement. If you require any further detail about any item, please contact your Trustee.

Peterborough
Cathedral

22 March
to 30 April

Threads through Creation

spectacular stitching
on a huge scale:
creating the world with
eight million stitches!





PETERBOROUGH
CATHEDRAL

Threads through Creation

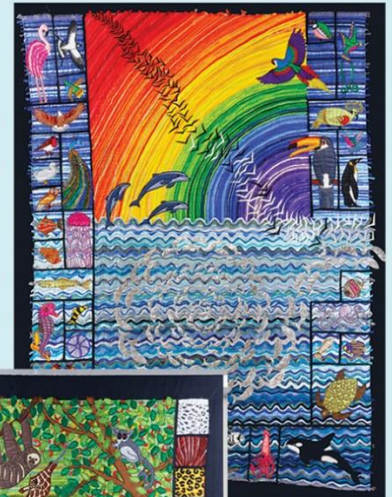
spectacular scenes in silk by Jacqui Parkinson

A vibrant combination

This is an astonishing display of twelve huge embroidered panels. Inspired by Genesis, the first book in the Bible, textile artist Jacqui Parkinson retells its wonderful story in a vibrant combination of silks, hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers, gold leaf – with eight million stitches!

Twelve huge panels

Jacqui has a national reputation for spectacular, large scale work. Her exhibitions have been displayed in many cathedrals and attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors. This exhibition is touring twenty cathedrals. The panels are nearly 3m high and up to 4m wide. They start with strong elemental pieces illustrating the first 'days' of creation; then they become more complex and exuberant, as the story takes us into the Garden of Eden.



Perfect for family, friends and schoolchildren

You'll find the work eye-catching and very attractive. Children love it. And it's especially fascinating for anyone who stitches, seeing close up Jacqui's unique techniques.

USUAL OPENING TIMES

Monday to Saturday - 10 to 4

Sunday - 12 to 3

Please check Cathedral website for opening times and for dates when there is limited or no access.

peterborough-cathedral.org.uk
creation-threads.co.uk

Entry for visitors is by donation