



u3a East Midlands Trustee

Newsletter

March 2021

Regional Conference

You will not be surprised that our Conference has had to postponed yet again. Clearly we are not able to gather together on May 5th, as we had hoped. The new date is **September 29th**.



U3a Day

U3a Day will be held on Wednesday June 2nd, in whatever way is possible. I know that some of you have attended the workshops that have been provided, where many inspiring ideas were shared. For those of you who think that the date is too soon, and are planning an event later in the year, I would ask that you use 2nd June to publicise your future plans.

Member Link

My support team and I have begun to contact u3as. I have to say that it is a very enjoyable experience to speak to enthusiastic Chairs about what they are doing. So many of you have been working incredibly hard through this difficult time to keep your members involved and engaged. Ideas are being shared at Network meetings and support offered for any u3a committees that are struggling.

I do not think that life will ever return to being exactly how it was before Covid 19 hit us a year ago. We need to consider how our organisation could adapt, so as to encourage younger members and to manage groups and meetings in inclusive ways.

Slow Ways project

The aim of this is to use footpaths to create routes between communities. Last year thousands of routes were recorded and it is hoped that they will be tested out as soon as possible. The Third Age Trust is in discussions about working with the project but, in the meantime there is nothing to stop anyone signing up to the project to be kept informed and to get involved. Just go to their website – or see the information in the recent national newsletter about forthcoming webinars.

Membership renewal and annual subscriptions

Many u3as have made the decision to reduce their membership subscriptions this year, and to use their reserves to keep going. As you know, the annual subscription to TAT will be based on your membership on March 31st this year so, even if you have agreed to no charge it is well worth you going through a renewal process, so that you have an accurate figure. If your renewal date is 1st April and you expect your membership to fall at that time, do contact the Trust, so that a fair amount can be agreed. *(If you email it will be sent to the correct person)*

Finance Advice

Richard Teare, the national Treasurer, is offering virtual 'Question and Answer' sessions. He has just held one in the north east that proved very popular. I think this is something that would be worth providing on a regional basis, and will let you know when I have a date.

AGMs & Constitution

I know that many u3as are changing their Constitution to allow for future virtual or hybrid AGMs. There is now a new model Constitution available on the website, which includes the relevant clauses.

Public Liability Insurance

Some eagle eyed committee members have spotted that one of the excesses in the new policy has increased to £5000, and were understandably concerned. In fact, there is nothing to worry about. Here is the information from Tony Carlisle, who deals with insurance matters for the Trust.

“Under the Management Liability policy the excess has changed from £1,000 to £5,000 for 2021 BUT only for the Corporate Legal Liability section of the policy. The section of the policy which affords cover for individuals is unaltered from 2020 and does not have an excess at all. The insurance market for Management Liability policies is in complete turmoil at the moment as management for many organisations, charities and businesses, struggle to deal with the implications of Covid 19. The decision by Aviva to increase the Corporate Legal Liability excess applies to all of their customers and is not U3A specific and is in line with general market trend. The vast majority of U3A’s as unincorporated associations are completely unaffected by this change.”

Network Week

A week celebrating all things Network related is being planned for June 14 -18th. Please watch out for information about it and, if you have any good ideas about the sort of events or activities to be included, do let me know.

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