

April 2021

The year continues to go on its merry way, and life seems to be opening up a little for us. Clearly it will still be some time before it is possible to meet as we used to, so it is still worth keeping an eye on the national website for advice, events and activities.



U3a Day June 2nd

I know that many u3as have decided to ignore this occasion feeling that it is too soon. I want to emphasise that the main aim of the day is awareness raising, rather than recruitment. U3as have all sorts of things planned, including tree planting and special flower beds. Woodhall Spa u3a recently did a litter pick, which gathered them positive publicity and was a very worthwhile activity. After an appeal in the newsletter the committee was delighted to have 35 offers of help!

The project turned out to be a lot bigger than first thought. On that basis David approached the Parish Council who supplied the group with picker sticks, bags and arranged a drop off point for the litter to be collected from by their vehicle on the Monday. David made Safety placards and more picker sticks, bags and tabards were purchased with some sponsorship from Goodwins Hardware. The team set off in socially distanced groups of two, covering many roads and woods around the village including Ostlers plantation and the Viking way footpath. In total 45 bags of assorted rubbish including car parts and soft toys was collected and stacked at the end of Kirkby Lane.

I know of other u3as where some members are 'walking the bounds' of their community, wearing u3a lanyards of course. Even if you put an article in any community newsheet, advising of your plans for relaunch later in the year, this would be well worthwhile. We know that we are still a well kept secret – and this needs to change! If you do have interesting activities planned, please do send details to the u3a office, so that your news can be included in national news releases and publicity.

Role of Regional Trustee

I was elected in 2018 for a term of 3 years, which will come to an end at the AGM on August 26th. Information and nomination forms will be sent out soon. If you would like to discuss the role with me, please get in touch.

Retention and Recruitment

A working group has been discussing the challenges of retaining your existing members as well as recruiting new ones for some months now. A whole 'Toolkit' of advice has been compiled consisting of examples from u3a members on things that have worked and been successful. It is now on the national website and fully downloadable. On the 'landing' page of the website there is a news item about it with direct links to all the guides. There will be something there to support every u3a!

High St Project

The High Street Project team is happy to make presentations to u3as in our area about the project and associated Shared Learning projects to be run in 2021. The plan would be to include, where possible, input from a u3a member who participated in a survey in your area or one close by, as well as letting you know the range of topics which are being put forward for Shared Learning Projects.

You'll find further useful information at <https://u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-research/high-street-project> and <https://sites.google.com/view/u3ahsp/shared-learning-projects/26-jan-workshop>

Online Bridge – I have received this request

As a u3a group, Great Yarmouth u3a & Palmers Green & Southgate u3a have been playing bridge online since the first lockdown. In the Summer of last year, we joined forces and played both social and competitive Bridge. During the Autumn months we encouraged another 5 u3as to join us and this winter we increased that to a total of 20 u3a's. We'd now like to open this up to any u3a Bridge group who wishes to join us.

Online Bridge is an excellent opportunity for those u3a'ers who are missing their Bridge to 'team up' with other Bridge players across the UK.

As many players are "computer shy" we offer a full 1-2-1 mentoring facility to introduce new players to online Bridge; we have found that this method removes some of reservations that many players have.

If you are interested, please contact Jeanette Saunders: jeanette.saunders@hotmail.co.uk>

Training

There are still many training opportunities available through the website, including on zoom. Don't forget that it is possible to request bespoke training for your Network or u3a.

The 'conversation' about the Third Age Trust that I sent out in February has been appreciated by some committees who have sent it out to their members. If any are still thinking of doing that, please acknowledge that it was written by John Bent & Clive Grace.

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