

## **North West Region newsflash**

### **Smart Devices Research projects.**

Laura Pemberton, a phd student at the Manchester Business School, is seeking participants for research study involving older adults, over the age of 60, who are able to come to the Manchester business school to take part.

The purpose is to look at the preferences older people have of smart home technologies. Participants will be exposed to different kinds of smart home devices and then will complete a questionnaire and an interview.

It will take about an hour a half, and each participant will get tea/coffee and an Amazon voucher as a thank you for their time

Travel expenses cannot be met, but free parking can be arranged.

Timing will be geared to allow free bus pass use.

The research is funded by BT

If interested, enrol via this link <https://tinyurl.com/3vyv637t> where there is more information about the project.

Or email Laura at: [laura.pemberton@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:laura.pemberton@manchester.ac.uk)

### **Coronation events**

Is your u3a doing anything to celebrate the coronation? If so, please let us know. We'd like to create a newsletter in late June and it would be great to add your information to the NW news. Email Gill at [u3anwrchair@google.com](mailto:u3anwrchair@google.com)

### **NW Conference and AGM in Liverpool July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

This event is for anyone. There are discussion groups and a performance by concert pianist Andrew Wilde as well as the AGM. Please see the NW website for more information and the link to the booking form.

### **NW volunteer 'coffee morning'. June 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 on Zoom**

There are many volunteers in u3a – committees members, events planners, refreshment organisers, 'meeters and greeters' - to name but a few. It's important that we recognise and value their contribution to our wonderful organisation. As part of the National Volunteer Week, we would like to invite members to join an informal Zoom meeting and chat with other people around the region about what goes on in their u3as.

Please register either online (see NW website) or use this link to the online form. Let's celebrate our volunteers. <https://forms.gle/LdT2yzqWsL52Z7Av6>

### **The Big Sing**

There is still time to register for the Big Sing in Liverpool on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Details are on the NW website. Ignore the closing date, Your registration will be accepted right up to the event.

### **Trust workshop: Influencing Social Change. June 20<sup>th</sup> 12:30 – 16:00**

**Inviting all members from the Northwest to our Part 1 Influencing and Social Change Training [BOOK HERE](#)**

**We will be running [Part 1 : An introduction to Influencing and Social Change \(in-person\)](#) on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 12:30-16:00, Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool.**

**What is it about?** Influencing and social change encompasses all the work being done across the u3a to support members, and the movement more broadly, to use our combined voices and get involved in our communities about issues that matter. The interactive training will provide information about the legal aspects and risks of taking action, introduce the diverse ways to create change in our communities, share some u3a examples and provide participants with the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss how they might take action.

This will be an '**An Introduction to Influencing and Social Change**', which will identify effective campaigning strategies and give you the skills to carry them out. This in-person workshop is about using thoughtful, evidence-based approaches to making change happen. We hope this session will equip members to take action on issues of importance to them, locally and nationally, beyond the great work we do every day in our u3as.

Over 60 members have attended this new training initiative, with 82% rating the session as excellent or very good. A previous participant said: *"I found the different issues very interesting and thought provoking"* (Edinburgh 2022)

- **This is the first part of a 2-part session. The second part will run online mid-August (date tbc).**
- **This is an in-person meeting held in Liverpool.**
- **A light buffet lunch will be served.**

**Please book your spot ASAP as places are limited and we will need to confirm numbers by 22 May. [BOOK HERE](#) and if you have any questions, email [events@u3a.org.uk](mailto:events@u3a.org.uk)**

*u3a is developing the movement's voice to make a social impact. Read more about ongoing projects on our [Impact page](#).*