



# Newsletter No: 9

## July 2021

### Northamptonshire Network of u3as

[www.u3anorthamptonshirenetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3anorthamptonshirenetwork.org.uk)

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#### News from Third Age Trust

There is a lot going on nation-wide in our u3a and, if you haven't already, do sign up to have the National Newsletter delivered straight to your email in box as there is a lot of information within it. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>



2022 is the **40th anniversary** of the u3a movement and a number of national events are being planned throughout the year. The first to be launched is a competition to create an Anniversary Quilt. All u3as, their craft groups and individual members are invited to take part. The full details including the competition rules can be found on the Third Age Trust website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary> Please read these carefully, especially the part about what is required and when. This is your u3a's chance for national recognition, simply for being crafty!

*Source: Hilary Jones – Vice Chairman, Third Age Trust.*

**NEW – u3a Chess Network** Are you a Chess Player? This is a new initiative set up by David Castle, the national subject adviser for chess and follows two successful meetings using Zoom. Support for the Network has come from u3a members representing all parts of the UK. Now is the chance for your members to get involved. For further information go to [www.u3aChessNetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3aChessNetwork.org.uk), where you can also register for the league starting in September. Details are also provided in the PDF attachment.



*Source: Jean Hogg, Regional Trustee*

#### News from the Region – InterNetwork Quiz

After the success of our InterNetwork Quiz on June 2<sup>nd</sup> when members of six of our Network's u3as joined members of Leicestershire and Rutland Network in their u3a Day quiz, they are planning another one to be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November. This one will also be on Zoom and will be open to teams of up to 4 as well as couples and individual members. A handicap system will operate to make it fairer for all taking part. More details from Roger Prescott, who is their Network Coordinator, in due course.

*Stephne Tewson* County Contact

## NEWS FROM OUR U3AS

**John Nicholson of Brixworth and District u3a** writes:

In the spring, we revamped our web site, bringing it up to date so it reflects what we are currently doing. We have been having successful monthly meetings via Zoom since last August and have had some very interesting speakers and presentations. Sarah Slater from Hampton Court Palace has given us two talks. The Ghosts of Hampton Court was so popular, we invited her back in June to tell us about Sex, Gossip and Scandal in the Georgian Royal Court which proved to be very entertaining.

The Fool's Gold "live" presentation of "Dark Light" which told the story of the Flannan Island mystery, both visually and musically, was also well received with many of us singing along at home.

These were just three of the highlights of our monthly Zoom meetings.

Many of our groups have been successfully operating virtually since the first lockdown but with the easing of Covid restrictions, our groups are gradually getting back to some sort of normality.

Our Walking and Cycling groups are now able to get out and about; The Craft and Scrabble Groups are meeting again in member's homes; The Gardening and Local History groups are organising trips out for their future meetings.

Other groups have plans for the future, once Covid restrictions are lifted. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we are all able to meet again "face to face".

**Gill Potts of Oundle and District** writes:

Our June Newsletter to celebrate u3a Day was indeed a bumper edition at fourteen sides! It featured articles on how our u3a started in the Autumn of 2008 and how it has developed, with some photos of a few highlights from the past twelve years. *Left our Launch meeting October 2008. The gentleman standing in front of all of us is Alan Morris who was East Midlands Regional Trustee at the time.*



2016 – Art Appreciation 4 had the very original idea of recreating Alfred Munnings's *'Taggs Island'*. This photo (right) has since been published by the Munnings Art Museum on their social media channel.



2020 – When the 'rule of six' came in for Groups meeting outside, some larger Groups managed 'hybrid' meetings, with some joining on zoom.

Our focus is now on our Recruitment Event to be held at the end of September. We have formed a sub-committee to plan the details and our first job is making sure that people in the area know about the u3a movement and, very importantly, when our event will take place.

We are intending to restart our Monthly Meetings in person in September, if all goes to plan with the final easing of restrictions. We will, of course, follow any advice from u3a Office and from Oundle Town Council, whose venue we use.

We continue to talk to our Members to get a feel for their views on meeting again, and many can't wait to get back to normal! They will just need to remember to bring their new Membership cards to the Monthly Meetings to sign in! Fortunately the Speakers we have booked for the next few months are prepared to give their talks at a venue or on Zoom, just in case the situation does change in the Autumn. So, fingers crossed, our final Zoom meeting will be this month, with no meeting in August.

We have our first u3a outing planned for 21<sup>st</sup> September, to Sandringham. There has been a tremendous response and to date there are only three places left! Another indication that our members want to be out and about again.

If this turns out to be our final Network newsletter, I would like to thank Stephne for all of her hard work in cajoling us into writing something each time and for putting it all together. The Newsletter has been very interesting to read as well as a lovely way to keep in touch with our neighbours and to find out how everyone has been operating.

**Sheila Underwood of Thrapston u3a** sent a brief outline of what her understanding of "Click and Save" is all about:

This is a rebate scheme for members offering savings from retailers. It costs us nothing but could provide an income. It is a benefit for u3a members and is organised by the Trust through Parliament Hill (marketing website) and records etc are kept by Blackhawk Network.

In summary (as she understands it) it works as follows :

- 1 We as trustees of our charity express an interest in the scheme.
- 2 One trustee is named as the link person.
- 3 That person will receive an identification number and a batch of access numbers.
- 4 We then advertise the scheme to our members.
- 5 Any member who wants to join the scheme contacts the link person who issues them with the ID number and allocates them an access number.
- 6 The link person notes and keeps a record of the name, membership number and access number allocated.
- 7 The member uses the two numbers to access the portal and then sets up their own account and password.
- 8 The member then chooses the card they wish to use; it may be an ecard or a physical card. It is entirely up to them. It may be for a single store or be a One 4 all card.
- 9 They load the card with some money using a debit card and they can then use it like cash; for example they shop at Morrisons, Costa or Sainsburys, do their shopping, swipe their loyalty card to get their points and then swipe their card to pay the bill.
- 10 They pay the full price but their purchase is recorded and they gain points for every pound spent (the number of points depends on the discount offered by that retailer).
- 11 When they have got 2500 points or £25 in their account, they can use that as a cash voucher to pay for further purchases.
- 12 Our U3A will receive 10 % of their saving.(but we cannot claim Gift Aid on their subscription)



There seems to be a good range of firms involved. The obvious one missing is Tesco. The person to get in touch with at the Trust if we want further information is: Julie Travers : email [yours@u3a.org.uk](mailto:yours@u3a.org.uk) telephone 020 8466 6139 If anyone has further information on this scheme, please do let us know.

She has also sent us photos of what their u3a did to promote National u3a day on June 2<sup>nd</sup>:



Our Publicity Officer created some posters for the day and they were put up at various points round Thrapston and Raunds for June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was also a display board of information in the library. However, Thrapston is not very busy on a Wednesday and we therefore decided to

have a stall at the Farmers Market the following Saturday. This was highly successful.

The weather was glorious and there were lots of people out and about enjoying the sunshine and the market.

The quilt made by the Stitchers Group



was a useful point of discussion.

It was lovely to finally meet up with some members face to face (Socially distanced of course) and to be able to update them on what was planned for the rest of the year. We also met those who had not heard of us and recruited new members.

We are looking forward to having our "Stall" out again in September at the rescheduled Thrapston Charter Fair. See you there!



**Carol Lucas of Towcester u3a** writes: We are pleased to have held our second virtual AGM and our Revised Constitution has now been approved by the TAT and our members!

Following the AGM we had a Zoom presentation by Christine Green "Working with Auntie" about her years at the BBC. This had been recommended by another network member. Our monthly meetings via Zoom are now going well. At the end of April, Fool's Gold entertained us (another Network recommendation). We have been very grateful for the support we have received. We have another Zoom monthly meeting in August and we are exploring the possibility of Hybrid meetings for the Autumn.

Many of our groups are continuing to meet via Zoom but some are now re-starting face to face meetings very cautiously.

Our Photo buddies have been meeting in groups of six to do photo walks in the local area

These were taken on a walk through Bradby



Our virtual photo sharing group continues to be very popular with a different theme each week. The recent topic of "hands" brought an amazing selection of members' photographs from hands on clocks, hands of cards, babies' hands, sculpture, and literature were also included.

We have several exciting new groups planned for our re-start and some already have leaders in place. Russian, cycling, pickleball, petanque, candle making, and soap making will all hopefully start in the autumn.

Our Garden Visits group will make their first trip out again at the end of July when the plan is to go to Wisley.

We hope to also commence our Theatre visits to Milton Keynes Theatre.

Our Boys Toys group has continued throughout the pandemic, meeting either via Zoom or in fields and gardens. However, they did venture further afield last week and visited RAF Museum Hendon.

Our monthly bulletins continue to be well received and I am including a couple of items from the June bulletin.



**Table Tennis:** We are now well established in our new venue and thoroughly enjoying the facilities at the Tove Valley Centre. We have managed to acquire three table tennis tables, which gives us plenty of playing time. We have had two new members join us, but there is still room for more. We have had people join us who "used to play 60 years ago", and others who had never played before. We also have some quite 'useful' players, so whatever your level of play you are very welcome to join us. We play mainly doubles and have much fun in doing so, but there are some who prefer to play singles in order to improve their game. Most of us need a short break now and again to catch our breath and enjoy socialising sitting in the very comfy chairs. It is said that table tennis is the best way to keep fit both physically and mentally, so come and join us.

**Music for Pleasure** Once again Lynne Tebbenham has kindly shared a piece from Music for Pleasure on Facebook

I wonder how many of you remember the TV series '*Butterflies*' with Wendy Craig? The '**Music for Pleasure**' group listened to Albinoni's Adagio used in the series and various other films. This version features the cello and some lovely photography. Although titled Albinoni's Adagio, the piece was actually completed by Remo Giazotto from some small fragments of Albinoni's work that were found in Dresden and it wasn't published until 1958, nearly 300 years after Albinoni's birth!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVtJZ28aguA>

We continue to be very grateful to our members who have taken on board all the necessary planning and risk assessments with a very positive attitude. Our greatest problem at present is recruiting new committee members! That is our challenge for this summer!

**Notes from the Editor:** I have not done a quiz for this Network Newsletter as I don't know whether you want me to continue doing one after restrictions are lifted and u3as get back to their normal activities. If you do want me to continue, please let me know. It might be nice to let everyone in the Network know how you are emerging from nearly 18 months of the strangest of times, but it is up to you.

Thank you to all those u3as who have contributed over the last year or so. We've had some fabulous pictures and very interesting stories.

**DID YOU KNOW?** that the Zoom App doesn't update automatically. You should check this each time before you use the Zoom App to make sure you're using the latest version. Open the App, click on the Profile button near the top right-hand corner: Make sure you don't click on the settings icon by mistake. Click on "Check for Updates" – fourth from bottom. Zoom will either start an update or tell you your version is up-to-date. It's important because some functions only work in the latest version! So, if you've been looking for functions others can find and you can't, you probably need to update!

## Answers to May's Random General knowledge Quiz

1. Spain; 2. Beard; 3. Interrobang; 4. Laughs; 5. Graffiti; 6. Kookaburra; 7. Charlie Chaplin; 8. France; 9. Frog; 10. False; 11. Seabiscuit; 12. Hanover; 13. *Gone with the Wind*; 14. Ban Ki Moon; 15. Yellowstone Park in the USA; 16. True; 17. £20; 18. Cirencester; 19. Ed Balls; 20. *King of the Road*