



Chair Maria Gabrielczyk and Ru3a committee members were presented with a beacon for u3a day by Notts. Network Representatives Margot Gale and Sue Blackley.

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Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to this commemorative magazine, a celebration of national u3a week held in September 2022. This was a special landmark as the u3a in the U.K. reached its fortieth anniversary. Our week began with the handover of a u3a beacon from the Notts. Network of u3as which would eventually join others at a mass gathering at Highfields Park in Nottingham. You can read about this in more detail on pages 18 and 19.



Here in Ravenshead our main event was held on September 21st at the Village Hall and weeks of planning and preparation paid off as around 200 visitors attended to enjoy displays and presentations, participate in crafts, quizzes and games organised by our groups, and enjoy free refreshments and good company. We had divided the hall into various zones: entertainment, interactive, informative and refreshment, and our aim was to promote Ravenshead u3a within the local community as well as ensuring that our members and visitors had a great time.

Hopefully this magazine will capture the atmosphere of the day through photographs and text and bring back memories for those who participated in the event. As editor I would like to thank the various photographers who helped to record the occasion as they have provided a visual commentary for our enjoyment.

Editor: Judith Moore, Desktop Publisher: Terry Moore

Photographers: Andy Bebbington, John Butler, Judith Moore, Terry Moore

A second beacon was handed over to vice chair Sue Butler by Ken Jones, publicity officer of Calverton u3a. It joined our other beacon for the 40th year celebrations at Highfields Park, Nottingham.



A message from our Chairman

Our u3a day on 21 September 2022 marked national u3a day, promoted the u3a in Ravenshead and surrounding area, and enabled us to celebrate two milestones - the 40th anniversary of the u3a movement and Ravenshead u3a's 10th birthday. So, there was much to celebrate in one very long day.

Interest groups went to town with their ideas for 'audience participation' and it was great to see so many enthusiastic members and visitors having a go. The guitar players, belly dancers and country dancers together with the Jolly Beggars very ably demonstrated their skills on stage and were very well received.



We have received tremendous feedback about the day so we know it went extremely well. There were so many members, so many visitors, so much activity and a loud buzz all of which rather surprised the Mayor of Gedling as he walked in with his wife. I don't think they were quite expecting it all to be so busy and they were very grateful, as we all were, for those cups of tea and biscuits which our brilliant refreshment team provided throughout the day.

I would like to thank all the group leaders, group members, volunteers and committee members who helped make the day so positive, interesting and exciting. Some of the work was invisible – it went on behind the scenes and most preparations were undertaken well before the day so thank you for helping to make the day such a success. And finally, huge thanks to all of you who attended and took part in the occasion.

Maria Gabrielczyk

u3a day – Setting Up

The day itself began early as the committee and volunteers arrived and by 8 a.m. tables and display boards were being assembled and carefully positioned around the venue (according to what was probably about version 10 of the carefully measured out room plan!). Bunting and banners were placed inside and out, technical equipment checked, refreshments sorted and group leaders and others prepared their displays.



Almost ready to go!



We did it! Just in time for a last-minute check and maybe a quick cup of tea and a chance for a breather before the doors opened at 10a.m. Well done team!



Look at our displays!



More Displays



The Guitar Group Entertains

The entertainment began with the ever popular U3Acoustic, led by group leader John Bewick.



Time for a chat!

The day was an opportunity to meet, gather information, or just have a good chat with friends over a cup of coffee and a biscuit.



The Mayor of Gedling Arrives

The Mayor of Gedling, Peter Barnes, arrived accompanied by his wife Councillor Sandra Barnes. They were welcomed by Maria and admired the Ravenshead 'Village Bus', which features in most of our trips, before heading inside. The Mayor addressed the assembly and placed a Book of Condolence on our display commemorating Queen Elizabeth before settling down to enjoy the entertainment.



The Belly Dancing Group Entertains

Sue Clipson led the 'Shimmy Shakers' in a colourful dance set which was enjoyed by all, especially when the audience were invited to get up and have a go.



The Folk and Country Dance Group Entertains

The group performed three traditional folk dances accompanied by Alex, John and Brad, otherwise known as the 'Jolly Beggars'.



The Games We Play

In the Games Room visitors were able to 'have a go' at a variety of board and card games offered by the group leaders. Featured were Mahjong, Canasta, Skat, Scrabble, Rummikub, Cribbage, Chess and Backgammon.



Still Playing Games



Plenty Going On



Lots to See and Do



A message from Peter Barnes, Mayor of Gedling

After their visit to our u3a day celebration we received the following email from the Mayor of Gedling, Peter Barnes and his wife Councillor Sandra Barnes.

It was a truly interesting time and we so enjoyed meeting lots of different people. The dancing was great. We loved the belly dancing and seeing older women so enjoying performing. The leading lady was so funny and happy it really cheered us up. There were some lovely displays and games and it was good to hear that there is so much going on at Ravenshead u3a.

We took a condolence book for people to sign for the passing of our beloved queen and quite a few people did sign it. It was eventually collected by Sir John Peace, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire.

The u3a organisation has a lot to offer older people who are young at heart. They are all great! We had a really happy time and we THANKYOU all so much for inviting us .

Sandra and Peter Barnes.



The Beacons Arrive in Nottingham

Well, what a good day we had at our Ravenshead u3a tenth birthday and u3a fortieth birthday celebration on Wednesday 21st September at our Village Hall!

For some of us though the celebrations didn't stop there. The Notts. Network of u3as had organised an event at Highfields Park in Nottingham the following

Saturday. This 40th anniversary event was a Flash Mob (yes, I had to look it up too) to which all Nottinghamshire u3as were invited. Thus Ru3a supported the day and four of our members went along; Louise, Rose, Yvonne and I.



Well, what's this Flash Mob Andy? Glad you asked, I'll tell you. Organised spontaneity. That is, someone starts a dance and then others join in. All off the cuff and unrehearsed; except of course that everyone (well, most of them) seems to know the steps and quickly fits into the routine. The dancing crowd builds until the end when a large crowd is all dancing together. Thus it was that Janice Cawkill of the Dukeries u3a, Ollerton had put together the choreography and rehearsals supported by a video from John Butler.

Our little band of Flash Mobbers met at Hucknall tram station at 10:45am on the Saturday and boarded the tram. We carried two beacons from our Wednesday Ru3a day and a u3a banner. Rather than go straight to Highfields, we alighted the tram at Trent University and walked through Nottingham city centre carrying our banner high. Pausing for photos at the Royal Centre and Old Market Square, we walked to the Lace Market. Then back on the tram and on to Highfields where we met one of the organisers, Margot Gale, a member of Beeston u3a and the Notts. Network county contact.

Flash Mob at Highfields Park

We were expecting to be asked to help with the set up but everything was well in hand so we had a bite to eat and waited. With all 34 Notts. u3as represented, some of whom had been setting up for some hours, everything looked well organised and under control.



Entertainment started at one o'clock with the Worksop u3a Steel Band. My goodness, a u3a with a steel band – what a diverse range of activities this organisation has. They were jolly good too.

The Mayor of the City of Nottingham, Wendy Smith, was there to enjoy the event and to receive our beacons. More organised spontaneity as each little group approached the stage from different directions. Beacons handed over, then on with the main event – the Flash Mob.

The PA system started up with Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling" and the Flash Mob dance began. Led by the Dukeries then others joining in, the dancing mob just got bigger and bigger until the available space was filled with people from the Notts. u3as all dancing (more or less) together. What a wonderful event. Well worth going along.

After that, more music from Worksop u3a Steel Band whilst we said our goodbyes and headed back home. What a lovely event. Well worth going *(and a fitting ending to the week: ed)*.

Andy Bebbington



