



Registered Charity 1159091

## NORTH WEST REGION NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021



HOPE YOU ARE WELL AND ENJOYING RETURNING TO YOUR ACTIVITIES. PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH AND SEND PHOTOS OF WHAT YOUR U3A IS DOING AS THEY RE-EMERGE AND LIVE WITH COVID. SEND THESE TO YOUR REGIONAL SUPPORT VOLUNTEER OR A CONTACT ON THE NW WEBSITE. BEST WISHES FOR THE FESTIVE PERIOD FROM NEIL AND THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE



As I am sure you are aware, next year is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first u3a in the UK. There will be a yearlong programme of events and activities including Picnics in the Park, with the Queen's Jubilee, 5000 trees for the u3a Woodland, the Quilt Competition and many more, yet to be announced. u3a Day will also form part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme on a day in the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> September, to suit your own u3a's requirements.



### **500<sup>th</sup> Beacon u3a**

In early December we will be announcing the 500<sup>th</sup> u3a to implement the Beacon membership system. This is a fantastic achievement. Beacon is supported almost entirely by around fifty u3a volunteers. As one of our 500 u3as said, "We started using Beacon during lock down and it has made life so much simpler for the committee. Members can keep their details up to date via the Portal and authorised users are able to send out emails to all members in a few clicks, enabling us to keep in touch more often. Having proved the worth of Beacon for membership data storage and security, we look forward to expanding our use of further functions of the system over the coming year".

We are producing commemorative china mugs and pens to mark the occasion.

### **Trustee Induction**

During the past two years, u3as will have elected many new committee members. Trustee induction is a key part of their training. However, because of Covid, that has been more difficult. Many committee members may not have received this training. It is now available either by a Zoom course or by video. To book a Zoom course, please contact Jane Bailey at u3a Office [jane.bailey@u3a.org.uk](mailto:jane.bailey@u3a.org.uk). Alternatively, the twenty minute video is on the u3a You Tube page at [Trustee Induction - YouTube](#)

**REGIONAL NEWS - Mo Eccles,  
Chair, North West Region of u3as**



booked onto this event, representing 19 u3as. The event was hosted by 4 regional committee members and we were grateful for the positive comments that we received and the suggestions which will be used to help us to plan future events. Whilst we appreciate that face to face meetings are very valuable, Zoom enables us to offer meetings more frequently which are more accessible for some of our members. We hope to hold other support meetings in January and March. Details of these will be advertised on our website as well as in messages to u3as.

**Research and Shared Learning**

**Peer to Peer Support Meetings**



We decided to hold meetings for members who had similar roles in their u3as so that members could share expertise and clarify issues that were relevant to their roles. We offered this to Group Co-ordinators in May. In October, a similar meeting was offered to Business Secretaries and anyone who was interested in the role. These members were also asked to suggest any other topics that they would like to raise. There was quite a range which included clarification of the role, producing minutes, reporting to the Charity Commission and u3a constitutions. Break out rooms were used to allow everyone the opportunity to discuss their role within their own u3as. 24 members



On 19<sup>th</sup> October, 12 members from 10 different u3as booked onto the Research and Shared Learning workshop, presented by Maggy Simms. Maggy is a committee member for the North West Region as well as being the National Co-ordinator for Research and Shared Learning. Maggy shared some fascinating insights and showed us how we can all get involved in a variety of projects. These include the My Street and the Slow Ways projects. Some of these can be found in the Research section of our North West u3a website, see . [North West Region : Learning and Research \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://North West Region : Learning and Research (u3asites.org.uk)) Further information

can also be found on the u3a website in the Learn section [u3a - Research and Shared Learning](#).

## Summer School 2022



We are in the early stages of planning a North West Region Summer School to be held at the University of Cumbria's Carlisle site from the 16<sup>th</sup> until 19<sup>th</sup> August next year. Three members of the committee visited the site earlier this year with a view to holding the summer school there and were pleased with the facilities and the accessibility. Alan Hough has approached tutors and is compiling a varied programme of studies to choose from. Once the details have been finalised, we shall advertise them on our website in the Events section so please check this on a regular basis.