

SOUTH WEST REGION NEWSLETTER

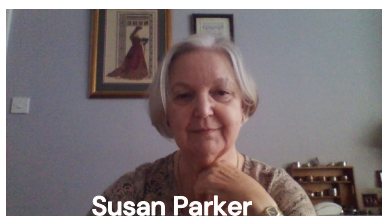
Issue: 2

February 2021

In this issue:

- Purpose of Newsletter
- Message from our Trustee
- What's happening around the region
- Trust & Regional Volunteers
- Running your u3a
- National u3a Day
- Committee Update Form
- Beacon
- Member Link
- FAQs List

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide useful information to our Networks, u3as and their Members within the South West Region.



Susan Parker

Message from Trustee for the South West

Hello Everybody,

Well, here we are, February 2021. Where did January go? We are still unable to meet up and enjoy our normal meetings, but it will come and in the meantime meetings are happening via Zoom, phone, email, text, Facebook, post and possibly semaphore, but nobody has owned up to that yet. Let me know. Groups are meeting and sharing knowledge and fun and dare I say gossip with those old and new friends that we have made through being members of u3a. Walking groups are planning routes and holidays, Photography groups are sharing photos (Malcolm would love some for the website, all with copyright clearance of course) stories and poems are being worked on, online research is happening. So much that I can't list it all. I know it's been hard, particularly keeping in touch with those who are unable to access the internet, but we have largely managed. Now, we can see it coming to an end, not for quite a while, it would be silly to spoil it all now wouldn't it? So, let's not rush it but let's plan. By now many of you will have had your 1st vaccine and some your 2nd but we all know that does not mean we can throw caution to the wind, we're too sensible, there are other ways we can be outrageously retired and show the world that we are vibrant, lively, open to new experiences and eager to learn new things as u3a members.

Take care,

Susan

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE REGION

CULM VALLEY u3a

We are starting a series of short Zoom events in February, which will only last the free 40 minutes on Zoom!

Kevin Woodward, our Treasurer, has organised a number of different topics ranging from POSH Gardens to 20 Question Quiz, and Coffee and Chat (about books read during the pandemic) to Your Life in 10 Minutes!

We also produce a monthly newsletter (copies can be seen on our website), and I send out fortnightly emails to all members.

Our Executive Committee meets once a quarter and our next meeting is in March 2021.

Once the pandemic allows, we will be setting up a Management Team to work alongside the Executive Committee. They will be responsible for all the day to day running of CVu3a, while the Executive Committee will remain responsible for all the governance and legal issues and requirements.

Our intention is to involve and engage as many members as possible in the running of the u3a.

Sue Hooper-Lawrie
Chair

NORTH DEVON LINK

This group met via Zoom at the end of November and is due to meet again in early March. All the groups have experienced different reactions to the use of Zoom and similar technologies from their members. Contact with their members is seen as being of prime importance, much more so than recruiting new ones.

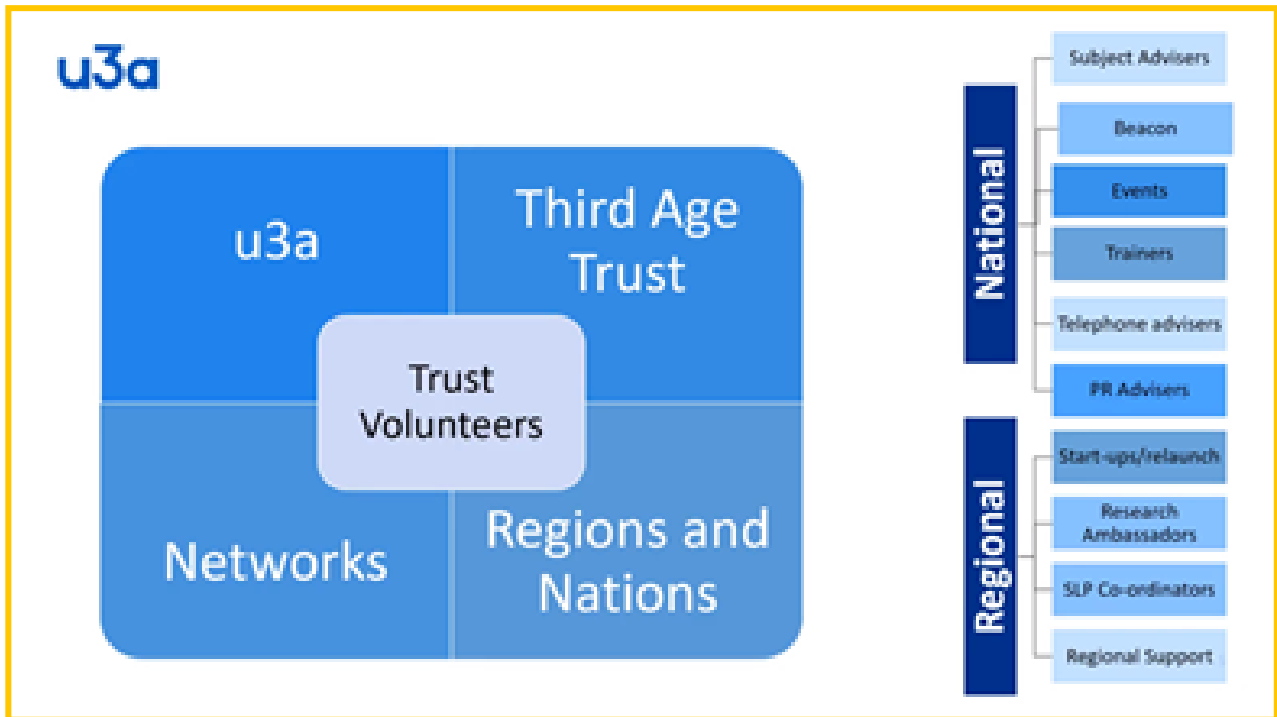
Newsletters have been instrumental in keeping in touch and at Christmas some groups sent out individual Christmas cards to members and at South Molton the committee rang all members personally.

Various interest groups have been able to continue online – history, geology, bridge, reading, quizzing and creative writing to name some successful ones. Some groups were pleasantly surprised to see how many existing members were renewing their membership and not all were offering financial incentives.

We know that the Office would like all members to make as much use as possible of the technology that is available but most of us have found that the majority of our members consider personal contact to be the most valuable asset of u3a and are prepared to wait until it can resume.

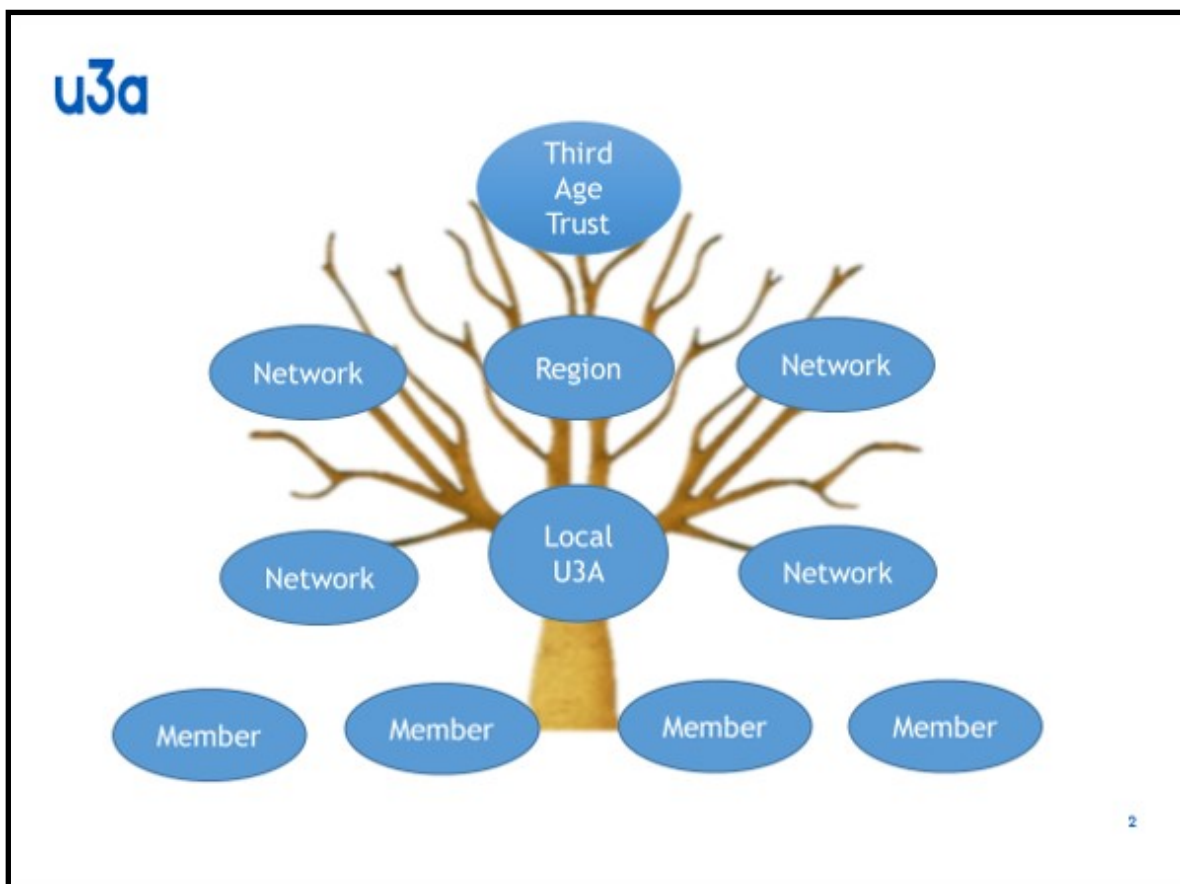
Lorie Jones
Chairman

USEFUL INFORMATION



Across the SW Region, we are seeking to identify those u3a members who are known as either 'Trust Volunteer' (who has a National remit) or 'Regional' Volunteer (whose remit is to support the SW Region). The above picture attempts to illustrate the difference between the two types of Volunteers.

Please let your Network Contact know of any u3a member (name, role, u3a and email address) who may already be a National or Regional Volunteer or who is interested in becoming one.



Running your u3a

You can now visit the new playlist, **Running your u3a** on the u3a YouTube channel which currently hosts six videos to help run your u3a.

National u3a Day

The very first national u3a Day celebrating the learning, activity and fun that happens every day in u3as across the country will now take place on 2nd June 2021. More information on the preparations for this day can be found through the links **u3a Day Presentation** and **About u3a Day**.

Book your place for an Online Tutorial about **Getting ready for u3a Day 2021** these sessions are being run on Tuesday 2nd March am and pm.

Also, the **Social media & u3a day Tutorials** are ready for you to book **Register here**. The sessions are on the 16th March with three times available at 10am , 1pm and 3:30 start , all about 1.5 hours long.

Committee Update Form

For those u3as who are likely to be holding their AGM in the near future, please remember to notify the Third Age Trust of any subsequent Committee changes by using the online **Committee Update Form** .

Beacon

A new short video has recently been produced to inform u3as about the main features and benefits of the current **Beacon** Management System.

Member Link

Member Link is a new initiative to support u3as and their members to keep talking and learning together. It collates in one place all the **advice, tips and resources** to help us stay connected.

Please take a look at the ideas listed to help support our members and encourage others to join our u3as.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

A **Frequently Asked Questions** list has been produced to assist Trustees and u3a members.

Network / Link	Name
Avalon Network	Val Warren
Bath & Wiltshire Network	Gordon Pardy
Bristol, Yate & Sodbury Link	Lindsay Gough
Cotswold Link	Jeremy Furtado
Devon Link	Frances Berry
East Devon Network	June Brown
East Dorset Network	Val Warren
Mid Cornwall	Pippa Boardman
North Devon Link	Gillian Kerr
Northern Somerset Network	Colin Tincknell
Tamar Valley Network	Amanda Smith
Two Moors Network	Malcolm Tulip
Far West Cornwall Network	Diana Wayne
West Dorset Network	Hilary Smith
West Somerset Network	Pamela Young

Contributions for inclusion in the next the Newsletter would be most welcome and should be sent to the Editor by 14th April.

[SOUTH WEST REGION WEBSITE](#)

Individual u3a/Network contributions are welcome for publication on the South West Region Website and should be sent to the [Webmaster](#) using the link on the contact page.

The members of the editorial team are as follows:

Editor: Malcolm Tulip

Email: malcolm.tulip@googlemail.com

Proof Reader: Marion Clements