

## SOUTH WEST REGION NEWSLETTER

Issue: 4

June 2021

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



### Message from Trustee for the South West

Hello Everyone,

Summer is here and June 2nd was the first ever u3a Day, a day to raise the awareness of the movement across the four Nations.

Unfortunately, here in the South West Region we did not enjoy the sunshine that the rest of the country enjoyed and several groups were rained on. Penzance had sunshine for their picnic in the park but Honiton got rained on along with the Mayor and the Town Crier, but got out their brollies, and many other u3as had a variety of physical and metaphorical flags waving for the u3a movement.

Some of you took to the airwaves and did a spot on local radio, about 5 minutes seemed to be the average but the ones I listened to on BBC sounds were great, so much information into so short a time. I can't mention you all but please send your pictures and stories to Malcolm to go on the website and we can share the good ideas for an even bigger splash next year for the 40th Anniversary.

And now u3as across the Region are making plans to meet with members in the coming months. We are all hopeful that the Covid situation will allow us to safely begin our physical meetings and experiment with hybrid and alternative ways of meeting so we don't forget those members who have been able to join in because of Zoom who might not be able to get to a physical meeting.

We have already had to learn new things over the last 15 months and still have so much to learn, but that is the u3a way sharing what we know and learning from others while having fun.

Take care,

Susan

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE REGION

### Research and Shared Learning

We are very aware that a great deal of excellent work has been and continues to be done around the area of what has been called Research and Shared Learning within u3as.

It seems to me that only good could come out of a meeting of all those interested in such work throughout the SW region. Its aim would be to provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, promote good practice and create a support network within the region that u3a members can call on when they identify a need to "find out".

This might be an interest group researching a particular subject area, or a committee wanting more information about their members, for example, or a more formal specific project. We can always learn from each other's experiences and promote good practice going forward.

We are therefore organising an online workshop on the topic **Research and Shared Learning in the SW Region** on **Thursday 29 July at 10.00 a.m.** and would be grateful if you could advertise this widely to any u3a member interested, this may be a group or individuals they are all welcome.

Ask them to email [susan.parker@u3a.org.uk](mailto:susan.parker@u3a.org.uk) if they intend to join in the Zoom meeting giving their name, u3a and email address and the invite will be sent out closer to the date.

**Chris Knight** – Research and Shared Learning Co-ordinator

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### National u3a Day

On 2nd June 2021 regional u3as have marked the occasion by celebrating in a number of different ways.

The [u3a Day](#) website tab shows a few collages of some of the events which took place within the region.



## USEFUL INFORMATION

The Public Relations (PR) Advisers who provide support for the SW Region can be viewed [here](#), along with an [Introduction to PR](#) presentation given by Margaret Fiddes at a recent PR workshop.

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[Running your u3a](#) is the link to a series of eight YouTube videos presenting the following Subjects:

- Using video conferencing to run AGMs and large meetings
  - Trustee Induction
  - Governance
  - Communication Bites
  - Understanding GDPR
  - Trust Volunteer Induction
  - U3a website tour
  - Alternative Ways of Meeting – Hybrid and Other Options
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Personal Members' Checklist and Risk Assessments for different venues and activities can be downloaded from the [Third Age Trust](#) website after logging in and looking under Support for u3as, then Form Downloads and Risk Assessments.

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Exmouth and District u3a has developed the [Connect & Learn](#) website which looks at all sorts of ideas and learning opportunities.

This website is now open to all their members to use and enjoy.

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	Linda Wornes
West Dorset Network	Hilary Smith
West Somerset Network	Pamela Young

Contributions for inclusion in the next Newsletter would be most welcome and should be sent to the Editor by 11th August.

## [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:

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