



# Newsletter Autumn 2020



**Greetings to all our U3as who are trying to continue some activities under the current restrictions.**

## **The New SUN Committee 2020**

**Chair:** Alan Beebe (Preston Park U3A)

**Vice Chair:** Paul Sparks (Uckfield U3A)

**Treasurer:** John Pheby (Newhaven & Peacehaven U3A)

**Secretary:** Louisa Sewell (Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling U3A)

**Study Day Lecturers:** Anne Dale (Preston Park U3A)

**Study Day Venues:** Brenda Atlee (Chichester U3A)

**Study Day Bookings :**Pat Alvey (Seaford U3A)

Valerie Greenwood (Hastings & Rother U3A)

Amanda Farthing (Eastbourne Meads U3A)

**The SUN committee** are now working via Zoom and hope to hold a reps meeting later this year, - once we are more confident with hosting online!

**Study Day Programme.** Due to the continuing health crisis, the committee has, with regret, decided to cancel the Study Day programme for 2021. The ill health of an organiser plus the current restricted seating rules have added to the issue. A zoom option of lectures will be trialled in the autumn.

**Housebound? Webpage.** The variety of activities and quizzes will be on the page to the end of December for members to use, including the quizzes.

The voluntary efforts of all **U3A committee members** are vital to our organisation and finding replacements can be very difficult. National office has a video for potential recruits. See their **video conferencing** webpage link on the TAT website's front page.

**Cluster Groups.** It is proposed that in future, as the Network covers a wide geographical area, we use the local groupings from last year's summer event to enable more inter U3A contacts for meetings and workshops. Obviously, initial meetings will be online and SUN are purchasing a licence for such meetings. We intend to have a major hall meeting for the AGM in March but other meetings can continue on Zoom through the year, considering our older membership and the issue of travelling long distances. The proposed groupings are:

**Area 1.** Rye, Battle, Hastings, Eastbourne Wealden, Eastbourne Meads, Eastbourne Central, Hailsham, Seaford and Newhaven (9)

**Area 2.** Shoreham, Brighton & Hove, Five Deans, Brunswick, Preston Park, Patcham, Lancing, Steyning, Worthing (9)

**Area 3.** Arun West, Arun Valley, Midhurst, Bognor, Chichester, Selsey, Littlehampton, (7)

**Area 4.** Horsham, Southwater, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Hurst, Hassocks, Lewes (6)

**Area 5.** Crawley, East Grinstead, Crowborough, Uckfield, Heathfield, Mayfield, Ringmer, Wadhurst (8)

**Please let us know your response**

*Apologies for shortening some U3A names, the underlined were the original meeting hosts. Currently online meetings can be attended by all the SUN trustees but , for future local hall meetings, at least one SUN trustee would attend.*

**We were sorry** to hear of the recent sudden death of Jim Cox, chair of Littlehampton. Our condolences to his family and colleagues.

**Resuming Group Activities.** Here is the link to Jane Bailey's talk on the U3A YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL5MPEB3gYI&feature=youtu.be>

**Virtual Autumn Gathering– South East Region.** Due to current meeting restrictions, this will be a virtual meeting on 4th November under the title '**Back to the Future — Normality Restored?**'. Booking details will be available, in early October, via the SE Region website on [u3asites.org.uk](http://u3asites.org.uk)

**The South Regional Support Team** are asking for any innovative ideas you may have to help your U3A out of lockdown. Perhaps you are planning something for Christmas, or you have started to meet in halls. If so what precautions have you taken, and how did your members react ? Have you plans for 2021? Will you be using technology more ? If you have been liaising with other U3As, will you continue to do so ? Please let Pam Jones know, via [pam.jones@u3a.org.uk](mailto:pam.jones@u3a.org.uk) as soon as possible, so your ideas can be circulated.

**Virtual U3A National AGM.** On 29th September, this is open to all U3A members, with details and booking via the TAT website.

**Virtual 1 hour AGM tutorials,** to be held on 8th September, can be booked on the TAT website. Other tutorials are listed. Click **video conferencing** at bottom of the front page. Then on the **online tutorials** link to book a session.

**U3A National High Street Project.** The Third Age Trust is asking U3As to encourage members to survey some of their local shops to note the economic effect on businesses by the Covid crisis. It is intended to have first phase underway in September. An information sheet can be downloaded from the Our Members page on the SUN website.

**U3A National Online Learning Hub .** Have your say! We are looking for your ideas to help us develop the new Online Learning Hub for U3As. This is going to be an online collection of all of the resources and tools you may need to support learning across your interest groups and U3A. This short questionnaire will give us valuable information about what's important to you, and what we need to consider in the design and implementation of this Online Learning Hub. None of the questions are compulsory and your response is anonymous. This should take you less than 10 minutes at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RFZYSMK>

**National U3A Day** This is now scheduled for June 2021.

**Zoom Talks.** Some U3As have held online talks for their members from various speakers. Please forward details to us so they can be added to the list on the Our U3As webpage .

This newsletter will be published every four months: on April 30th, August 31st & December 31st. Please forward interesting short news items and participant consented photographs, with details, to the SUN email at [sussexareau3a@gmail.com](mailto:sussexareau3a@gmail.com) Website : [u3asites.org.uk/sussexu3anetwork](http://u3asites.org.uk/sussexu3anetwork)

**U3A Recruitment Campaign. Invitation to join the pathfinder phase of the U3A**

**recruitment campaign.** I am writing as Chair of the U3A Recruitment Working Group, to invite U3As to join the pathfinder phase of the U3A recruitment project. The U3A Recruitment Working Group comprises representatives from 10 U3As. We want to establish a national group of U3As who will develop and pilot recruitment and promotional activity to secure new members. This is not going to be easy. Continuing Covid restrictions have put a stop to our public meetings and are likely to continue for some considerable time.

We believe that, by doing things a little differently, U3As can recruit many potential members who are looking for opportunities to learn locally and in the company of others. Potential members include those retiring from full-time work as well as those who are losing full-time jobs, still in their 50s and 60s, because of the current situation.

A background briefing is attached to this invitation. **Why join this project?**

By joining this project, you will join a group of similarly inspired U3As and together we can achieve 5 main things:

- More members; more energy; more ideas; more enthusiasm for your U3A
- Engaging, enthusing and mobilising your current members
- Make a major contribution to the member led development of the U3A movement
- More and better links with your local communities
- Enhanced internet and marketing skills.

**What support is available?** Through the project there will be a small amount of funding to defray promotional costs and the opportunity to road test and develop a recruitment toolkit. Perhaps the best support is mutual. We will facilitate exchanges of information and experience so that we can all learn as quickly as possible from each other.

**If your committee would like to join the project** please email me at [pkmartinez14@gmail.com](mailto:pkmartinez14@gmail.com) by Friday September 25<sup>th</sup>. If you need more information at this stage, please contact me at the same email address.

I look forward to hearing from you. Until then, with best wishes in these trying times

Paul Martinez

Chairman U3A Recruitment Working Group, Support Officer Notts Network of U3As

**Background briefing for U3A networks.** Our U3A movement is suffering from two sorts of recruitment problem. There is a long term slowdown in the growth in membership of the movement and the proportion of newly retired people joining the U3A is in decline. These long term trends are being exacerbated by Covid.

The Third Age Trust has created a Recruitment Working Group which reports to both the Development Committee and CEAC. I am pleased to say that RTs and RSTs from 3 regions are represented on the Working Group. We are currently planning on the assumption that there will be three phases of the campaign: Pathfinder, Trailblazer and Main Phase. An invitation to U3As to join the Pathfinder phase of the recruitment campaign is attached to this briefing paper.

**Approximate timing and shape of campaign**

End September 2020 to December 2020

Pathfinder U3As help to develop and pilot a recruitment toolkit and experiment with recruitment and promotional techniques. Their experience and learning will be shared across the Pathfinder group. Support will be provided by the Working Group and mutual support between Pathfinders, facilitated by the Working Group.

January 2021 to April 2021

Trailblazer U3As pilot the use of the recruitment toolkit in a wide variety of settings and across all U3A regions. The experience and learning of Pathfinders will be made available. Mutual support and exchange of progress updates and experiences will be facilitated. Further support may be available from Pathfinder U3As. This phase should be also be supported by national promotion and awareness raising.

Easter 2021 to December 2021

The main group of U3As use the developed recruitment toolkit to develop and launch their own recruitment campaign. This should be supported by national promotion and awareness raising. Support will be available through a programme of training events and mutual support and exchange of progress updates. Further support may be

**Further information**

If you need further information concerning the recruitment campaign at this stage, please email [pkmartinez14@gmail.com](mailto:pkmartinez14@gmail.com). I look forward to hearing from you and to working with you on this major recruitment project.

Until, then, with best wishes, Paul Martinez, Chair U3A Recruitment Working Group,

(NB. The voluntary efforts of all U3A committee members are vital to our organisation and finding replacements can be very difficult. National office has a video for potential recruits. See their **video conferencing** webpage link on their website front page.