



Introducing a New Initiative ...the U3A Constructor's Challenge 2019

In the December Newsletter, we asked for expressions of interest from mechanical or electrical constructors in the U3A movement who like to build small items as projects. A new initiative where particular project builds can be capable of moving and being controlled, and are pitted against each other in a series of challenges, has been proposed. Several of you have replied but we do need a good number of volunteers before we can actually set up the challenge.

The constructions can be in the form of a moving “robot” of whatever form, subject to some simple rules, but capable of being adapted for each of the challenges. You may have heard of “Raspberry Pi”, “Arduino” or “Picaxe”, which are all programmable devices, and will aid the use of sensors being used for the more advanced challenges. So, the challenge will clearly be of interest to coding creators too.

The venue for the proposed first Challenge is Conference Aston in Birmingham where the U3A Science Network is holding its 2019 meeting in August next year. We hope this will generate a lot of interest within the U3A Science & Technology groups.

So please do register your interest in this activity so that there's plenty of time for participating teams to be formed and the “robots” to be built to meet the challenges.

To register your interest, please contact:

chair@u3asciencenetwork.uk (Michaela Moody) or Barry James at cannockchaseu3a@gmail.com stating the U3A to which you belong, any experience you have with robotics and or coding, and whether you'd actually like to participate in the challenge. Please include your email address and a preferred contact number. We'd like to see this as an opportunity for budding robot builders and coders as well as some of the more experienced of you.

If there are sufficient people interested, we'll publish the basic Rules for the Challenge, update the website and keep everyone abreast of the developments.