

June 2022

Phone National Office: 0208 466 6139 u3a.org.uk



Introduction from Sam Mauger

Dear members,

Our anniversary year continues to showcase the talent and skills of the membership.

The Great Reveal of the Anniversary Quilt is a magnificent reminder of u3a creativity. It will be a lasting tribute to u3a membership in our 40th anniversary year.

June has been a busy month of celebrations for us.

It has been wonderful to have the companionship and fellowship of each other, all the more special given the freedom we now have to meet together in person.

u3a is gaining more interest in local and national media. u3as are reporting that new members are bringing their ideas and talents to the movement.

It is lovely to see the membership flourishing in this anniversary year.

With very best wishes

Sam Mauger

CEO of the Third Age Trust

40 Anniversary News

u3a Quilt Revealed

The u3a 40th Anniversary Quilt, made by members, groups and u3as across the movement, has been revealed at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester.

Trustee for the North West, Neil Stevenson unveiled the quilt and said, "The quilt is beautiful and is testimony to the talent, skills and energy of all the members"

The quilt will now travel to Oxford where it will be displayed at the Witney Blanket Hall.

A Week Long Celebration of u3a

u3a week, 18–26 September, is our annual event to showcase the activity, learning and fun which takes place across the u3a movement every day.

It builds on the success of 2021 u3a day where u3as yarn bombed, litter-picked and put on performances. This year we hope to make it bigger and better than ever.

News from the Trust

Well Done to Venie and Mac

Congratulations to Causeway u3a member Venie and Barnsley u3a member Mac, who have both received recognition in recent awards.

Former Chair of Causeway u3a, Venie (right), received a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Jubilee Honours List for Services to Older People. She says, "I find it hard to believe that I am getting an award like this for doing things I enjoyed so much and which I found so rewarding! There is life after full time work and u3a is a great organisation for ensuring everyone has the opportunity to enjoy their third age – even during lockdowns!"



Meanwhile, Barnsley u3a member and Walking Cricket Subject Adviser Mac (left) has been shortlisted for the BBC Radio Leeds Make A Difference Awards. The nomination said, "Mac has changed the lives of hundreds of older people in Yorkshire through founding Walking Cricket. From setting up and clearing up each session, to using his guidance skills to help others set up their own clubs in different cities and towns, to online skills to promoting clubs to new members, Mac is essential to the development of the sport." The Awards Ceremony takes place on 17 September – Good luck to Mac!



News from the Board

Chair of the Third Age Trust, Liz Thackray

I hope that like me you are enjoying the beginnings of Summer. It sometimes feels as though I am existing in a number of parallel time zones. **The anniversary events are now in full swing – we have enjoyed picnic in the park and brunch on the beach and the quilt has been revealed.**

Alongside the fun and celebration there is the need to ensure business as usual with preparation for the Board meeting at the end of June and the AGM in October. **Equally importantly, activity continues developing our strategy, addressing future digital requirements and supporting the u3a movement.**

In a movement of over 400,000 people, not everybody will engage with or approve of all we do, but with so much going on, there is something for all our existing and potential members.

As we are increasingly able and willing to meet together in person, it is a good time to invite those potential u3a members to join us. Let's make this a summer when we grow our movement!

u3a Office In Focus

This is a new section putting a spotlight on the staff who work at u3a office and what we're doing.

Meet Linda

Hello, I'm Linda, the Advice and Support Officer and I have been working here for almost 12 years.

A big part of my role is to help and advise u3as and their members on a wide variety of enquiries. It is very interesting being able speak with many u3a trustees and members from around the UK.

I get to talk with callers new to u3a, telling them more about the organisation. I am responsible for providing admin support to newly forming u3as and it is always good to see them progress and grow their membership.



Your Stories

"Starting a social group for u3a members with hearing loss in Ely has been a big success.

Meetings are planned to be informative and fun and have included a quiz, finger spelling, lip reading, guest speakers, discussions and basic sign language. During Deaf Awareness Week we organised a market stall in Ely together with Hearing Dogs which was fun."

Kate, 'Living well with hearing loss' group, Ely u3a

Spotlight On:

Doreen, Warrington u3a



I have been a member of Warrington u3a for almost 20 years. When I joined u3a, we had less than 250 members and about 10 groups.

In my first year, I shadowed the then-chair and then went into the Chair position for what turned out to be four years. **In that time, with the support of a brilliant committee, we grew Warrington u3a to a membership of over a thousand with more than 30 interest groups.** I am happy to say that it continues to thrive despite the dreaded Covid.

u3a is a brilliant organisation and a global family of people who want to continue to learn and grow in knowledge and shared interests.

At our May general meeting, I am giving a presentation on becoming a published writer of Children's books recently, in my eightieth year.



Happy Birthday u3a and many more of them !.

Headline photos: u3as across the UK took part in Picnic in the Park on 1 June and the Bank Holiday Weekend to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the u3a movement and the Jubilee. Pictured are Bramhall u3a, Broomfield u3a's Ukulele Group performing at Chelmsford u3a's Picnic in the Park event, Hillingdon u3a.

u3a
156 Blackfriars Road
London, UK
SE1 8EN

Contact the National Office

Tel: 020 8466 6139
Email: info@u3a.org.uk
u3a.org.uk

 twitter.com/u3a_uk
 facebook.com/u3auk