

November 2020

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u3a.org.uk



Introduction from Sam Mauger

As we are now firmly in autumn and many of us in lockdown, U3As are coming up with ever more creative ideas for keeping our communities together and enjoying each others company.

We will be working with U3As across the movement to identify how many U3As have members who are not connected in to activities over the winter and discuss how we can keep these members as part of our community during the winter months.

The U3A Development programmes, overseen by Hilary Jones and led by two very experienced U3A members, are supporting U3As to thrive and build on the knowledge and ideas of member U3As across the United Kingdom.

Separately the learning winter programme will be rolled out over the coming months and the second podcast from our very own U3A radio will be ready to listen to very soon.

Keep safe and keep creative and I hope you will enjoy this November issue.

With regards,
Sam Mauger
Chief Executive

News from The Trust



Trustees Week

Trustees Week was this month, between 3 and 9 November. Trustees do so much work across our movement – from those on local committees to the National Board (2019 Board pictured right.)

We received amazing comments from Trustees, including Venie Martin, Chair of Causeway U3A, who said “I enjoy the creativity and fulfilment of being a trustee. Creativity: one of the problems with retirement is the lack of opportunity to apply your experience and skills. I am not artistic or musical but I have some talent in spotting opportunities, working with talented people and in making things happen. Fulfilment: feeling useful again makes me want to get up in the morning!”

Advice News

This winter U3A have a partnership with Independent Age to provide our members with quick access to their free and confidential advice line. Their particular areas of knowledge include money and benefits, health and mobility and care and support.

To access Independent Age’s helpline call 0800 319 6789.

If you are clear about what you wish to discuss, you can use the Codename: U3A when you call and an appointment will be booked with an adviser.

U3A Eye



Our photography challenge, U3A Eye, has had amazing submissions over the last few months. There have been 15 prompts and we’ve created a U3A Eye photo montage (left) to celebrate the amazing photos we’ve received.

News from the Board

Chair of the Third Age Trust, Ian McCannah

"The government splits the UK into nine English regions and three devolved nations – Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Representations have been made to the Trust stating that our long-standing references to "Regional Trustee" and "National Office" do not fully reflect this administrative structure, particularly in relation to the devolved nations.

As a result, the Board has decided that Regional Trustees will be referred to as the "Trustee for Northern Ireland", "Trustee for East of England", etc and that "National Office" will be referred to as "U3A Office". These changes will be effective from 1 December.

There will be a Trust EGM next month with a Plenary Session afterwards. This will cover how U3As and the Trust can work together to ensure the movement is well positioned for the return, hopefully, to more normal activities next year."

Celebrations

Holmes Chapel & District U3A have celebrated their ten year anniversary this month. They planted trees and a U3A flower bed (right), displayed a large U3A banner in various locations and yarn bombed the town in yellow and blue. They will also be running a six day programme for their local radio, including recordings of their members.



In Focus

Allan Walmsley, Trustee for the West Midlands



2016 had been a difficult year for me. I was struggling for something meaningful to do after retiring for the 4th time. Then a flyer fell through my letterbox seeking support to start up a U3A in a local church hall. "What's a U3A?" I asked my wife. "No idea", was her reply, "but why don't you go and find out?"... and that was the start.

I joined the new committee as Vice Chair and within 3 years we had grown to over 300 members with almost 50 interest groups. It was a delight to be able to work on lots of new innovations right from the start.

I wanted to understand more about the movement, so I joined the Regional Support Team for the West Midlands. Most national committees are made up of U3A members just like me, and it made me realise that there are many able and experienced members committed to the movement.

Since October, I've been the Trustee for the West Midlands Region which gives me an even greater involvement at national level. Hopefully, by the time I finish my 3 year stint, fewer people in this Region will need to ask "What's a U3A?"

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Headline photos: Colin Butcher Reading U3A as part of a group of U3A members who share their photo art on social media, a U3A pumpkin created by Ridgeway U3A member Susie Berry, a photo taken by Doncaster U3A member Wendy Hattrell on a walk along Angelsey Coastal path