

NEWS BITES! JUNE 2020

Sharing ideas across 34 U3As in Nottinghamshire

Notts Network meeting July 29th 10.00

Join us from the comfort of your own home using Zoom – you will be sent log in details nearer the time.

We will hear from Ian McCannah, Chair of the Third Age Trust, Jean Hogg, our Regional Trustee, and Paul Martinez, Notts Network Support Officer.

Then it will be down to you as we ask you to share ideas on how your U3A can survive in the current climate and what to do in the immediate future including how to attract new members during lockdown.

Rosie Allen, Chair of Notts Network

Newsbites Circulation

We circulate Newsbites via Margot Gale, our Network Contact. She sends it to the Business Secretary or whoever she has in her contact details. Could you check that these details are up to date and let her know of any changes? Also, could you make every effort to forward the Newsbites to each member of your U3A please?

RAVENSHEAD U3A

In this continuing lockdown situation members are still not able to meet face to face - or at least no closer than 2 metres. We are, however, trying to use Zoom wherever possible and a few of our groups are meeting virtually. It is extremely fortunate that the vast majority (about 93%) of our members have access to the internet.

In order to enable our members to feel connected during this time of restrictions we have been producing an e-newsletter every fortnight, called KIT - Keeping In Touch. The newsletter comprises articles, messages, puzzles, poems and jokes sent in by members and occasionally by others. It goes out by email but those without broadband receive a printed copy which is hand delivered by a team of kind-hearted volunteer couriers for whom this doubles up as an excuse to take exercise.

If others are interested to read any issues they can find them on our website on the Virtual Group page here <https://u3asites.org.uk/ravenshead/page/104699>

So, the Ravenshead U3A is still operating albeit virtually. And as the song goes, we will meet again – we just don't know when exactly!

Maria Gabrielczyk, *Chairman*

Southwell U3A: Like other Notts U3As Southwell U3A shut down all face to face activities in March and since then have continued to function through a mixture of online communication, WhatsApp chat groups, Zoom meetings, "virtual trips", a fortnightly newsletter and phone calls to members who don't have access to the internet. The Committee meets regularly by Zoom, and some groups, like Come Dine with Men, French Discussion, History and Wine Groups, also use Zoom. We're also using our website, www.SouthwellU3A.com, to give out regular news and information about what is happening in Southwell, such as what's open and when. And you can see and read what members have been doing by clicking on Lockdown Photos on the Home page. In the meantime annual membership has been extended by 6 months to reflect the reduced level of activity and the Committee is assessing whether any of the outdoor groups can start again, such as walking and bird watching, but it is unlikely that the full programme of 80 or so groups will be back to normal for many months to come.

Marjorie, *Chairman*

CREATIVE WRITING on ZOOM

The Creative Writing Group members got together using Zoom on Monday 8th June. This was our first 'official' meeting since lockdown and using this method of contact (without actually being in contact) worked very well for us. Just 5 members took part on this maiden voyage but we look forward to seeing and speaking with the other members in ten days time for our next meeting. As Zoom time is limited not too much time is available for chit-chat so Chris soon put us to work and I feel already we are back on track and looking forward to Wednesday 17th June, after we have done our homework !!

Madeleine Fletcher, Eastwood

Mapperley & District We are very busy despite missing the social side of being together but making the most of our rapidly improving IT skills to keep more than half of the groups running. Our monthly Wine Appreciation has turned into a weekly virtual Pub Night. Projects are running with Art History, Creative Crafts, Philosophy and Photography. Our Creative Writing group produced a compilation called "Scribblings" that has been well received. French conversation is improving with extra sessions on Zoom. Both Play Reading and Book Club continue to operate well. We have our usual monthly committee meetings via Zoom and have had our first General Meeting with a Quiz. The next one will include Bingo for those who wish to participate. In July, we have a speaker who is happy to deliver a presentation on Big Cats via Zoom. The intention is to be truly challenged and hold our delayed AGM on 27 August via Zoom, telephone and email. *Caroline Luckhurst, Chairman*



Coping with the Shutdown

Retford U3A Military History Group

At the beginning of lockdown we had already had planned a PowerPoint/Word presentation planned for VE Day and through Beacon, sent this out on 8th May. Our leader decided to try to keep in touch with as many of the 90 group members each week, electronically. With absolutely no knowledge of systems like 'What's-Up' or 'Signal', one of our members knew of Zoom. He ran a 'live' presentation at 10.00 on Monday morning which was watched by about 12 people, So far we have been able to use three of our group, who have now put together written presentations, followed up a week later with a 'live' Zoom presentations, on The Battle of Gettysburg ; The History of the Secret Service; Decoys and Deception (the Use of Camouflage in WW2) ; The Battle of Pearl Harbour and the Photographic Reconnaissance unit of the RAF.

Over the next few weeks we will be covering the German Invasion Plan of England in 1940, Operation Sealion; the Battle of Midway and the Coral Sea; Jimmy Doolittle; and the lessons learnt by the RAF Bomber Command following the London Blitz and the Bombing of Coventry.

We are now getting 25 plus people coming on our Zoom 'live' presentations. These are not just from Retford U3A, but now we have guests from Liverpool U3A, Gainsborough U3A, Worksop U3A, Dukeries U3A at Ollerton and Southwell U3A.

For us the three members have had to write and produce either a word or PowerPoint document then a week later, run a much fuller presentation. From our group members all we receive is their thanks, and all we are trying to do is follow the ethos of the U3A and learn by our shared experiences.

Roy Evans Retford U3A Military History Group

THIRD AGE TRUST

Announcement U3A Day and Coronavirus

The decision has been made to postpone our first national U3A Day from 3 June 2020 to **Wednesday 2nd June 2021**.

Many U3As have invested time and energy into planning creative and informative events to raise the profile of the movement. We have a long lead-time for this new date so plans can be reviewed and rearranged including venues and guests.

As you are aware, U3A Day is planned to maximise the opportunity to raise our profile nationally as well as locally. Nationally, we will work towards signposting media attention to **Wednesday 2nd June 2021**.

U3A Day, 2nd June 2021, is set to celebrate the new experiences that come from being in your third age (no longer in full-time employment or bringing up children.) The annual event, which will take place in Volunteer Week on the first Wednesday in June, will show the amazing and diverse things that our members get up to and challenge preconceptions of what being an older adult means. The 2021 event will be enhanced by the multitude of projects, activities, outcomes and new approaches to communication that have emerged as a consequence of the 2020 Pandemic Lockdown period.

THIRD AGE TRUST WEBSITE

A New Section in the Advice Centre

U3A continues to follow Government and NHS guidance with the latest advice being sent to committees on 03 June 2020. You can see the guidance and a link to our new training video for Trustee Inductions [here](#).

A zoom meeting discussion takes place on Monday 29 June 11:00-12:45. To join this please ensure you have watched the video first. To register please email: NoVolunteer@u3a.org.uk

We have created a [new category in the advice area](#) called **Running your U3A during Covid-19**. This new area pulls together the advice which is specific to U3As during the pandemic including advice on AGMS, insurance and risk assessments for outside and remote activities.

You will need to use your member login as you would normally do for any information in your [U3A dedicated advice area](#).

