

# NEWSBITES!

June 2021

Sharing ideas across 34 u3as in Nottinghamshire



June brings tulips, lilies, roses,  
Fills the children's hands with posies



**The deadline for articles and  
photographs for the next issue  
of Newsbites! is 15th July**

Any u3a member can send in items,  
not just committee members.

Please submit your articles using  
font Arial 10pt if possible

Articles/photos please to  
[jane.newsbits@gmail.com](mailto:jane.newsbits@gmail.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF NOTTS NETWORK

Well, u3a Day has been and gone and, for those of you who chose to celebrate on June 2<sup>nd</sup> or thereabouts, you can breathe a sigh of relief that all is over and your life is yours once again to do with as you wish. I do hope your activities went well and you feel the effort was worth it.

We have another **Network meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July via Zoom** and I am wondering whether there are any topics that you would like to have discussed? If so, please contact me and we can put it on the agenda.

It is disappointing that we will not be able to open up quite as quickly as we had hoped but there are still ways that we can keep Interest Groups going, especially over the warmer summer months. Let us all work together to Learn, Laugh and Live.

*Rosie Allen*

## u3a IS ALIVE AND WELL IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

### RET福德 u3a

Are there any budding cosmologists in Nottinghamshire u3as? Retford u3a has a well established Cosmology Group which sadly is going to cease due to the current Group Leader retiring. If there is another Cosmology Group in the county, would you feel able to join with ours, maybe on Zoom, if not local enough to meet.

If this might be your group then please contact John Kelly or Brenda Wilson Email - [brendawilson16@outlook.com](mailto:brendawilson16@outlook.com)

Look forward to hearing from you.

*Brenda Wilson Groups Coordinator Retford U3A.*

## CARLTON & GEDLING u3a

### Enrich your interest group offer – without cost or effort!

Sounds too good to be true?...*Read on...* We are over 30 u3as in Nottinghamshire. If just half of us volunteered an interest group which could be shared with other Notts u3as, we would all have 15 new groups to which we could invite our existing members *and* which we could advertise on our websites as part of our **enriched offer to potential new members**.

In Carlton and Gedling u3a, we'd like to kick the process off by offering to share two groups:

- \* Film study group (meets once a month)
- \* Opera study group (meets twice a month)

Both of these groups will continue to meet online, whatever happens to social distancing etc. Because we're online, it doesn't matter if we have 4, 14, or 114 members in each group. Details of both groups are available on our Beacon website. The link is here: <https://u3abeacon.org.uk/u3agroups.php?u3a=17&sc=LJVD&hdr=0>

To remove barriers to participation, *there will be no affiliation fee to pay*. If any of your members want to join they need to email me ([pkmartinez14@gmail.com](mailto:pkmartinez14@gmail.com)) and off we go!

NB If your u3a would like to take part, I would *strongly encourage* you to do two things:

- Advertise either or both of these groups on your website in order to **enrich your offer to potential new members**, as well as inviting your existing members
- See if any of your interest group leaders/convenors/facilitators would like to include their interest group in this initiative and if they do, **share it with other Notts u3as as I am doing**.

If you need any more information or have any questions about this initiative, please email me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Paul Martinez, Carlton and Gedling u3a

## HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a

David Rose has sent this item. It is an article that was published in the Nottingham Post and on the front page of the local paper, Hucknall Dispatch. David said he is not in the photograph as he is the one who took it. The Easy Wheelers also did a u3a Day ride on 2 June.

### Hucknall u3a members join thousands on World's Biggest Bike Ride

Eleven members of Hucknall and District u3a joined thousands of people all across the UK taking part in the World's Biggest Bike Ride event on 30 May.

Hucknall and District u3a has a thriving cycling group that has planned rides every Wednesday and most weekends and members took the chance to enjoy and celebrate the simple pleasure of riding a bike.

The event was part of Bike Week 2021, which runs until June 5.

David Rose, Hucknall & District u3a chairman, said: "We covered 44 miles on a circular route from Hucknall which included Calverton, Epperstone, Gunthorpe, Colwick, Trent Bridge, Basford and Bulwell.

"The theme of Bike Week 2021 is health and wellbeing and at Hucknall u3a we believe that cycling remains a great way to keep fit and active into our third age of retirement from full-time work."

New members are always welcome.



# 2022 Chinese New Year Celebration

## At

### Springwater Cantonese Restaurant

7pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear u3a members

In February 2020 I organised a Chinese New Year Celebration event at the Springwater Cantonese Restaurant on behalf of Notts Network of u3as. It was attended by almost 150 members from eight individual u3as.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to repeat the event this year due to COVID restrictions. However, I now have good news. Barring any unforeseen problems, the event will be held for Chinese New Year 2022.

The cost will be £5.00 deposit to be paid before the end of October, with the Balance of £15.50 to be paid by the end of the second week in January.

As before, the meal will be an eat-all-you-can Chinese Banquet style meal, and there will be a firework display and an exhibition of traditional Dragon dancing.

Last year one person from each participating u3a volunteered to collect the names and monies to pass over to me, which worked well. I would appreciate numbers from each participating u3a as soon as possible in case I need to book further seats. I currently have 150 seats reserved.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you on the night.

Regards

Terry Hardman – Network Treasurer

Tel - 07753 804 706

E-mail - [terr\\_har@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:terr_har@yahoo.co.uk)



## RET福德 u3a



The committee wanted to reach as many people of the town and local area as possible. We planned to have a stall on one of the market days and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June was selected, just one day after the national u3a day and we were fortunate to have lovely weather on the day too.

There were two aims for the day

- To be available for members to renew their membership that had lapsed due to Covid restrictions, and to provide information about current plans for resuming meetings and groups. Many of those members had a lack of access / interest in using the internet. They were contacted by phone in advance.
- To engage the public and to inform them about the Retford u3a and invite them to join.

Not only did we have a stand provided at no cost by the Bassetlaw council, but two members went into the pedestrianised area of the town to hand out leaflets and free bags, made previously for the cancelled event, by the patchwork group. All these beautifully made bags were gratefully received by the public. Each had a stitched label saying they were made by the patchwork group of Retford u3a.

On the display stand more bags were available to be handed out, with up-to-date leaflets about the group, stand up banners and examples of some of the craft work. Committee members were assigned different roles to ensure that all aspects of the day were considered before, during and afterwards to make it a great success. It was lovely to meet old friends again after more than a year of Zoom meetings. There was a lot of news to catch up on.

The outcome was that several renewals were made, and quite a few possible new members were recruited who went away with application forms. Hopefully payments will be received.

We thought it was a positive experience that could become an annual event.

*Pippa Ramsay, Secretary*

## MANSFIELD u3a

We held our u3a Day event on Wednesday 2 June 2021 at St Philip Neri Church Hall, Chesterfield Road, Mansfield.

Councillor Stephen Garner and his wife Karen came to open the proceedings. We used our grant from the The Third Age Trust to purchase new banners, leaflets and sashes. Loads of balloons were put up and we made bunting, so people couldn't miss us.

Twelve people signed up on the day and since then several more enquiries have been received, so the day resulted in a very positive response.

The event was publicised on the local radio and in newspapers.

*Carole Harrison, Secretary*



## ARNOLD u3a

We held a very enjoyable day on June 2<sup>nd</sup> which was the culmination of a great deal of hard work.

We were pleased to be given free use of two market stalls on Eagle Square. At the other end of the pedestrianised street is the Methodist Church where we usually (in non-covid times) hold our monthly meetings. Here we hired a large room with doors leading directly on to the pedestrianised street. The "ceremonial" part of the day was when the dignitaries: Mayor and Mayoress, Local MP and former MP met up at the market stalls and then processed, along with our u3a Chair and Vice Chair, to the Church. The mayor then cut the ribbon and they entered to view an array of boards displaying our Interest Groups.

There were a large number of u3a member helpers manning the stalls, showing a loop of visuals and generally making their presence felt dressed in yellow and blue to the bemusement of Arnold residents. In the end, we did recruit some new members and a number of others left their contact details but probably the most significant aspect of the day was that it gave an opportunity for our members to get together with their friends most of whom we had not seen for over a year.

All in all, a day to be remembered and a chance to laugh again.

*Rosie Allen*



Market Stall



The Opening Ceremony

## RAVENSHEAD u3A

We had a great u3a Day in Ravenshead. Over 200 visitors through the gates (a total of 257 including volunteers). We registered our event with Track and Trace and were completely Covid secure. And the weather was absolutely perfect with brilliant sunshine all day. All members and visitors received a special edition magazine which was put together to celebrate the day and promote the u3a movement.

The Mayor and his wife came along and a few other VIPs including our Regional Trustee, Jean Hogg, who wrote on our Facebook page "Brilliant event. Thanks for making me so welcome. Definitely a highlight of my time as Trustee!"

We had a display marquee where our interest groups showcased their activities, a refreshment marquee where we offered free drinks and biscuits, and a music marquee for our live dance band. Then there was a designated performance area where our Guitar Group and our Folk and Country Dancing Group performed throughout the day. All day we experienced a fete-like atmosphere and I don't think I am exaggerating when I say a good time was had by all.

Inside the Hall our publicity officer John Butler set up a studio where he was able to interview several people and he will post these to our media platforms. Unfortunately, it was not possible to live stream on the day because there was a broadband issue which was out of our control!

The Trust sent a professional photographer who stayed with us all day taking photos.

Two media and TV students from our local college came along and acted as Ru3a volunteers for the day. They enjoyed themselves and were grateful for the opportunity to learn in a real live event.

We could not have had such a successful day had it not been for the hard work put in by our large group of member volunteers

*Maria Gabrielczyk*



The Mayor and his wife with Maria Gabrielczyk



Members of the Guitar Group



Ladies posing for a photograph