

NEWSBITES!

September 2021

Sharing ideas across 34 u3as in Nottinghamshire

**Warm September brings the fruit
Sportsmen then begin to shoot**



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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF NOTTS NETWORK

It feels a bit like the start of a new year, this September. Interest Groups are re-emerging from summer breaks or online activity. The groups I am involved with are meeting face-to-face and the numbers are back to those pre-pandemic.

For some u3as there are still difficulties regarding setting up main meetings due to venue restrictions. For this reason, we have decided to use **zoom for our next Notts Network meeting on the 20th October at 10am**. This meeting will include our AGM and there will be two topics for discussion:

- How to help new members of Interest Groups and of u3as feel welcome.
- Development of the Network: what would you like to see included in our programme?

I hope you will all join us for this meeting to help the Network go from strength to strength.

The Third Age Trust AGM was held on the 26th August and appointments made were: Liz Thackray as Chair, Michaela Moody as Vice Chair and Derek Harwood as Treasurer.

Be Involved in the Future of the Third Age Trust

The Third Age Trust is launching a consultation to give all u3a members an opportunity to feed into the strategy for the future of the u3a movement. Find out how to get involved, and see the Vision for the Future presentation from the 2021 AGM, by copying the link into your browser.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/edocman/working-towards-a-strategic-vision?Itemid=0>

Rosie Allen

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

“If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.”

– Henry Ford

NEWS FROM THE u3as IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

MAPPERLEY & DISTRICT U3A

Mapperley & District had a wonderful Social Gathering on 26 August (making it difficult for us to be represented at the Third Age Trust AGM). Over 70 people came through the doors that morning and four new people have since joined our u3a. We had some poetry reading followed by a hastily assembled and little-rehearsed live band, aptly named ShaFuddyDuddy. Light refreshments were bought in from a local supermarket and the usual hot drinks were enjoyed. It was great to hear the happy chatter and laughter as members gathered for their first general meeting in 18 months.

We used this event as a testing ground to see if the hybrid meetings can work for us and they do. We have several members who are unable to leave their homes for numerous reasons and are delighted to be able to join us via Zoom. Most of our groups are meeting in person but some, such as photography, have decided it is easier to use the computer.

Carolyn Luckhurst, Chair

DUKERIES u3a

The weather was kind for the Dukeries u3a Summer Garden Party in August, which was held in the garden at Jubilee Hall, Ollerton. It was good to see friends again instead of 'virtually', to enjoy conversation and a quiz, a picnic and a share of delicious chocolate cake.

Dukeries u3a was featured on the local radio station, Bowe Radio, on August Bank Holiday Monday when they interviewed our chairperson, Leslye. She was able to tell listeners about u3a activities and the special u3a Day held on 11 September at Jubilee Hall, Ollerton.

On this special day existing and prospective members, local community leaders and members of the public were invited from 10.30 to 2.00 to come and see the varied programme of intellectual, recreational and social activities that we offer. During the morning Dukeries u3a members John and Hazel led a heritage walk around Ollerton which highlighted the hidden history of many of the buildings in the village. Many visitors came to see us and we were pleased to enrol 17 new members. The day was completed in the evening with a ploughman's supper and a quiz where u3a members challenged teams drawn from the community.



Indoor activity groups have started to meet once more with Photography, Gardening, Bridge, Mah Jong, Tuesday and Sunday lunch clubs, Rummikubs, Uke 'n' Sing, Watercolour painting, Cinema club and Scrabble. Sewing, Wine and Creative Writing groups are to start soon. The Bowling group continues to progress and hope to carry on playing indoors in the winter months. The Ramblers enjoyed two walks in August. The first was a six mile flat walk around Orston and surrounding villages in south Nottinghamshire, finishing with a well-deserved drink at the Durham Ox pub in Orston. The next walk took the Ramblers for a second visit to Portland Estates near Kirkby-in-Ashfield for a walk of approximately seven and a half miles. The group had previously walked the northern part of this estate, so this walk circled through the southern part passing over the M1 and back into the estate. The Whatsapp Walking Group continued for those who wish to walk with company for a couple of miles in the local area.

The September members' meeting was the first one 'in person' since the lockdowns began, and we were delighted to see returning folk duo 'Fool's Gold' who entertained us with their Old King Coal presentation featuring songs from down the mines. October's speaker will be Philip Caine who will be telling Dukeries u3a of his fascinating career 'From Barrow to Baghdad and Back'. Philip spent 40 years in the oil industry in places such as the North Sea, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Russia, Iraq and Dubai. After retiring, he now travels the country giving talks and also writes adventure thrillers.

Ann Street, Publicity Officer

BINGHAM u3a

This is a Press Release sent by John Lewis, Chair at Bingham, to several local publications.

WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS!

Here's an overview of our activities since June and planned for the rest of the year:

- ◇ Our outdoor activities such as walking, ambling, petanque and croquet are fully active
- ◇ Indoor activities including Movement and Mobility, Gentle Exercise, foreign language conversation, Music Appreciation and Real Ale and Cider Appreciation are up and running
- ◇ The Have-a-Go group has a variety of exciting and sometimes challenging activities and visits planned
- ◇ Explorers have arranged a series of visits commencing with one on the 28th September to Taylor's Bell Foundry in Loughborough
- ◇ Celebrations of our 21st birthday in October have included a cruise on the river Trent on the 10th September aboard the Nottingham Princess, and on the 15th September we were able to welcome members to a traditional speaker meeting, when the Arletty Theatre presented the Quilt of Stories.
- ◇ This year's AGM on the 20th October will be hybrid, followed by an opportunity for members and group leaders to relax and chat, with refreshments, music, a raffle and a mystery attraction

FIND OUT MORE

- For more information about Bingham u3a, visit our website and read our newsletter or view our Facebook page
- If you're interested in joining Bingham u3a, please telephone Karen on 01949 875406 or e-mail her at bingham.u3a.membership@gmail.com



HUCKNALL & DISTRICT u3a

We held an Open Day August 22nd to coordinate with The John Godber Centre (Parish Church Hall) Open Day.

Appropriately the John Godber Centre is now the home of our monthly meeting as we are unable to continue at the Hucknall Leisure Centre due to their internal layout changes following major building restructuring.

The event was timed to coincide with the first Ashfield

Food and Drink Festival in the town centre which helped to draw in more visitors especially later in the afternoon.

The photos show the display created by our volunteers that drew the attention of visitors who were prompted to engage in conversations with us about the u3a. We were able to answer their questions about the opportunities on offer and they were provided with some information to take away about membership.



We had nine new members at our first live monthly meeting on September 9th and as interest groups are starting to get back to face to face meetings we feel it is an appropriate time to try to recruit new members.

David Rose, Chair



RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT u3a

We decided to highlight the work of the u3a movement and of Radcliffe-on-Trent u3a on Saturday September 11. There were a lot of people in the village, attracted initially by the Farmers' Market and there was soon a buzz of people around the stall, erected on the main road and manned by members of the committee.

There were many members representing our wide range of activities in various places in the village. There was jive, Scottish dancing and keep fit going on in the grounds of Grange Hall. The Boys Brigade Hall housed group leaders from wine tasting, book club, knit and natter, outings, art and many more.

The motor bike group added a certain style in their leathers and committee members walked round the village accosting members of the public and successfully signing up some 15 people on the day. We were lucky with the weather, and felt that it was a very useful event to encourage more people to participate in our u3a.

Next year we will be celebrating our tenth anniversary with a 'Party in the Park'.

Penny Tytler, Publicity Officer



EDWALTON, GAMSTON & DISTRICT u3a

As mentioned in the August Newsbites, the last of our Multi-disciplinary projects on the subject of Colours has now been prepared and will be sent out to you in two separate parts at the same time as this Newsbites. We hope that you have enjoyed them and perhaps been inspired to do a similar project.

George Golledge

EDWALTON, GAMSTON & DISTRICT u3a

Edwalton and Gamston U3A restarted officially with their 2021 AGM on the 9th of September. Fifty-two people attended it was so good to see everybody there, face-to-face for the first time officially and having the choice to wear a 😊. Such a relief to be able to be heard clearly.

After the official AGM business, including thanking the three retiring Committee members and welcoming the new ones officially, it was the turn of our Invited Speaker, Caroline (Cal) Warren who gave us a wonderfully interesting presentation of the £6 million Renovation of Nottingham Castle.

Cal was employed as Project Manager after the first lottery bid failed. With her application experience Cal put together a strong bid by outlining all the benefits this would bring to the area locally, nationally and globally. The new bid was rewarded with a £9 million award. Then the other money needed was raised in various ways – grants, money raising events and donations.

The outcome after weeks, months and years of tireless work is a fantastic local attraction. It incorporates a Medieval experience with the use of up-to-date technology and covers the Castle across the ages, with local Industries eg Crafts, Lace Making (which includes lace clothing) Breweries, Raleigh bicycles and Pharmaceuticals. Practical displays are accompanied by virtual videos within different time settings giving the feeling of being there yourself. Brilliant for all generations. The landscaping has been superbly adapted and also includes many fun children-centred features. There is a very strong feeling of the allure of the Robin Hood background, well-known to global audiences through books, films and hearsay, creating a strong tourist attraction.

A truly excellent talk and presentation, much enjoyed by those present and thoroughly recommended to other u3as.

Isabel Martindale, Co-chair

NEWS FROM THE PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Chairs' Peer Support Group (PSG)

This group has met twice within the past month and discussed the following topics:

How to increase attendance by younger members at monthly meetings

This does seem to be an issue for all u3as and the general feeling is that it requires us to take a long hard look at the way we recruit and the format and content of the meetings. We all consider that this is an important matter for us to consider because it is the younger members who will provide the committee members and Interest Group Convenors of the future. We wonder whether there might be a place for the Notts Network to re-search this matter?

Anyone interested in being part of a group following this up?

Recruiting new Committee members

Again, this topic was a key issue for us all and as the above indicates one reason is perhaps the ageing nature of the membership, many of whom have already given their time to support the u3a.

Restarting monthly and Interest Group meetings

u3as are making it happen with face-to-face meetings at last! The majority of u3as have actually held a meeting or have planned to do so. A few are organising hybrid meetings. The two we know about are Ravenshead and Beeston. I'm sure they won't mind if you contact them to ask about their experience.

The Chairs' PSG is open to all u3as in the Network so do contact me if you would like to join us at our next meeting on 9th November at 5pm using zoom.

Rosie Allen

