

# NEWSBITES!

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

*Sharing ideas across 34 u3as in Nottinghamshire*

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NETWORK**

I have just been out for a walk and enjoyed the brilliant sunshine and warmth on my back. Down south they are having heavy rainfall. We have in our thoughts the people of Pakistan with their terrible floods.

Nearer home, so many conflicting thoughts as we contemplate the long life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II. My thoughts though are of how she embodied what we are all trying to emulate within the u3a, namely activity and a passion for learning and an openness to the new.

This is such a busy time for our u3as and for the Nottinghamshire Network. u3a week this year is 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September and events will be full on throughout the county. The u3as who have contacted us to tell us of their decisions on whether they will go ahead are unanimous – each one is doing so. In all cases the 19<sup>th</sup> is being left free and a few rearrangements are taking place to allow for that.

Our final event on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Highfields is also all systems go and the arrangements are falling into place. We are looking forward to hearing Worksop u3a's steel band and then watching the many individuals who have been learning the routine for the Flash Mob. Come along from around midday and bring a picnic.

Please don't be put off by the venue. It is very easy to get to and well served by public transport with the tram stopping really close to the area we will be in.

Our next Nottinghamshire Network meeting is 26<sup>th</sup> October in person at St Peter's Church Hall, Ravenshead. This includes our AGM and there are vacancies for Chair, Vice Chair and Support Officer. I will be sending out the papers for the meeting in the next week or so and they will include nomination papers for these positions or as a general council member. Please consider carefully what you can give back to the Network, which is in such a positive place at present. Long may that continue but we do need the people to continue to make it happen.

*Rosie Allen*

## **LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE**

### **QUOTE FOR THE MONTH**

"We are all adult learners. Most of us have learned a good deal more out of school than in it. We have learned from our families, our work, our friends. We have learned from problems resolved and tasks achieved but also from mistakes confronted and illusions unmasked. . . . Some of what we have learned is trivial: some has changed our lives forever."

—Laurent A. Daloz

# Nottinghamshire u3a Network

## Saturday 24 September 2022

### u3a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

**We are now delighted to announce the details for this day**

**Place** Highfields Park, University Boulevard, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2RD

**Travel** By car, free parking on Saturdays all around the university.  
Tram stop – Highfields Park (park cars at Hucknall or The Forest and use your bus passes for a free ride!)

**What to wear** Blue, Yellow and White – bright, bold colours, name badges

**1200 hours** Setting up tables and banners, signs  
Bring fold up chairs, blankets, food and drink and get your place!  
Be prepared for the weather.  
Suggest flat shoes for both grass and concrete surfaces

**1300 hours** Worksop u3a Steel Band

**1330 hours** Welcome from the Lord Mayor of Nottingham  
Beacons from three routes in the county arrive  
Speeches

**Followed by** **FLASH MOB!**

**1430 hours** Worksop Steel Band (maybe dancing)

**15.00 hours** Clear away

There is also a children's play area, Arts Centre, café and toilets.

Everyone is welcome! Mingle with other u3a members. Relax and chat.

Bring cameras and snap away for us! Let's make a video or picture show of the day

Please offer lifts and car share with those who are not familiar with city driving.

**It's going to be a day when u3a members take over and have some fun.  
Hope you can join us!**

**Learn Laugh Live**

## u3a AND ME

My motivation for joining u3a was to make new friends and to learn new skills. I am finding it to be an enjoyable experience and enjoy sharing with others what I have been up to. It's been great to join the lunch group and I'm really looking forward to joining the book club.

*Yvonne Wilson*

I joined u3a in 2008. The first one I joined was Hucknall, but having moved home I gave up my membership there and joined Arnold and also Calverton. My initial reason for joining was to give myself a break a couple of times in a month when I was looking after my elderly mother. Now, the u3a movement has given me friendship and has encouraged me to take on several roles within the u3a movement nationally.

*Jane Pavier*

## NEWS FROM u3a OFFICE

### EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Two events connected with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion have been planned which are open to all u3a members, not just those on the committees.

**Thursday 20th October 10.30-11.30. A coffee morning** giving everyone an opportunity to share experiences, raise awareness and help us all to increase our knowledge and understanding.

**Thursday 24th October 10.00-12.30.** An Introduction to Awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion in your u3a.

You can book a place on one or both of these events on the u3a website on the section Support for u3as/Workshops.

### NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

If you are a committee member, thinking of becoming a committee member now or in the future, there are a number of workshops you can book for. These workshops cover a variety of subjects, and can be booked through the u3a website on the section Support for u3as/Workshops.

## NEWS FROM u3as IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

### CARLTON, GEDLING & DISTRICT u3a

#### Notts Film and Opera Groups for YOU

Both groups **meet on Zoom** to discuss films and operas which group members have watched on their TV or on YouTube. The groups meet monthly and are hosted by Carlton and Gedling u3a. To join, you need to be a member of a u3a in Nottingham or Nottinghamshire. You don't have to be a member of Carlton and Gedling u3a. Both groups have a mix of pretty experienced members, beginners and those at all stages in between.

**FILM  
CLUB**



To join either group, email Paul Martinez ([pkmartinez14@gmail.com](mailto:pkmartinez14@gmail.com)) for **Opera** and Sue Warren ([sue.warren2011@gmail.com](mailto:sue.warren2011@gmail.com)) for **Film**. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Paul Martinez and Sue Warren, Carlton and Gedling u3a*

## ASHFIELD u3a

Ashfield u3a and Sutton-in-Ashfield u3a joined forces to attend Ashfield Day, which was held at The Lawns Pleasure Gardens in Sutton-in-Ashfield on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The aim was to promote the u3a as part of the u3a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and hopefully recruit new members. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day, which encouraged hundreds of people to attend the event and enjoy the live entertainment, outdoor cinema, dog show, children's activities, fun fair, food outlets, craft and community stalls, to name some of the attractions on offer throughout the day.



Volunteer teams from both u3as worked hard to spread the word and encourage new members to come along to a meeting to see for themselves how enjoyable being part of the u3a is. It was great taking part in such a large good-humoured community event which lasted from 12 noon to 8pm. Ashfield District Council has pledged to make it a bigger and even better (if that is possible) event next year and hopefully we will be able to be there again to represent the u3a and encourage new people to Learn, Laugh and Live. Many thanks to everyone who organised and decorated the u3a stall and took time out of their day to help promote the u3a in the Ashfield area. It was a very positive and successful day.

Despite the recent heatwave a group of Weekenders organised a day trip to Eyam, the plague village in Derbyshire. After a lovely lunch at the Eyam tea rooms they explored the village and a nice day out was enjoyed by all.

Ashfield u3a members are gearing up to get back into our u3a programme again now that the main holiday season is over. As well as our popular interest groups, a lot of trips and outings are

being planned for the rest of the year. Our social committee has arranged a Caribbean night complete with Steel Band and Caribbean Buffet to take place in October. Members are being encouraged to dress 'Caribbean' style for the event. I am sure this will prove to be a very popular social night and tickets will sell very fast.

*Val Scott, Ashfield Network Representative*



## DUKERIES u3a

We are one of the smaller u3a groups in Nottinghamshire and now have over 140 members drawn from Ollerton, Edwinstowe and the surrounding villages.

The Dukeries u3a Ramblers recently completed an eight-mile walk along the Cromford Canal in Derbyshire and a six-and-a-half mile round trip around Orston in Nottinghamshire. Meanwhile the Whatsapp Walkers enjoyed shorter circular walks around Farnsfield and Blidworth Woods.



The Sunday and Tuesday lunch clubs appreciated lovely meals at Bella Vita in Ollerton and Rufford Golf Club.

October's speaker will be David Sweeney on 'Every Body Tells a Story'. David will share stories of his police career as a Forensic Detective using forensic science in crime detection. This is not an illustrated talk - we are assured it will not be gory! In November, members will learn more from Katherine Wright about their nominated charity, the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance.

Our groups have recently extended to include History, Sewing and Soft Tennis. What's Soft Tennis? Well, it's a gentle version of tennis where the aim is to keep the rallies going, not to stop your opponent hitting the ball. Owing to popular demand, from October there will be a second session of scrabble at Ambleside Centre, New Ollerton. Plans are also being made to start a Christmas handicraft group. After our successful 'indoor' garden party we are organising more special events and trips, the first of which is a visit arranged by our new History group to the National Holocaust Museum, Laxton.

Our membership continues to grow steadily, and we have been fortunate to welcome three new members on to our committee.

*Ann Street, Publicity Officer*



## CHINESE NEW YEAR



Terry Hardman is once again organising a Chinese New Year event for Nottinghamshire Network u3as at the Springwater Cantonese Restaurant in Calverton . It will take place on **Monday 23 January 2023** (6.30 for 7.00pm). The cost will be £25.00, £5.00 to be paid by end of October and £20.00 to be paid by 31 December.

Last year one person from each participating u3a volunteered to collect the names and monies to pass over to Terry, which worked well. He would appreciate numbers from each participating u3a as soon as possible in case he needs to book further seats, as currently 250 seats have been reserved.

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

At the last event 226 members attended, representing 11 out of 33 u3as in the Network.

## EDWALTON, GAMSTON & DISTRICT u3a

Edwalton, Gamston and District u3a held their AGM on 8th September. There were over 70 people who attended and the event included displays from many of the Subject Groups. Due to the retirement of several committee members a new committee was elected; the new officers are: Chair - Neil Gibbons; Vice-chair - Martin Holden; Treasurer - Mike Brandt; Secretary - Sue Bryant.

*Neil Gibbons, Chair*

## MANSFIELD & DISTRICT u3a

Mansfield & District u3a would like to extend their condolences to the Royal family on the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. She will be sadly missed, as most of us have never had another monarch reign over us during our lifetimes. We would also like to wish Charles III a successful reign.

At our Garden Group Meeting on Tuesday 6 September, we had an excellent talk by Karen Gimson on 365 Days of Colour. We were shown groupings of plants and bulbs, many being new breeds, to provide colour throughout the year. After the meeting the speaker kindly sent us a list of the plants/bulbs and where to buy them.



Also on Tuesday 6 September the Pathfinders Walking Group had a lovely walk round Gunthorpe, Caythorpe and Hoveringham, beginning alongside the river Trent. The walk was enjoyed by all, as was the walk on the 21 September on the Ravenshead/Fountain Dale/Blidworth Circular walk. The Solo Diners Group had a lovely meal at the Old Reindeer, Edingley, which they really enjoyed.



We are holding an event to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the u3a movement on Wednesday 21 September, when we are having a stall in the Four Seasons shopping centre to promote our u3a.



The Beading Group have had much success in producing their beaded purses.

*Carole Harrison, Business Secretary*

I only drink wine three days a week. Yesterday, today and tomorrow.

I am holding a glass of wine, so yes, I am busy.

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

**15th OCTOBER 2022**

**The Editor needs your help, please, to make this Newsbites an interesting read for all the Network Members.**

Your u3a has a history, or maybe has a special anniversary to celebrate this year—tell us about it.

Tell us why you joined the u3a, what you have been involved with and what u3a means to you.

**This is your Newsletter, so please let's hear from you.**

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

**When you send in items, please send them to the Newsbites email address and not to the County Contact, otherwise they could be delayed or missed out.**

Please forward items for for the next issue of Newsbites to [jane.newsbits@gmail.com](mailto:jane.newsbits@gmail.com) by 15th October