



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A)
IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**



Introduction

The Nottinghamshire Network of U3As is a federation of U3As that have joined together to support each other in the promotion of informal learning and the cultural and social development of their members. The inaugural meeting was held in January 2009.

The U3A is an amazing organisation. The word 'university' in this context is used in its original sense of people coming together to learn. In the UK it has been running since 1982 but is part of an international organisation begun in France in the 1970s. Membership is increasing rapidly, as is the number of U3As. The U3A is a self-help organisation offering people no longer in fulltime employment the opportunity of lifelong learning within a friendly and sociable framework. Each U3A acts autonomously but is affiliated to the Third Age Trust that is the national representative body providing a wide range of services to the U3As.

What do U3As do?

Within each U3A is a selection of Interest Groups representing the interests of the members of that U3A. Many common interest groups exist in most U3As, while some unusual interest groups exist in just a few. This illustrates the individual nature of each U3A.

Interest groups are self-managed and self-funded. They draw upon the knowledge, skills and experience of their members to prepare and deliver a programme of 'work' to their members. The range of interests is very wide: art and music, both practical and appreciation, foreign languages, literature and poetry, creative writing, science and technology, history, both local and national, gardening, walking, computing, craft, card and board games, cycling, dancing of all sorts, bowling and genealogy to name but some.

These activities take place in an informal, supportive and social atmosphere where learning is undertaken for its own sake, without constraints of syllabus and examination.

What does the Network do?

The Nottinghamshire U3A Network was established to enable cooperation between U3As and the provision of support across the county and also to enable the launch of new U3As. Since it began in 2009 three new U3As have been started and more are planned. There have also been workshops held for committee members to learn from one another's experience and expertise and another to establish a group of mentors who are available to work with officers in new U3As and anyone else in need of support.

The Network sends two representatives to the Regional Representative Council for the East Midlands that provides a link between the counties. Liz Wilson represents the Region as Trustee for the Third Age Trust. There is also a North Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Group that organises joint social events between participating U3As.

Contact Us

Further information on the network can be obtained from the Notts U3A Network website: <http://www.nottsu3anetwork.org>, or by contacting one of the officers:

Chair: Liz Wilson (01623 640835)
Secretary: Hilary Lucas (0115 914 5717)
Treasurer: Denis Kitt (01159 232895)

U3A in Nottinghamshire

There are currently 18 U3As in the county, listed in the table below:

U3A	Interest Groups	Monthly Meeting			Website
		Week	Day		
Arnold	21	1	Tue	pm	
Ashfield (Kirkby-in)	41	4	Thu	10.00am	http://www.ashfieldu3a.org.uk/
Beeston	27	1	Thu	10.30am	http://beestonu3a.org.uk/
Bingham	19	3	Wed	2.00pm	http://www.u3a.org.uk/component/content/article/79/627-bingham-u3a.html
Burton Joyce	34	2	Tue	1.45pm	http://www.bju3a.co.uk/
Dukeries	24	3	Mon	1.30pm	http://www.dukeriesu3a.org.uk/
Hucknall	36	2	Wed	1.30pm	http://www.hucknallu3a.org.uk/
Keyworth	35	4	Tue	2.30pm	http://www.keyworthu3a.org.uk/
Mansfield	31	3	Tue	10.00am	http://www.mansfield-u3a.org.uk/
Newark	30	2	Thu	2.00pm	http://newark-u3a.org.uk/
Nottingham	32	2 / 4	Mon	1.15pm	http://www.nottu3a.co.uk/
Ravenshead	26	2	Tues	10.00am	http://u3asites.org.uk/ravenshead
Retford	36	4	Thu	1.30pm	http://www.retford-u3a.org.uk/
Sherwood	29	2	Thu	9.45am	http://www.sherwoodu3a-mansfieldwoodhouse.org.uk/
Southwell	70	1	Tue	10.00am	http://www.southwellu3a.co.uk/
Sutton-in-Ashfield	17	2	Thu	10.00am	http://www.sutton-in-ashfieldu3a.org.uk/
Vale of Belvoir					
West Bridgford	46	4	Thu	2.00pm	http://www.westbridgfordu3a.org.uk/
Worksop	26	3	Thu	2.00pm	http://u3asites.org.uk/worksop
Total	580				

In the above table the Interest Groups are a count of the interest groups as listed on the U3A websites January 2012. Interest groups listed but awaiting a leader to start them have not been included.

Most U3As are active participants in the Notts U3A Network organisation.

The U3As normally hold an open meeting once a month with a speaker on a topic of general interest to the membership. U3A open meetings are open to the members of that U3A (i.e. not the general public!)

The locations where the open meetings are held are shown in **Appendix 1**.

There are over 130 different interest group topics available over the county. An alphabetical list is shown in **Appendix 2**.

A classified list of the interest group topics is shown in **Appendix 3**.

To find out which U3As have which interest groups go to the 'About Us' section of the Nottinghamshire U3A Network website. <http://www.nottsu3anetwork.org>. This website has other more detailed information on network activities.

Appendix 1

Location of the open meetings:

Arnold U3A

Meets at the Methodist Church, 54 Front St., Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 7EL.

Ashfield (Kirkby-in) U3A

Meets at The Ashwood Centre, Portland St., Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottingham NG17 7AB

Beeston U3A

Meets at the Methodist Church, Chilwell Rd, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1EH

Bingham U3A

Meets at the Methodist Hall, Union St., Bingham, NG13 8AD

Burton Joyce U3A

Meets at Burton Joyce Village Hall, Trent Ln., Burton Joyce, Nottingham, NG14 5EY

Dukeries U3A

Meets at the Jubilee Hall, Wellow Rd, New Ollerton, NG22 9BB

Hucknall and District U3A

Meets at the Methodist Church, Baker St, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, NG15 7AS

Keyworth & District U3A

Meets at the Methodist Church, Selby Ln, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5AH

Mansfield and District U3A

Meets at The Oakham Suite, 155 Nottingham Road, Mansfield NG18 4AE

Newark U3A

Meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Eton Av, Hawtonville, Newark, NG24 4JD

Nottingham U3A

Meets at the International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd Nottingham NG1 3FN

Ravenshead U3A

Meets at The Village Hall, Vernon Crescent, Ravenshead, Nottingham, NG15 9BN

Retford U3A

Meets at The Well, Baptist Church, Hospital Rd, Retford, DN22 7BD

Sherwood U3A

Meets at The Turner Memorial Hall, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts, NG19 9YJ

Southwell U3A

Meets at Southwell Leisure Centre, Nottingham Rd, Southwell, Notts, NG25 0LG

Sutton-in-Ashfield U3A

Meets at Mansfield Hosiery Mills Social Club, The Fieldings, Huthwaite Rd, Sutton-In-Ashfield, Notts, NG17 2ED

**Vale of Belvoir U3A**

Meets at the Village Hall, Belvoir Rd, Bottesford, Nottingham, NG13 0BG

West Bridgford U3A

Meets at the Baptist Church, Melton Rd, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7NF.

Worksop U3A

Meets at St. Anne's Church Hall, Harrington St off Newcastle Av, Worksop S80 1NQ

Appendix 2

Alphabetical list of interest group topics across the county:

Amateur Dramatics	Dancing General	Music Instruments
Angling	Digital Photography	Folk
Antiques	Discussion	Mixed
Archeology	Family History / Genealogy	Recorder
Architecture	Film / Cinema	Steel Band
Armchair Travel	Financial Investments	Swing
Art Appreciation	Financial Planning	Ukulele
Art Practical	French	National Parks
Drawing	Gardening	National Trust
Painting	Gardening - Cooperative	Navigation and Map Reading
Pastels	Gardening - Visits	Needlecraft
Portraiture	German	Philosophy
Watercolour Painting	Green Issues	Pilates
Ballroom Dancing	Heraldry	Play Reading
Bell Ringing	History	Poetry
Bird Watching	English Social	Pot Luck / Never Too Late
Board Games General	of Ideas	Psychology
Books / Reading / Literature	Local	Puddings
Bobbin Lace	Medieval	Quilting
Bowling	Natural	Railways
Bowls	World War 1	Rugby
Breakfast	Holidays	Rummikub
Bridge	Horticulture	Sailing
Cake Decorating	Humour	Science and Technology
Canasta	Italian	Scrabble
Caravanning	Kings Card Game	Shakespeare
Card Games	Latin	Singing
Chess	Line Dancing	Social events
Computing	Luncheon, Tea, Supper	Spanish
Beginners	Mah Jong	Spinning
Internet	Mathematics	Swimming
Workshops	Medicine, Diabetic Support	Table Tennis
Cookery General	Medicine and Social History	Tai Chi
Country Dancing	Meditation	Tap Dancing
Craft - Cards	Movement to Music / Mobility	Theatre Visits
Craft General	Music Appreciation	Vegetarian Cookery
Creative Writing	Classical	Visits / Travel
Cribbage	Concert Visits	Walking
Cricket	Jazz	Weekenders
Crochet / Knitting	Opera	Whist
Cycling	Popular	Wildlife and Nature
	20th Cent. Composers	Wine
		Woodcarving / Woodworking
		Yoga

Appendix 3

Classified list of interest group topics across the county:

Arts

Archaeology

Architecture

Art

- Appreciation
- Practical
 - Drawing
 - Painting
 - Pastels
 - Portraiture
 - Watercolour Painting

Cinema

History and Genealogy

- Family History
- Heraldry
- History
 - English Social
 - Ideas
 - Local
 - Medieval
 - Natural
 - World War 1

Literature

- Books / Reading
- Creative Writing
- Poetry

Miscellaneous

- Discussion
- Humour
- Philosophy
- Psychology

Music

- Bell Ringing
- Music Appreciation
 - Classical
 - Concert Visits
 - Jazz
 - Opera
 - Popular
- Musical Instruments
 - Folk
 - Mixed Instruments
 - Recorder
 - Steel Band
 - Swing
 - Ukulele
- Singing

Theatre

- Amateur Dramatics
- Play Reading
- Shakespeare
- Visits

Financial

Financial Investment

Financial Planning

Food and Drink

Cookery

- Cake Decorating
- Puddings
- Vegetarian

Dining

Drink

- Wine

Hobbies and Pastimes

Antiques

Board Games

- Chess
- Cribbage
- Mah Jong
- Rummikub
- Scrabble

Collectables

Cookery

Card Games

- General
- Bridge
- Canasta
- Kings
- Whist

Craft

- Textiles
 - Crochet
 - Lace
 - Knitting
 - Needlecraft
 - Spinning
- Non Textile
 - Cardcraft
 - Papercraft
 - Sugarcraft
 - Woodcraft

Gardening

- Cooperative
- Visits

Pot Luck

- Pot Luck
- Never Too Late

Languages

French

German

Italian

Latin

Spanish

Sciences

Computing

- Computer Beginners
- Digital Photography
- Internet

Horticulture

Mathematics

Medicine

- Diabetic Support
- Social History

Science and Technology

- Green Issues

Wildlife

- Bird Watching

Travel

Armchair

Holidays

Outings

- Caravanning
- National Parks
- National Trust
- Weekenders

Transport

- Navigation / Maps
- Railways

Social Events

Well Body

Indoor activity

- Exercise
 - Bowling (Ten Pin)
 - Bowls
 - Pilates
 - Relaxercise
 - Swimming
 - Table Tennis
 - Tai Chi
 - Yoga
- Dancing
 - Ballroom
 - Country
 - Line
 - Tap

Mind

- Meditation

Outdoor Activity

- Angling
- Bowls
- Cricket
- Cycling
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Walking