



Learn, laugh, live

# NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK

## NEWS BITES! AUG/SEPT 2020

*Sharing ideas across 34 U3As in Nottinghamshire*

An extra **Network Meeting** on Zoom at the end of August extended the discussions from the previous meeting on how U3As were dealing with the ongoing socially distancing:-

- In general it is felt that face to face meetings are now badly missed but no group was yet meeting indoors except for a regular coffee morning in a large room. Track and trace arrangements in place by the convenor.
- One U3A reported that its council had stated it was reopening its facilities 1st October but it remained to be seen what that meant for groups and meetings
- Zoom meetings continue to be very popular on the whole, although the odd U3A have had very little uptake. Formal meetings / Study groups work better than social meetings as people miss the banter and chit chat.
- One U3A was managing to hold meetings using a mix of people meeting and others on zoom with a speaker on Zoom.
- Few U3As seem to have facilities open and large enough for AGM/General type meetings but several AGMs have now taken place or are planned on Zoom. The most successful seem to have put in place Survey Monkey, Google Forms and postal votes as well as email.
- Predictably, Walking Groups, Photography and Birdwatching are all doing well on the whole whilst sticking to government guidelines and with extra risk assessment.
- Futurlearn/Open Learn courses are gaining popularity - mentioned was a Psychology Group that had done a course together

### Copyright

A word of warning was strongly delivered to the meeting by one of our local U3As who has narrowly escaped a fine (£400 x number of members), with the help of TAT, over breach of copyright.

Every U3A needs to take out the CLA license offered by the Third Age Trust.

This, however, still does not cover the use of articles in newspapers and some magazines, so beware of using these.

See the Advice Section of the Third Age Website for more detailed help and information.

### Next Notts Network Meeting and AGM on 21st Oct. 2020 via Zoom

#### Membership

Many U3As have or are about to make some concessions on membership and fees. There are some variations :- Extend the current year by several months with no further fees due, Two years for the price of one etc.

It was confirmed that as long a U3A still pays the per capita fee to TAT there is no issue with any such arrangement or with insurance cover.

A reminder was given that fees per head to TAT are currently £3.50 membership, £2.90 for TAM and £1.50 for Beacon. Some U3As can bear these costs without fees coming in, some will not be able to so.

A reminder that the TAT AGM is to be held 23rd Sept 2020—proposals and information are being circulated to Committees and details of how all U3A members may access the meeting are available on the Third Age Trust Website

#### Committees

Although one U3A reported 100% success in replacing committee members standing down, many are finding it harder than normal to recruit new members to the committee, and are running their U3As with less than the ideal of 12. The tried and tested method of tapping people on the shoulder at General Meetings doesn't work so well currently!

Some committee Chairs and members are staying on longer than their constitution allows or extending the year to a later AGM etc. It was felt that these measures outside the constitution probably should not be encouraged, although changing the constitution might be possible—consult Sam at TAT if advice is needed.