

NEWSBITES!

October 2021

Sharing ideas across 34 u3as in Nottinghamshire

Brown October brings the pheasant,
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.



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

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

I have been thoroughly enjoying my Interest Groups that are held face to face. It is so good to be able to catch up with friends and to debate without talking over each other. On the other hand, other groups are continuing using zoom and that is such a good way to manage when groups from a wide area wish to meet.

Those of us who were lucky enough to attend the East Midlands u3a Conference enjoyed the most valuable day with lots of ideas and topics. We should thank the large number of people who organised, presented and helped on the day. Many thanks, particularly, to Jean Hogg our Regional Trustee whose dream this conference was and who persevered despite two cancellations until it at last came to fruition.

Now is a good time to begin to consider what activities we plan to work together on for 2022 as Notts Network. u3a Office tell us that they are experiencing very high numbers contacting them to ask about taking up membership of u3a. Passing the message on about our wonderful organisation is one of our responsibilities and will lead to new ideas and energy. So, have a think and come armed with your ideas to our **Network meeting on Wednesday 20th October at 10.00am**. This will be a zoom meeting so there is no restriction on numbers. The zoom link will be sent out by Margot to the Network reps so make sure it is passed on.

I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday.

Rosie Allen

NEWS FROM THE PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Chairs' Peer Support Group

The next meeting of this group will be held using zoom on Tuesday 9th November at 5pm. Please forward ideas for our agenda.

We already have a list of members who often talk together using Google groups.

If you would like to join, please email me on rosieallen21@outlook.com



Treasurers Peer Support Group

There have been a number of requests for the Treasurers PSG to be reopened. There were a number of meetings previously but then it was put on hold. Since then, there have been a number of new appointments and everyone, whatever their experience, can find it useful to have the opportunity to talk through issues and questions.



So, if you are interested in joining this group please email our Network contact, Margot, on mar-got.nottsnetwork@outlook.com. Once we have a list of names, we will organise a first zoom meeting to plan a way ahead.

Rosie Allen

NEWS FROM THE REGION

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

After more than two years of planning and three cancellations, the first East Midlands Conference for five years finally went ahead at the end of September. Almost 90 members travelled to Eastwood Hall in Nottinghamshire, in spite of Covid concerns and last-minute fuel shortages.

Liz Thackray, the newly elected Chair of the Third Age Trust, spoke about plans for the future and how we are all, individual members, u3as and the Board of Trustees, in a partnership together.

Helen Salisbury, from South Leicestershire u3a, then shared several scenarios that inspired interesting ideas for finding committee members.

After lunch there were five workshops:

Induction of committee members, group leaders and new members – Sue Blackley and Margot Gale

Tips and hints for presenters – Celia Billau

Experiences of some Pathfinder u3as – Paul Martinez, Linda Wilson, Janet Gibson, Brian Platts

Developing social media – John Butler

Finance – Richard Teare

The last session was a presentation by Michaela Moody, Third Age Trust Vice Chair, about the plans for the u3a 40th Anniversary next year.

As the day went on the level of conversation increased and there was a real 'buzz' of excitement. Trustee for the East Midlands, Jean Hogg, thanked everyone involved for their participation and hoped that they would go away with at least one new idea! There were many comments of appreciation and no doubt how much those attending had enjoyed having face-to-face conversations with others from across the region.

Jean Hogg, Regional Trustee



NEWS FROM u3as IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT u3a

We held our first face-to-face meeting at the One Call Stadium on Tuesday 21 September 2021. This was also our AGM and we had 70 members come and join us. With an additional 23 proxy votes, we were able to approve the new Committee and Constitution.

It was lovely to meet everyone again and have a drink and chat once the business of the day was completed.

Following on from a successful u3a Day, we have had over 30 new members join us. Many of the Groups are meeting again in person and the new members have been joining current groups and, in some cases, wanting to start new ones.

At our October Members Meeting we will be having our first live speaker. Also, this month we are continuing with our monthly Zoom Quiz events. We have also held our Group Leaders meeting which was well attended. We have a Christmas lunch booked and take up for this is very good.

We have been very fortunate in being able to recruit a new Chairman, Treasurer, Vice Chair and Groups Co-ordinator who are now able to help us move forward.

Carole Harrison, Business Secretary

DUKERIES u3a

Following a successful Open Day on 11 September, Dukeries u3a held their first 'in person' meeting on 20 September, when we welcomed old and new members to enjoy an entertaining musical presentation of 'Old King Coal' by Northern musicians Fool's Gold. This was a tremendous start to the relaunch of Dukeries u3a's monthly meetings. In October, members heard author Philip Caine speak of his fascinating career 'From Baghdad to Barrow and Back'. Outdoor and indoor activity groups continued to meet and it was heartening to see new members joining in.

The next members' meeting will be at Jubilee Hall, Wellow Road, Ollerton on Monday 15 November at 1.00pm. The speaker will be Paul Stafford who will be telling Dukeries u3a of his intriguing visit to North Korea. Paul is a very well-travelled man, having visited 113 countries, including Rwanda, Syria, Bosnia, Bolivia and Iran. However no country is as secretive, bizarre and astonishing as North Korea. In his talk Paul will tell members all about the ruling Kim dynasty, show them the astonishing sights of the capital Pyongyang, take them to the World's most dangerous border and tell them what it's like to live in this most bizarre country.

Dukeries u3a continues to forge links with community partners such as Newark & Sherwood DC, the Miner2Major project and Dukeries Workshops. This gives a great opportunity for their members to follow the u3a motto 'Learn, Laugh, Live' while supporting local initiatives. Dukeries u3a also believe that 'Now is the time to make the most of your life'. Despite the recent Covid restrictions we have been successful in increasing our membership by 25% over the last 2 months and now have over 125 members drawn from Ollerton, Edwinstowe and the surrounding villages. The local press support has been invaluable over the last 18 months when we have been able to keep Dukeries u3a in the public mind with monthly articles, even if it could only be an update on our Zoom activities. Our chair, Leslye, was also able to tell the listeners to the local radio station about our activities in an interview broadcast just before our Open Day. We are now exploring using our Facebook page by joining other village community groups to interact with and to advertise what we are doing.

Ann Street, Publicity Officer

BEESTON u3a

Sharing Notts Interest Groups

Following Carlton and Gedling's lead, Beeston u3a is now sharing one of its groups which runs on zoom - it is our '**Desert Island Discs**' meeting

Eight tracks, a book and a luxury: what would you take to a desert island?

Beeston u3a guest castaways will now share the soundtrack of their lives via zoom and we are inviting any u3a members who belong to the Nottinghamshire Network to join us.

If you would like to tune in, then please contact me at margot.nottsnetwork@outlook.com and I will send you out the zoom link a few days before each meeting.

The meeting opens at 6:30pm beginning at 7:00pm and the featured castaways for the month of November are as follows:

10th November – **Ioan Reed-Aspely** – Head of publicity at East Midlands Airport who has also worked for Nottingham Express Transit during the period when the tram was developed in Nottingham. He has also worked for the woodland trust and Nottingham Playhouse.

24th November – **Sam Mauger** – Chief executive of the Third Age Trust. A castaway who is well known to all of us who belong to u3a.

Margot Gale, Chair

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

BURTON JOYCE & DISTRICT u3a

Burton Joyce u3a restarted face-to-face meetings in August, with a short AGM followed by a speaker, whose subject was "The 1950s – Did we really have it so good?".

Prior to that meeting the committee discussed Covid precautions at length and various measures were introduced. As we were also unsure how many members would turn up we conducted a poll two weeks beforehand, using Google forms. That indicated the attendance would be 62 but on the day 74 arrived! Masks were worn initially, but soon discarded once seated, and it was wonderful seeing everyone chatting and smiling, happy to be socialising once more. Following that, another successful face-to-face meeting took place on September 14th.



As we prepared to emerge from lockdown, we decided to hold a quiz night on October 1st. We restricted maximum attendance (in Burton Joyce Village Hall) to 80 in order to maintain some social distancing. The tickets sold out completely within 72 hours and we had a great evening with 13 teams of six competing for spectacular prizes. Now, we know that a spurtle is a spoon for stirring porridge, that the Manzanares river runs through Madrid, that the Rhine passes through six countries from its source before flowing into the North Sea at Rotterdam, and that Mablethorpe is further north than Mansfield. Not surprisingly, retired geography teachers were pretty successful in answering those questions. We took our own drinks and a buffet was provided by a local tearoom. Halfway through the evening a trio from our guitar group played a mixture of blues/folk and soft rock – a real highlight!



Our membership is increasing again, and we are now finalising plans for another social event, a Swing Band evening in November. Great practice for our Jive group, which restarted on October 7th. Many of our groups have restarted (including the more social ones such as Wine Tasting, International Dining, and Beer & Cider Tasting) and all group leaders have been contacted for their feedback.

Alan Comrie, Business Secretary

SOUTHWELL u3a



Southwell u3a Back in Business!

Over the summer, Southwell u3a has set up several new groups, including Cycling and Flower Arranging, recruited 35 new members and held its first face-to-face all-members meeting since Covid brought everything to a halt. New Chair Brian Platts said "It's great to be back to see each other and hear a brilliant speaker again. Now we hope to get all our groups up and running again and we're planning to have another Christmas Party in December featuring musical and other talents from our members."

Chris Bentley

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH—TWO THOUGHTS ON ONE SUBJECT

"Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow. Delay may give clearer light as to what is best to be done."

- Aaron Burr

My advice is to never do tomorrow what you can do today. Procrastination is the thief of time.

- Charles Dickens

Hucknall & District u3a

Hucknall u3a has a new litter picking group.

The Reduce, Reuse, Recycle fund is a community fund in which not-for-profit community groups in Nottinghamshire can apply for grants of up to £1,000 which help to reduce, reuse, recycle waste

Member Val Gant applied for and was granted £734.69p for our Hucknall & District u3a Litter Picking group.

New applications can be made now. For details information is available at:

www.veolia.co.uk/nottinghamshire/community/reduce-reuse-recycling-fund

The newly formed Litter Picking Group has got off to a great start with members having collected almost 70 bags of rubbish since its inception at the end of August. One member has even found what is believed to be stolen property – a bicycle hidden in bushes and a rucksack with its pockets open and emptied. The Police have been informed and if the items are not claimed they will be 'recycled' respectively to a good home and a deserving charity. Group members go out either individually or in small groups as and when they are free and have garnered a lot of public support in the process.

The photograph shows some of our litter pickers ready for action.

We say well done to the entire group and a special thanks to Val for her successful bid to Veolia for the funding to buy the essential equipment.

David Rose, Chairman



Edwalton, Gamston & District u3a

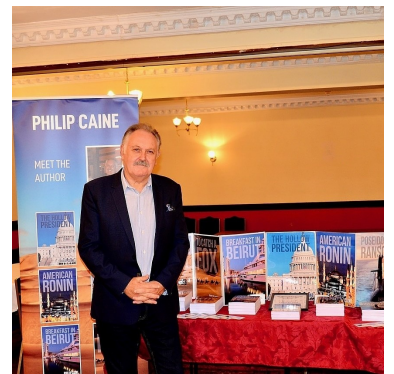
We had an excellent speaker, Philip Caine, at our monthly meeting on Thursday October 14th, with a talk titled 'From Barrow To Bagdad'.

After retiring in 2015 after long employment abroad, with his last 10 years spent in the Middle East, Philip turned to writing and is now an author of, so far, nine books and numerous speaker appearances. He talks with great humour and audience engagement about his amazing employment experiences within the oil services in a variety of countries including fascinating accounts of places, people and amazing situations.

A fabulous talk which, if you have not already heard, is one I would thoroughly recommend.

His contact details are philipcaine@hotmail.com. www.philipcaine.com

Isabel Martindale, Co-chair



A LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR

This is your Newsbites. The contents tell Nottinghamshire u3as what is happening with members in the Network.

I have received many messages of thanks for Newsbites, but have also received comments that other things could be included or improved. However, those who made the comments were unable to say what they wanted to see.

Please, I would like to know what you think could be included or improved. Have you taken a wonderful photograph, either locally or on holiday, that you would like to show off? Do you think we should have a 'Letters to the Editor' page? How about a u3a member telling why they joined the u3a and what it means to them. How about a u3a telling us about their u3a, not just a one-off event, but about interest groups, how they attract new members, and anything else of interest. Perhaps we could do one u3a each month—that would take a couple of years!

It is no good you all coming up with ideas unless you are willing to put them into practice. I can only include what you send to me. **This is your Newsbites.**

I look forward to hearing your thoughts. When I have sorted through your comments, which I will not publish without your consent, I will let you know which are the most popular ideas to take forward. **My email address is jane.newsbits@gmail.com.**

Best wishes and stay safe.

Jane Pavier