

u3a East Midlands Trustee

Newsletter



December 2021

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2022

At the end of another challenging year for u3as I am delighted that most u3as are now far more active and that face to face meetings are taking place, though we are, of course now facing further challenges. Committee members and group convenors have continued to work so hard to keep things going in a Covid safe way, for the benefit of members.

Just a further reminder about all the help and advice available on the national website. Work is ongoing to make it more user friendly so that you can actually find what you need! There is also information about workshops and events. The national newsletter also keeps members up to date and can be signed up for on the website. As you know, there have been unavoidable and regrettable delays with the current issue of TAM, so the newsletter is the best source of information at the moment.

Tech Support

I am delighted that John Butler, of Ravenshead u3a, has taken on the role of Tech Adviser for our region. Below are his contact details and information about sources of help and support.

Tech Team Website - <https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=1144&page=0>

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1002726203847774/>

John's contact email : ravensheadu3a@gmail.com

"Let's Talk Tech" weekly Drop-in Sessions are held on Wednesdays from 13.00-14.30 to discuss issues around Hybrid Meetings. Zoom link details are below.

Meeting ID: 819 9315 3499 Passcode: 754565

Recruitment and Retention

Whilst I am aware that some u3as are already finding new members and welcoming back lapsed ones, many u3as are still struggling with low numbers and finding sufficient committee members. Can I remind you about the [Recruitment and Retention Toolkit](#), which has many different guides full of ideas tried by successful u3as. Search for 'Recruitment Toolkit' on the national website.

New u3a

Well done to everyone involved in this! The two u3as of Market Harborough and South Leicestershire are merging to form one Harborough Welland u3a and this will launch at the start of

January. Discussions and negotiations have been taking place between the trustees of both u3as, with the overwhelming support of members, to share their skills and expertise and raise awareness in the community of the joys of u3a.

40th Anniversary

Details of events planned over next year to celebrate 40 years of the u3a movement will be available very soon on the website. Do make your members aware of what is happening. The year is a great opportunity to make u3a far better known to the general public. Already almost 4000 trees have been bought for the u3a wood. If you haven't bought yours yet head for the Brand Centre! Another suggestion is that u3a members gather for picnics in their local park on 2st June, the day before the Queen's Jubilee. This would be a very visible way of celebrating our movement and also 'piggy back' onto other events. Some u3as are creating flower displays and pots around their communities in blue and yellow.

Publicity workshops

More than 50 people recently attended the Publicity and Recruitment workshops and were given inspiration and many ideas for raising the profile of u3as and attracting new members. I am very grateful to Sue Stokes and Paul Martinez for providing them. Though we do not have a regional PR Adviser, there are many u3as with someone with responsibility for publicity. I think it would be very helpful if each Network, that does not have one already, could have a Peer Support group for these members and hope that could be discussed at forthcoming Network meetings.

East Midlands website

Some of you may not even realise that we have a website for the East Midlands but we do! I am very grateful to webmaster Peter Edge, who keeps it up to date. Do take a look at it and if you have items that you would like to make available to a wider audience than your Network website, please do let me have them.

www.eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk

Please let me know if you think you may be interested in becoming my successor as Regional Trustee. I am very happy to discuss the role which is busy but also stimulating, interesting and enjoyable.

I can be contacted on: jean.hogg@u3a.org.uk or phone: 0744 322 1688

Jean Hogg Trustee East Midlands



The Third Age Trust

Tel: 0208 466 6139

156 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8EN

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