

January 2021

Phone National Office: 0208 466 6139 u3a.org.uk



Introduction from Sam Mauger

Many u3as are open and providing great programmes to members. I recognise however that it is not easy for all u3as to do this. We are currently working with Trustees, volunteers and u3as to ensure that every u3a member can take part in u3a activity if they want to do so.

We would like to hear from any u3a who is closed and has members that want to engage in winter activity so that we can link you to programmes across the movement. I would also ask that if your u3a is not open that you send members details of the newsletter.

We will be offering support to any u3as that are currently closed. We will also continue to share the really great ideas that u3as are using for their members to enjoy u3a life in these winter Covid times.

We need to stand together during these next few months and find ways to keep everyone connected. I know being the u3a movement that we can do it.

With regards,
Sam Mauger
Chief Executive

Newsletter



Help us reach 30, 000

Thank you for reading the national newsletter. We love reading all your positive and constructive feedback each month.

This is our 40th edition!!!

The newsletter has been an important way for us to all stay connected over this time.

We have a really engaged and large newsletter community which currently has 29,626 people signed up to receive it.

Can you help us reach 30,000? Please spread the word and encourage your u3a friends to sign up.

u3a Day

Whether your u3a decides to plan for a physical or virtual event, or create a display, we hope that our first u3a day will showcase the social and learning opportunities on offer.

Coordinating u3a day, Sue Stokes, Barnsley u3a said, "We have so much more to offer than in 2020. We have new skills, new groups, new ways of communicating and engaging with members and, in many cases, proven strategies for recruiting new members."

Prudhoe u3a & District Photography Competition



In October 2020, all Prudhoe & District u3a members were invited to submit photos for a competition, judged by two members who are skilled photographers.

The photos had to have been taken since 1 April 2020 and told have been taken either in members' own home or garden or out and about in Tynedale.

Photo: One of the winning photos, Twisted Time by Mary Hartley.

News from the Board

Chair of the Third Age Trust, Ian McCannah

"The COVID -19 vaccine roll out is great news and u3a Committees will now be turning their attention to the return of face-to-face meetings as soon as guidelines permit.

In parallel with this local activity, the new year sees several unique initiatives aimed at raising the external profile of the movement. The High Street Project is well under way with over 500 members researching the changing face of their local high streets. The results of this research will be of particular interest to the local and national media given the impact of the pandemic on our shopping centres.

In a different national vein, the Trust is in discussions with the Slow Ways Project about how a u3a walking group can contribute to mapping footpaths in their vicinity.

After postponement last year, there will definitely be a national u3a Day on June 2. Whether virtually or physically, u3a committees will be able to access funding and a variety of ideas on how to promote the value of u3a membership at a local level.

It is hoped that all these events will contribute to celebrating our 40th Anniversary in 2022 when, hopefully, COVID-19 is a matter of historical record."

Thank You

u3a members have been amazing at supporting each other over the last year. This section of the newsletter is about celebrating those members.

John and Hilary from Cramlington u3a would like to thank group leader Marie Dooley. They said, 'Marie's enthusiasm has been the driving force behind our Local History and Art Appreciation groups. Marie hosts monthly 'social-zooms' as well enabling us group members to stay connected and helping with our lockdown blues.'

Two members of Hillingdon u3a wrote in to thank Adele Franklin, who since the beginning of lockdown has set up a Facebook group and sent daily emails, both of which are filled with updates and interesting information,.

Is there someone at your u3a that you think deserves recognition? Let us know by calling National Office, 020 8466 6139

In Focus

John Walmsley, Guildford u3a



I've been a freelance documentary photographer since leaving Art School in 1968. My work has been published in 1,000+ books worldwide (I'm the author or joint-author of 15 of them). It's also held in several Collections including National Portrait Gallery, the V&A Museum of Childhood and the Tate Britain Library.

I'm a member of Guildford u3a, in the 'art for all' group. Although I've been involved in the visual world all my life, I have huge gaps in what I've done and know. This u3a group covers the areas I know absolutely nothing about. A lot of members know all this stuff. For instance, we covered Emma by Jane Austen and many had read it before, I hadn't. I was diagnosed with a form of dyslexia last year – reading and processing is slow but I get there in the end.

I have always loved photographing the everyday, ordinary stuff that I'm interested in. My advice is to go for the feeling and forget about the f-stops and apertures. If it feels right, it doesn't matter what f-stop or aperture was used. Show your photos to artists and listen to what they say.

Photo: Vanessa Redgrave & Tariq Ali lead anti-Vietman War demo in 1968, photo taken by John Walmsley.

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Headline photos: a photo submitted by Alan Hart into Prudhoe & District u3a's photography competition, photo shared on u3a Facebook group by Blackwater u3a member John Guiver, a photo submitted into u3a Eye by Caterham District u3a member Liz Whittaker of Catherham District u3a