

July 2020

Phone National Office: 0208 466 6139

[u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk)



## Introduction from CEO Sam Mauger

Dear U3A member,

We are all at varying stages of lockdown at the moment, but U3As right across the movement are still open and running interest groups virtually as well as some small outdoor group where the advice permits.

I want to make special mention of Leicester and U3As there to say we are thinking of you during this time. If there are any U3As not open and would like support to start some virtual interest groups please do contact us. We have recently run our first successful online events with the National Gallery and British Library each attracting over 460 members. We will be planning more online events over the coming months.

Some of you are in contact about the plan to end free TV licence for over 75s. Age UK and the National Pensioners Convention have asked for help in raising the matter from members interested in the issue – please contact Age UK – 0800 1678 1602 for more detail on this.

Please feel free to call us at the national office on 0208 466 6139

Keep sharing your interest group ideas and keep safe and well.

Very best wishes  
Sam

## News from the Trust

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### What is U3A?

U3A has launched a new promotional film – What is U3A?. The short film explains what U3A is all about and how to contact us to learn more. It is aimed not just at the public who may not know about us yet, but also for members to share and use during their recruitment days or when they are connecting with their local communities.

We would love you to see it so if you don't have access to the internet, maybe you could set up a buddying system with one of your U3A colleagues who has access to YouTube so they can share it with you.

## U3A News

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### Nature Watch East Renfrewshire U3A

Members of East Renfrewshire's Nature Watch group have been sending in photos or observations – which the convenor collects and puts into newsletter format, then send out to the members every couple of weeks. It has been very successful and once normality resumes we indeed to continue by going on nature outings to different habitats.

Photo credit: **Claire Heyes**

### Bolton U3A featured in the Festival of Worktown.

Bolton U3A have been working with the University of Bolton on a project looking into the Mass Observation Project of the 1930s. Some of the photographs they discovered were intended to be displayed in a planned Festival in March. Instead, it became an online festival. This included presentations from the U3A Local History Group and the U3A Stitch and Craft Group.

## U3A Learning from the Trust

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### Creative Covid Collaboration

We want to produce a national collage to celebrate the ways in which people have been using their craft activities to continue to connect, learn and support each other during lockdown.

The collage will be formed of hundreds of pictures of squares, individually designed and created by members and U3As across the country. We will bring them all together to form a giant digital collage.

To get involved, create your square and either submit a picture of it yourself or get a friend to do it. The square should be 10 inches by 10 inches and you can use any colours, media or theme you wish. Squares can be submitted by going onto <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/creative-covid-collaboration> to find out more.

## News from the Board

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### Chair of the Board, Ian McCannah:

As with every U3A, the Trust's activities have been disrupted by COVID-19. However, just as many U3As have demonstrated imaginative ways to keep in touch with their members, the Trust has found ways to continue with "business as usual". Home working and the use of technology have been the enablers. After some initial delays, key pre-lockdown initiatives have continued.

Members are working with the Trust's various committees on new initiatives such as support and help for U3As post lockdown; "Building the Brand"; providing new publicity material, including in a digital format; U3A branded merchandise, including clothing; a new national website; recruiting media assistants; more learning material online; Trust U3A. Launching these initiatives will position the movement positively for when the current pandemic is a matter of historic record.

## U3A Social Media

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### U3A Keeping in Touch

Social media is a great way to connect with us and other U3A members.

The Keeping In Touch Facebook is a great example of the movement coming together, from beautiful photos, such as this from Cliff Dixon, to a national virtual quiz which was organised by members on this group

## Subject Advice News

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### Subject Advisor

New Book Club Subject Advisor

Richard Peoples is the new subject advisor for Book Clubs. Richard Peoples said, 'I'm really excited to be the new subject advisor for Book Clubs. I'm a member of Edinburgh U3A and have been a member of several book groups, some general and some theme-based.

Here is a short list of novels that I've read and enjoyed as part of a book group:

Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh, All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr and The Wall by Marlen Haushofer.

Photo Credit: **Beeston U3A Crime Book Group**

## In Focus



Peter Wildsmith, Burton on Trent U3A

I started training in 1971 and retired (dare I say) honourably in 2012. I am qualified (but no-longer Registered) in both mental health and general nursing.

Upon retirement I did just that having given 41 years of dedication to my career. I moved on into my third age to eventually discover U3A! Prior to that I took up the violin, aged 62, and now play in a local community orchestra. Then I retook the trombone to join my local U3A Jazz group but now play in a local Brass band. I am an active cyclist and Co-ordinator of my U3A Social Cycling Group.

I also give a talk on my career as a (male!) nurse, covering the many years of my interesting experiences from the day of my interview for psychiatric (now mental health) nursing until I retired from my School of Nursing with University of Wolverhampton. I have delivered my talk to Burton on Trent U3A at one of our 'Talk and Tea' afternoons.

I spice up my career-talk with a little teaser – I served a 5 year apprenticeship with British Rail before I embarked upon my second career in nursing.

I had a great career in nursing and am enjoying a great retirement!

**Credit for headline photos: Dragonfly**

**Leather work – Alan Eagle, Northampton U3A**

**Dragonfly – Dragonfly – U3A member Cliff Dixon**

**Highland Cow – Dorothy Hemsworth, Settle U3A – a submission into Settle U3A's 'Inside Looking Out' virtual exhibition**

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