

NEWSBITES!

JULY 2022

Sharing ideas across 34 u3as in Nottinghamshire

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NETWORK

The invitation to the Notts Network meeting on the 27th July has been sent out with the papers. It will be an in-person meeting at St Peter's, Ravenshead starting at 10.00 am. The topic for discussion is Recruitment and Retention and you are asked to come with your tips for successful strategies. Do send a substitute if the rep is not available.

40th Anniversary Grand Celebration

The planning team have been very busy on our behalf and have, at last, secured a venue for the finale on Saturday 24th September. This will be at Highfields Park on the edge of Nottingham University's campus, address: University Boulevard, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

We are inviting as many members as possible from across the county to join us at 1 pm, or before for set up, to make this a spectacular occasion befitting of the celebration of our wonderful organisation, the u3a. We are really grateful to members from Worksop whose steel band will be entertaining us and Dukeries who are working on the choreography for the flash mob.

An email has been sent out requesting help with the provision of various items/people that will be needed on the day. Please rack your brains to come up with solutions and let us know.

The Saturday event is to be the culmination of a week long series of events held in each u3a. I hope your arrangements are running smoothly and you have made contact with the two u3as either side of your day re the handover.

We held a zoom meeting on Thursday 21st July to update everyone on the detail of the event. 26 u3as were represented and this gave the opportunity for questions to be answered. It is exciting to see so many u3as involved. What an opportunity to showcase the u3a and have fun. If you have any further questions do feel free to email via our Network Link, Margot. We also have the event on the agenda for our Network meeting on the 27th July.

Best wishes to you all and I hope you are enjoying the brief respite from the heat before it returns very soon.

Rosie Allen

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

Two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the Universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying.

— Arthur C. Clarke

NEWS FROM u3as IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

RAVENSHEAD u3a

Members of the Ravenshead u3a met on Tuesday 14 June 2022 to celebrate the 10th birthday of their u3a. The actual birthday was on 15 February 2022 but the committee decided to postpone the event to a date well past the pandemic and to a warmer month. Jean who was instrumental in setting up Ravenshead u3a all those years ago was the special guest and presented members with the anniversary certificate from the Trust. There was a special programme, tea and cake and members received a special edition of the Ru3a magazine plus a free eco pen.

Maria Gabrielczyk, Chair



Jean Hogg and Maria Gabrielczyk

SOUTHWELL u3a

Southwell u3a Recorder group seeks budding musicians

Whether you're a beginner, improver or expert, the recorder group will make you most welcome. Playing the full range of recorders, members succeed in making an impressive rich sound! They aim to play music which they like and which helps to improve their playing, covering a range of styles and techniques.



Recorder Group in Southwell Market Place

Tony Mellor

Public appearances have included carols for small groups, seasonal selections for summer garden parties and a wider repertoire for other indoor and outdoor events.

Twice monthly meetings are held in the beautifully restored, warm and welcoming Old School Room at Edingley. There's just a small charge to cover room hire and music costs. Beginners and improvers are offered free coaching/tuition, together with free instrument loan if needed.

Find out more about our Recorder group by looking at our u3a website www.southwellu3a.com and finding us under the Groups tab.

SMILE

Whenever I feel the need to exercise, I lie down until it goes away.

Paul Terry

WORKSOP & DISTRICT u3a

Worksop & District u3a *Steelpantastic* steel band is having a busy summer season.

Their performance at the Nottinghamshire County Show at Newark Showground in May was greatly appreciated by the crowds who attended the Show in glorious sunshine that really complemented the music!

Since then, they have performed at a wedding, to great acclaim by the bride and groom and all the guests, also at Carlton & Gedling u3a and a local church fundraising event. Future bookings include an afternoon of music for a group of local residents and more u3as, including the Nottinghamshire Network's 40th Anniversary Celebration.

The group is 19-strong, and meets every week for practice. They have an extensive and eclectic repertoire of music, with familiar hits from the sixties, film tracks and traditional favourites such as Blue Moon, Spanish Eyes and Sway as well as Caribbean pieces, and a popular programme of Christmas Carols.



Sheila Massey



Steelpantastic at the Nottinghamshire Show

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT u3a

At our Members Meeting on Tuesday 21 June 2022, we had a very interesting update on 'A short Submarine Patrol' by Neil Jervis, a former naval officer. It made you appreciate the conditions in which they have to work and live.

The u3a participated in an event organised by Nottingham Trent University on Saturday 25 June to provide information for people looking for new interests in which to participate.

The Garden Group went to RHS Bridgewater, and although it's only been open for three years, they have over 3,000 visitors a day to the 154-acre site. The group were given an informative guided talk on its history and construction. After a lovely lunch there was a walk around the gardens and a visit to the Garden Centre.

The Pathfinders Walking Group had a very enjoyable walk on the Calverton Circular trail.

To celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, a Garden Party was held on Friday 24 June, when 48 members visited Flora Media. After a sumptuous Afternoon Tea, the group were given a demonstration on how to create a hand-tied bouquet in a presentation box. This was raffled off and the £85.00 from the raffle went to their Breast Cancer charity. This was followed by a tour of the gardens.

A new Indoor Curling Group is being set up at Oak Tree Lane Leisure Centre for our members.

Carole Harrison, Business Secretary



ASHFIELD u3a

June was another busy month for Ashfield u3a members. Our 6-Milers Group had a good turn out for a walk from Bakewell, stopping for coffee in Ashford in the Water and returning back to Bakewell via the Monsal Trail. Also during the month 16 members of our Strollers Group gathered at Doe Hill for a walk in search of Orchids. They found lots of orchids ranging from pale pink to dark pink/purple in colour amongst many wild flowers. The



Group reported spotting Dog Roses, King Cup, Yellow Rattle, Clover, Cow Parsley and Birds-foot Trefoil to name a few. On the way back they stopped at a hostelry where coffee, bacon or sausage cobs and cream teas were on offer.

Our Friendly Gardeners Group was also out and about on a beautiful day in June and visited the Cascade Gardens in Bonsall. The gardens consist of a series of "rooms" each with a seat in them and a description of what can be seen from the seat. There are two Buddah's to see plus a Japanese meditation areas, statues of various Greek Gods, including Pan and Bacchus. The cascades which were not all in action due to the dry weather were impressive nonetheless. Plus, there are a couple of cliff paths for more energetic members to explore. Members report that they returned home 'tired and sun kissed' and totally relaxed after all that meditation.

The Weekenders Group managed to get to Bakewell on the bus and stretched their legs with a wander out of town along the river and enjoyed coffee before the walk back to Bakewell. They also enjoyed fish and chips

which they purchased from a well-recommended chippy in the town. It was reported that most of them managed to do some shopping and have a look around the Central Park before making their way home.

During June, a National Trust day-trip was arranged to Nostell Priory and Ashfield u3a members also had the opportunity to go on a trip to Stratford and the Cotswolds and stay over for a night in a hotel. They reported that they had a great time and found more than enough for them to do and see, plus the hotel was excellent with good food and a well-stocked bar.

Members enjoyed and learnt a lot from our latest speaker, John Whitfield, who gave a very interesting and informative talk entitled "The Kennedys." Our Interest Groups continue to be very popular and are thriving well thanks to the dedication of our Group Leaders.

We are still talking about our wonderful Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea, the spectacular hall decorations and the entertainment provided by a string quartet from the Nottingham Youth Orchestra who played music to suit all tastes. The whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by a great number of our members who went the extra mile and dressed appropriately for the occasion. Our Vice Chair read out a humorous poem at our June meeting, which had been written by one of our members after the event. The poem was about the role of a teapot during our Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea and went down very well as did the afternoon tea.

Val Scott, Nottinghamshire Network Rep

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

15th August 2022

Any u3a member can send in items, not just committee members. Can we all hear about the history of your u3a or any special anniversary your u3a is celebrating this year. Tell us why you joined the u3a, what you have been involved with and what u3a means to you.

Quotations? Jokes? Letters?

This is your Newsletter, so please let's hear from you.

Articles/photos please to jane.newsbytes@gmail.com.

Please send your items only to this address

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

DUKERIES u3a

"Make the most of life by exploring new ideas, skills and interests with Dukeries u3a"

July's speaker was Chris Vasper who told members about his adventures raising money for the charity 'Walking with the Wounded' by taking part in the Marathon Des Sables, across one of the most inhospitable places on the planet.

In August there will be more 30th birthday celebrations for the group when the annual garden party for Dukeries members is held in the Jubilee Hall garden. The speaker programme will resume in September with John Perry JP giving an insight into the role of the magistracy and the criminal and civil justice systems, giving members the chance to try sentencing.

Dukeries u3a will be taking part in the festival week running throughout the country to celebrate the 40th anniversary of u3a in the UK, starting with a dinner dance arranged by Mansfield u3a at the John Fretwell Centre on 15 September. During the following week beacons will be carried throughout Nottinghamshire from u3a groups all over the county. Worksop u3a will walk on 19 September to hand over the beacon to Dukeries u3a who will pass it on to Mansfield u3a on 20 September. Dukeries u3a continues to maintain links with community partners and in July supported the community walks led by Andy Oxnard, Community Engagement and Development Co-ordinator, and the Race Night held by Edwinstowe and Dukeries Lions.



Chris Vasper—Walking for the Wounded



Allsorts Group

Our membership is steadily growing and we now have 130 members. Some group news - The Ukulele group is busy practising a new programme. They have a spare ukulele if someone wants to try before buying their own instrument. The Allsorts group tried a different craft by learning how to press flowers. They also held an open coffee morning at Ambleside Community Centre in Ollerton and were pleased to enrol 2 new members to Dukeries u3a. The Ramblers enjoyed fine weather on their walks at South Anston and Dunham Bridge, both about six miles long.

The lunch groups appreciated lovely meals at Ollerton House, The Reindeer at Edingley, Bella Vita in Ollerton and The Devonshire in Upper Langwith. The photography group members were tasked with producing an image with the intriguing title 'Worm's Eye View'.

We were very pleased to meet with Oldham u3a members who were holidaying in our area and enjoyed a great afternoon at Ollerton Bowling Club.

Dukeries u3a follows the u3a motto 'Learn, Laugh, Live' and believe that 'Now is the time to make the most of your life'.

Ann Street, Publicity Officer



Oldham u3a Members Meet Up With Dukeries u3a

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

TWO THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

1. I don't know how to act my age. I've never been this old before.
2. So when is this 'old enough to know better' supposed to kick in.

Nottinghamshire Network of u3as

Proposed District Quiz

Let me introduce myself...my name is Mike Storr (member of Burton Joyce u3a)

Rotarian 1979-2021.....and I have organised the District Rotary Quiz for the past 12 years

Here are the main details of the idea

Each u3a can enter two teams consisting of 4 members per team

Dependent on how many teams are entered, there would likely be 2 or 3 heats, venues around the Network to avoid too much travel **(To take place October 2022)**

There would then be a final comprising of the top 10 teams overall. **(To take place November 2022)**

If you are interested in being a quiz team member for your u3a ...then please contact your u3a chair before August 24th 2022

The following u3as have already replied Arnold, Ashfield, Carlton & Gedling, Dukeries, Ravenshead, Retford, Ruddington, Southwell, Wollaton

Mike Storr

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PS ::This Nottinghamshire Network Quiz is totally separate to the one put out by Leicestershire & Rutland u3a Network inviting ALL u3as in the East Midlands on September 19th to join in their ZOOM Quiz

