

October 2020

Phone National Office: 0208 466 6139

u3a.org.uk



Introduction from Sam Mauger

Firstly I want to say a big thank you to all of you who read this newsletter, contribute to it and send us comments. We will want to feel the strength of our U3A community as we face the longer evenings together and begin the journey through autumn and winter.

Whilst we have the regulations of Covid to navigate, we will do our best to all work together to make the next few months as good as they can be, and to keep the spirit of learn, laugh, live stronger than ever.

U3A Radio will have its next production we hope in November, and then as we move into 2021, we hope this will become a regular event. Listening to the first podcast for me demonstrates the many skills the membership have – isn't it great that this volunteer movement can produce these radio shows that sound every bit as good as a large commercial radio station.

Over 1000 of you contributed to the research on use of language, and after challenging all of the unacceptable language, you described the words that should be attributed to people in retirement. The descriptors were friendly, intelligent, curious and adventurous, what better description could there be of U3A members. Keep safe and well.

With regards,
Sam Mauger
Chief Executive

News from The Trust



U3A New Look

Thank you so much for all your feedback on our new brand, which launched at our National AGM in September.

The new brand incorporates a new logo as well as updated colours, imagery and language. Over the last year we have embarked on many conversations with members in this process so that our look better reflects the vibrancy, connection, and learning that takes place every day across the U3A movement.

U3A News

Isle of Scilly's Creative Writing group have created an Autumn leaf garland. They have been meeting fortnightly in a large quarry garden over the last few months. In their last session, they allowed their surroundings to inspire them and wrote their thoughts and words on this garland.



U3As in the media

Chief Executive Sam Mauger has been in the media this month discussing ageist language directed towards older adults.

After U3A members across the movement filled out our survey about ageist language last month, we identified the top ten offensive words used against older people. As a result of this survey, we featured in media platforms including The Times, Mail Online and The Telegraph.

News from the Board

Chair of the Board, Ian McCannah

"A lot has happened since the last newsletter.

September 29 saw the first virtual Trust AGM with around 750 members logging on. In addition to the normal agenda items there was a debate on the Board resolution to increase the membership subscription by 50p in 2022.

The Board very much appreciates the over two thirds support for its resolution and it has noted, and will act on, the points raised by members during the debate.

The AGM saw six new Regional Trustees join the Board – Susie Berry (South East England), Barbara Cordina (East of England), Margaret Fiddes (Yorkshire & Humberside), Susan Parker (South West England), Neil Stevenson (North West England) and Allan Walmsley (West Midlands).

Finally, the new logo and publicity materials were launched after the AGM. These changes result from extensive consultation with members and a recognition that institutions have to periodically refresh their image. U3A is no exception – particularly as individual U3As plan for life after lockdown."

Congratulations and thank you

Congratulations to Maggy of Sherburn U3A who is a winner of Elmet 100 Community Award for her work making and distributing face masks to residents (right.)

Once again, members across the movement have been in touch with us to say thank you to members of their U3A.

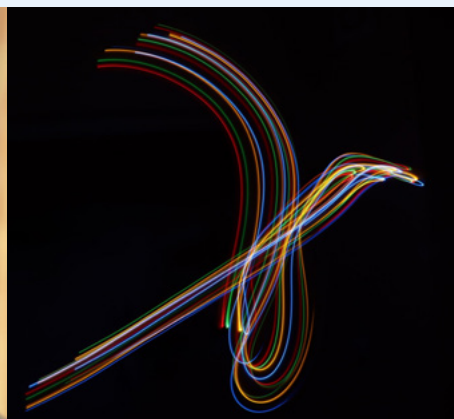
Susan Johnson from Portsmouth U3A, Lynne Batsford and Joanna Goulson from Pewsey U3A, Prudhoe and District U3A's Groups Coordinator Kathy Clegg and Jo Fordham from Bedford U3A were all mentioned as people who have gone above and beyond over the last couple of months to keep members connected and learning.

Do you want to thank a member of your U3A? Get in touch with us by calling 02084666139



In Focus

Angela Owen, Worcester U3A



I joined U3A in 2016 as I was approaching retirement. I was truly grateful for the opportunity for some structured transition to having lots of space and time. I am a member of many groups, including two photography groups.

The National U3A photography challenge, U3A Eye, has opened up the next step for me as it has unleashed creativity, and not just in photography. I've experimented in all kinds of ways, producing images for the challenges each fortnight.

My favourite image is the "Twists and Turns of a Trail of Light" under the theme of "beginning with T". Here I experimented with some tiny lights I wrapped around a wand, and played with in a darkened room. This was photographically the most challenging and required research. This creativity has been a whole new aspect of photography for me.

Photo credits: Headline photos, Sally Hunt, Autumn garland by Isles of Scilly Creative Writing Group, Angela Owen's photo for the latest U3A Eye theme, 'Shadows.'

u3a
156 Blackfriars Road
London, UK
SE1 8EN

Contact the National Office
Tel: 020 8466 6139
Email: info@u3a.org.uk

u3a.org.uk

 twitter.com/u3a_uk

 facebook.com/u3auk