

August 2020

Phone National Office: 0208 466 6139

u3a.org.uk

Introduction from CEO Sam Mauger

Nothing holds the U3A movement back. This newsletter has many great stories about U3A interest groups as we all find our way through the journey of meeting again, whether through social distancing or on line through virtual meetings.

Almost every U3A across Great Britain is open for business within the Covid guidelines, and the U3A committees and interest group leaders have been galvanising action so that all our members can continue to share their skills and ideas and learning. It is interesting that even during Covid new members have joined the movement, as the spirit of friendship and community so evident in the U3A movement is exactly what so many people are looking for.

I want to say a big thank you for every one of you who has kept the movement working during the difficult times of Covid. You have all kept the U3A alive.

Thank you to all of you now helping to engage with members and bring us back to full strength again. The U3A is ready to Learn, laugh, live even louder than before.

Yours
Sam

U3A News from the Trust

Recruiting new U3A members

The U3A Recruitment Working Group is inviting your U3A to join our recruitment campaign. We need a group of Pathfinder U3As to help work out how to recruit new members successfully over the next weeks and months. We will also develop a recruitment toolkit that can be of use to every U3A.

There are already many potential U3A members out there who are looking for opportunities to learn locally and in a social way – especially during these unprecedented times. Every week they will be joined by people who are retiring from full time work and people in their 50s and their 60s whose work circumstances are changing because of Covid, but who want to stay active.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the national office and we will pass a message onto Paul Martinez, Chair of U3A Recruitment Working Group. Or you can email him pkmartinez14@gmail.com.

News from U3As



U3A Walking cricket is bowled over to be back.

Barnsley U3A's Walking Cricket team met for the first time since lockdown following social distancing guidelines.

Following all the social distancing guidelines, Walking Cricket Subject Advisor Mac Mckechnie organized this first match.

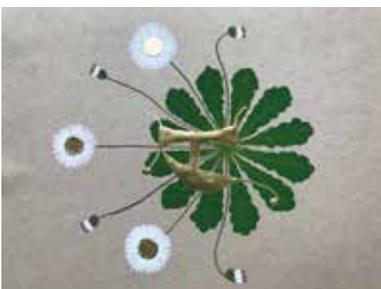
Mac said, "We used a risk assessment, based on guidelines from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in conjunction with Health and Safety Executive Covid-19 risk assessment guidelines. All members also completed their own personal risk assessments. It was an absolutely brilliant day which enabled members to get out, some for the first time since lockdown. We even had one new visitor travel all the way from Nottingham to join us".



Creating Art

U3A members have been creating art inspired by museum and art exhibits.

Washington Village U3A member, Tania La Marinel, created this plate inspired by a collection of tiffany glass at the Charles Hosmer Morse museum in Orlando, Florida.



Julia Wilkin, leads the Poole U3A calligraphy group and created a gilded letter for her daughter inspired by wallpaper designed by Walter Crane who was a member of the Arts and Crafts movement.

News from the Board

Chair of the Board, Ian McCannah

In the early summer, I asked members to send their views on where the movement may be when COVID-19 is a matter of historic record. The response was excellent and the results have been consolidated into a report, "Planning for the U3A movement post lockdown."

The last few months have obviously been difficult for u3as and their members. Great efforts have been made to keep activity going during lock down. There are some silver linings to the pandemic cloud. The Office has provided advice on restarting outdoor activities such as walking cricket and the more conventional walking groups.

There has been an exceptional response to the Regional Trustees invitation to u3as to participate in the national "Changing Face of the High Street" project. Two hundred u3as have signed up to this unique piece of research, particularly at a time when the pandemic is forcing major changes in the retail sector. After no time the target of participating U3As was reached and still counting! There will be interim reports with the final results forming part of the movements 40th anniversary celebrations in 2022. To find out more – please contact national office on the above number.

Subject Advice News



U3A Keeping in Touch

There is a new ukulele subject advisor, Ken Cockburn. Ken says, "I learned to play a ukulele at my local U3A, Warrington, and I understand the challenges of learning to play an instrument in later life from first-hand experience."

There is also a new subject advisor for etymology, Mario Molinari.

Photo Credit: **U3A summer school 2019 Mark Thomas**

Congratulations and thank you



Subject Advisor

Congratulations to Jack Berkovi, the Chair and founder of Hampstead Garden Suburb U3A, who has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition from Barnet Council.

Louisa Sewell wants to thank Phil Joiner, Chair of Wanstead & Woodford U3A, and his colleagues for sharing cheerful activities and quizzes over the past few months.

Does a member of your U3A deserve thanks for their efforts over the last few months? Call the National Office and let us know to be featured in the next newsletter – **020 8466 6139**

In Focus

Myer Dyer, East Renfrewshire u3a



Photo credit:
David Gordon

My husband and I joined East Renfrewshire U3A seven years ago and our Hands On Gardening group began in 2017.

Then this year as the garden was starting to blossom and spring bulbs were beginning to come into flowers, we were instructed to lockdown by the Government.

Once Scotland moved into Phase 3, we started planning how the group could return to the garden. We received guidance from the committee regarding Risk Assessments for the members, we also bought a non-contact, infra red thermometer to test people as they arrive. In addition we take a register and record attendance together with their temperature. This is to comply with the Scottish government, "Track and Trace" system.

We returned on the first Friday in August, exactly 5 months since our last meeting. We brought our own hand tools, gloves and refreshments. We are so lucky the garden is large enough to easily social distance and even when we stop, as a group we can stay 2 metres apart and chat.

It was, "Such Fun" and I can't wait for our next outing in September.

Credit for headline photos:

A submission by Kathleen of Turiff and District U3A into the U3A Eye photography challenge; a photo by Helen Elliot shared on the U3A Keeping In Touch Facebook group, a piece of glassware made by Tania La Marinel inspired by the glass collection at her favorite museum.

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