

December 2020

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Introduction from Sam Mauger

I wanted to start by saying I know we have all had a very challenging year, managing so many changes in everything we all do.

I have missed visiting you all in u3as in regions and networks and the nations across the movement and want to thank you for sharing all of your stories and ideas with me and my colleagues in the team here at the Trust.

The spirit of u3a and the u3a community to Learn, laugh, live has been loud and clear in u3a everywhere. You have all played a part in keeping the u3a strong

I want to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and joyful Christmas or festive time, however you spend it. I hope 2021 brings us all back together again stronger and ready for the next step in the journey of the great u3a movement.

With regards,
Sam Mauger
Chief Executive



Ware u3a Christmas Cards

Ware u3a have worked with local schools to send out 800 Christmas cards for Ware u3a members.

The hand made cards have been well received by all and members have loved the messages in the cards.

Chester u3a Advent Calendar

Chester u3a have created an advent calendar for their members.

The calendar is made up of submissions from interest groups and committee members from across the u3a, showcasing the skills, talent and interests of their members.

Chester u3a members have responded positively to the calendar, with website views soaring. In the first five days of December, the Chester u3a website had more hits than in the whole previous month.

February Edition of TAM



Warm up this winter with delicious recipes for a warming apple and blackberry crumble, a spice vegetable curry, and a potato and parsnip bake by our own u3a member and professional cook Beverley Jarvis.

Plus we look at science-based u3a groups and all your usual u3a news from around the UK.

News from the Board

Chair of the Third Age Trust, Ian McCannah

“Over 350 Trust Volunteers are key to how the Trust delivers support and advice to the movement. Without these dedicated members we would not have the financial resources to purchase their expertise. Some of these Trust Volunteers sit on the Trust’s committees.

In the early summer, I asked members for their views on how the movement should prepare itself for the end of lockdown. Their comprehensive and thoughtful comments were included in a report that I made available to the membership in the autumn. Hopefully, Spring may see the return of u3a activity.

Committees will be looking for ways to retain existing members and to attract new ones. Against this background, I will update my earlier report if members send me their current thoughts on the movement post lockdown. Again, the resulting summary of grassroots view will be given wide circulation, via the Trust's communication channels, in the new year.

Meanwhile, best wishes for the Festive Season and hoping that 2021 will bring with it a return of u3a activity that does so much to enhance our lives.”

All the best,

Ian.”

New Subject Advisers

There are new subject advisers.

Lichfield u3a member Martin Hellowell has recently become the subject adviser for Classic Rock and Pop Music. His own taste includes Pop, Rock and its variations, Motown, Soul, Reggae, New Romantics, Disco and Electric music.

Margaret Thompson (right) is the new subject adviser for Canasta and Bolivia. She started a Canasta group at her u3a in 2013 which had been meeting weekly with 30 members up until lockdown in March.



In Focus

Joe Neilson, Stoke South u3a



My wife joined u3a because she was bored being stuck at home all day. She found out about u3a through a magazine and I joined with her.

I retired four years ago from an engineering firm. I have always been interested in computers. I didn't go to university but am self taught. Me and my boss wanted to get on the internet in 1999 and I built a computer from scratch. It turned into a hobby - one Christmas I built I8!

My interest in computers led to me talking to the chair of Stoke on Trent South u3a. I started an IT group. We were helping people with whatever they were having problems with, whether computers, iPads or laptops.

Being a member of u3a has given me so much confidence. I get satisfaction from helping people, people were obviously thankful and I found that rewarding. People regarded my opinion and needed my help. I can't wait until we can get back to some face-to-face meetings again.

Headline photos: Stella of Guernsey u3a, Sandra of Hale & District and Knutsford & District u3a, Marie of Epsom & Ewell u3a

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