

April 2021

Phone National Office: 0208 466 6139 u3a.org.uk



Introduction from Sam Mauger

Well the sun is out at last and with luck we will all be able to begin some face to face u3a activity soon. It has certainly been a challenging 12 months, but one where we have learned new ways of doing things which will stand us in good stead for the future.

Member Link has been a great opportunity for the Trust staff, the volunteer team and the Trustees and u3as to work together to energise the future and restart all of those u3as activities that were impacted by the restrictions placed upon us.

I am pleased to see our first range of merchandise on the u3a brand centre – thank you for your valuable feedback on what items you would like to see. Keep them coming in as we prepare for the next tranche of merchandise in good time to order before u3a day.

Your enthusiasm and support for u3a day on June 2 continues to be inspiring.

Thank you for sharing your stories and photos throughout the newsletter. They continue to bring joy and connection to us all – we love sharing them.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

With regards,

Sam Mauger

Chief Executive

News from the Trust

Our first tranche of merchandise since the new brand is now available online, so you could have your hands on a new mug, bag or badge soon – as well as an updated image library that your u3a can use on their promotional materials and platforms to spread the u3a message.



Get in touch with your u3a to find out more about the new merchandise and publicity materials.

u3as in the media

u3as have been busy over the last month securing media coverage.

Two u3as have featured in their local radio over the last month – David, Chair of Teignmouth u3a, featured on BBC Radio Devon and over on BBC Radio Shropshire, there was an interview with Shrewsbury u3a Vice Chair.

Whitby Whaler u3a featured in the Whitby Gazette in March with a story about the history group.

Age UK Cheshire have been working with West Cheshire Rural u3a. He features in a video on their YouTube channel discussing the benefits of joining u3a, and is also the cover star of their magazine this month.

This press coverage leads up to u3a day on 2 June, a day for members to celebrate the movement and gain press coverage about u3a and to challenge preconceptions of older adults.

u3a News – Holmes Chapel & District u3a



The 10th Anniversary celebrations for Holmes Chapel u3a continue. Three members, Peter, Richard and Terry planted the rowan tree, and the photo and an article was published in the Sandbach Chronicle and Knutford Guardian.

News from the Board

Chair of the Third Age Trust, Ian McCannah

"Later this month the notices for the Trust's 2021 AGM will be received by u3a committees. There will be Board elections for the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer and Trustees for East Midlands, London, and Wales.

With lockdown hopefully fully lifted, members will have the opportunity on 26 August to attend the AGM in Kenilworth or, as last year, virtually.

This month also sees the launch of range of competitively priced u3a branded products."

Subject Advice News

Richard, u3a Subject Advisor for Book Groups, has shared his recommendations for the best books to read with your u3a book groups.

Novels:

Trespass – Rose Tremain

Under the Skin – Michel Faber

Nora Webster – Toibin

And The Land Lay Still – James Robertson

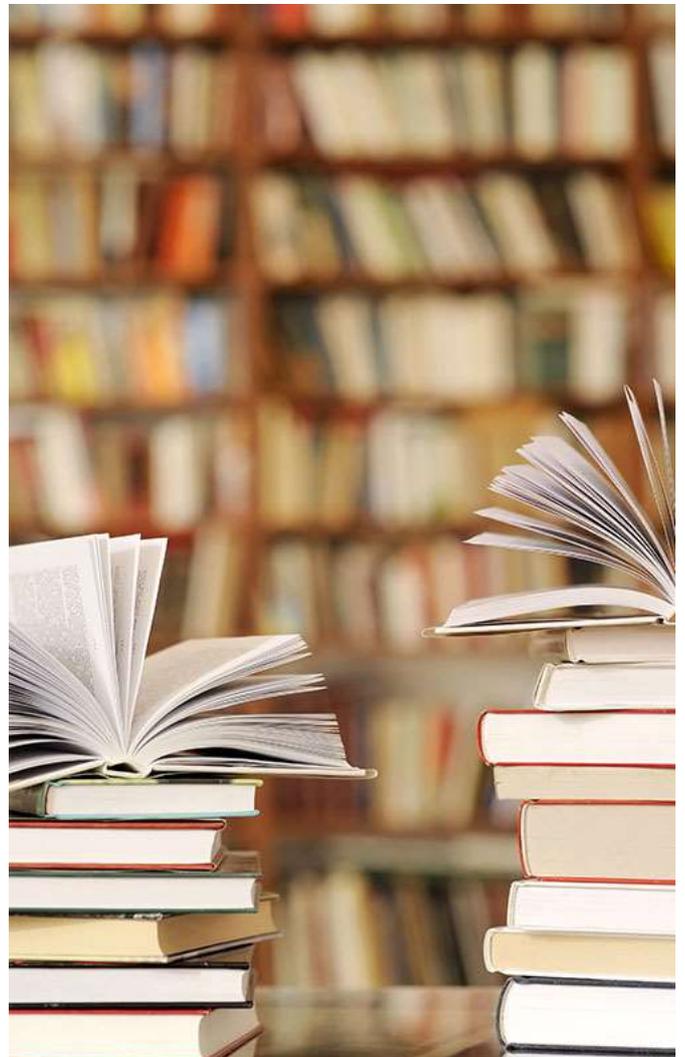
Any Human Heart – William Boyd

Non-fiction:

Don't Think Of An Elephant – George Lakoff

On Connection – Kae Tempest

Sisters of Sinai – Janet Soskice



In Focus

Janet, Chair of the Future Lives Working Group



I joined u3a when friends set up our local Crouch End & District u3a about 3 years ago. I particularly enjoy the walking groups. It's wonderful to be meeting so many lovely people and be greeted by friendly faces when I walk around my neighbourhood.

My career has been in housing and urbanism, and in recent years I have had a particular interest in how our homes can support our independence as we age.

I met the founder of the Future Lives group at an Agile Ageing Alliance conference, and because of my housing interests, she invited me to join. I was very keen, as I hope the Future Lives Group can involve many u3a members in thinking about how we can live better future lives, and, I hope, influence the choices available to us. I offered to work on the housing strand.

The Future Lives Group has just held a very successful online event, well attended by u3a members all across the movement. We are in the process of engaging people to get involved. As well as "Housing", our current themes are "Positive Ageing" and "Providing and Receiving Care."

Headline photos: photo submitted into Birdwatch by Graham of Leigh Estuary u3a, Brunswick West Hove and Portslade u3a, Colin from Hutton u3a

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