

January 2021

Thanks again!

I do hope that, in spite of everything, you all had a happy festive season and that you are all keeping safe and well as 2021 begins. Sadly, it is all too clear that we are still a long way from being able to meet face to face again. I want to thank all of you who are keeping activity in your u3a going, in any way, and encourage you to keep up the good work.



I know that in some u3as committee members are staying on, even if they have reached the end of term, doing all they can, whereas there are other u3as where committee members have felt overwhelmed by the current situation and unable to do much at all. In those cases, I would encourage you to ask others in your membership to step forward. There may be those who would like to produce a newsletter, or who have the technical knowhow committee members may be lacking. Some members may be really happy to make phone calls to those without the internet – and more!

TAT Survey

If you have not yet done so, please do complete this survey. No-one will be put in the stocks for misbehaviour! The Trust just needs to understand the current status of u3as for future planning, and so that appropriate help can be offered.

Websites

A website is your u3a's window to the world. There are some wonderful ones across the region that would certainly attract new members. However, others have not been amended since the start of the pandemic and give no indication of what, if anything, is happening. Sometimes I have found a newsletter, that suggests that some groups are meeting, but no one would know from the front page. It really is worth taking a look at your website, from the viewpoint of a prospective member, to see what improvements could be made.

I am attaching a brief powerpoint presentation with recommendations on the use of the new logo.

Third Age Trust activities

The Trust is providing a wide range of online events. Please encourage your members to look at 'Events' on the national website to see the talks and activities on offer.

U3A Day

Last month I wrote about planning for an eventual 'relaunch' of your u3a and said that this may coincide with u3a Day on June 2nd. This is to confirm that the day will definitely happen this year, even if it has to be mostly a virtual event.

Networks

I do want to thank the people who are working so hard in their Networks to keep u3as in contact with one another and sharing the things that are happening and also the difficulties they are encountering. That support has been incredibly valuable.

If you have any suggestions and ideas of things that could help the u3a movement at this time, please do get in touch with me.

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