



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

BDU3A Newsletter Winter 2018

Hello Members,

What an eventful time we have had since our last newsletter! We now have several new groups created, with others on the horizon – so watch this space! You could be busy every day U3A-ing. But let's start with:

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A message from our Chairman, Ruth

This is just a short message to let you all know how our Bolsover District U3A is progressing since our inaugural meeting over 3 years ago. We now have a membership of 76 men and women and each month the number grows a bit more. If you know of any friends, neighbours or family who would like to find out if they would enjoy becoming part of this community, just bring them along to one of our general meetings – free, as a taster.

*The BD U3A is such a good deal, as it only costs as little as £20 to come to any meetings or join any of the interest groups **for a whole year!** 'Though we do ask you to contribute £2 towards running costs such as room hire, or payment of speakers, to help keep membership fees low – though coffee/tea and biscuits remain free at our general meetings.*

The number of groups you can join is growing fast – we now have 16, but if these don't include something you want to do/learn/enjoy, then think about starting one yourself. Just mention your idea to any committee member and you will receive loads of help and advice to get you started. Fancy playing canasta? Fancy starting a wildlife group? Fancy learning a language with friends? Then go for it! Lots of people are here to help you out.

Reports from our existing groups are posted on the web site (see <https://bdu3a.com/>) and are made known to everyone at our general meetings. You can meet the conveners of all our groups and chat to members to see if your idea would lead to a rush to join you!

We are looking forward to providing you with a wonderful Christmas party again this year. Come and have fun and enjoy another buffet like the one we all

enjoyed last year. Let us know if you have any special food requirements – and let us know any ideas you have to make the party just the best ever!

And a heart-felt goodbye to a treasured committee member

Evelyn, one of our most 'treasured' committee members is moving away and this is what she has said about her time as a member of our BDU3A – our very best wishes to Evelyn and many, many thanks for her work with the Committee:

I first heard about the U3A 10 years ago, but shelved the idea until one day I was chatting to Ruth. She told me that she had just been to a U3A meeting and how she enjoyed it. Straight away my ears pricked up and I asked her more about it. To cut a long story short, I went with Ruth as a visitor to the next meeting which happened to be the Christmas Party for 2015. I found that everyone was very friendly and of course I enjoyed the food. The next month I enrolled as a member. I joined the supper club and have enjoyed some pleasant evenings since then. I later found out that a new treasurer was needed and as I had worked in accountancy for quite a few years I offered my services. I am now off to Benson in Oxfordshire and was really pleased to find that although it is only a small village it has a U3A group - so guess where I will be going! My best wishes to BDU3A and may you continue to grow'..

The story of an old bible – a great study by the Family History Group

This is a fascinating tale, and a very detailed account of the research process is provided by Pam on our web site (<http://bdu3a.com> and click on Family History Group) – well worth a read if you are a family history investigative journalist for your family! Here's the basic tale of how this fascinating detective story unfurled (from Sandie):



When a family new to the area moved into their home in Bolsover, a very large family bible was found in one of the bedrooms. With all of the upheaval of resettlement, the bible was placed in the loft with a promise to do something about it at a later date. Three years later, with several emails unanswered, all hope of finding the gleam in her eye, took the bible home and a few days later after much determination and hard work handed me the bible plus twenty one pages of its family history. The Bible (and notes) has since been returned to the family, who are overjoyed to have it back after thinking it may have been lost for ever. A card and flowers have been sent to us with their thanks. Well done the BDU3A family history members!

Now, some news from a few of our other groups – thanks to the conveners:

The National Trust Group



The National Trust group have had a very interesting year. We have travelled the country from Cambridgeshire to Yorkshire and the counties in between. We have covered many periods in time, from the 1700's up to the 1900's and taken a glimpse into the lives of people - from the very rich to the very poor – to find out how they lived.

The group try to include all aspects of National Trust properties from small intimate houses like Stoneywell to vast estates such as Lyme and Attingham Park and properties like Southwell Workhouse and Quarry Bank Mills. Such a varied programme.

We started off with a small group of enthusiasts which has now grown to a core group of over twenty five. Feedback has been very positive with members commenting on how very relaxed and enjoyable the days out have been. (See trip to Christmas Decorations at Hardwick Hall last Christmas, above)

This Christmas, the group will be going to Belton House near Grantham Lincolnshire., which gets dressed up for Christmas, often in the style of a particular period in time.

The Art and Craft group

The idea of this group is that everyone follows their own artistic interests. So we have knitters, sowers, paper-folders, card makers, painters, drawers.... Each of us is willing to share their skills, and sometimes a whole session is taken up with teaching and encouraging someone else to learn a new skill. We also have the occasional session where a group of us decide to work in different ways on the same project. Recently, some of the painters decided to work on a collage using different media and incorporating different objects - the results were quite stunning!

We are hopefully going to have a stall in the recently renovated Old Bolsover Yard in the spring, where we can display some of our work and maybe sell it, and hopefully encourage others to join us. So if you are a crafter or an artist, do

make yourself known to us. You could perhaps demonstrate your skills to the rest of the group, and enjoy experiencing the work of others

A very nice community collaboration took place when this group helped the nearby village of Elmton create a poppy display for hanging outside The Old School Room to celebrate the anniversary of World War 1 (see right) – and it is now relocated to the window of the Limestone House community centre in Creswell. Looks great! Limestone house is planning a number of WW1 events, so all very appropriate. Go visit!



Creative writing group

We are a mixed group of different abilities and we write about a wide variety of subjects - fiction of all genres, factual, family history, funny stories, poems – no subject is barred. At each session we do a little exercise which may be picking an item from a bag, or choosing a word, or



a colour, or a sentence - and then writing a quick, off the cuff half page or so about it, which we then read out to the group and discuss. We then have some homework – this could be the continuation of a book you are hoping to write, or maybe an episode from your own life story, or a fictional tale, or a

poem to bring back to read to the group at the next session – or we could be given a topic to write about.

We talk (as groups do) and often get side-tracked by the conversation. Recently we were discussing the problems of the ageing bladder, there was much hilarity that brought the session to a sudden end – so, homework? Write a poem or story about waking up in the night!

At the moment we are picking out some of our writings and working towards publishing a small booklet to share with other U3A members. So if you just want to scribble or if you are a budding author, this group is for you. So why not come along and bring your ideas, get encouragement, but most of all - have a happy hour or two.

The Current Affairs Discussion Group

This interesting group likes to exchange opinions on all matters of world and national affairs – from ‘Is the older generation depriving the younger from their rights’ to ‘Should badgers be culled and foxes hunted?’ to ‘Is the House of Lords fit for purpose, or in need of reform?’ People have said, ‘Oh dear,’ I imagine you have quite angry exchanges sometimes’, but the reverse is the case. We are all ‘grown-ups’ and are interested to learn the opinions of others, and

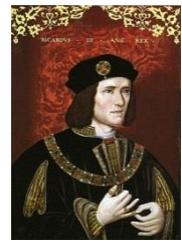


maybe change our minds on some issues. For each session, someone agrees to do a bit of research, and provide a few facts and figures to get things started – then it’s every man for him-self. We seldom decide on solutions to problems, and have rarely voted, but we learn a lot from each other. The

recent discussion about the UK House of Lords made us aware that we were pretty ignorant about how other countries organised their parliaments, so the following month we each selected a different country, did a bit of research, and took turns to inform the group. It was very instructive and a number of us learned a new word – *bicameral* as opposed to *unicameral* systems (ie two house system or one house system of government!) Come and join/teach us – the more opinions the better!

The History Group

At the beginning of the year, the History Group put together an itinerary for the following twelve months. Since then, we have visited the Vikings, suffered with the Suffragettes, flown with Amy Johnson and paid homage to our brave RAF pilots. We then went on to see where Richard the Third was relocated from a carpark to a more appropriate Cathedral across the road, leading to the group's current project - to find out more of the strong women in the Wars of the Roses which pre-dated Richard's demise. We're not just amateur historians - we are veritable time-travellers! Come and join us.



And some new groups on the horizon:

-Ten pin bowling

-Learning a language (Italian? Spanish?) by joining a free online course and meeting every week or two to swap notes and speak to each other - *in italiano!*

Keep your eyes open for news of these and other possible groups – or scan the web site – or come to the general meetings and chat to other members.

The publicity team hope you have enjoyed reading our first News Letter in quite some time, and of course can only bring news to your attention if we know about it. So we are introducing a new item, 'Letters to the Editor', if you want to have your say please email bdu3apublicity@gmail.com or, use the conventional paper, pen and envelope, hand your letter to any committee member for inclusion.

The webteam would also like to hear from members. Please let us have your comments/opinions on any BDU3A group and/or activity, for inclusion on our website, we want to know what you think!

The Groups are the life and soul of the U3A and can soon be the life and soul of your life!

Have a happy BDU3A time 'til we meet again!

LIVE LEARN LAUGH