

NEWS FROM FURTHER AFIELD

West Midlands Region

Jean Jackson, previously our u3a Council Representative, West Midlands Region, tells us that we are the only Region without a voice on the u3a Council and with no-one as a local point of contact to share our issues, ideas & celebrations.

However, Jean reminds us that we are still supported through The Third Age Trust, and we're lucky that Sue Russell, Chair of the u3a Council, who lives in the region, has stepped in to look after our interests. She's not our official Rep but will make sure we aren't forgotten – as will Allan Walmsley, ex-Trustee for the West Midlands, who's now Chair of the u3a Board.

Our Region needs people who believe in u3a and want to sustain it for the future – people who believe in the u3a spirit of curiosity, friendship, and shared purpose. If that's you, the Trust needs to hear from you. Being a Council Rep doesn't require endless meetings or travel - most work is done via Zoom. You could also join a new W Mids Regional team: take on a specific role, such as PR Adviser, or help to decide how our regional budget is used for us all.

We already have Richard Adams as our Regional Webmaster, who's also Chair of Bulkington, Nuneaton and Bedworth u3a. His dedication shows what a busy person can do. If you can spare even a little time, please consider stepping forward. Sue would be delighted to hear from you: email Sue.Russell@u3a.org.uk.

Our Region's activities will continue. One confirmed event is an AI session, which Jean will be helping to deliver with the national AI team.

Nationally

u3a Festival 26



There's been a fantastic response to the upcoming u3a Festival which is now almost sold out. There are still a few day tickets left for the Friday - so be quick if you'd like to come along! [Book your Festival ticket.](#)

Lead activities for free Festival tickets

We've already got a brilliant line-up of activities planned, but we're looking for volunteers to lead a few more events at the Festival. Specifically:

- Walking Football
- Croquet
- Musical groups to perform - e.g. choir, ukulele, guitar

Would either of our music groups be interested? You will need to be available on at least one of the festival days (1-3 July) and can register interest by emailing festival@u3a.org.uk. Volunteers leading events will get a free day ticket.

Spring u3a matters digital edition



Read the highlights of the latest issue of u3a matters magazine online, on the u3a website.



[Read the Spring digital issue.](#)

Charity fraud investigation

The Trust has been contacted by Surrey and Sussex police about a serious fraud they're investigating which is targeting people associated with charities for older people.

It seems fraudsters are using information available on the Charity Commission website to contact people. They have then been persuading them there is an issue with their bank account. One couple has already been defrauded out of a significant amount of money.

Banks and the police will never ask you to move money. Read about spotting fraud on the government [Stop Think Fraud website](#).



Staying connected with *u3a Friends*

The *u3a Friends newsletter* brings the best of u3a straight to your inbox - make sure you're not missing out!

Each edition features exclusive member stories, national u3a events, new learning opportunities and the latest news from across the movement.

By signing up, you will be the first to hear about upcoming events, like the *u3a Festival*, and ways to get creative with our national competitions.

Sign up on the [u3a website](#).