

## NEWS FROM FURTHER AFIELD – JUNE 2026 UPDATE

### U3A TRUST

#### This update covers:

- Applications for Non-Executive Director roles on the Trust's Trading Board.
- Election to join the Board of Trustees.
- The launch of *u3a getaways*, a brand new, exclusive holiday programme for u3a members - kicking off this September.
- 2026 u3a week, 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September.
- 2026 essay writing competition.

The information below has been edited from updates sent by Iain Cassidy, CEO of the Third Age Trust.

### Could you help shape the future of Third Age Trust Trading Ltd?

We are looking for u3a members with commercial experience to join the TATTL Board as voluntary Non-Executive Directors. TATTL's purpose is to generate an income that supports the charitable objectives of the Trust, by providing services to u3as and their members in a tax efficient manner. This includes the production of *u3a matters* magazine and digital service for u3as.

We are especially interested in members with experience in areas such as

- publishing
- digital services
- member services
- marketing
- brand
- customer engagement
- business development.

We also need volunteers with digital skills and experience to join our Digital Services Advisory Group. This group supports the work of TATTL by assisting with strategic thinking and insight. If you have skills and experience in the following areas then please get in touch.

- digital product development
- online platforms
- digital solutions and Software as a Service (SaaS)
- customer relationship management systems
- user experience
- digital transformation.

Full details on both roles, with information on how to apply, are on the [volunteering page on the u3a website](#).

## Join the Board of Trustees

*Could you help shape the strategy of the Trust?*

**We will soon open nominations for one new Trustee to join the u3a Board**, and we'd love you to think about whether this might be a role for you.

By joining the Board, you'll play an important role in shaping the future of the u3a movement, ensuring it continues to support and inspire members across the UK.

Nominations open on **Thursday 2 July**, so now is a good time to begin thinking about:

- whether your skills and experience would be a good fit for the Board
- approaching your u3a's committee, and another u3a's committee to propose and second you for the role.

We are looking for members who can demonstrate significant experience in at least one of the following areas:

- previous experience in a non-executive role at a large organisation or charity
- organisational strategy development
- organisational change or change management
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

More details and the full timeline are available [on the u3a website](#).

We're also holding an **online briefing session on Monday 6 July at 12pm**. This will provide the opportunity to learn more about the role, and to ask any questions you might have. [Sign up for free](#).

## Explore the UK with *u3a* getaways

We are excited to invite you to the first *u3a* getaways trip - The Agatha Christie Story - from 14-18 September 2026. You'll join other *u3a* members from across the country to explore the beautiful houses and coastlines that inspired her famous mysteries.

*u3a* getaways is a new programme of bespoke holidays exclusively for *u3a* members and friends. Please share this news with your members. Find out more on the [u3a getaways website](#).

## Opportunities to get involved

### Save the date - *u3a* week 2026

**19-27 September**

This year's theme is *expanding horizons*. We're planning a brilliant line-up of online talks and events for you and your members.

Across our social channels we'll be asking people to expand their horizons and try something new just for fun. We'd love to hear from members who are willing to take part and see what they might discover for the first time.

If your *u3a* is planning to take part, or would like any ideas or resources, please send an email to [communications@u3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@u3a.org.uk).

### This year's *u3a* essay competition is now live



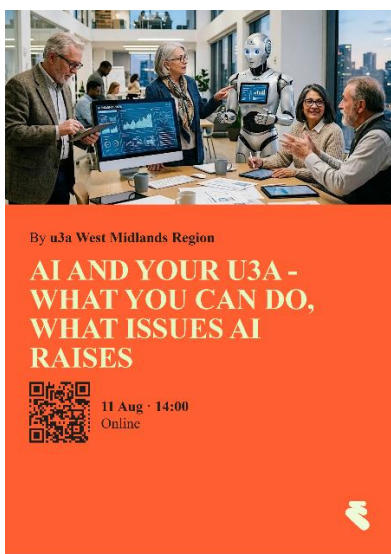
It's time to get writing! This year we want you to take us on a remarkable real-life journey - of discovery, adventure or transformation - and bring the story to life in fewer than 1000 words.

- **Free entry:** open to all u3a members
- **Deadline:** 31 July 2026
- **Prize:** book bundles for the winner and two runners-up, kindly donated by *HX Expeditions*.

## WEST MIDLANDS COUNCIL

### AI

Are you worried about AI? Do you want to understand what it is? What can AI do to help you personally and also to help your u3a? Come and find out at this online event on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at 2pm. You can book your place here: [event](#)



**Sue Russell**, Chair of u3a Council

## COTSWOLD LINK

Cotswold Link ran a very successful Special Interest day earlier this month in Cheltenham. One of our members attended and much enjoyed the day. Look out for her account in the Redditch u3a July newsletter.