



Edwalton Gamston & District U3A

Newsletter April 2015

Your Steering Group has been trying its best to set up the branch so that members can take part in social events and opportunities for companionship with people interested in the same things. Whilst we accept we cannot cater for everyone, we have had a few dissatisfied comments which we feel require a reply, giving background information:-

Open Letter to the Membership from the Steering Committee

A few members expressed concern over the subscription rate and group start-ups:

Value for money: The only money EGDU3A has is the subscriptions from its members. From this we need to pay all bills up until the end of March 31st, the end of our financial year. Without this cushion, your U3A could fold mid-year. It is upon advice from the parent organisation that the subscription levels were set. To answer specific points that have been raised:-

- The original 2014/5 subscription of £15 runs 6 months not 4, from September to March, this gives us initial funds and is in line with the 2015/6 subscription of £25 (covering 12 months and includes U3A affiliation and magazine costs).
- Members have been given the following options to ensure the 2015/6 rate is affordable, though at around £2 per month it is less than a cup of Central Avenue coffee:
 - Reduction for not wanting the magazine.
 - Reduction for affiliation to the U3A via another area group.

For this you can join as many groups as you wish for no extra charge other than the direct costs the group incurs.

- The EGDU3A has certain fixed costs we cannot downscale, for example:
 - The cost of the Gamston Community Hall which is £58 (£29 per hour or part hour), regardless how many subscriptions we have or members coming to the main meetings. In 2015/6 this will cost us over £600. We have no other hall suitable.
 - Though not all speakers charge, most U3As use a yearly budget of £300-400 with the really good speakers asking £50 or £100. Even without charge, we must offer travel expenses. Most speakers require, as basic, PA system and/or projection equipment.

The bigger the membership, the less these costs affect each of us. We already cut costs where we can, for committee meeting venues, printing etc. Until achieving full membership, we could not start the lengthy process of seeking grants.

To answer points made about interest groups: The Guiding Principles of the U3A movement, which dictate our actions, are that we are run by the members for the members. For this to happen effectively, members have to be actively involved in the 3 principles:

- The Third Age Principle
None of the members, and therefore none of the group leaders, helpers and committee, are paid professionals, who would be working full time to serve you in a normal job. We are all volunteers, doing this in our spare time.
- The Mutual Aid Principle
Each member who wishes to get enjoyment from the U3A will also need to volunteer as their capabilities and experience allow, whether running a group, helping at meetings, committee admin, serving refreshments, organising events, distributing posters - help

is needed in very many ways and, if spread around, means the individual burden is light. At present, your committee, which is 5 short, has no time to enjoy, only to organise.

- The Self-help Learning Principle

Many ideas have been suggested for groups. The reason these have not been realised is that we are so short of leaders. Unlike the WEA for example, we do not use paid tutors for groups which you pay for. You do not have to be an expert, just have an interest; there is always someone who can answer questions that arise. Leading a group is not a difficult task; at its simplest, one person per meeting to give a date, time and place. Our Group Co-ordinator and Treasurer have all the guidance needed. But without your action, nothing will happen and no interest groups will start.

We are a new group, in an initial growth period, with the reverse problems of those with too many members and too much money. We cannot be compared to these established groups where fees are low but interest groups are full. We do appreciate your feedback but, even more than that, we appreciate your active involvement to solve these problems. If you have ideas, please help us implement them. We are doing our best. What can you help us with?

We are setting the foundation for what you want your U3A to be. You need not be experts – all U3A committees are new to the task. In June we will have our first AGM. There will be opportunities to join the committee and help shape the group.



The 2015/16 subscription is now due. This can be paid at the monthly meetings where forms will be available. These will be sent with this newsletters or can be downloaded from the website. Fees can be paid by cash or cheque, made out to EGDU3A via the membership secretary (address on form). You can deduct £3.50 affiliation fee if you are in another U3A, (please bring your card) and £2 per household if not taking the Third Age Matters U3A magazine. Please ask our treasurer.

Greeters at the door will answer questions and direct you to steering committee members and group leaders. To help with high costs of the hall, there will be an admission fee of £1. There will be an opportunity for finding out about groups.

Our next meeting at the Gamston Community Hall (nr Morrisons) is on 9th April doors open at 1.45 for 2 pm (we meet each 2nd Thursday of the month), when we will have ample opportunity for catching up with friends, as we are having a Trip down Memory Lane, complete with appropriate music and goodies. Do you dare bring your retro outfit? **Please bring books for the Outings Group bookstall.**

Helpers – Thank you to our helpers for their sterling work at the last meeting. We still need meeters and greeters, and general helpers, including committee members, so please contact one of us at the meeting.

Speakers – We are collecting a number of speaker contacts but are always looking for someone to give short talks in the latter part of our general meetings. Contact Peter Knott/committee members. Our thanks to Graham Lambert for his talk in March on Consumer Protection, **see follow up legal advice laws at the end.**

Dates for your diary – Future Events:

On 14th May we will have Toni, a local magistrate, to talk to us on the things that happen even in well run courtrooms. Do you want to be on the jury and decide who goes to jail?

On 11th June, we will have our AGM, followed by a speaker (to be arranged).



Advance Notice – Annual General Meeting 11th June

Our U3A has been in existence for 6 months, with an initial probationary period, and our full membership of the Third Age Trust has recently been confirmed. The principle objectives of the U3A are to promote continuing learning for people like us in their “third age” (after full time employment has ceased).

The primary approach of Interest Groups sharing and developing learning through mutual support and co-operation automatically encourages a strong social element with the development of new interests and friendships.

The principle of mutual co-operation extends to the organisation of each independent U3A and after the AGM in June an elected Executive Committee will take over the planning and running of our U3A from the current Steering Committee.

To function effectively we will need four Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer), with up to eight other committee members who will between them cover a range of responsibilities and tasks such as keeping in touch with Group Leaders and encouraging the formation of new groups; production of the monthly Newsletter; finding speakers for the programme of monthly open meetings; keeping a rota for refreshment and meeter and greeter helpers; publicity; maintaining the list of members and generally contributing to the running of our U3A.

Many hands make light work and if you want to be sure you have your say in shaping what is available through your U3A, now is the time to think about putting your name forward for nomination as an Officer and/or Member of the Executive Committee and to encourage others to do so. Any Member of the Steering Committee will be happy to advise on what is involved.

Nomination forms (which need the signature of a proposer and seconder from the general membership) will be available at the 9th April monthly meeting.

The final date for submitting nominations is the 14th May, but it would be really helpful if some early nominations are submitted so we have assurance that there are people willing to lead our U3A through the first full year of democratic life – please give this your serious consideration.

OUR WEBSITE <http://edgamu3a.weebly.com/>

How many of you have had a peek at our new website?

On this you will find information on practicalities such as:-

- How to find us,
- When our main monthly meetings are and who our speakers are,
- How to join and information about the interest groups.

So just grab a cup of coffee, sit down at the computer and see what there is to offer.

(Some members have reported a box appears when you press “ctrl+clk” on the website. Do not worry, there is no virus or problem if you open it, the site is okay. We thank **Steve Barrett**, our Webmaster, who has set it up, and feel it is an easy to use, very clear website.

(I am not the only one with horror tales of other organisations’ professional website where I have almost thrown the computer out of the window!) We still would like pictures of U3A groups, events, activities or meetings for our gallery, please (make sure the people in them do not mind).

Remember while the website will be a useful aid for our membership to find out what is going on, it will also be our shop window to advertise ourselves to potential and future group members. Steve would particularly welcome comments, ideas and group updates, so please contact him either on stevebar555@yahoo.co.uk or edgamweb@yahoo.com.

Your Interest Groups

Group Leaders – our own website is now active, so please make it a habit to update Steve with information about meetings – dates, days, times, places and activities. We still need more potential group leaders to come forward, it is not a heavy commitment and should be shared by members of the groups – no-one should be lumbered with an unfair burden. I quote from the last newsletter *“Being a group leader is not complicated and need not be time consuming. Once a date, time and place is set for meetings, responsibility for individual meetings can be rotated. Groups decide the direction they want the activities to take and most groups have minimal or no costs. Groups just need a point of contact...”*

Craft Group The U3A Craft Group normally meets on the first Monday of each month from 10-12am, however when this coincides with a Bank Holiday we have decided to move our meeting to the second Monday. So this Easter our next meeting is on **Monday 13th April** from 10-12 when we will look at cross stitch techniques and is to be held at the home of Joyce Madden at 45 Davies Road West Bridgford.

Though we have 19 members on our list, a core of eight to ten members have attended the groups. At our last meeting, we worked on the cable technique in knitting demonstrated by our more able knitters. Other items have been on tatting and on crochet, though the group has also been a forum for discussion and advice on individual member's projects.

We are a group with diverse skills and interests who enjoy getting together to learn from each other. Members do not have to be highly skilled, though some are indeed very talented. As group leader I would say that I am thoroughly enjoying watching and learning from the other members. My role is to co-ordinate the group but not to lead or teach in any technical way!

Please contact me (**Prue Brandt**) if you would like to join our group. My e-mail is pruebrandt@hotmail.com or on 0115 9234383.

Creative Writing A meeting is to be set up at a later date, depending on demand. If anyone is interested in joining the **Creative Writing/Writers'** Group please contact the Group Leader, **Pauline Barrett** on 0115 937 4817 or paulinebarrett@hotmail.co.uk.

IT Group. Steve is looking to start this after Easter and will be contacting those on the list so that perhaps a couple of groups looking at specific areas of IT can be identified. If interested please contact Steve Barrett at stevebar555@yahoo.co.uk.

Languages We have established a French group and had a preliminary meeting for those interested in learning Spanish. For further information about both groups please contact **Cherry Brandon**, preferably by email at c.brandon2@ntlworld.com, or else phone 0115 846 1634.

Music Appreciation Music Appreciation has amalgamated with the Opera/Musicals group, the content of the meetings dependent on group likes and dislikes. If you are interested please contact **John Todd** giving an idea of availability at johnh.todd@yahoo.co.uk, on 0115 914 7074 or Chris Shaw at chrisshaw20038@hotmail.com, 0115 974 5512.

Outings group The pub quiz at the Meadow Covert, Alford Road was a great success as you can see and Joan hopes to run more quizzes in the future. There is a rolling programme of outings as below:-

- **April 15th Wed** – Belvoir Brewery Tour £8.95 approx 1 hour starting at 2pm. Own/shared transport.
- **May 1st Friday** – Holocaust Museum Newark with survivor speaker £7. Start 11am.

4 hrs approx. Own/shared transport.

- **May** (date to be arranged) – West Bridgford Walking Quiz – about 1 hour walk around the area with a quiz. Prize for winners. Cost £2
- **June** (date to be arranged) – possible Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Coach cost.
- **July** (date to be arranged) – Bridgemere Garden Centre/Dagfields Craft Village, Staffordshire. Coach Cost. Full day
- **August** – Pub Quiz Mon 24th Meadow Covert + meal £6
- **September** (date to be arranged) – Chatsworth House and Sotherby's Art in the grounds. Coach cost + entry.



<The winners
of the
pub quiz
at the
Meadow Covert.

Our thanks to>
Group Leader
Joan Mayhew
for organising the
event, the first one
of the new group.



Also, could all members (not just from Outings Group) please bring books to donate for a **book sale** in order to raise some petty cash for the outings group prizes and admin costs? Unsold books will be either taken to a charity shop or kept until the next book sale.

Please keep checking outings group table at the main meeting. Sign up for Belvoir brewery and Holocaust Museum by end of April 9th meeting. Pay at venue on the day. To join or for information, contact **Joan Mayhew** at joanmayhew@hotmail.com, or 01159455156.

Photography We meet on the third Monday of every month at 2pm, usually at members' homes but we plan some local field trips for the summer. Just seven of us at present, our knowledge and equipment vary considerably and our objective is simply to improve our photographic results. We seek to improve our artistic and technical skills, we discuss different ways of using our equipment, our subjects and the processing of images, all very relaxed, usually over a cup of tea or coffee. (The U3A competition closes 31st March)

We would welcome more members to join our group. If you have an interest in photography you would be very welcome to join us, please contact Peter Allsop either by telephone on 0115 921 5008/0793 123 228 or by email at plaU3A@gmail.com.

Poetry The Group has now met 3 times. Members have brought poems which have a personal significance and these have provoked interesting and stimulating discussion. Our next meeting will be at 2 pm on Tuesday 4th April, when the topic will be "poems which made me laugh". For further information contact Peter Knott, 0115 981 0749 or email peaknutt@btinternet.com. New members very welcome.

Short and Medium Walks Walks in April will be as follows:-

Medium distance –Tuesday 21st April - Waterside walk lead by Barrie Coulby, approx 8miles, opt out to bus routes at 6.5miles. Meet by TopKnot on the Embankment 10am.
Contact: barryjennycoulby@talktalk.net

Short distance - 29th April - meet 10.30 Gamston CH local canal side walk. NB 5th Weds.

Contact is **Jean Hudson** egdu3awalks@gmail.com or 0115 923 1032.

Wine Tasting Group Gamston Village Hall in old Gamston had its Inaugural meeting of the Group on **Wednesday 25th March** 2pm to 4pm. Richard will contact members with information, but still needs volunteers to help him set up the Group and successfully take it forward. Contact **Richard Davis** on 0115 981 2970 or richarddavis970@btinternet.com.

If you like the ideas for new groups including – **lunches; performing music; drama** – contact one of the committee, below or at the meeting. Do **you** have any ideas, especially if you are going to be actively involved?

Follow up Consumer Advice from March talk: go to Citizens Advice (Wed am St Giles)

CONTRACT – *Any contract is between you and the shop or seller.*

- If something goes wrong or if the product is defective, you must be in the same position that you would have been if everything had gone well. Eg Fridge/freezer **with food**.
- If any one party breaks the contract, the other can claim loss – **you or the builder!**
- Credit transaction – not valid unless both sign (beware – sometimes pre-signed at shop).

STATUTORY RIGHTS – *not affected by any guarantee or disclaimer.*

- Goods must be as described/advertised, fit for purpose, safe and last a reasonable time.
- Must be fit for a specified, unusual purpose – eg squeaky bed **if made condition of sale**.

FINANCIAL OMBUDSMAN SERVICE – *see Google*

- Able to – decide for you against usual legal situation;
insist that insurers give a reply deal in 28 days.

CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

- Anything paid for* partly/wholly on credit card gives them equal liability in any claim.
- No change to liability after card debt paid off – still liable. (* above a certain cost)

HOME OR DOORSTEP/STREET CONTRACTS – *cooling off period now 14 days.*

- Should give/send you a copy of your cancellation rights.
(but no longer negates contract if they do not).
- Credit/higher purchase – cooling off period 5 days after receipt of agreement copy.

INTERNET PURCHASES – *added protection in law*

- Same rights as shop purchases + cooling off period of 14 days.
- EEC purchases only (contract made where firm is – eg could be USA).
- Confirmation is not a contract – check it to see contract agreed by both parties.
- May need to pay return postage or seller may provide a return sticker or courier pick-up.
- Exception for personalised, ie one off. Note – a personalised car no. plate is **from stock**.

USEFUL CONTACTS Please note some 0845 numbers may now be 0345 (ie free)

To find a cheap local alternative to 0845 numbers, Google *0845*, click on saynoto0870.com, click on *search to find an alternative number*.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Non urgent local police | 101 |
| NHS Direct | 111 |
| Emergency | 999 |

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|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Crime stoppers | 0800 555 111 | |
| Laptop | PREY/LOJACK | free downloads tracker |
| Consumer Direct | 0345 40 05 06* | Cancellation Rights (14 days) |
| Buy with Confidence Scheme | 0345 40 05 06 | or 01623 452 005 |

Age UK (was Age Concern and Help the Aged) Useful leaflets free from any Age UK shop.

Age UK (computer) 0115 841 4479

Phone advice 0800 169 65 65

Online www.ageuk.org.uk

Tax 0300 200 3300 www.gov.uk/hmrc

Tax Help for Older People 01308 488 066 or 0845 601 3321 www.taxvol.org.uk

Preference Services – gives protection against UK cold callers

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Telephone | 0845 070 0707 | www.tpsonline.org.uk |
| Mailing | 0845 703 4599 | www.mpsonline.org.uk |
| Text/SMS | www.getsafeonline.org (+ STOP) | |
| Mobile phone problems | 0800 500 212 | www.phonepayplus.org.uk |
| Mobile phone number | *#06# gives mobile serial number | |

State Pensions

- New claims 0800 731 7898 (2 months before you retire)
- Help Line 0845 60 60 265
- Future Statement 0845 300 0168
- Pension Credit 0800 991 234* (only 10 digits not 11)
- Winter Fuel Payment 0845 915 15 15
- Online www.gov.uk/pensions

Occupational/Workplace Pensions

- Workplace Pensions 0300 123 1047 (The Pensions Advisory Service)
www.pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk

Pension Tracing Service

- Phone 0845 6002 537 open 8 – 6 weekdays
- Online www.gov.uk/find-lost-pension

NEXT TIME – USEFUL WEBSITES.....

Steering Committee Members – general contact number 07581400419

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Peter Allsopp | Member | plaU3A@gmail.com |
| Steve Barrett | Webmaster | stevebar555@yahoo.co.uk |
| Beverley Clare | Refreshments | bevclare.bc@gmail.com |
| Richard Davis | Treasurer | richarddavis970@btinternet.com |
| Bill Kelly | Publicity & Newsletter | william.kelly60@ntlworld.com |
| Peter Knott | Speaker Seeker | peaknutt@btinternet.com |
| Ann Hatch | Group Co-ordinator | hatchann@hotmail.com |
| Jean Hudson | Chairman | jeanhudsonjss@aol.com |
| Paul Hudson | Membership Secretary | phudson8@aol.com |
| Chris Shaw | Secretary | secretary1egdu3a@outlook.com |

Travel information – Buses to Morrisons stop – no:s 5 or 7 or the L shopper buses.

If you know someone without transport, could you give them a lift there or back?

Do you have anything for the newsletter? Please mail the editor (Bill) by 23rd April.

You can find information about us on the U3A website www.nottsu3anetwork.org

Our own dedicated website is <http://edgamu3a.weebly.com/>

If you are interested in shaping your future U3A, call/text **0758 140 0419**

or contact us by the secretary at secretary1egdu3a@outlook.com

Subscriptions by the end of March please to our membership secretary Paul Hudson on phudson8@aol.com, or the Secretary or at the meeting.

| Group | Meetings | Leader | Telephone | Email |
|--------------------|--|--|------------------|------------------------------|
| Archaeology | TBC | <i>Leader Required</i> | | |
| Art Appreciation | 3 rd Wednesday 2:30 | Roy Townsend | 0115 923 5080 | roy.townsend@btinternet.com |
| Art Practical | TBC | <i>Leader Required</i> | | |
| Bird Watching | Starts March 2015 | Peter Allsopp | 0115 921 5008 | plaU3A@gmail.com |
| Book Club | 2 nd Tuesday 2:30 | Roy Townsend | 0115 923 5080 | roy.townsend@btinternet.com |
| Bridge | Every Tuesday 2:15 | Ann Widdowson | 0115 945 5025 | annwid62@gmail.com |
| Crafts | 1 st Monday 10-12am | Pru Brandt | 0115 923 4383 | pruebrandt@hotmail.com |
| Creative Writing | Please contact leader | Pauline Barrett | 0115 937 4817 | paulinebarrett@hotmail.co.uk |
| Discussion | TBC | <i>Leader Required</i> | | |
| Gardening | TBC | <i>Leader Required</i> | | |
| History | 2 nd & 4 th Monday 2:00 Meet at Meadow Covert | Paul Hudson | 0115 923 1032 | phudson8@aol.com |
| | | Looking at Local History (a) West Bridgford, Edwalton & Gamston (b) Nottingham & suburbs Looking at World War Histories (especially effects on Notts & localities) | | |
| I.T. | Starts Apr 2015 | Steve Barrett | | stevebar555@yahoo.co.uk |
| Languages | Starts Feb 2015 | Cherry Brandon | 0115 846 1634 | c.brandon2@ntlworld.com |
| Meditation | Starts Feb 2015 | Karen Singleton | 0758 718 1758 | kay_christine@hotmail.com |
| Music Appreciation | 2 nd Wed of month | John Todd | 0115 914 7074 | johnh.todd@yahoo.co.uk |
| Photography | 3 rd Monday 2:00 | Peter Allsopp | 0115 921 5008 | plaU3A@gmail.com |
| Poetry | Starts Feb 2015 | Peter Knott | 0115 981 0749 | peaknutt@btinternet.com |
| Scrabble | 3 rd Tuesday 2:00 | Sue Brittain | 0115 937 4751 | suebrittain@hotmail.co.uk |
| Stamp Collecting | Starts Apr 2015 | John Todd | 0115 914 7074 | johnh.todd@yahoo.co.uk |
| Walking | | Jean Hudson | 0115 923 1032 | egdu3awalks@gmail.com |
| Walking Medium | 3 rd Tuesday 10:00 | Meet TopKnot, Trent Bridge 21Apr: approx. 8 miles – lead by Barry Coulby | | |
| Walking Short | NB 5 th Wednesday 10:30 (this month) | Meet GCH 29 Apr: Canalside walk (2-3miles) | | |
| Wine Tasting | TBC GVH 2pm | <i>Leader Required</i> | | |
| Yoga | TBC | <i>Leader Required</i> | | |

For venue details and to join a group please contact the Leader