

November update for u3as

To Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers

I'm delighted to present my first update as CEO of the Third Age Trust. It's been a busy start as at October's AGM, members voted overwhelmingly to approve the Fit for the Future resolution and change the constitution of the Third Age Trust.

The change means we are now separating the representative and supportive role currently played by elected Region/Nation Trustees from the legal and financial responsibilities that come with being a trustee of a large national charity. We're creating the u3a Council to take on this representative role and act as a conduit between u3as and the Board.

In doing so, we hope to strengthen the voice of u3a members, ensuring that your views and ideas help shape the strategic direction of the Trust.

In this month's update, you will find out more about what happens next in terms of setting up the new u3a Council and electing the new Board. You will also find links to buy next year's u3a diary and hear what's been happening this Trustees' Week.

Best wishes

Iain Cassidy
CEO of the Third Age Trust

Council and Board nominations

The timeline for the upcoming nomination and voting process for the new Council and Board is as follows:

- **Monday 18 November 2024** - Nominations open
- **Thursday 19 December 2024** - Nominations close
- **Monday 13 January 2025** - Voting opens
- **Friday 21 February 2025** - Voting closes

When nominations open, we will send out candidate packs with information about how to apply for the following roles:

- Council Representative
- Council Chair
- Board Trustee

We would love as many members as possible to put themselves forward to be part of the new Council. Please consider nominating yourself and share widely with your u3a.

Looking back at the AGM



In case you missed it

If you weren't able to attend the AGM online on the day, or if you'd just like to revisit any part of it, you can now do so on our Youtube channel, where we have released the full video.

[Visit our Youtube channel](#)

Congratulations to the SiteWorks team



The SiteWorks team have been working hard over the last few months to migrate u3a websites from the SiteBuilder platform and are approaching an impressive milestone of **500 u3as on SiteWorks**.

The SiteBuilder platform will be switched off on Friday 13 December. If your u3a uses a SiteBuilder website and has not yet migrated to SiteWorks, or another platform, please contact the team as soon as possible.

[Contact the Siteworks team](#)

Raising the profile of u3a

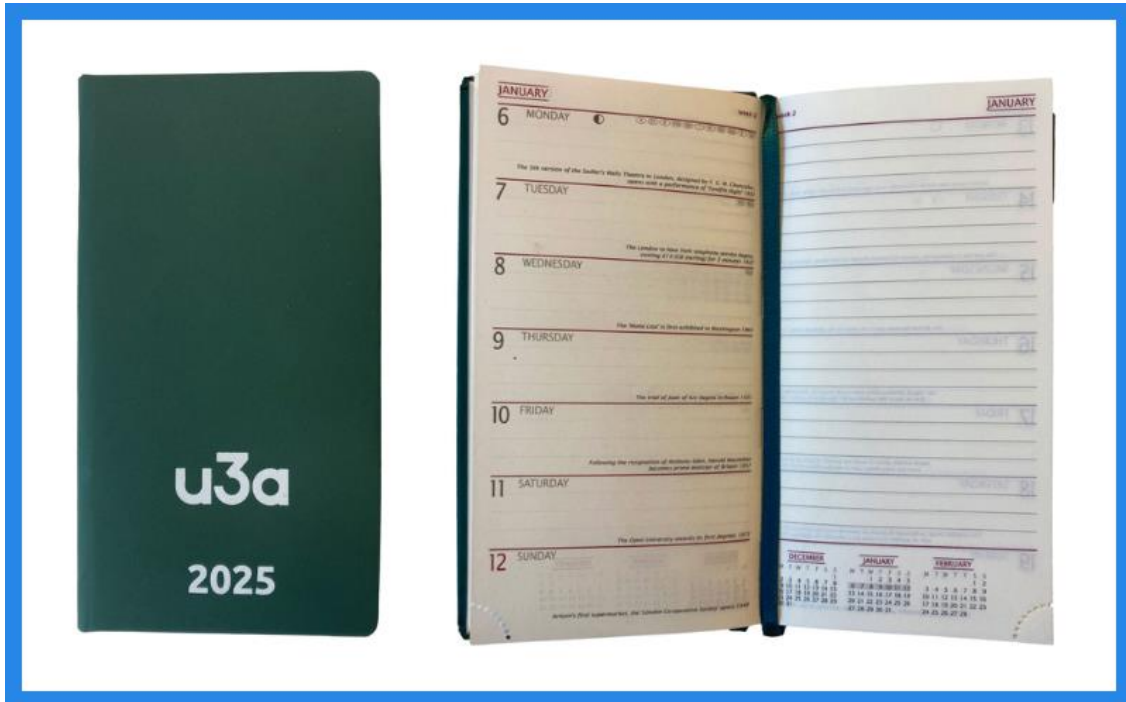
There have been several high profile features of the u3a in the press and media recently.

- Malvern u3a members appeared on two episodes of **Only Connect**. You can read about their experience on our [u3a blog, Sources](#).
- Croydon u3a member Christina appeared in an article in **The Sunday Telegraph** about the differing experiences of retirement. Within the article, it was mentioned that Christina, who described retirement as ‘the happiest period of her life’, was a u3a member.
- A full page advert for the u3a movement appeared in **The Guardian** on 9 October. Another advert will appear in **The Sunday Times** on 24 November.
- A second advertising campaign with **Boom Radio** has begun and will run until January 2025. The three adverts emphasise how u3a can be a solace after bereavement, can offer a fun approach to retirement, and can enable members to learn new skills.
- Articles referencing u3a also appeared in **Saga Magazine**, the **I newspaper**, **Birmingham World** and **London Daily**.

As we work to build relationships with press and secure advertising to promote u3a, we want to understand the impact this has on membership enquiries. A huge thank you to those u3as already helping us to monitor numbers. We have attached a monitoring form below – please do continue to fill these out and send them to communications@u3a.org.uk.

Fill out the monitoring form

Our new Brand Shop



2025 diaries

Our new u3a Brand Shop launched at the end of last month selling the 2025 u3a diary. Printed with the days of the week on the left, and space for notes on the right, packs of 10 diaries are available at a specially discounted price of just £40 plus postage and packaging - ideal for groups, volunteers and committees.

Order your diary on our new Brand Shop

Last chance to use the old Brand Centre

Over the next month we will be in a period of transition as we develop the u3a Brand Shop - adding new photos and updated publicity materials for your u3a to use. We will work as quickly as we can to get all customisable assets and logos on the new site but appreciate your support and understanding as we work through this transition period. **The existing Brand Centre will be switched off in the week of 18 November 2024.** If you know that your u3a needs merchandise, brand assets or publicity materials, please order these now.

We will keep you updated on how and when you will be able to access the new shop.

[Order from the old Brand Centre](#)

Trustees' Week 2024

Highlighting the experiences of u3a Trustees

This week is Trustees' Week and we want to say thank you to everything that you do for your u3as within your roles as committee members and u3a Trustees. The u3a movement is able to thrive because of your contribution.

This week, we are sharing the experience of three Trustees on our u3a blog, highlighting different elements of the committee experience that may be helpful to you. [Read more on our blog, Sources.](#)



Bingo!

We have created a Bingo card for u3a Trustees – how many of these have you done?

Are there any key u3a committee experiences that we haven't included?

Let us know.

Put your knowledge to the test

How much do you know about trustees? Make sure you're up to date on the latest guidance with the new Charity Commission quiz.

[Take the quiz](#)

Advice & volunteering

Upcoming online workshops

The following workshops are open to all u3a members to provide support as volunteers running your u3a. Please share this information with your wider committee and members.

- **Tuesday 12 November** - Growth Matters
- **Thursday 14 November** - Running your u3a, Information for Trustees
- **Monday 18 November** - Interest Groups Matter
- **Wednesday 20 November** - Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
- **Friday 22 November** - Running discussion groups and getting feedback
- **Monday 25 November** - Managing complaints and disciplinary processes in your u3a

- **Friday 29 November** - Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion coffee morning

See all upcoming workshops and book your place

Learning

Learn from the experts

Would you like a speaker for an online or in person talk for your u3a? Use our [Find A Speaker](#) database to find and reach out to those ready to share their knowledge. The talks available cover a huge range of topics including music, history, and the world today.



Join us for a Christmas cookery demonstration

Learn how to make a Christmas cake, mincemeat muffins, a mushroom wellington and more with Chef Alex from 'Vegetarian for Life', who's running an event on Zoom for u3a members on Thursday 5 December. Sign up

below and keep up to date with all of our upcoming learning events by signing up to the monthly newsletter.

[Sign up to an event or subscribe to the newsletter](#)



A great deal more with Friends Extra

We've worked hard to secure exclusive benefits for members of our u3a Friends newsletter with u3a Friends Extra, so we encourage you to share this with your members. By signing up to the newsletter, you can access a wide range of offers and discounts on a variety of products covering health and wellbeing, shopping and travel.

[Sign up to u3a Friends](#)