

From the Exec

Meeting with MP At the end of last year, the Third Age Trust (TAT) encouraged all u3as to share a report called *Learn to Live* with their local MP. It highlights the benefit of non-formal learning, how people meeting together promotes health/wellbeing and reduces social isolation. The report also calls for greater recognition and targeted resources from the UK government to promote and invest in u3as. Karen Grad and I met with Louise Sandher-Jones MP on 16th February to share the many social, physical and mental advantages of u3a membership as well as our efforts to raise our profile locally. She agreed to share u3a on her social media page, include mention of our meeting in her column in the Dronfield Eye and she gave us an open invitation to contact her if we think of other ways she could help. *Julia Harris*

Plea for helpers at events The majority of our members joined us because they spoke to a u3a member at some point and were told what a great organisation we are for making friends, keeping active, having fun and learning new skills. Many of these early contacts were made by our publicity team and other willing members who have manned stalls at around half a dozen local public events for several years since we were formed over 10 years ago. Their efforts have helped increase our membership, maintain affordable subscriptions and keep the association alive. For 2026 we would like to increase our pool of volunteers to spread the workload more evenly. All that's needed is to spend an hour or two at one or more event, sharing information and interests with non-members. If you're able to help please contact [Phine Wright](#), [Jed Stone](#), [Terry Goodyear](#) or phone 01246 900201.

Renewals Whilst many of you may be keen to renew your membership, please do not attempt to do so before 1st April as our database cannot cope with early renewals. We will write to you when it's time to renew. *Angela Richards - Membership Secretary.*

Groups News

Badminton Group We are hoping to start a Badminton Group at 10.30am on the 2nd and 4th Fridays/month at Dronfield Sports Centre. Maybe you haven't played for a long time or have never played but would appreciate a bit of exercise. We would play for just 45 mins (the duration of a booking) the cost of the court being divided by those present. We will have a free Taster Session on Friday 13th March. Please contact [Julia](#) or [Terry](#) or phone 01246 900201 if you are interested.

Canva Group We are also hoping to start a group for people interested in learning how to use Canva, a web-based graphic design platform. A member of Bourne End u3a has put together a very comprehensive [Canva Course](#) with course notes, a slide presentation and other online resources.

DDu3a has secured free access to Canva Pro for up to 50 users, so no need to pay for any level of access yourself. Each of us could be following the course at our own pace, using the DDu3a login on our own devices, keeping in touch with one another to share experience, tips and work we have produced. Please contact [Julia](#) or [Terry](#) or phone 01246 900201 if you are interested.

Kurling Taster Session We are delighted to share that our upcoming kurling taster session on Tuesday, March 3rd, has sparked a wonderful response from members eager to try this fun and engaging sport. So much so, that we've had to organise a second session on Tuesday, March 10th, to accommodate everyone who wants to join in. A big thank you to all who replied so enthusiastically. No doubt the excitement from the Winter Olympics has added to the buzz around kurling, inspiring many to give it a go. [Andy Baldwin](#), Kurling Co-ordinator.

Useful Links

- [Latest Notices](#)
- [Monthly Meetings and Coffee Mornings](#)
- [Interest Groups](#)
- [Trips and Visits](#)
- [Our Contact details](#)