u3a Ruddington & District

September 2026 Newsletter

issue 92



The Ruddington Sunflower Challenge, inspired by Barbara Breakwell's Sunflower Awareness Project has been a great success and brightened up the village. This photo was taken in a front garden on the Churchill Estate.
On behalf of everyone in our u3a Di Brown has received a bouquet and a thank you card to acknowledge all her hard work as membership secretary. Di continued in post for over a year after resigning to ensure that we continued to run smoothly. Many thanks to Di.

I am pleased to welcome our four new committee members, Maggie Browne is the Membership Secretary, assisted by Henny Scott. Jim Edwards is our new Business Secretary and Mark Edwards will work with Peter Davison as we progress with the Beacon system. We still have vacancies for a permanent Vice Chair and Newsletter Editor.

Last month's speaker, Barak Patel, raised £230 for his charity Hope Against Cancer, and wishes to thank everyone.
Di and Howard Brown"s sponsored walk raised £2,335.75 for the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance. This is an excellent achievement.

All of our interest groups are now back in action after some took a summer break and we can look forward to a positive future.
Best wishes
Liz McAdam
Chair

What is Beacon?

Beacon is an on line management system designed by u3as, for u3as. Beacon currently provides over 675 individual u3as with a secure, efficient and effective means of managing their day-to-day business functions. It is supported nationally by u3a member volunteers.

- Beacon is cloud based, and always available online from any device. It removes the need for committee members to use their own computers and increases data security.
- Beacon gives easy continuity when people change roles.
- All data is held together, secure and in just one place.
- It can only be accessed by authorised users, usually officers & group convenors, each with their own 'individual permissions' to do just what they need to do.
- With new regulations on Data Privacy, it ensures that u3as comply with all legal requirements.
- Beacon provides a comprehensive set of tools for handling all aspects of membership
- Beacon provides group leaders with membership management, calendars, group ledgers, and easy communication with group members.
- A secure transaction-based approach for all financial management.

The system went live on 2nd September but a step by step approach to full implementation has been adopted. It is already being used by the new membership team and for committee matters. It is anticipated that interest group management will be next.
New committee member Mark Edwards and Peter Davison are the system administrators. The membership secretary role is being shared by new committee members Maggie Browne and Henny Scott.
There will be no difference for members of our u3a.

Your committee

Chair	Liz McAdam
Vice chair	vacant
Treasurer	Sue Woodward
Business secretary	Jim Edwards
Publicity	Barbara Breakwell
Groups Coordinator	Liz Thornton
Minutes secretary	Bryan Browne
Speaker Finder	Chris Davison
Membership secretary	Maggie Browne
Assistant membership secretary	Henny Scott
Interim Beacon administrator	Peter Davison
Future Beacon Administrator	Mark Edwards
Trustee	Mike Wynn
Newsletter editor	Vacant

Newsletter

Since our u3a was formed there have been 91 issues. You will have noticed that this months newsletter is again thinned down. This is because Ian Robinson retired from the position of newsletter editor and the committee is taking the opportunity to consider what we want the newsletter to do.

Should it stay the same? an electronic copy emailed to all members and an 8 sided full colour A5 booklet professionally printed and distributed at the monthly meetings?

Are the interest group reports and photos interesting? Options to consider are the need for a printed newsletter, the frequency , the target readership - could it be developed as a publicity tool, should it contain more national u3a information?

The committee would very much appreciate your thoughts. Emails to Peter Davison at pgdavison11@gmail.com or any committee member would be welcome.

A new permanent Newsletter Editor is needed.



Meeting Speaker

Monday 19th October 2.00pm

Monday 16th November 2.00pm Save the Children



The Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance

Andy from the LNAA will be speaking to us about the work of the organisation

A history and overview
Jane Piggott

Jane last spoke to our u3a several years ago. She returns to give us a history of the organisation and to talk about their current work.
After the talk Jane will be selling a selection of Save the Children Christmas cards

December 21st 2.00pm The life and work of the Beatles
Paul Lillie

Paul entertained us last year with his illustrated talk on the life of Elvis Presley. He returns this year to give us an illustrated talk about the Fab Four.
Christmas refreshments and raffle to follow.

January 18th 2027 The Water Babies
Mike Burton