



The Third Age Trust – UK

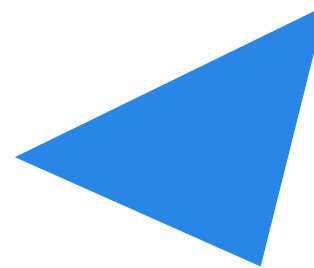
England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland



Presentation to Erasmus+ SELID Conference,
Dresden 23/24 September 2021

Auriol Ainley

Development Committee - International



New Methods and Programmes in ICT Learning for the Elderly

Good practices, Digital skills needed, Key methodologies,

Best practices for problem solving in the digital society

Internet, Social Media, Digital Security



New Methods and Programmes in ICT Learning for the Elderly

- >1040 individual U3As and >450,000 senior members
- 1 small national office – 16 people
- Board of 15 retired voluntary directors
- 0 employed tutors/lecturers - peer-to-peer learning



u3a

- March 2020 – all U3As closed because of Covid
- Established email contact, newsletters, telephone network
- U3A community embraced digital, adopting Zoom
- Learning videos organised on technology – by experienced volunteer members
- National Facebook and Twitter set up



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- U3As set up individual Facebook/Twitter pages as well as Interest Groups
- Circa 80% increase in members using digital
- National Workshops go online
- Summer and Winter Schools went virtual
- New virtual U3A – Trust U3A – completely virtual
From 0-900 members, it will continue as Tu3a



u3a

- Benefit from members' vast career experience – technical training sessions developed by experienced members.
- Training events managed by Eventbrite, free of charge to all members
- Experienced members gave lectures on art appreciation, history, architecture, music, and many others



- National Learning Programmes with organisations such as the National Gallery and National Army Museum were developed
- Charitable organisations offered free lectures to our members through their own webinars



- National website has approved advice documents for download on running a U3A, regularly updated
- Trust delivers documents on digital security etc on website and emailed to every U3A for onward transmission to members
- National newsletter emailed to members for interest on what is happening nationally – valuable 2-way communication
- Also applies to Facebook and Twitter where members can contribute themselves



u3a

- Many U3As had circa 95% increase in seniors learning how to access technology
- National AGM held with socially distanced attendees and streamed nationally
- Many individual U3As also held meetings streamed to their own members
- Future meetings may continue to be hybrid of physical and virtual



Continuation of lifelong learning has benefited members by increased usage of the internet, knowledge and understanding of technology, and enabled seniors to maintain contact with family, friends, and U3A matters throughout the covid pandemic.

Thank you.

