

Newsletter

News for members of Beeston u3a

Produced quarterly and distributed electronically to all members.
Some printed copies will be made available for new members and anyone who has difficulty reading from a screen.

January 2025

BEESTON u3a VOLUNTEER—SPECIAL APPEAL

Forthcoming Dates for your Diary

6th February	Cathy McAteer	Russia: Its History and People A whistlestop gallop around the historical nuts and bolts of all things Slavic, with personal insight and experience of living, travelling and working in Russia and the Former Soviet Union.
6th March	Ann Hilton	Medical Detection Dogs Ann will talk about the charity Medical Detection Dogs, which trains dogs to detect odour of human disease.
3rd April	Professor Martyn Poliakoff	Mendeleev's Gift to Education (and to you and me) Distinguished Professor Poliakoff will talk about the Periodic Table and illustrate his talk with some of his famous You Tube videos—the channel has 1.6 million subscribers!
1st May	All	Beeston u3a Annual General Meeting

Happy New Year Beeston u3a members!

Thanks to the phenomenal efforts of everyone who pulls together to make things happen and the enthusiasm of our members, Beeston u3a continues to grow from strength to strength.

We are on our way to 1200 members in 2025 – that is more than most city groups in the UK! And we are doing our best to stay in line to offer the national recommended level of 10 groups to every 100 members.

In 2024, we have enjoyed the ongoing success of dozens of our Groups as well as multiple events and outings. Some highly successful new Groups have recently been formed from a standing start.

Our popular monthly Open Meetings regularly attract 150+ members.

It is time to thank everyone who puts in so much work – from the Group Facilitators, the tea and coffee makers, the IT support team, the Committee and everyone else.

BUT...

We need more help!

Two of our Committee stalwarts step down in April 2025 – Anne Pinnock, Chair and Alison Wilson, Membership Secretary – after completing their maximum allowed terms. At the same time we seem to be finding it difficult to recruit new people to help in significant ways.

This difficulty is totally understandable, of course. You might have only just retired. You want to spend your time concentrating on your activities or you may have family responsibilities or continue to work part time.

SO HERE'S SOMETHING NEW FOR 2025!

Karen Attwood (currently our Publicity Officer and Speaker Seeker) has volunteered to coordinate a **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DRIVE**. She is doing two main things:

- Listing all the things we need help with
- Breaking down some of the roles which have grown enormously into more manageable sections

The idea is that if lots of people volunteer to help in some small way, we should be able to spread the load.

SO - if you are enjoying your activities in the u3a and want to see them continuing for you and for others in the future **PLEASE READ FURTHER TO SEE HOW YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.**

We want you to consider donating a few extra hours here and there to do something useful. Something you would enjoy doing. Please see the list attached. Note that not all roles need monthly input.

In addition, the more people who volunteer the more the work can be divided up.

Also – you might be able to offer something that is not listed here. Please get in touch if that's the case.

Karen can be contacted with any queries about this volunteer drive at:
publicity@beestonu3a.org.uk

Karen will be happy to meet with you to discuss requirements and how you might be able to fit them around your commitments.

Similarly if you know someone in Beeston u3a who you think might be suitable for one of the roles listed please let Karen know and she will contact them to discuss further.

PLEASE REMEMBER that unless we have people to run our activities we will have to start cutting back what's available and that would be a crying shame.

Current Beeston u3a Vacancies

Please consider carefully if you can help with any of the following...

CHAIR

Commitment: Once a month - Committee meeting (2 hours) and optional Open meeting (2 hours) PLUS email liaison.

Current holder Anne Pinnock steps down in May 2025, we need someone ASAP.

Suitable person: Works well in a team, supportive, good at broad overview, committed to u3a principles.

OPEN MEETING COORDINATOR(S)-could be a team of 2 or 3 people

Commitment: Once a month attendance at Open meeting & email liaison beforehand.

This role is VACANT and we need someone ASAP.

Suitable person: Organised person, good with emails.

SPEAKER SEEKER ASSISTANT

To work with current Speaker Seeker Karen Attwood in the short term.

Commitment: Occasional attendance at Open meetings & email liaison beforehand.

This role is VACANT and we need someone ASAP.

Suitable person: Someone who enjoys meeting new people & well organised.

SPEAKER REVIEWER

Commitment: Once a month attendance at Open meeting, taking brief notes for the newsletter.

This role is VACANT and we need someone ASAP.

Suitable person: Good article writer.

EVENTS COORDINATOR (s)

Commitment: Ad hoc advertising and booking one (or more) event(s), liaising with people who sign up and making any other arrangements to deliver.

We always have vacancies in this area.

Suitable person: Someone with a passion/good contacts with a place to visit and good IT skills to liaise with those who sign up.

More Beeston u3a vacancies

IT TEAM HELPER (s)

To occasionally support existing team.

Commitment: Occasional assistance at Open meetings.

We always have vacancies in this area.

Suitable person: Good knowledge of PowerPoint, projection systems, microphones and/or Zoom.

IT TEAM MEMBERS (s)

Commitment: Once a month at IT help events.

We always have vacancies in this area.

Suitable person: Someone who wants to help others set up computers, install systems etc

WEBSITE ASSISTANT

To work with current webmaster.

Commitment: Ad hoc.

This role is VACANT.

Suitable person: Someone with WordPress and Domain knowledge, also Google Workspace skills

OPEN MEETING MEETERS & GREETERS

To support existing team.

Commitment: Every now and then at Open meetings.

We always have vacancies in this area.

Suitable person: Provides a warm welcome at the Open Meetings.

OPEN MEETING TABLE SET UP

Commitment: Once a month at Open meetings.

This role is VACANT.

Suitable person: Someone able to set up tables and move furniture.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD MANAGER

Commitment: Once a month attendance at Open meetings.

This role is VACANT.

Suitable person: Good with drawing pins.

Even more Beeston u3a vacancies

OPEN MEETING PHOTOGRAPHER

To work with Mike Johnson.

Commitment: *Once a month at Open meetings.*

This role is VACANT.

Suitable person: Someone with a good eye for interesting pictures & able to send digitally to Communications Officer.

FACEBOOK COORDINATOR

Commitment: Activity once every 3 weeks or so. (NB Lots of drafts already loaded.)

This role is currently being done by Karen A but needs someone to take over ASAP.

Suitable person: Good IT/social media knowledge.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY OPEN MEETING HELPER (s)

Commitment: Once a month at Open meetings, particularly at renewal time Feb to May.

This role is vacant in May 2025 but a cross over with current holder would be a good idea.

Suitable person: Friendly face. Helping people with application forms and payments etc.

SPEAKER SEEKER

Commitment: Once a month attendance at Open meeting & email liaison beforehand.

Current role holder Karen A steps down May 26 but a lengthy handover would be great due to booking so far in advance.

Suitable person: Someone who enjoys meeting new people & is organised.

QUIZ MASTER

Commitment: One evening, once a year.

This role is vacant in 2026.

Suitable person: Someone to set an entertaining and interactive quiz for this popular event.

To register your interest in any of the above...

please contact Volunteer Coordinator Karen at publicity@beestonu3a.org.uk

CAN YOU DO SOMETHING NOT LISTED HERE THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL?

We'd like to hear from you!

please contact Volunteer Coordinator Karen at publicity@beestonu3a.org.uk

Members Enjoying u3a Activities



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All our Beeston u3a Activities

pickleball
bridge
strollers line.dancing long.walks
mah-jong play.reading
gardening bridge.beginners recorders
calligraphy film.studies.on.zoom practical.art
snooker murder.book.group shared.reading
photography french.conversation
yoga birdwatching sf.fantasy.book.group
transport
medium.walks sewing.upcycling.repairing
garden.visitslandscape.and.environment
art.gallery.visits camping.caravan.motorhome
let's.make.music experienced.cryptic.crosswords
ukulele.group adventures.beyond.comfort.zone
american.history readers.rendezvous.book.group
ukulele.strummers between.the.covers.book.group
walking.with.dogs
what.the.papers.say beginners.cryptic.crosswords
german.intermediate family.history.genealogy
philosophy.religion scottish.country.dancing
beer.appreciation non.fiction.book.group
latin piano.keyboard psychology/sociology
chess lunch.groups british.sign.language
archaeology spanish.conversation
buddies book.group bee.writers
scrabble short.walks
cycling

bridge
whist
play.reading
badminton
recorders
film.studies.on.zoom
shared.reading
italian
french.conversation
music.appreciation
sf.fantasy.book.group
international.dance
sewing.upcycling.repairing
poetry.appreciation
opera.zoom.group
canasta
wine.appreciation
science
jazz.appreciation
adventures.beyond.comfort.zone
history
model.railways
german.conversation
intermediate.cryptic.crosswords
history
latin.for.beginners
model.railways
rummikub
patchwork.quilting
table.tennis
yoga.self.help
dominoes
cribbage
it.support
quiz