

Members in our National u3a movement have a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills, far too good to waste. In Wyre Forest & District u3a, we set about bringing together some of those 'gifts of life' to create a little cheer and interest to Kidderminster Mainline Railway station; a community service that will be visited by so many people, from all over the country, during the coming years.

And as we found out, when a task is carried out with LOVE and PASSION, great things can happen, and they have! The big surprise reward for our dedication and enthusiasm over 3 years is that on 25th September '24 we were presented with a '**Community Champions**' award by West Midlands Trains.

This very special project is being completed by fourteen volunteer members of our u3a, with the number growing, as other members are asking how they can get involved.

Informative and inventive projects have attracted great attention at our station, and that includes our own **u3a Adopters Notice Board**, telling all passing through what we are planning and have done already at the station.

People are now asking... what IS the u3a... what does it do... how can I join!

Adopting a station not only gives volunteers joy in doing something useful for the community, but with a notice board in a very prominent position at the station, it is a permanent advert for the u3a movement and gets u3a noticed.... For free!

We are supported too by The Community Rail Network (CRN) who have always been there to guide us towards our aims and objectives. They have produced a detailed **Station Adoption guide for the Local Community** which may well be the first port of call of any other u3a considering taking up the challenge.

<https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Station-adoption-a-guide-for-the-local-community.pdf>

Paul Webster Regional Support Manager CRN is happy to advise any u3a on the way forward. paul@communityrail.org.uk 07876 743 096

Wouldn't it be a wonderful aid to our amazing movement, if there were many stations around the country sporting a u3a Adopter Notice Board?

WF&D have learnt HOW adoption works and what is involved in achieving success, on a small, and a much grander scale. If after looking at images of our work you feel that you may like to adopt your local 'unadopted' station, then we are here to offer advice too, for you to decide and perhaps get started.

Please contact Lead Adopter Sue Langley for any further information

stationadopters@wyreforestu3a.org.uk