

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF U3As
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14 OCTOBER 2015

This is my last report as the Chairman of your Network as I am now the East Midlands Regional Trustee. Michaela Moody has done a great job as Regional Trustee and she will be a hard act to follow but she has now become a National Vice Chairman.

Over the last year, the Network has put forward suggestions of where new U3As are needed and, as a result, Stapleford and Forest Town have come to life. There was one launch that did not go ahead, for Annesley and Newstead, but rather than consider this a complete failure, the Development Team has learnt lessons that previously they had not considered. My thanks go to all members of the team, who are now busy with next year's programme.

As well as launching new U3As, the Development Team ran two Workshops during the year, one for Speaker Seekers, and one for Chairmen and Committee members, both of which were attended by most of the U3As in the Network. More Workshops are in the pipeline for the coming year.

During the year, I have seen how U3As run their main meetings. They all have the same constituent parts but organise them in different ways. Some have their speaker first, some later in the meeting, but ample time is given to letting members know what is happening in the future. Most important, - all U3As have that vital cup of tea and members enjoy the meetings. The number of interest groups available in the county continues to grow, some common to many U3As and some taken up by only a few.

I attended the East Midlands Regional Conference and AGM. Those of you who were not there missed two brilliant speakers on sleep and memory, both of which are important to us as third-agers. Breakout groups were also part of the programme, discussing a wide range of topics.

The U3A held its National Conference and AGM in Nottingham and again there was an entertaining speaker. One day was given over to Workshops and Discussions; the ones I attended were Diversity, Communication, Signs of a Failing U3A and Working with Universities. The next time the Conference is in Nottingham, please send a delegate (or two?).

Plans are in hand for a Regional Summer School in 2016, to be held at Brackenhust College. Details of the subjects offered are available on the East Midlands website. If you have not registered interest, please do it quickly, as the closing date is 31 October to see if there are sufficient interested people to run the courses.

I have enjoyed my two years as your Chairman and I know the Nottinghamshire Network will go from strength to strength. Michaela tells me Nottinghamshire the best-organised and most enthusiastic Network in the Region. National Office has also told me that the East Midlands Region of U3As is the most organised one in the country – let us try to keep it that way.

My best wishes to you all.

Jane Pavier