

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY NETWORK OF U3As
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25.09.13.
AT RICHARD HERROD CENTRE, GEDLING, NOTTS.

PRESENT:- Liz Wilson, Chair, Margaret Taylor, Secretary, Jean Hogg, EDO, Jane Pavier RRC Representative
Arnold U3A Representative Rosie Allen,
Beeston U3A Representatives Douglas MacDonald and David Hurworth
Burton Joyce U3A Representative Karen Taylor
Carlton & Gedling U3A Representatives, Eric Rennie and Ian Robey
Hucknall U3A Representative Terry Hill
Keyworth U3A Representative Peter Edge
Mansfield Representative David Ling
Nottingham Representative Christine Baxter
Radcliffe on Trent Representative Ann Keen
Soar Valley U3A Representatives Peter Hickling and Anne Hickling
West Bridgford U3A Representative Denis Kitt
Worksop & District U3A Representative Mary Mitchell

ITEM 1 **WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Liz Wilson welcomed members and accepted Apologies from:-
Michaela Moody, Regional Trustee, Rita Foulkes, Treasurer, Ken Doyle Keyworth U3A, Rita Turner Mansfield U3A,
David Barton Radcliffe on Trent U3A, Lesley Sumner Retford U3A and Peter James Southwell U3A.

ITEM 2 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** dated 5th June 2013 were corrected as follows:-

Item 4 – End of 1st paragraph, the word “remind” should be changed to “remain”
The Minutes were then proposed by Karen Taylor and seconded by Jean Hogg as being a true record.

ITEM 3 **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Item 5 – 12 Treasurers and 12 Group Co-ordinators representing 14 U3As attended the recent workshop which members found very helpful.
Item 6 – The Indian Summer Festival held in Leicester proved very successful and members of the Ethnic Community showed great interest in the U3A movement.
Item 7 – Representatives on the Regional Council from the Notts. Network would now be Christine Baxter and Jane Pavier with Karen Taylor as the Alternative.
Item 8 – Michaela Moody had now been elected as the Regional Trustee.
Roger Bennett from Southwell U3A was no longer attending the Notts. Network and the Committee agreed that LW should send a “thank you” for his hard work and support he had given to the Network. **LW TO ACTION**

ITEM 4 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Unfortunately RF was unable to attend but her reports were circulated prior to the meeting.

ITEM 5 **NOTTS. DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT**

New U3A in Cotgrave – JH reported that the launch would be on the 12 November with the inaugural meeting taking place on the 10th. The venue would initially cost £25 per session. A grant in the region of £350 had been agreed by the local Councillor.

New U3A in Rainworth – LW thanked the U3As who were helping and distributing posters.

Possible new U3A in Calverton – would be considered when a new village hall is built.

Gedling Civic Centre Show Case – teams from Gedling and Nottingham had organised a day of activities to “Celebrate U3A” for Saturday 23rd November. Flyers had been distributed and members and their families from all U3As would be welcome. The flyer would also be sent to the County Contact for circulation and to Peter E. to be put onto the Web Site. **ROSIE ALLEN TO ACTION.**

Plans for 2014 – a copy had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Plans for 2016 – as the plan covers a 3 year period suggestions for new U3As or workshops should be sent to LW.

The Committee discussed that with changes that some of the workshops could be repeated e.g. Web Masters. It was also discussed that the workshop for Group Leaders could be moved forward to 2014.

A change of venue was also discussed with meetings being arranged in different areas to accommodate the U3As who could not attend due to distance.

Ideas on ways for U3As to thank Group Leaders were put forward and LW reminded the Committee that if any of the members' subscriptions was paying for this then they should be consulted and agreement obtained before going ahead.

These and other suggestions will be discussed at the next Development Team Meeting.

New members for the Development Team

Members to stay on the team are Rosie Allen, Jean Hogg, Jane Pavier, Karen Taylor and Liz Wilson.

David Ling, Douglas Macdonald and Mary Mitchell volunteered to join.

Denis Kitt would be “invited” to the next meeting to be arranged for December.

ITEM 6 **IN DEPTH LEARNING PROJECT**

Jean Hogg reported that the D.H. Lawrence study was meeting for the final time in November with members expressing how much they had enjoyed it. She is to write a brief report.

ITEM 7 **EAST MIDLANDS REGION UPDATE**

Contributions to Region. - LW reminded members U3As to send their contributions if they have not already done so.

EM Conference - Tuesday 15th July 2014 at the Trent College, Long Eaton, NG10 4AD. The theme is “Participation – it is all about taking part”. Each County has been asked to contribute a couple of items to the day and the Committee agreed that the Worksop Steel Band and several Ukele Groups could be asked to take part and that the Arnold and the Thoresby Holiday could be used as examples of events that have “attracted people”.

Regional Development Plan – Unfortunately the Committee had not yet received a copy of this. MT agreed to contact Gill Childs and to send to all Notts. Network contacts. **MT TO ACTION.** LW spoke about the Summer School that could be arranged for 2015 or 2016. This would be residential at Brackenhurst College which had brilliant facilities. If successful this could be arranged bi-annually. Any suggestions for the day, volunteers to runs groups and evening activities would be welcomed by LW.

ITEM 8 **WEB SITE REPORT**

Peter Edge said the web site was up-to-date but he was asked to put on the Development Plans and events which had been mentioned at today’s meeting.

ITEM 9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Peter Hickling of Soar Valley U3A made the Committee aware that people were actively seeking to join a particular U3A because it was “cheaper”. Decision was that if there were vacancies in that U3A, people could join and pay the full subscription. If they subsequently joined further U3As they did not have to pay the Affiliation Fee.
2. Paid Tutors. This was raised by a couple of U3As following a letter from Michaela Moody. After discussion it was agreed that U3As are definitely not allowed to “employ” tutors. However if a Group wishes to “use” the services of someone to teach you something you can’t do for yourselves, e.g. Tai Chi you must ensure that they have Public Liabilities Insurance as they are not covered by Third Age Trust’s Insurance. Expenses may be paid. The Charity Commission would get involved if a charity becomes an employer. Also a U3A member cannot charge U3A for their services.
3. Mary Mitchell of Worksop U3A spoke of the event to take place at her local cinema on 12 December 2013. All U3As within Nottinghamshire had been sent a notice and were welcome to attend.
4. Denis Kitt drew Committee’s attention to “Futurelearn” www.futurelearn.com which is an on-line learning service with free short non-vocational courses.
5. Elections - Unfortunately this had not been put onto the Agenda and LW gave apologies for this.
Chair – Jane Pavier, Proposed by Rosie Allen and seconded by Terry Hill
Secretary – Margaret Taylor agreed to continue but only until the next election.
County Contact – Margaret Taylor agreed to continue
Treasurer – Rita Foulkes agreed to continue.
Education Development Officer – Karen Taylor was proposed by Denis Kitt and seconded by Liz Wilson.
The out-going Committee Members, Liz Wilson and Jean Hogg were thanked by the Committee.
The Network Constitution will be sent by JH to MT who will circulate to all members. **JH/MT TO ACTION**

ITEM 10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** is on Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 10am.

Chair.....Liz Wilson Secretary.....Margaret Taylor