

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF U3As - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2016 AT THE CENTRE, ST. PETER'S, RAVENSHEAD, NOTTS. NG15 9FD**

PRESENT	Jeremy Lloyd Chairman (JL), Jenny Greaves Support Officer (JG), Rita Foulkes Treasurer (RF), Margaret Taylor Secretary (MT), Peter Edge Web Master (PE) & Jane Pavier Regional Trustee (JP) U3A Represented at meeting:- Arnold U3A Rosie Allen (RA), Beeston U3A Margo Gale, Bingham U3A Rosie Garner, Burton Joyce U3A S.M. Cantrell, Eastwood & District U3A Ann Mcgillivray, Forest Town & District U3A Michael King, Hucknall U3A B. Saunders, Mansfield U3A Mike Allen, Mapperley & District Martin Cooke, Nottingham & District U3A Jan Bridgeman, Rainworth U3A Mary Bramwell, Retford U3A Adrian Sumner, Sherwood U3A Liz Wilson (RRC Rep) (LW), Soar Valley U3A Peter Hickling, Sutton in Ashfield U3A Sue Hastie, West Bridgford U3A Pat Green and Worksop U3A Lorraine Wood.
ITEM 1	Jeremy Lloyd welcomed everyone. The meeting accepted apologies from:- Carlton & Gedling U3A Nicola Dandie, Newark U3A Bob Cawson, Ravenshead U3A Judith Moore & Maria Gabrielczyk, Southwell U3A Eddie Birch and Stapleford U3A Trevor Williams.
	The Annual General Meeting then took place.
ITEM 2	AGREE MINUTES, ACTION POINTS & ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING DATED 15th JULY 2016 Item 4c) - Mike King of Forest Town & District U3A asked that the last Minutes included his comments about a new U3A being in the Pleasley/Mansfield area. Item 4e) – 70 members attended the Holocaust Centre and Mike King of Forest Town & District U3A asked the Network to thank Rosie Allen and Louise Stafford and the staff at the Holocaust Centre for arranging the all-day event. Rosie Allen will be write up this Shared Learning Project and submit it to the National Office and TAM. Network agreed the Minutes and Action points which were proposed by Mike King of Forest Town & District U3A as being a true record and seconded by Peter Edge. Signed by the Chairman and Secretary.
ITEM 3	TREASURER'S REPORT Following the comments raised at Annual General Meeting RF agreed to circulate the amended information as requested. RF TO ACTION
ITEM 4	VERBAL REPORTS <u>Support Officer – Jenny Greaves</u> JG introduced herself and explained that the Network Support Group had been developed in order to extend the activities of the network without having to rely on just one or two people. The idea of having the group was that if anyone falls ill or needs to have time away then there will always be someone who is au-fait with the details of whatever that person is organising. In this way no one has to take on a responsibility that is too onerous and stops the role in each activity being fun. From time to time the Group will be asking for help when needed and she hoped that the Network would support her and other members of the Group. She announced that 3 workshops are to be organised in 2017 as well as 2/3 new U3As being opened up in Nottinghamshire. <u>The 3 Year Plan</u> was discussed with questions being raised on the consultation process of new U3As. JG emphasised that consultation for all new U3As will take place in the future and this will be through the Network Representatives and with direct contact to the local U3A Committees. All opinions would be welcome and fully discussed. The Support Group will not be “telling” the Network what will happen re new U3As, as was done previously, but will be based upon the recommendations of the Network, local U3As and supported evidence. This will be on the Agenda at every Network Support Group’s meeting when the 3 year Plan is updated with reports being given at every Network meeting. New members will be very welcome to join the Support Group. <u>Workshops – Liz Wilson</u> LW announced workshops would be organised for 29 th March 2017, 6 th July 2017 and 1 st November 2017, to be held at The Summit Centre, Kirkby in Ashfield. The cost including lunch would be in the region of £10 per workshop. The workshops would be on “Holidays and Day Trips”, “Growth Matters” and “Gardening” which would possibly include a speaker. All members of gardening groups, not just the Group Leaders, would be given the opportunity to attend. LW will keep the Network informed and send out relevant information nearer to the dates. <u>News-bites – Liz Wilson</u> LW will be re-starting this possibly called “Notts. Network News”. It would include individual U3As, “Clusters”, Neighbourhood Groups sending pictures and write-ups of events, sharing good practises and good ideas. It will be put on to the Web Site and sent out to all U3As.

	<p><u>Regional Trustee – Jane Pavier</u> JP with JG and other local U3A members had attended the launch of The Park U3A the day before. The next training date for the Regional Volunteers had been circulated. With help, she had organised the Regional Conference which was very successful.</p> <p><u>Web Site – Peter Edge</u> PE confirmed that all of the information on the Web site is up-to-date except for the newer U3As which will be updated after the inaugural meeting of The Park. He confirmed that there had been 43 emails received via the web site and gave a summary of their breakdown. This was about the same as the previous year. The Network thanked PE for his continued help with the Web Site.</p> <p><u>Editors’ Group</u> In the absence of Eric Rennie who has now retired from this Group, MT gave a short report to inform the Network that Sue Robb of Sherwood U3A had organised a meeting of the Editors Group which unfortunately was not well attended. At this stage it is unsure if this Group will continue.</p>
ITEM 5	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mike Allen of Mansfield U3A informed the Network, that he has now taken over as Liaison Officer for the North Notts. Neighbourhood Group following the resignation of Rita Turner and Margaret Taylor who he thanked for their help over the years. Following three of the U3As leaving the NNNG there are five U3As in the Mansfield & District area who will continue to meet. b) Mike Allen of Mansfield U3A - there will be a new website coming on line in the next few months. c) JL appealed for anyone to store the easel. Although Mike Allen did volunteer for a year only, RF later confirmed that she would keep it in her garage.
	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 25th January 2017</u> <u>Dates of future Meetings</u> Wednesday 26.04.17. 26.07.17. 25.10.17 (including the AGM)</p>
	<p><u>ROUND THE TABLE CONVERSATION</u> “What is the Future for the Notts. Network?”</p> <p>In light of recent events at the Regional Conference AGM, Network raised several questions about the Regional Representative Council, what was their purpose, what is happening now to the RRC and how relevant Regional Conferences are and should they continue. JP gave a breakdown of how the Region developed and its relationship to National Office and the Network. Unfortunately over recent months the RRC had become a “talking” shop and had achieved very little. Therefore at the AGM it had been proposed that the RRC be dissolved. This did not happen - one of the main reasons that voters did not fully understand what the vote was about and one gentleman was very eloquent in why it should remain which swayed the voting considerably. There is to be a meeting on the 9th November 2016 when some of these issues will be raised and hopefully resolved. JP is hopeful that every U3A in the East Midlands Region will be sent an update after this meeting.</p> <p>Therefore it became very apparent to the members that Networks, Neighbourhoods and “Clusters” could become far more important in the future if the RRC ceases. What members didn’t want however was another layer of bureaucracy but for the Network to blossom and be relevant to the U3As.</p> <p>Members were asked to bring 2 suggestions to the meeting which would help in the future of the Network. Some of the ideas were duplicated or very similar. The following list was collated:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It was proposed that there was a “standard” Agenda Item – “Round Robin” where U3As could quickly inform the Network of good news and what was happening in their own U3As. This could be helpful with new fresher ideas taken back to their own U3As. b) Promoting the U3A at pre-retirement. There could be “volunteers” trained to go and deliver presentations and videos. LW said that she is doing this at the moment, going approximately twice monthly to the National Health Service in Nottinghamshire but this could be promoted on a larger scale. c) Networking is important but some U3As have decided just to keep within their own perimeter. Is this healthy? Is this the ethos of the U3A? d) The Network and its U3As should be promoting the U3A. e) Is the Network too large? Should smaller “Neighbourhoods” and “Clusters” be encouraged to grow which would be more manageable and deal with more local events? Information could then be circulated via the Network. f) Could there also be a Question and Answer “Round Robin” session where enquiries or concerns from a U3A could perhaps be answered by other U3As. The downside to this would be that not all U3As have the right answer and may be communicating further bad habits.

	<p>g) Good communication is the key to any organisation. Could there be a Communications Sub Committee?</p> <p>h) Could the Web Site be adapted so that questions could be asked and the relevant people then answer them correctly? Regional Trustee?? Support Group?? National Office??</p> <p>i) Could workshops be run out to individual U3As with a presentation and script? This would be useful if members are unable to travel to venues for one reason or another. This could be useful for Groups but obviously for individual Committee Members a more centralised workshop would be needed.</p> <p>j) Could there be local “cluster” workshops organised?</p> <p>k) Is there money available for doing any of the above suggestions? If so, where from, how much?</p> <p>l) Are Conferences relevant? Are they now too big? In opposing argument Conferences bring members together and are able to afford good speakers.</p> <p>m) To be aware of too many layers of bureaucracy</p> <p>n) Could the Network meeting have less bureaucracy and more social networking? Getting to know one another better over a cuppa!</p> <p>JL thanked members for their suggestions which will be discussed by the Officers and Support Group to see if any ideas are achievable and how and this will be reported back to the Network.</p> <p>If you would like any topic discussed next year please let MT know</p>
	<p>JL thanked everyone for attending with their input, Sue and Rosie for “greeting” and all members who had volunteered.</p>

Chair.....**Jeremy Lloyd**.....Secretary.....**C. Margaret Taylor**.....Date 25th January 2017

DRAFT