



U3A Trustee for the East Midlands Newsletter

Summer 2019



STOP PRESS

Please note this date! **Tuesday 21st April 2020**

There will be an East Midlands Conference, 'Making a Difference', held at Eastwood Hall Conference Centre. There will be workshops, a presentation by the CEO of the Third Age Trust, Sam Mauger, and an interesting speaker. More details nearer the time.

I am extremely grateful to the group of members from around the Region who are helping me with this event.

News from the Third Age Trust

- Booking is now open for the 2019 Conference, once again to be held in Nottingham at the East Midlands Conference Centre. I do encourage you to send at least one person from your U3A. Some U3As fund someone to go which is helpful. There are always interesting workshops, updates on current developments and, probably most important, a good opportunity to meet U3A members from across the country. I hope to see many of you there!
- There is still an active East Midlands U3A website. I would like to see more up to date information on it. Currently, if you look under 'Recent news', you will see information about Shared Learning Projects. There have been two in our region this year, one in Spalding which is cataloguing documents relating to Sir Joseph Banks, run with the Spalding Gentleman's Society, and one between Thrapston U3A and the National Trust at Lyveden. These are both fascinating projects so do have a look. If you are involved in a different SLP, please do let me know or follow the link on the website.
- Network Link meeting. This was held in May, in London. There was input on the new Constitution, as well as a presentation on SLPs and research and a discussion about how Networks are funded. Sadly, only one of the 7 Networks in our region was represented. Hilary Jones, TAT Vice Chair, recently sent out the following notification:
*Just to confirm that the next N L meeting will be on **23rd October 2019** at the Britannia Hotel, Manchester. Please put the date in your diary. It is hoped by having this meeting out of London, it will encourage representatives from more networks to join us and realise the benefits of Network Link. I do hope that more of our Networks are able to send someone next time.*
- Advice section. Now available is a health check that U3As can use to assess if all is going as well as possible. Feedback suggest it is very useful. There is also a PPP for inducting new committee members (Trustees).
- National Newsletter – please sign up for this if you have not yet done so.
- Sources online. Do look at this section on the national website. It is full of fascinating information.

Network Activities

- Two nationally organised workshops have been run and were well attended. The Finance one was held in Nottingham and the room was packed! The second, on Recruiting and Keeping Volunteers was in Lincoln. Both workshops were very quickly fully booked but unfortunately several people did not attend the one in Lincoln even though they had booked. This is a shame as others may have been unable to have a place. Please do contact national office if you find you cannot after all attend.
- National workshops can now be booked on demand so do consider which to book for your Network. They are listed under 'events' on the national website.
- Northants: organised a successful workshop for membership secretaries and Groups coordinators. A new U3A is planned for Priors Hall, near Corby, and hopefully, will be launched on July 5th.
- Notts: A new U3A has been launched in Calverton. **Welcome!**
- Derbys: It is hoped to launch a new U3A in Clay Cross later in the year.

Thank you to the various U3As that have made me so welcome over the last few months, including Hinckley, which was celebrating its 25th Anniversary and Higham and Rushden celebrating their 10th. With so many U3As in the region it is impossible to visit you all, but it is always interesting to see how vibrant and successful our U3As are.

I hope I have not forgotten anything important. I would be grateful if this newsletter could be circulated to all your Committee members. Thank you for all you do!

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