

NOTES FROM THE U3A NOTTS NETWORK ZOOM MEETING ON JULY 29TH AT 10AM.

37 members attended and 25 Notts U3As were represented.

Ian McCannah Chair of the Third Age Trust raised the following points

1. Covid 19 has had a big impact on U3As and the response to the virus varies enormously from those who are doing nothing to those who are being very proactive.
2. Coming out of lockdown will probably be very slow because of the demographics and a vaccine will be necessary before many groups will start.
3. Ian will be putting suggestions for moving forward to the TAT board on August 18th and this will be made available. This will include going out into the community to recruit new members.
4. The TAT development plan 20017-2020 identifies the following
 - a. A learning hub which has been speeded up
 - b. Raising the profile of the U3A externally and linking with other organisations with the same charitable objectives.
 - c. To hold a conference on Positive Ageing
 - d. To ensure the U3A has a clear identity focused on Learn, Laugh, Live
 - e. A Trust U3A has been established and has around 200 members and 20 interest groups. This may continue after Covid as it provides a U3A experience for those who cannot access a group/
 - f. Beacon developments are delayed by 9 months.
 - g. A trading company has been set up outside the Charity so commercial products such as leaflets, banners and branded clothing can be purchased.
 - h. It is proposed to increase the capitation fee to £4 from April 2022. This will help with more investment in technology and an increase in staff. A decision will be made at the AGM on September 29th.

Further clarification from questions asked by attendees.

Anyone can join the Virtual U3A. Current U3A members pay £4 and new members to U3A pay £7.50.

It is fair to pay for interest groups who wish to benefit from the purchase of a Zoom licence. It is no different to some members taking advantage of attendance at open meetings and others never go. All members cannot benefit from everything.

Jean Hogg Regional Trustee raised the following points

- Networks are particularly important in this situation and Notts U3As are well supported.
- The proposed East Midland conference is uncertain, and it is too soon to make a decision. More information will be available in due course.

Paul Martinez Chair of the Notts Support Group and TAT volunteer

- A study has been taking place looking at 45 case studies of U3As that have grown.
- Covid has interfered with the way most U3As are recruiting.
- There are 2 new national working groups. One is chaired by Michaela Moody and is looking at the 'Here and now' and how we can help each other across the movement and the second one is looking at Recruitment both long term and short term. The age of the membership is going up and

overall, the number of members is declining. There is little recruitment amongst folk who are newly retired.

- There is a national campaign with trailblazers determined to get new members, but this is on hold until enough U3As have got on top of Covid and monthly meetings can reopen.
- Notts Network has a publicity group from 8 U3As. Currently employers, who have been approached, have not responded to our suggestion to include U3A in their pre-retirement processes. The group will meet again in September.

Ian McCannah 20,000 members per year join through word of mouth. There is a diminished rate of new U3As and the 10-15% of members lost at renewal time is usually made up with new members. There are grants of £100 -£200 for Open days so that U3As can be promoted in the community.

Members were then asked for ideas on the following

- Thoughts on moving out of lockdown.
- How to attract and welcome new members.
- How we continue to thrive and keep interest groups going.
 - a. Proactive group co-ordinators who encourage group facilitators to provide something for the members.
 - b. Providing sample risk assessments to help the facilitators.
 - c. Extending the year so members get 2 years membership for the price of one.
 - d. Film group where the group watches a film that is streamed and then meets on Zoom to discuss.
 - e. Futurelearn courses done together. futurelearn.com
 - f. Further guidance on risk assessments will be provide by the TAT.
 - g. Virtual pub group on a Saturday evening and coffee bar virtual group.
 - h. Singing for fun group using Youtube.
 - i. Survey monkey is a useful tool to gather members views.
 - j. If your Zoom AGM is inquorate then you can stop for 10-15 minutes and then continue. Ian McCannah will confirm and put it in writing. This will be sent to all U3As in the network. **MG**
 - k. Whatsapp and telephone groups are other ways of keeping in touch.
 - l. Important to deliver bulletins/newsletters to those members who do not have internet access. Regular bulletins are very effective

Members wanting to contact Ian about any issues can reach him on ian.mccannah@u3a.org.uk

The next meeting to discuss further ways forward during Covid will be on Zoom on August 26th at 2pm