

Notts Network Meeting Wednesday 30th January, 2019

Recruiting New Committee Member

Third Age Trust Survey results – Reasons members do not come forward:

- Lack of confidence- the word committee
- Intimidated by the success of existing committee
- Too much responsibility
- Too little respect
- Lack of understanding of the ethos of the U3A
- Daunted by the trustee role
- I'm retired
- U3A is for fun
- Too bureaucratic
- Time wasted
- Personality clashes
- Commitment level
- Old faces been there years!

What has been tried

Eastwood

- Individual approaches
- Observing a meeting
- Shadowing
- Appeals in Newsletter and at meetings
- Succession planning on committee meeting agenda
- Trustee induction

Suggestions from the discussion

- * Invite members to attend committee meetings (but ask them to sign a confidentiality agreement)
- * Talk to people directly, they could be being put off by perceptions of the trustee responsibilities
- * One experiment was single out people who have joined more than 5 groups and approach them one to one
- * Write to every group leader asking them to suggest potential committee members
- * Threaten closure if suitable committee members not found
- * Try to divide onerous responsibilities into smaller elements (e.g. Treasurer)
- * Beware of volunteers who are willing but not able, try to find something that would be suitable
- * Set up a table at monthly meetings where members can talk to committee members

* Invite members to sit on the committee for a year without a specific responsibility

Anna Moore (Burton Joyce) said that the Psychology Department at Nottingham Trent University had asked suggestions for projects that students could undertake. This could be a suitable topic.

There is a National Office workshop on Volunteers and Volunteering. Rosie asked whether U3As would be interested, 9 (out of 26) indicated an interest. The suggestion will be consider by the Support Group.