

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF U3As - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL 2016 AT THE CENTRE, ST. PETER'S, RAVENSHEAD, NOTTS. NG15 9FD**

<u>PRESENT</u>	Chairman - Jeremy Lloyd(JL), Vice-Chairman & Notts. County Contact - Jenny Greaves (RRC Rep.) (JG), Seconded Treasurer - Rita Foulkes, Secretary - Margaret Taylor(MT), Chairman of North Notts. Neighbourhood Group - Rita Turner(RT), Web Master - Peter Edge(PE) & Jane Pavier, Regional Trustee(JP) U3A Representatives were:- Arnold U3A Rosie Allen, Ashfield U3A Trish Tootell, Carlton & Gedling U3A Paul Martinez, Eastwood & District U3A Ann Mcgillivray, Forest Town & District U3A Michael King, Hucknall U3A B. Saunders, Nottingham & District U3A Jan Bridgeman, Rainworth U3A Mary Bramwell, Ravenshead U3A Judith Moore, Sherwood U3A Liz Wilson (RRC Rep), Soar Valley U3A Brian Hinnars, Stapleford & District U3A Trevor Williams & Worksop & District U3A Lorraine Wood.
<u>ITEM 1</u>	Jeremy Lloyd welcomed everyone. The meeting accepted apologies from:- Beeston U3A Margot Gale, Burton Joyce U3A Jenny Carr, Carlton & Gedling U3A Eric Rennie, Radcliffe on Trent Anne McLeod, Southwell U3A Lesley Elkington and Carol Gretton, West Bridgford U3A.
<u>ITEM 2</u>	AGREE MINUTES, ACTION POINTS & ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING DATED 20th JANUARY 2016 Network agreed the Minutes and Action points. Proposed by Pat Tootell of Ashfield U3A and Lorraine Wood of Worksop & District U3A. Signed by the Chairman and Secretary.
<u>ITEM 3</u>	<u>OFFICERS' REPORT</u> a) Report accepted by the Network. b) Proposal to replace the Education & Development Team and post of Education & Development Officer with the Network Support Group and Officer was approved unanimously. The Team for Communication & Publicity should also include Digital Communication and come under the general heading "Communication". c) Network approved the Election Process of Officers subject to a change "that the person nominated is proposed and seconded by two individual U3As". d) Suggestions put forward to improve the efficiency of the meeting were:- Consecutive page numbers, Minutes are kept brief and the Agenda re-arranged to give more time for discussion.
<u>ITEM 4</u>	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u> Network accepted Pat Smith's resignation and asked that the Minutes reflect their thanks to him and to Rita Foulkes who had stepped into the position until the AGM. a) The 3 signatories on the Account are Chairman, Jeremy Lloyd, Secretary, Margaret Taylor and Seconded Treasurer, Rita Foulkes. b) The Network discussed the following with voting taking place where necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal that the number of Network meetings be reduced. Network did not approve • Proposal by Arnold U3A that the increase of the 2015/16 subscription be from £10 to £15. Network did not approve. • Proposal by the Treasurer and Officers that the increase of the 2015/16 subscription be from £10 to £21. Network approved. • Proposal by Soar Valley that refreshments should not be provided at the Network meeting or be included in the subscriptions. Network did not approve. • Network Expenses as detailed in report were accepted for the current year but would need to be reviewed in the forecast budget for 2016/17. It was especially mentioned that the travel expenses of 45p should be paid as per National Office advice. • That following the AGM member U3As paid their subscription by the 31st December. • That if a U3A fails to pay their subscription they forfeit their right to be a member of the Network. Network approved. • Setting up a new U3A. Apart from the grant from National Office and approved expenses of Regional Volunteers paid by the Regional Trustee a suggestion of £30 per new U3A be available to be paid by the Network for miscellaneous expenditure. Network felt that this needed further discussion as comments were made that volunteers were already giving their time for "free" and that National Office and Region should be committed to pay any additional costs. The Treasurer will action where necessary.

	<p>It was strongly suggested that the Network should show:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Network i.e. new Developments, joint planning, supporting current U3As, Web Site, being a “collective” voice to Region and National. • They are giving “Value for Money” • That they are seen to be doing something for their current members • To regularly publicize to all members of the Nottinghamshire U3As in the Network.
ITEM 5	<u>REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL</u>
a)	MT asked for Network to agree the nominations of Liz Wilson and Jenny Greaves to the RRC. Network approved.
b)	LW updated the meeting on a recent workshop which JG and she attended which led to another meeting to discuss the role of the Region.
ITEM 6	<u>WRITTEN REPORTS</u>
	The Development Team, the North Notts. Neighbourhood Group, the Wine Tasting Group, Editors Group and Regional Trustee reports were accepted.
ITEM 7	<u>VERBAL REPORTS</u>
a)	<u>Editors Group</u> Paul M. verbally added to Eric’s report. “9 people from 7 U3As in Notts. Attended the Editors Group with 5 apologies from a further 4 U3As. The main topic was layout of newsletter. There was a presentation of ideas to consider which engendered some good frank discussions and showed differences in attitude about style and the purpose of newsletters. The next meeting is expected to be the 7 th July.” PM asked that other U3As consider setting up Groups like those at Carlton & Gedling U3A, supporting the Group both financially and administratively. ALL REPS. TO TAKE BACK TO THEIR COMMITTEES FOR IDEAS
b)	<u>Regional Trustee</u> JP asked for the Network to take part in a small survey on behalf of National Officer re the “Sources” magazine.
c)	<u>Shared Learning Project</u> Rosie A. expressed thanks to all U3As who had put this idea forward to their Committees. 16 people had come forward and she will be inviting them to a Planning Day at the Holocaust Centre in the near future.
ITEM 8	<u>NETWORK DIARY OF EVENTS</u>
	MT had circulated prior to the meeting. Please note that any information for the diary needs to be with the Secretary a month before the next Network meeting.
ITEM 9	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>
a)	Judith M. from Ravenshead U3A updated the Network on the problems that their Group Leader for walking had experienced when trying to down-load maps due to copyright infringement. PE confirmed that the Web Site map was ok as it was from a “free” map available on Google. JM was advised to read any advice on the National Web Site. If none available perhaps this is something that should be taken up by Network with National Office. JM TO KEEP NETWORK INFORMED
b)	Enquiry re BACS Payments – membership fees. JP said that there should be an Advice Sheet or information from National Office on the Web site.
	<u>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS COMMENCING AT 10AM 20th JULY 2016 & 19th October 2016 (AGM)</u> <u>Please note that only 1 representative per U3A will be asked to attend.</u> <u>All U3As please confirm who will be attending or send apologies to the Secretary</u>
	<u>ROUND THE TABLE CONVERSATION WITH JEREMY, LIZ, AND JANE</u>
a)	<u>FORWARD PLANNING – SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats)</u> Liz W. thanked the U3As who had replied. Information had been collated and circulated to the Network. To be able to plan for the future she had concentrated on the results from the common Weaknesses and Threats which were:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of interest in the Network and Region • no volunteers for Committees, • no induction for committee members • lack of knowledge and expertise • lack of interest in leading groups • getting new groups off the ground • growth in membership • members taking rather than giving which is not the ethos of the U3A movement

	<p>It was stressed that it is important that all U3As have a plan to help move them forward. Representatives of U3As who had not yet undertaken this exercise were encouraged to go back to their Committees and look at doing this exercise and the drawing up of a future plan to help their individual U3A develop.</p>
b)	<p>3 YEAR PLAN</p> <p>JP led on this discussion which showed that having such a plan was important not only to an individual U3A but to the Network to help in planning new U3As and helping existing new U3As with growth issues. It was stressed that existing U3As should not be over-cautious in encouraging new U3As nearby.</p> <p>JP outlined the differences between a valid request from a member of the public and/or a nearby U3A and cold-planning a U3A. JG will be ordering a map to bring to Network Meetings which will show existing U3As and possible sites for new U3As.</p> <p>From the Plan it can be seen that in future the “consultation” process will take place in one year before the U3A is launched the following year. However Network agreed that sometimes the sequence of events has to move slightly quicker depending on circumstances. It was emphasised that the 3 Year Plan is not set in stone and has to be adaptable to needs.</p> <p><u>Mapperley & District U3A</u></p> <p>Due to Karen Taylor’s recent illness JP had attended post launch meetings. She will be attending the inaugural meeting now that they have successfully got a full Committee.</p> <p><u>The Park</u></p> <p>JP was asked to “lead” on this potential new U3A. She explained how a request from residents of The Park to open a new U3A had gone to National Office which had resulted in her “consulting” with Arnold U3A and West Bridgford U3A and JL “consulting” with Nottingham & District U3A. JP had spoken with residents of The Park and informed them of the steps that must be taken before a new U3A is launched and advised that it must not be inclusive and allow residents outside of The Park to join. Network gave its approval that she continues to lead on getting this U3A launched.</p> <p>The Network asked JP if a short meeting with residents of The Park, Jan Bridgman and other Committee Members of Nottingham & District U3A and the Network Vice-Chair to clarify local issues could be arranged. JP will attempt to get a convenient date for all parties to meet at a suitable venue.</p> <p>JP TO ACTION - COMPLETED</p> <p>As no-one had previously asked the Secretary for a copy of a report from Jan Bridgman, Nottingham & District U3A, MT had printed a copy for Members at the meeting. If anyone who did not attend the meeting but would like a copy please contact MT.</p>
c)	<p>WORKSHOPS</p> <p>Part of the Three Year Plan included workshops and as LW is now the “lead” for organising workshops in Nottinghamshire she spoke about her vision of how future workshops could run. She felt that the more formal subjects workshops, e.g. committee based, could be organised by Region and others, more interest based be organised by Network. The Region’s workshops could be duplicated from county to county getting experts in and support from National Office.</p> <p>LW explained that In the past traditional workshops had been aimed at Group Leaders but her idea was to invite any member who had an interest in any particular group. The National Advisor of the particular subject would be approached to speak. This would encourage members of groups to feel confident in becoming leaders. They would be encouraged to report back to the U3A with any new ideas. This would also mean that they became involved with members outside of their own U3A and be aware of the Network organisation. She was proposing that two workshops run on the lines described and one concentrating on Committee needs run annually. For the present year, she proposed that Gardening, Holidays/Trips/Outings and Induction for Committees be organised. However she asked that representatives bring any other ideas from their Committee to the next Meeting to be added to the future planning of workshops. The Eastwood Rep. suggested Singing for Health.</p> <p>ALL REPS. TO ACTION</p>
d)	<p>PE will now put the 3 Year Plan onto the Web Site and MT has agreed to send regular updates to him.</p>
	<p>JL thanked everyone for attending and their input and to Trish Tootell for acting as Greeter.</p>

Chair.....Secretary.....Date 20 July 2016

Jeremy Lloyd

C. Margaret Taylor