

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

PRESENT	<p>Chairman - Jeremy Lloyd(JL), Seconded Support Officer - Jenny Greaves (RRC Rep.) (JG), Seconded Treasurer - Rita Foulkes (RF), Secretary & Temp. County Contact - Margaret Taylor (MT), Chairman of North Notts. Neighbourhood Group - Rita Turner(RT), Web Master - Peter Edge(PE) & Regional Trustee, Jane Pavier (JP)</p> <p>U3A Representatives:- Arnold U3A Rosie Allen (RA), Ashfield U3A Jacquie Chapman, Beeston U3A Richard Eddleston, Carlton & Gedling U3A Nicola Dandie, Eastwood & District U3A Ann Mcgillivray, Forest Town & District U3A Michael King, Hucknall U3A Barrie Saunders, Mansfield U3A Mike Allen, Radcliffe on Trent Anne McLeod, Rainworth U3A Jackie Hopper, Ravenshead U3A Maria Gabrielczyk, Retford U3A Adrian Sumner, Sherwood U3A Liz Wilson (RRC Rep) (LW), Southwell U3A Lesley Elkington, Stapleford & District U3A Trevor Williams and Sutton in Ashfield U3A Sue Hastie.</p>
ITEM 1	<p>Jeremy Lloyd welcomed everyone. The meeting accepted apologies from:- Beeston U3A Margot Gale, Carlton & Gedling U3A Eric Rennie & Paul Martinez, Dukeries U3A Mary Morris, Newark & District U3A Bob Cawson, Nottingham & District U3A Jan Bridgeman, Soar Valley U3A Brian Hinners & West Bridgford U3A Pat Green.</p>
ITEM 2	<p>AGREE MINUTES, ACTION POINTS & ANY OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING DATED 20th APRIL 2016</p> <p>Network agreed the Minutes and Action points. Proposed by Mike King of Forest Town & District U3A and Ann Mcgillivray, Eastwood & District U3A. Signed by the Chairman and Secretary.</p>
ITEM 3	<p>APPROVAL OF WRITTEN REPORTS</p> <p>a) <u>Secretary's Report and Diary of Events</u> was noted and accepted. Approval was given by the Network to the Procedure for the Annual General Meeting in October.</p> <p>b) <u>Treasurer's Report.</u> RF responded to an enquiry of a payment shown on the balance sheet and how it was broken down. The Report was then accepted. MT confirmed that the present venue had been booked for 2017 at very reasonable rates which were not much more than this year's expenses.</p> <p>c) <u>Regional Trustee's Report</u> was noted and accepted.</p> <p>d) <u>North Notts. Neighbourhood Group Report</u> was noted and accepted. RT updated the Network on the resignation of both herself as Chairman and Margaret Taylor as Secretary with effect from the September Meeting and she would no longer be attending future Network Meetings. JL thanked RT for her past services to the Network and to the NNG for organising the annual events.</p> <p>e) <u>Newsletter Editors' Group.</u> Eric Rennie has now resigned from leading this Group. It was explained by JP how this was a "Peer" Group and not a Workshop. MT to contact ER about the financial future of this Group to enable it to continue. ACTION MT. Contacted Sue Robb of Sherwood U3A who in ER's absence will contact all members of the Editor's Group and ask them to contribute to the cost of venue at the Richard Herrod Centre to enable this Group to continue.</p>
ITEM 4	<p>VERBAL REPORTS</p> <p>a) <u>Chairman's Report.</u> Looking at the breakdown of the Network showing the various roles, JL appealed for help in areas still requiring volunteers. JL explained that a vacancy for Vice-Chairman had arisen due to JG stepping across into the temporary role of Support Officer. JL indicated that in 2017 he will be stepping down as Chairman of the Network and therefore it is essential that someone is elected to Vice Chairman at the AGM 2016 and to go forward as Chairman in 2017. JG gave a short role description of the Support Officer. This is a new role and will evolve over time as to what is expected. At the moment it is a matter of consolidating information to and from the Network on Communication, Publication, Web Site, Workshops, New U3As and Governance. JG is willing to continue in the role at the AGM if there is no-one else who is interested in putting themselves forward. Meeter/Greeters Thanks were given to Liz Wilson and Trish Toottell for their past help. Judith Moore, Rosie Allen and Sue Hastie agreed to help in the future. County Contact. MT explained about what was involved and asked for an immediate volunteer to take over. Sue Hastie indicated that a member of her U3A may be interested. JP gave a short explanation of the role of a Regional Volunteer. She is at present re-training RVs but if she needs to enrol others she will contact the Network for help. U3As agreed to go back to their Committees and Membership to see if they could help with any roles and contact MT before the October AGM. ACTION ALL U3As REPS</p>

b)	<p><u>Support Officer's Report</u></p> <p>JG is hoping to get more volunteers to join the Support Group and arrange a first meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the Support Group please contact JG or MT.</p>
c)	<p><u>3 Year Plan</u></p> <p>New U3As were discussed and Forest Town U3A asked that when considering a new U3A public transport be a consideration. JP explained how new U3As came about, either from a direct enquiry to National Office or by a request from an individual U3A or a Network. There was no actual development Committee and all requests were passed to the appropriate Regional Trustees.</p>
d)	<p><u>Workshops</u></p> <p>LW has volunteered to be responsible for running workshops for the Notts. Network, the first one being on Holidays and Days Out. One of her particular concerns was with finance and how U3A members pay for holidays. Some members gave advice and LW said that this was the aim of the workshop that the more experienced members "shared" their expertise. LW is proposing an all-day event with generic information to start with, then after lunch break-out groups dealing with individual concerns. She asked that all Network representatives go back to their Committees and membership and encourage them to come along to the workshop which hopefully is to be organised in a local venue in November 2016. LW will be sending out fliers to advertise this workshop in the near future.</p>
e)	<p><u>The Holocaust Shared Learning Project</u></p> <p>After a meeting of 5 members from 3 different U3As and Louise Stafford of the Holocaust Centre, RA gave out a handout inviting all Nottinghamshire U3As to attend an all-day event on 5th October 2016, specifically aimed at U3A members. The Group are hoping that over 100 members will wish to come to the event. It was advised that each U3A would be better doing a joint booking to Louise rather than individuals applying. Members would need to arrange their own transport. RA is to confirm the start and finishing times; deadline for booking and various other questions raised and will send an e-mail and the flier to all Notts. U3As via the County Contact.</p> <p>ACTION RA - Completed</p>
ITEM 5	<p>There was no ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>
	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING 19th October 2016 and will include the AGM <u>Dates of Meetings for 2017</u> Wednesday 25.01.17. 26.04.17. 26.07.17. 25.10.17.</p>
	<p><u>ROUND THE TABLE CONVERSATION</u></p> <p>"The Future and where does the Network Feature?"</p> <p>A handout prompting questions was given out by the Officers.</p> <p>JP asked members if anyone, who was not directly involved, knew what the Regional Representative Council actually did. Many members agreed that they did not and in fact many agreed that they did not know about the various layers between their own U3A and the National Office.</p> <p>JP/JL had to continually emphasise that the National Office was not a Head Office and that their role is more of a Resource and Administration Centre.</p> <p>Following the last meeting of the RRC JP and JG updated the Network on what was happening at Regional level when a debate took place on whether to "close" the RRC or not. Some members of the RRC were in favour that the RRC be disbanded and although a date was not fixed it was suggested that a decision could be made at the next meeting following the Regional Conference on 19th September (i.e. 9th November 2016).</p> <p>LW & JL explained how the Notts. Network had originally come about in relation to the RRC. Alan Morris who was the Regional Trustee at the time and a member of a Nottinghamshire U3A began the Network by inviting the few U3As which were open in Nottinghamshire to meet together to support the RRC and each other. However due to the increased numbers of new U3As in the East Midlands the RRC has now turned into a "talking shop" where nothing is getting done. Network agreed that it was a waste of time and money if nothing ever came out of a "meeting".</p> <p>Answering the many questions raised about the RRC and what implications it would mean for individual U3As and the Network below is a brief summary of responses:-</p> <p><u>Regional Conference.</u></p> <p>This is presently organised by the Regional Trustee with the RRC running the AGM which is incorporated into the day. If the RRC no longer ran a conference for five counties and the AGM, considerable money would be saved from the Regional Trustee's limited budget. If necessary smaller and more local conferences could take place at</p>

venues more convenient to the majority of the U3As. This could involve the Network members if necessary Workshops.

At present the Regional Trustee organises a couple of workshops per year but again as they are aimed at the whole of the East Midlands some past venues have not been suitable for the many U3A members expected to attend. Unfortunately JP only having a limited budget and after paying for a large conference this does not leave sufficient money to run as many workshops as she would have liked. Obviously if the RRC did not exist it would be recommended that more local Workshops are run but they would have to be of a higher calibre of speaker and subjects with the venue more suitable for workshops. The Network was totally behind this as they felt that sometimes the previous Workshops were a little too home-spun.

They would also like to think that a Summer School could also be held locally rather than down South.

The role of the National Office was asked about and as the numbers of new U3As are growing can they cope. With a new CEO being recently appointed it is hoped that she may well be coming up with newer and fresher ideas to move forward. The National Office will still continue to work with the 12 Regional Trustees who in turn would work with the local Networks and Neighbourhood Groups.

A question of how would Regional Trustee is appointed in the future; JP assured the Network that the process would remain the same. National Office would invite applications from all U3As and all U3As would vote on the nominations.

When asked about other counties having a network like Nottinghamshire from the response it is quite obvious that some do and some don't. It is entirely dependent on individual people's enthusiasm and how pro-active U3As are in their particular county. It was pointed out that this could be one of the downsides of the RRC terminating as unlike Nottinghamshire which as a forward thinking and more professional Network, the other counties do not have such a Network. In fact some U3As want to keep their individuality so much so that they get to the point of going native and ignoring the whole ethos of the U3A movement.

Another aspect is the budget for if the RRC was disbanded individual U3As would save £10 per annum if under 250 members and £20 if over.

To get a flavour of opinion at the end of the discussion, JG asked how many U3As Rep. attending would wish the RRC to continue and be supported by Network. 4 members voted Yes. However it was emphasised that this was not a final conclusion as all U3As will be contacted before a final decision is taken.

If you would like any topic discussed next year please let MT know

JL thanked everyone for attending and their input.

Chair.....Secretary.....Date 19th October 2016
Jeremy Lloyd **C. Margaret Taylor**