

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF U3A's
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23.10.14.
AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH HALL, BOUNDARY ROAD, WEST BRIDGFORD, NOTTINGHAM, NG2 7DB

MEMBERS PRESENT:-

Chairman Jane Pavier, Vice Chairman Jeremy Lloyd, Secretary & Notts. County Contact Margaret Taylor, Treasurer Rita Foulkes, Educational Development Officer Karen Taylor, Regional Trustee Michaela Moody, Rita Turner Chairman North Notts. Neighbourhood Group, Arnold U3A Representative Rosie Allen, Beeston U3A Representative Helen Stewart, Burton Joyce U3A Representative Paul Geeson, Carlton & Gedling U3A Representatives Eric Rennie & Ian Robey, Collingham U3A Representative Clive Bainbridge, Eastwood & District U3A Representatives Ann McGillivray & Lorna Stirland, Hucknall U3A Representatives John Tedstone & Alan Snape, Keyworth U3A Representative Peter Edge, Mansfield Representative Mike Allen, Nottingham Representative Jan Bridgeman & Pat Smith, Radcliffe on Trent Representatives Ann Keen & Dave Barton, Southwell U3A Representative Peter James, and West Bridgford U3A Representatives Denis Kitt & Carol Williams.

26 Members including Officers attended the AGM. 13 U3As were represented.

APPROVAL OF THE AGM MINUTES DATED 25.09.13.

Karen Taylor proposed and Rita Foulkes seconded that the Minutes were correct. All members present approved the Minutes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In the year since I took over as your Chairman we have achieved many things, but not as many as I would like to see happen in the next 12 months.

One thing I have tried to do is include in the Network Meetings a time for you all to have discussions with representatives from other U3As. You have discussed the difficulties with attracting Group Leaders and new Committee members, and I am sure you all realised that yours was not the only U3A with those problems.

More importantly, you have given your ideas on publicity for the U3A movement, although some of you were not too keen as you were worried it might increase your membership when you had already reached capacity. Nevertheless, we have taken part in some good publicity events – Veolia Big Lunches, Collingham May Fair ready to launch there and had a stand at two open-air markets ready to open the new U3A for Edwalton & Gamston. These events provided real opportunities to pass on information about U3A. The people we spoke to may not join a U3A immediately, but we have planted seeds in their mind.

In addition to the successful launches at Collingham and Edwalton, there was a successful launch at Eastwood, in spite of a very wet day!

How do we choose where the Development Team opens a new U3A? At your group discussions in the last year the Network has come up with ideas and wherever possible the Team has tried to accommodate these. Newark said they were becoming full so, with their help, and help from Lincolnshire U3As, we started Collingham. The idea for a U3A at Eastwood came from people in Eastwood and from Hucknall U3A, which was having to start a 'waiting list', which is frowned upon the Third Age Trust. The Edwalton & Gamston U3A came as a result of your group discussions and comments that West Bridgford and Radcliffe-on-Trent U3As were reaching capacity, so they and Keyworth supported us. It is often the case that local knowledge of an area helps enormously with these launches.

Next year, the Development Team has plans to open three more U3As and will be asking those U3As nearby to help in achieving successful outcomes.

We have not held any Workshops this year, although your discussion groups have provided us with many ideas, some of which we will be implementing in the coming year.

If your U3A has any ideas for Network Discussions Groups, any useful Workshops, or where a new U3A may be required in the future, please have a chat with Karen Taylor,

Thank you all for your support of the Network during the past year.

My special thanks go to our Regional Trustee, Michaela Moody, to Margaret Taylor who has helped me so well during my first year, Rita Foulkes who keeps good account of your money, Karen Taylor as Education & Development Officer and your Deputy Chairman Jeremy Lloyd. Thank you everyone.

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Peter James of Southwell U3A and seconded by Rosie Allen of Arnold U3A and all members present agreed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As this last year was going to be my last year as Secretary, Jane Pavier the in-coming Chairman and myself decided to work together in getting the Network to be a little more business-like with the setting up of a Constitution etc. Although perhaps not as perfect as it could be, it is the basis for the future working of the Notts. Network. A copy of the Constitution for those newer members who may not have seen it before had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Jane and I also worked together to form a procedure for the Annual General Meeting, a copy of which had been previously circulated. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances of both Jane and myself, we did not get it quite right in getting information out to members in the allotted time for which I apologise.

However both Jane and I feel that these documents are a good foundation for the future of the Network.

I would also add that no-one has come forward to take over from me and like any other U3A the Network cannot function properly without a Secretary. Therefore I would urge you to help in finding a replacement as soon as possible.

My last meeting is today and may I take this opportunity to wish the Committee and Members of the Notts. Network a successful future. Margaret Taylor

Acceptance of this report was proposed by Rita Turner, Chairman of the North Notts. Neighbourhood Group and seconded by Karen Taylor, EDO and all members present agreed. Rita Turner also proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary who was stepping down at this AGM. All member U3As present echoed this.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bank balance at 5th October 2014 was £265.76. The balance for 5th April started at £374.33 and Worksop & District paid their £10 affiliation fee. The 5th May account started at £384.33 and Nottingham & Ravenshead paid their £10 fees. I paid £29.62 to the Richard Herrod Centre for hiring the room. The 5th June balance opened at £ 374.71. I paid £8.95 to the Secretary for Print Cartridges. The July account will open at £365.76.

There is £9.31 in the Petty Cash. The New U3A Start-up Account stands at £254.37.

The Affiliation Fees will be due after 1 August for the year from August 2014 to July 2015. Unless you vote differently the fees will stay at £10 per branch. The following branches still owe the Fees for 2013-2014 after having mentioned this fact for the last three meetings.

They are: Burton Joyce, Newark, Soar Valley, Southwell, Sutton, Vale of Belvoir and West Bridgford.

I have also asked members here to provide me with the names, addresses and emails of the Treasurers of your U3As. Please may I have them as soon as possible? I have the accounts with me if anyone would like to check them. Thank you.

Burton Joyce representative, Paul Geeson, disputed that Burton Joyce U3A had not paid their fees for 2013-14 and reminded the Treasurer that he had paid this in cash at the meeting on 3rd April 2014 and had received a receipt. The Treasurer accepted that this was the case and apologised. After further discussion Karen Taylor proposed that the accounts and report be accepted. Mike Allen seconded this and all members present agreed.

AFFILIATION FEE 2014/15

The Treasurer proposed that the fee remain at £10 and after some discussion on where this money is spent Dave Barton proposed that the Network accept this. Jeremy Lloyd seconded this and all members present agreed. The Treasurer will send out invoices to all U3A Treasurers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All officers had completed nomination forms and as there was only 1 volunteer per role, Peter James proposed that the following officers be accepted, which was seconded by Carol Williams. All members present agreed.

Jane Pavier will continue as Chair, Jeremy Lloyd as Vice-Chair, Rita Foulkes as Treasurer and Karen Taylor as Education Development Officer.

Margaret Taylor had given a year's notice that she was retiring as Secretary at this AGM although she was willing to stand for as the County Contact to help this situation. As no permanent Secretary volunteered Mike Allen proposed that the U3A organising the venue and hosting the meeting would also provide secretarial services. This was seconded by Ann Keen and all members present agreed. It was also agreed that the Chair would keep any hard copies of signed Minutes etc.

It was noted that if someone did come forward as a Secretary they would only take over the role with the approval of the Network members.

The date of the next Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 14th October 2015.

Chair.....Jane Pavier

Secretary.....

Date 14th October 2015