

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF U3As

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR MEETING 15 APRIL 2015

Two thousand and fifteen has seen the Network make a flying start. First of all, the Network meeting in January brought U3A representatives together in focus groups to share ideas, and this generated conversations after the meeting between members who would normally just come to the meetings, sit and listen to what everyone else says and then go home. Networking – that is what the Network is all about.

Then we had the Speaker Seekers' Workshop at the end of February. There were participants from 18 U3As in the county and all those who took part said they found it useful to hear ideas from other U3As. The feedback from this meeting is on the Notts U3A website and a list of speakers is to be added soon. My thanks go to members of the Development Team who helped on the day. We have now 'exported' the ideas for this Workshop to other county networks and they will be planning their own event.

Members of the Development Team put a great deal of time to organise Workshops (and remember, we are all volunteers), they don't just happen. First, there has to be a decision on the groups we want to include, then we seek a suitable venue, then we have to advertise it to all the U3As and collect in all the names and prepare the items for discussion. It can take more than eight weeks to plan a successful Workshop.

I asked in my January report for U3As to send photographs that we could use on publicity stands, so please ask the responsible person in your U3A to send them in to me. Peter Edge would also like more photographs for the website and reports on things that have been happening or about to happen in your U3A.

You will have received the publicity material for the East Midlands Regional Conference and AGM in Lincoln on 29 July, and I hope you have circulated it to your committee and members. The title is 'To Sleep Perchance to Remember'. There will be two speakers, one from Lincoln University and one from Oxford University, talking on sleep and memory. In the afternoon there will be focus groups discussing a number of topics. Of course, the AGM is also important as you will have the opportunity to hear what is happening in the Region. The Conference is an ideal opportunity to talk with members of other U3As in the Region – networking again! I hope to see Nottinghamshire well represented on 29 July.

Believe it or believe it not, plans are already under way for next year's conference, which will be hosted by Nottinghamshire Network.

All these plans require input from all U3As, so please make your members aware of what is happening and encourage them to offer help when it is required.

Enjoy being a U3A member.

Jane Pavier
Chairman

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