

NETWORK PROTOCOL - 2023

GROUPS INCLUDED ARE:

Cestria, Houghton-le-Spring, Washington, Washington Village, Wessington.

This protocol is the result of meeting with representatives of the U3As listed above in June 2023.

It was agreed that we would all work together to keep our U3As fresh and adaptable, to extend membership, to widen group choices, to share expertise and experiences, and to widen our social circle, thus establishing a new 'sense of community'.

Suggested ways of doing this were:

- Where a U3A has a group with space, members from the network may apply, through the group leader, to attend.
- The group leader has the final say as to whether a new member can join the group.
- Any cost will be shared between all members of the group.
- Group leaders should record which u3a members are from and, where available, record their membership number; if no membership card is available, group leaders can check with the appropriate Membership Secretary.
- Contact can be made directly through the websites of the u3a's to either the relevant group leader, or to the Group Coordinator Representative.

Other suggestions to foster collaboration:

- Share speaker details where permitted.
- Invitations to events, for example: joint walk, coffee mornings, fill up coaches for trips, exhibitions, social events etcetera and other suitable events.
- Add a Network page on to our websites.
- Arrange regular meetings between representatives of our U3A's.
- Should a member of any network u3a wish to join another network u3a as well they should only pay one full membership fee at their 'parent' u3a and an Associate Member fee at any other u3a within the network. This is the full membership fee minus the TAT subscription.

Please note:

U3A members who wish to regularly attend Wessington groups held at the North Biddick Club, need to join the Club (current cost £2 for the first year and £1 for subsequent years, increasing next year to £3 and £2) in order to use their facilities. Membership forms are available from the North Biddick Club on request.