

NEWS BITES! OCT. 2020

Sharing ideas across 34 U3As in Nottinghamshire

NOTTS NETWORK

AGM—21st October 2020 via Zoom

Most of the Network U3As were represented by 32 members present. Rosie Allen, Chair, said in her report that it had been an unusual year but, thanks to Zoom, the Network Meetings, Committee meetings and communications in general had continued uninterrupted.

Due to Covid the planned opening of new U3As had had to be halted, the planned Arts Festival postponed, and the East Midlands Conference postponed until May 2021.

She thanked everyone for making the network such a success in spite of circumstances, and confirmed that all Committee Members were willing to continue in their roles for the next year. The meeting voted in favour of Paul Martinez continuing in his post of Support Officer also. She thanked Jane Pavier who will be taking over as editor of Newsbites from Lynne Jaremczenko from the next edition— jane.newsbits@gmail.com

Terry Hardman, Treasurer, confirmed that the Network A/C currently stands at around £1000 as outgoings had been low in 2020. Consequently, he proposed that all Notts U3As should continue to be members of the Network for the year 20/21 but that no fee to be collected from them. This proposal was approved by the meeting.

Paul Martinez reported that the Support Group's work was largely suspended at present as no new U3As could be opened or workshops held at present. He did urge all U3As, however, to continue to prepare ways in which the movement can be publicized going forward. Whilst the drive to contact Notts retirement programmes had been hampered by Covid, Carolyn Luckhurst, Mapperley, has arranged to have adverts placed in the NG Magazines in December. Paul, himself, is heading up a National Group of 63 "pathfinders" who are developing a "toolkit" of materials to attract people to U3A websites, facebook pages and much much more. This will, in time, be made available to all U3As.

Chris Niven, Eastwood, agreed to set up a Publicity Workshop via Zoom. "This would be a forum to discuss ideas, hearing what has worked for other groups and to be able to take ideas back to our committee to plan a way forward.

Also, if you have any members with PR skills who would like to attend, contribute or lead a session that would be much appreciated" Please contact Chris at chrisniven1@yahoo.co.uk

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

If your U3A would like to host a Peer Group event please contact Paul Martinez pkmartinez14@gmail.com

At the October Mtg, Paul gave a rallying call for U3As to offer to host Virtual Peer Support Groups via Zoom, whether these are for Interest Group Leaders or for Committee Role Holders. Subject to approval by their committees offers were made to host Peer Support Groups meetings for :

- Group Co-ordinators.
- Chair / chairmen
- Treasurers
- Secretaries
- Website administrators
- Beacon (but maybe after Beacon 2 is launched)



Paul reminded everyone that the "host" does not have to be an expert—the meeting members will provide content and share their experiences, so please ask amongst your Group Leaders and help them host meetings. With there being such a mixed response across the county to keep (or not) Groups running during Covid, many Group Leaders would benefit from hearing their peers' ideas and solutions.

u3a THIRD AGE TRUST

If you haven't recently taken a look at the TAT website, <https://www.u3a.org.uk> please then check out the new BRANDING. All U3As are encouraged to adopt this and you will find a U3A Branding Centre on the site where logos and other digital assets are available. As time goes on more branding materials and merchandise will be added to the centre.

Also on the site are clearly signposted the new Winter Learning Pages where talks, competitions, podcast, photographic and art projects are all made available, together with Resources and support for Interest Groups, workshops and Trustee Inductions materials.

The Nottinghamshire Network of U3As has also been rebranded and contains all the local reports, maps and information that you might need—<https://www.nottsu3anetwork.org/>