

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND U3A NETWORK GROUP MEETING

FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2018.

Venue. The Sports Pavilion, Gynsill Lane, Glenfield

	ACTION
<p>Present: Ashby, Charnwood, Countesthorpe, Enderby Area, Glenfield, Hinckley, Leicester, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Melton Mowbray, Oadby & Wigston, South Leicestershire, Syston & District, West Leicestershire, Whitwick.</p> <p>Apologies: Market Harborough, Rutland</p> <p>Welcome: 1. Meeting Chairman, Linda Patton, welcomed all present representing their U3A's and TAT National Trustee Jean Hogg.</p> <p>Previous Meeting 2. Notes from the previous meeting had been circulated and were approved as a true & correct record.</p> <p>Finances 1. Report from the Money Keeper: In the absence of David Kyle, a written summary of the Network finances was presented by Helen Davison. At 19th November the funds available stood at £2,274.43. It was reported that David would be standing down from his position as Money Keeper in March 2019</p> <p>Network Activities i.) Bridge Study Day. Organisers a little disappointed that just 24 people attended although they all enjoyed the day. ii.) Those who attended the Recruiting Volunteers Workshop expressed approval of the programme & content. iii.) The Quiz Night organised by W. Leicestershire had attracted 13 U3A teams. Very well received. Comments on excellent chocolate cake. It is planned to hold another Quiz Night on Tuesday 26th March detail to be circulated in due course</p> <p>No further Network Activities planned yet.</p> <p>There was considerable discussion on future focussed Study Days/Workshops. Helen Davison would look for and circulate details of any National/Regional events.</p> <p>Interest shown on possibility of a Webmasters Morning Workshop.</p> <p>Glenfield asked for guidance or training in Safeguarding. Countesthorpe delegate referred to the 3rd Age Trust model with comment that it appeared to be user non-friendly. Leicester delegate offered to feed back information from their Safeguarding policy to Helen Davison</p>	<p>HD</p> <p>Leicester U3A</p>

Enderby asked for **Financial matter training & registration with Charity Commission.**

The meeting agreed this would be useful & asked for a **Network Guidance Meeting for U3A Treasurers** & those who might undertake the role.

iv.) **Interest Groups Matter:** There was little enthusiasm for this workshop designed to inspire new leaders.

Regional Trustee Report:

1. Jean Hogg referred to her report circulated prior to the meeting. She emphasised her keenness to support the East Midlands Region and to report back to Networks on Third Age Trust matters. She had enjoyed attending meetings at National, Regional and local U3A level. Jean expressed her thanks to her predecessor Jean Pavier.

Financial Matters:

1. i) Alan Burton – Melton Mowbray spoke on the requirements of The Charity Commission in respect to Individual U3A's income. The income from subscriptions was a relatively small amount but when total income from group activity was passed through accounts the sum exceeded the previous threshold for which no return to Charity Commission was required. As a result, U3A's are now required to register with The Charity Commission and to submit a return.

As a by-product from this topic considerable discussion ensued on the need for group funding to be fully accountable in annual accounts which are to be independently examined though not audited.

Several delegates spoke on the funding of groups which have little income & outgoings with funds kept in 'jam jars' It was recommended that only very small sums are so kept minimising risk.

It was pointed out that Committee Members (Trustees) have a duty of care to ensure that suitable checks and balances are in place in respect to members' money.

- ii) Lyn McDermott – West Leicestershire expressed concern that details of U3A's was available to the website 'TOTAL GIVING'. This organisation sets up U3A Giving pages without reference to the U3A's so listed. Only by looking at the site for a U3A could details be found and the listing deleted if not desired.

Network Treasurer & Webmaster vacancies

1. Helen Davison informed the meeting that the Network website was almost dormant as there was no webmaster and she had insufficient time to update it. **Rob Harriman** – Glenfield Webmaster volunteered his services to examine the site with a view to updating it with information provided by others. Helen to liase with Rob on this matter.

The Network Funds are currently held in a sub account of South Leicestershire U3A. This would cease when David Kyle retired from his post. A bank account can only be set up for Clubs/Societies/Groups with an adopted constitution and elected officers. The L & R Network does not fulfil such criteria in present form. Without the required formality the Network risked having to cease existence. Faced with such outcome it was agreed to move to adopt a Constitution at the March 2019 meeting.

RH/HD

Delegates accepted with grateful thanks offers from **Judith Harriman** (Glenfield) to be nominated as Chairman, **Cynthia Baker** as Secretary and **Helen Davison** as Treasurer.

Round Robin:

1. A brief summary of news from U3A's:

Lutterworth reported on their recently formed New Age Curling group

Enderby mentioned that some districts might be able to obtain grants for equipment.

West Leicestershire has a new group examining Chinese culture in its many forms.

Referring to General Monthly meetings it was asked if it was necessary to minute the events of such meetings. Meeting agreed this was not necessary

Melton Mowbray warned of possible copyright breaches when music or book material is photocopied for group use. This can be avoided by use of the vast amount of material now out of copyright after 70 years.

Leicester have a Bus Pass Group with members jaunting off on trips using their passes.

Hinckley gave news of new successful groups. Meditation, Heath Matters, Bookworm and Architecture, they have produced a booklet with information for their members.

South Leicestershire have built on the successful launch of their New Experiences Group with adventures embracing Archery, Rock Climbing and Sailing.

Syston now has an entirely inclusive Snooker group a Walking Football group and a Holiday Club.

Any Other Business:

1. From the Chair Linda Patton spoke about '*Heartwise*' and their search for volunteers and of plans to teach all secondary school children how to use a defibrillator. (Details to be circulated with meeting notes)

West Leicestershire reported on attendance by First Responder Group who had demonstrated use of defibrillators to members. It was noted that Red Cross offer similar training

Michael Wherton – Syston asked for help and contact details from any U3A's using The Beacon System for membership and or accounts. Any U3A's able to help to pass details to Helen.

Regional Trustee Jean Hogg informed that there may be an increase in administration fees for use of The Beacon System.

Some U3A's reported already using the system and others are actively looking at possibility of adoption for membership matters and income.

Helen Davison informed those staying for lunch that the cost would be met by Network Funds. This news was accepted with thanks.

Next Meeting: Friday 29th March 2019 10-00 a.m.

Venue Sports Pavilion, Gynsill Lane, Glenfield.

The meeting closed at 12-35 p.m. with a vote of thanks for the excellent venue facility and hospitality.