



Registered Charity 1159091



SUMMER 2023

NW REGION OF U3AS



NW TRUSTEE, NEIL STEVENSON



N W CHAIR, GILL RUSSELL

Message from the Trustee

The North West Regional Chair, Mary Waters, was elected in 2022 but had to retire early for personal reasons. We would like to thank Mary for her work with the committee over several years and wish her well for the future.

We would also like to thank Bill Woods who has completed his term of office and stepped down, and Alan Hough who completed his term as Treasurer but has been re-elected to the committee as a general member.

At the Trust AGM on 18th October 2023, my three-year term of office as the Trustee for the North West of England comes to an end. It has been a privilege to have this responsibility. It has been a challenging time for u3as, especially during COVID and the Lockdown. I am pleased to tell you that we do have a nomination to replace me. However, as this was not received before the nomination period, it is likely that the election for the new Trustee may not be held until after the AGM. Anyone else who wishes to be nominated will be able to do so.

National Workshops

There are a variety of workshops available to help you to support your u3a. We hope to hold some of these in the North West in the future but until then you can access them via the national website.

The programme for the next couple of months is as follows:-

AUGUST

Growth Matters Tuesday 9th, 10:00-12:15

Running your u3a - Information for Trustees Monday 22nd, 14:00-16:15



SEPTEMBER

Recruiting and Valuing

volunteers Tuesday 20th, 10:00-12:15

Interest Groups Matter Wednesday 21st, 10:00-12:15

Keeping it Legal Thursday 29th, 10:00-12:15

In addition, I understand that there will be a re-run of the **Finance workshop** in September. The date has not yet been fixed. You can find further details about workshops on the national website at <https://www.u3a.org>

Click on Menu, Support for u3as, then Workshops to support your u3a. You will need to Login to access the list and sign up.

u3a Festival 2024



Following support at the u3a Council, Third Age Trust Board members approved a proposal to plan and deliver a u3a Festival in mid-July 2024 at York University. The concept of a programme of u3a activities,

music, tours and tournaments spanning a three day, mid-week period was warmly received, and every effort will be made for the organisation to be by u3a members with u3a members delivering all activities. York University had been chosen for its excellent and compact indoor and outdoor facilities as well as being convenient for rail and road

connections - in addition the local management team had offered good support. Full communication with the membership will start during the summer period and all Board members were asked to spread the word where possible.

Message from the Chair



After lunch we were entertained by Andrew Wilde, a professional concert pianist who has visited many u3as in the North West and would love to visit more. Andrew played some short pieces with a little bit of a talk about each one.

The final event was the AGM. With a combination of the prior voting and voting on the day, documents were approved by a clear majority and the committee members were approved unanimously.

We would like to welcome three new Committee members - Christine Garrity, Anne Hales and Deborah Reardon. We also have an offer from Kelvin Rushworth of Skiddaw u3a, who wishes to be an ex officio member of the committee; he does not wish to be a trustee but has offered to help plan and support the activities of the elected committee, see below.

North West Region AGM and Conference

We held our regional Conference and AGM on July 4th in Liverpool. Over 50 people attended from 33 u3as. We also had some u3as voting online or by post prior to the event.

The day began with three discussion groups: Interest groups; The Trust and the u3a and Research and Shared Learning. These were all informal activities open to anyone and we have had some lovely feedback from people who joined in the discussions and appreciated the opportunity to network with other members from around the region.

NW COMMITTEE 2023-2024

NW Trustee Neil Stevenson
Chair Gill Russell (Heswall)
u3anwrchair@gmail.com

(Trustee and Chair pics on cover page)



Vice Chair Tony Cheetham (Preston)



Secretary Hilary Scarratt (West
Cheshire Villages) nwru3asec@gmail.com



General members Anne Hales(Northwich)



Christine Garrity (Mawdesley Villages)



Alan Hough (Up Holland)



Co-opted member Debbie Reardon
(Skelmersdale)



Ex officio support
Kelvin
Rushworth
(Skiddaw)

As we still have no elected Treasurer (no nomination) our retired Treasurer, Alan Hough, will continue to monitor our finances until a new person comes forward.

Summer School



After a very successful summer school in Carlisle in 2022 we decided to hold another this year. Last year's was smaller than usual, probably because members were still uncertain about risking Covid by sending so much time together but this year the booking is full. It is encouraging to see that more people getting involved and there are also quite a few members from around the UK joining it this year, see Website for more details.

Around the Region Reports/Future

Ukulele Singalong



In March two networks joined together for an afternoon for a Ukulele Singalong. Over 80 people attended from the Deeside and Wirral and Lancs-Merseyside networks. Some sang, some played and some did both! I'm sure we will be able to repeat this event at a later date.

Big Sing

For the first time since before the pandemic we were able to hold this popular event. We met for a whole day in



Liverpool. It was led by Fredrik Holm from Lancaster and Morecambe u3a. Almost 70 people came together to enjoy singing as well as to learn some simple harmonies, and were accompanied by members of Fredrik's u3a choir, as well as Fredrik playing his guitar or his bassoon.

Unusual Interest Groups.

Leigh and District u3a have written about some of their interest groups in their newsletter. I was particularly interested in some unusual ones.

History of Medicine looks at topics related to medicine during certain historical periods. Members have looked at how the

development of medical care and progress have been influenced by the work of doctors and discoverers.

Women in History

looks at the roles women have played in history. Members contribute to presentations



and offer information based on their own research and some can relate this to

their own experience or that of family members.

Crime and Punishment looks at all aspects of the justice system. Topics are presented by the members and there are opportunities for contributions and questions.

If you have any unusual interest groups in your u3a, please let Gill know. We can put information in the newsletter and who knows – you might inspire another group to ‘have a go’!

Future Regional events.

The NW Committee will be meeting soon to plan for future activities including interest days and workshops. **We would welcome your suggestions. Please contact Gill on u3anwrchair@gmail.com if you have any ideas.**

Website

We are updating parts of our website and creating a picture gallery. Please send us



interesting photos from your group, but please remember to obtain permission of

those included in the picture as this is in the public domain.

This Summary Report may be used and shared with any u3a members.

This was an in-person meeting held in London and the second of this model of the Pilot Council to be trialled.

- **The record of the previous meeting** was accepted as accurate with minor amendments. It was noted that, as the meeting is still a trial, the record should be classified as notes rather than formal minutes.
- **Council membership:** attendees were reminded that this model of the Pilot Council was still a trial and therefore the same people might not necessarily be participants in the next meeting.
- **Two-way communication with u3as:** the meeting heard a presentation on progress made so far. The number of members receiving the Newsletter is increasing. In discussion it was highlighted that it is vital that the Council engages with u3as across the movement and a long discussion was held on how this might be achieved. It is recognised that there is room for improvement in the present system but generally agreed that the Council offers an ideal opportunity for u3as to become more involved. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- **Constitutions:** The proposal from the Governance Committee to consider easing stipulations in the model Constitution in line with Charity Commission requirements was welcomed.
- **Paid Tutors:** this subject was deferred to the next meeting.
- **Future Committee Structure.** The meeting was informed that the Learning, Development and CEAK committees are being stood down in their present form. The review is ongoing and will tie the structure and

strategy together. Committees will become “Groups” which is more inclusive as it will allow members of staff to participate fully.

- **Festival 2024** will take place on the campus of York University showcasing u3a activities, with music, tours and tournaments. The provisional date is 17 to 19 July 2024 Organisers were requested to confirm this a.s.a.p. for planning purposes. U3as are encouraged not to schedule any events during this period.
- **Email address:** the u3a Office has set up a dedicated address to which u3as may send suggestions or requests for items they would like the Council to consider. council@u3a.org.uk
- **Member Added Value** the meeting heard an overview of the Parliament Hill proposal which aims to add value to the u3a membership through offers. These discounts for products and services have come about in response to member requests.
- **u3a Week 2023** is 18th to 22nd September. The coordinator this year is Margaret Fiddes.
- **Matters for the next meeting:** all u3as are requested to send in items that they would like discussed by 20th August for consideration at the 20th September meeting.

Please note that official minutes are the true record of discussions and recommendations at Pilot Council meetings. This is a summary of the main topics discussed and should not be taken as an authoritative statement. If you require any further detail about any item, please contact your Trustee.