

Chair's Report for Zoom Regional Committee Meeting on 14th July 2023.

Big thanks to Mary Barlow for wading her way through nearly 3 hours of a recorded meeting and deciphering points for the minutes. That recorded meeting was a good idea, eventually, after I found out how to send it to Mary...fun and games.

A zoom meeting took place with Sandi Rickerby on 28th June 2023. Explanation about her meeting with a Northumbria Region u3a member called June from Blyth/Whitley Bay u3a was given. June accompanied Sandi to the National office for a meeting about the idea of a pilot Council. The idea of a Council isn't a definitive idea. It has to go before the attendees at the National October AGM. Sandi will be attending the Regional Quarterly Meeting at Stannington on 20th July 2023. She will give a report and answer any questions raised.

A new risk assessment available for members using their own homes as meeting venues.

An EDI Zoom learning package has been developed by National and is to be rolled out. Is it feasible we could arrange our members to attend a Zoom workshop for everyone that feels they would like more information?

Several of the RST attended a Trust Volunteer Zoom training session on 28th June. I sent out to all RST members information from this session. Is it possible a face to face workshop could be organised so that u3a members understand the role of the RST (Trust Volunteers). Another suggestion for a workshop is ...'What is a Shared Learning Project?' Both these ideas to be discussed on 20th July at Stannington. In my eyes Northumbria needs to organise some workshops for our members...what do others think? We need to keep some Regional workshops going as well as National ones of which there are many.

On 27th June I was involved in a Zoom Focus Group deciding a name for a new National Initiative. The Trust is building on already organised communication links but would like to expand relationships with individual u3a members and the general public. There was 1 representative from National office, 1 Trust Volunteer working on this project and 7 others, including myself from around the UK. It was good fun and when we'd eventually got the hang of the task we put through 3 jazzy names forward for this initiative, which will be taken to the working party at National. We were told we would be informed of the outcome.

Mary Barlow and myself have been working hard on updating the Policies which will be added to the Region website. By the time of the meeting on the 14th July these should be completed.

Had a Zoom chat with a George Clark Stockton u3a about Regional Committee, Regional Support Volunteers and Regional Events Team. Another Zoom arranged with him on 13th July.

Future arrangements ...

17th July 2023 ...visiting Coquetdale u3a in Rothbury.

9th August 2023...visiting Newcastle u3a at Brunswick Hall, Newcastle

15th August 2023 ..visiting Houghton le Spring u3a.