

**Minutes of the Northumbria Regional Meeting held at Bede Tower
on Wednesday 25th April 2017**

Barbara Herring - prior to the main meeting, introduced Carol Burnett and Mike Martin (Whitley Bay) who with the support of Gwen Dawe gave a presentation on low key research, its processes and outcomes.

The Main Meeting

1. **Apologies.** Were received from John Leiper (Alnwick), Beryl Pemberton (Bedale), Maggy Grocott (Northallerton), Peter Barnett (Wessington), Dennis and Jean McClelland (Hartlepool), Janet McCann (Ponteland), Alan Denham (Sunderland), Robert Berry (Cestria)

2. **Minutes.** - Approved

3. **Matters Arising** - None

4. **Development Sub-Committee.** Report attached.

In the discussion that followed the points that were raised:-

- a. What is a network and how is it an advantage to the region?
- b. This topic needs leadership from the Region. Should there be some input at the next quarterly meeting in July at Ushaw or should it be dealt with at U3A level? The meeting was informed from the floor that a Network of Chairmen operated from Ripon to the east coast encompassing about 6 U3A's in the south of the region.
- c. Elizabeth Porter said that the team of regional volunteers mentioned in the report was now at 8 people (3 who had volunteered today) and would be part of the Regional Development Sub Committee who would report back to the Region.

5. **Research Sub Committee Report.** Further to the report made at the AGM the Regional Study Day proposed for September will be reported on at the October Regional Meeting.

6. The Beacon System. Alan Swindale will give a presentation at a future Regional Meeting regarding its advantages.

7. Diana Clark (Washington) asked why it was difficult to get hard copies of the Messenger. Hard copies were discontinued by TAT and it was up to U3A's to print their own for their members. It was suggested that copies emailed to U3A's were printed in Word and Adobe format. Also, about 10 copies of the Newsletter to be available at Regional Meetings. Unanimously passed by the meeting.

Gwen Dawe raised the question of speakers at a Regional Meeting. That they should have a relevant theme about our development and not be like a general speaker which would be brought into a U3A main meeting. This would be investigated by the Regional Committee.

8. Finally John LLoyd raised the questions about what constitutes a U3A member? What is a U3A member? Are we becoming a more social animal rather than one that learns.

9. Date and Time of the next Regional Meeting

Ushaw College, Durham 26th July 2017

10 am for 10.30 am start