

Notes on Zoom Meeting 22/3/2023 re Item 2 on 3 year plan.

<u>Narrative Summary</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Implementation</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Means of Verification/Evaluation</u>
Increase interaction between members of individual u3as	u3a members networking and exchanging ideas and experiences.	Include time for networking at Regional Quarterly Meetings. Promote interaction by having participants change tables for workshop elements/ break out rooms.	High	Feedback from members attending meetings

In attendance Mary Dunning MED, Ted Watt TW, Cecilia Coulson CC

Ideas to bring the above to fruition have to be DIFFERENT and FUN to what has happened in the past.

For Item 2 of the 3 year plan to be successful u3as are to be encouraged to take ownership of this objective. It can't be brought to realization without the u3as making a positive contribution. How can Region facilitate these actions?

The narrative summary was broken down into 2 main areas to be considered.

1. The u3as as a Collection of Groups. Many u3as never attend any Regional events whether they are social or learning and are therefore isolated and insular within their own community.

To encourage involvement

a) More social events that involve the whole of the Region. Social events dotted around the area eg Northern Regional Quiz (which is being organised at the moment) Fun Dog Show, competitions between u3as eg scrabble – there appears to be 14 scrabble groups in the Region, board games there appears to be 6 board game groups in the area. **(This is why Interest Group Networks need to be organised. Item 4 on the 3 year plan)**

b) Contact the previous members of the Sub Events Committee, maybe not use the word Committee, maybe an Events Team. Get their views to assist u3as to open up events that are organised at their u3a to the whole of the Region eg Whickham u3a is organising a trip to the Central Mosque in Newcastle. It will accommodate 50 members, so why not open the visit up to others. **(I have organised a Zoom meeting between Pam Marcus, Malcolm Wilkinson, Sandra Davison, Robert Pullen and myself on April 24th to thrash out some ideas)**

c) To divide the Region into maybe 5-6 areas to hold coffee mornings/ afternoon tea/ focus groups asking what the members of u3as would like. RST members to attend the above events. These events would be for ALL u3a members- not just Committee Members. TW is looking at the geography of all the u3as and organising them into areas. Encourage the organisation of Shared learning Projects at these above events. **(NB This is item 6 on 3 year plan)**

- d) Organise workshops and training events bringing all the u3as together (I can't find this as a dedicated item on the 3 year or am I missing it?)
- e) Encourage u3as to tell other u3as what has been going on with their groups and/or at their main meetings. Similar to a u3a open day, but for u3as to show off their positive achievements to other u3as. This could be held at a Regional Quarterly Meeting.

2. Networking at Regional Quarterly Meetings (RQM) – how is this encouraged?

- a) Once registration complete for a RQM then table plans arranged to 'mix up' members, so they don't sit next to their friends from the same u3a.
- b) A RST member to sit on each table as possibly a facilitator, scribe or because they have more u3a knowledge.
- c) Encourage at least 2 representatives to be sent from each u3a.
- d) Every u3a has paid their fees to Region – I would like to think that u3as would like a say about how their money is being spent, even if it's just in writing.
- e) Have a fun element at every RQM, not so staid and professional. (NB This is item 3 on 3 year plan)
- f) Book speakers that couldn't normally be afforded by a single u3a (NB This is item 3 on the 3 year plan)