



U3A Trustee for the East Midlands Newsletter

Spring 2019

I have now been a Trustee for seven months and this is my third Newsletter. It is so fantastic learning about all the activities going on in our Region, both in individual U3As and in the various Networks. So many of you work incredibly hard to ensure that the learning and laughter to be found in U3A continues to enhance the lives of so many.



News from the Third Age Trust

As a Trustee, as well as attending Board meeting, I am also on the Development sub-committee. Much of the work of the Trust happens in committees. At the moment there are also four working parties that are discussing and planning for the implementation of the Development Plan. There is an over-arching one, which is keeping things on track and the others are:

- Developing the movement
- Learning
- Raising the Profile

Another area where a lot of work is happening is Beacon. There is now a Beacon website which has information to support both users and those U3As that are thinking about it. This is accessed through the Resources area of the national website. The development of the new and improved version of Beacon is still apparently on track!

Also there, is the [U3A Plus](#) section which has advice on how U3As can continue to support members who may have physical difficulties of one sort and another.

I know that many of you find the Advice section of the website frustrating. It can be hard to find what you need and not always clear whether or not a document has been revised. The whole Advice section will soon be relaunched and should be much improved. Please do let me know, (or National Office) if you still feel other improvements are needed. You will be informed when the section opens and amendments will be flagged up in the monthly Newsletter. Already available under Downloads is a new handbook for Group Leaders and a health check you could use to monitor your U3A.

You may also be interested to know that the Trust has just registered the U3A logo without the 'University of the Third Age' strapline. This will be available soon together with guidance as to what you can add to it.

Events – This is another area of the website well worth looking at. TAT organises some amazing events, mostly in London but also across the country, so do have a look. It would be good to have an event in the East Midlands. If you have an idea for one, please let me know.

Network Activities

There are seven Networks in the East Midlands, one in each of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and three in Lincolnshire because of the size of the county. All of them exist to support their member U3As and to share ideas and expertise. Here are some of the forthcoming activities:

- Northants: is about to hold a workshop for membership secretaries and Groups Coordinators.
- Notts: 2 more potential U3As are planned for this year and an 'Ageing Well day' will be held in October
- South Lincs: is planning a workshop for Group leaders/convenors
- East Lincs: has requested a national workshop on Recruiting Volunteers. It is hoped this will be held soon.
- Derbys: planning a Network picnic which may include a tour of the roof at Hardwick Hall.
- Leics: Have just agreed to hold a workshop to provide peer support for Web masters, as well as Group Convenors of History, Science and Technology and Languages. They have also recently held another Network inter U3A Quiz, won by Lutterworth.
- I have received suggestions for 2 other potential U3As in Derbys and Leics and will follow these up.
- A number of U3As have held Open days to celebrate and publicise their activities. The star must be Bourne, as 60 new members were recruited!

Regional News

There will be a one-day Regional Conference in spring 2020. A group of volunteers from across the region have kindly and enthusiastically offered to help make this happen. Watch this space!

A National Finance workshop was requested by Leicestershire Network and will shortly be held in Nottingham. It sold out very quickly.

Learn Laugh Live

Welcome to the new **Wollaton** U3A in Nottingham, which had over 200 people attend its Inaugural meeting. 140 signed up then and there and there are already 18 Interest groups.

Thank you. I can be contacted on: jean.hogg@u3a.org.uk

Jean Hogg
Trustee for the East Midlands

