

Regional Trustee Report: Michaela Moody

1. Since last October I've attended Regional and Network meetings the length and breadth of the Region. I now have a different perspective for the region's geography. On my travels, when I see signposts, I don't think: "I've been there" but "There's a U3A there". I've presented certificates and joined in several U3A general and committee meetings. I've also got four NEC meetings under my belt where you'll be pleased to know that I voiced your concerns about the hasty introduction of Direct Mail only for Third Age Matters in April. Once this has been fully implemented, how else people might be able to get copies will be debated and some proposals made. As soon as I know, so will you.

2. In late January I attended the Pennine Link's winter meeting with Jenny Carley (NW Trustee) in New Mills. This is a cross border group of U3As from Cheshire and Derbyshire and Jenny and I were invited so that we could address some issues which had arisen in the Network. The group felt that we could answer their queries.

3. I am really excited by the plans being refined and implemented by Network Development Teams. Having last year's Trustee involved in Regional Education and Development has been a real bonus for me – there was so much to get to grips with – it was great to have someone to bounce ideas off.

4. I've developed an Action Plan template for new U3A start-ups. After discussions with the Development Teams, I designed a 15 month programme of support for newly started U3As so that they find their feet and are able to run with confidence after their first AGM. Members of the Development Teams will be acting as Mentors so that the U3As have someone local they can call on quickly to help with problems or queries. The template has been used for the Great Oakley start up where we had 100 people at the Launch meeting on 22 April and also for the Alfreton launch on 13 June. Great Oakley has had its third Steering Committee meeting and will be holding its first proper monthly meeting this month. Alfreton will have its Inaugural meeting later this month and the Steering Committee is now up and running. Since the emphasis nationally in 2013 is on starting as many new U3As as possible, we have 5 new start-ups scheduled for the Autumn.

5. Our region is very large so I have been giving thought to how we run regional workshops in the future. I believe that we should take the Region to the Networks and run the workshops in the Networks – more people should be able to attend and travelling time will be cut substantially.

6. At the National level, the Development Sub-Committee have identified Planning as the essential ingredient for running effective workshops. We have developed a prototype which had its dry run at the end of May. On 17 June, it was run for Regional Trustees and two additional members from each Region. This workshop identifies the essentials you need to take into account in the planning and development process.

7. I regard this year as one of achievement across the Region with increasing numbers of U3As participating in workshops and events of all kinds. Having been your co-opted Regional Trustee, I would like to continue the work I've started and will be standing for election at the National AGM in September.