

# EM Regional Conference 2014 - Feedback

## Participation - it's all about taking part!

In **one word**, give your opinion of the conference:

**16 left blank**

OK, acceptable, good, great, brilliant, well presented, interesting, entertaining, musical, fantastic, exhilarating, enjoyable, comprehensive, stimulating, busy, excellent, inspiring, participational, upbeat, unusual, stimulating

disjointed, disappointing, static, soporific, unfocussed, wasted opportunity, non-participatory, very disappointing, weak, uninspiring, unrehearsed, fun, informative

### **Our aims and Objectives**

**Yes**

**No**

Were you made aware of what you could gain from taking part in a range of U3A activities at all levels?

57

23

Did the conference get you to think about positive ways in which you could take part in future U3A activities?

55

25

Will you make members of your U3A more aware of the benefits of participation?

68

12

Will you encourage members of your U3A to participate more fully in your U3A's activities?

70

10

## **Future Conferences**

The Conference format was different this year. Did it appeal to you?

**Yes**

**No**

**Blank**

38

24

18

If yes, please say why

Enabled more variety, more input from groups

Light hearted, informative, extremely well organised

Embodied participation with 200 delegates/performers

Excellent as a one-off

Good variety of presentation, some speakers very good

Showed talent of membership

Music fantastic

If no, please say why not

Participation is not about being forced but about choosing to participate

Conferences should be inspirational, motivational, exhilarating

It was NOT a Conference, it was a concert

Participation is not just music

U3A all about diversity: theme did not reflect this

### **Speaker**

Main speaker needs to be 'on message'

Speaker not inspirational

Speaker too long, did not show how participation was achieved, self-indulgent and elitist

Speaker self-satisfied, inappropriate jokes

More talks relevant to U3A interests

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## **Environment**

Lack of drinks

Hall Layout - cabaret style will lead to better interaction. Water provision small – not replenishable easily, (easier with cabaret style)

Too noisy, no time to talk and network

Too long sitting on hard chairs

Steel band too noisy

Insufficient breaks

## **Balance**

Message diluted by the entertainment

Lack of opportunity for delegates to participate

Too much music

More about other U3As

One third of the time needs to be devoted to breakout sessions

Pace rather slow

Courses in public speaking needed

Afternoon speakers boring, we can all read

Unclear focus

Missed opportunity to discuss U3A and the future

## **Learning**

One didn't leave thinking "That was new"

Nothing was learned

No new approaches shown in network reports

## **Presentation**

Unrehearsed, needed to be slicker

No substance, too flippant, no time to plan questions

It felt like being in a residential home for the elderly

Musical interludes should have been rationed

Objective 3 not covered

**What theme/topic would you suggest for the 2015 Conference?**

## **Learning orientation**

Science

Communication: transfer of information, methods for group learning (W)

Challenge of change

The vision of the Third Age Trust: an enthusiastic social & learning community

Learning in the Third Age

Learning for Life

History, drama

## **Workshop orientation**

Communication: transfer of information, methods for group learning (W)

Problems as U3As get larger (W)

Breakout groups as well as plenaries (W)

Marketing/advertising U3A

Variety

Showcase success stories