

Chair's Report 2015/2016

This will be my final report as my 3 year term of office will end at this year's AGM. I would have liked to end on an optimistic note but over this past year I have been questioning the efficacy and validity of the Regional Representative Council (RRC). When The Association of East Midlands U3As was set up, with a Regional Representatives Council which met regularly, there was an obvious need for such an organisation. Indeed it was seen as an example to be possibly followed by other regions, although no other region has developed an RRC like the East Midlands. The RRC met regularly to discuss items relevant to U3As in the Region, to set up and run workshops and study days, act as support for the Regional Trustee and as a means of communication between member U3As and the Third Age Trust.

Since its inception many things have changed. The Regional Trustee has a team of trained Regional Volunteers to help her with setting up new U3As and other things. There are also paid workers available to help in the region where and when needed.

With this in mind and in view of the fact that in my opinion and that of other members, the RRC has become more of a talking shop rather than a pro-active organisation and following discussions at the regular meetings it was decided to recommend that the Association of East Midlands U3As and therefore the RRC be dissolved. This decision was also influenced by the apparent emphasis in consultations, by the Third Age Trust, on Networks and Neighbourhoods. I believe that now is the time to concentrate on further developing the networks and neighbourhoods as a means of supporting and building on the U3A movement and providing communication between individual U3As and the Third Age Trust.

I would like to thank the members of the RRC for their support and their hard work during the last three years and particularly over this difficult time.

Hilary Wells chair.