

ASSOCIATION OF EAST MIDLANDS U3As

REGIONAL TRUSTEE'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19 SEPTEMBER 2016

When I first joined the U3A, I never thought I would become a Regional Trustee, but I have been your Trustee for a year now and have enjoyed it all, apart from a few hiccups.

An important responsibility I have is to sit on the National Executive Council with the other 11 Regional Trustees, the national Chairman, the two Vice Chairmen and the national Treasurer. We are there to offer support to U3As and their members, with the help of the staff at National Office, who are also there to support and advise. There are a number of sub-committees, for example Development, Finance, Education and Research who all meet regularly

Part of my role is to keep a watchful eye on the 107 U3As in the Region and I have been able to visit many of them together with the networks and neighbourhood groups. One thing I have found encouraging is that U3As are all working in different ways, staying operationally independent but under the umbrella of The Third Age Trust. Some I have visited are becoming too large for the venues for their monthly meetings even though not all their members attend those meetings. Some of those U3As have associate members who can join interest groups but not attend main meetings, other close their doors and have the dreaded waiting list. Encouragement is being given to these U3As to either look for a larger venue in the area or talk to other U3As locally who may have similar problems and see if there is a need for another U3A. There are other U3As who are having problems, probably with falling membership, unable to attract new members or are having the common problem of not being able to raise committee members so I go along and give encouraging words to the membership and the committee. It is surprising how often, after talking to them, committee members find their own solution to their problems.

There has only been one new U3A launched in the Region so far this year, Mapperley in Nottingham. However, there are three in the pipeline for later this year or early next year, so that we can keep up the U3A principle of making U3A available to everyone who wants to join. I am looking forward to working with the Regional Volunteers and the national Training and Development Team on the launch of new U3As in the coming year.

The national Training and Development Team members also run the national workshops, and I am hoping to bring some of these to the Region, as I know many of them are run too far from where many of you live.

I am hoping to make contact with some of the local universities, museums and other organisations where we may be able to jointly do research and arrange shared learning projects.

The Region is running smoothly with the networks and neighbourhood groups supporting their member U3As.

I would like to keep all the U3As and their members happy, but to do that I need the support of all the U3As and members. I know I can count on you all.

Don't forget to Learn, Laugh and Live with the U3A.

Jane Pavier
Regional Trustee – East Midlands.