

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH 2017
AT STANTON ON THE WOLDS GOLF CLUB, GOLF COURSE ROAD,
STANTON-ON-THE-WOLDS, NOTTINGHAM, NG12 5BH**

	<p><u>IN ATTENDANCE</u></p> <p>Pat Reeve, Temp. Chairman: Rita Foulkes, Treasurer: Margaret Taylor, Temp. Secretary: Jane Pavier, Regional Trustee: Mandy Topp, Shared Learning Contact: Peter Edge, Web Master: Sue Hewson and Richard Johnston, Lincolnshire Group: David Oliver, Lincolnshire East: Bill Rayner, Lincolnshire South: Stephne Tewson, Northamptonshire & Temp. Assistant Secretary and Jenny Greaves, Nottinghamshire.</p>
ITEM 1	<p>Pat Reeve welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies from Geoff Belk and Judith Hodges, Derbyshire, John Redshaw, Leicester & Rutland and Liz Wilson, Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>She then thanked the RRC Members, Rita Foulkes, Margaret Taylor, Stephne Tewson, Jane Pavier, Sam Mauger, County Contacts and all U3As and their Committees.</p>
ITEM 2	<p>All members present agreed the Minutes dated 09.11.16. The Temp. Chairman then signed them.</p>
ITEM 3	<p><u>RESULTS OF CONSULTATION RE DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF EAST MIDLANDS & RRC</u></p> <p>Following the consultation process resulting in 95 U3As out of 109 replying that they were in favour of the Dissolution, Jane Pavier, Regional Trustee, had approached Sam Mauger, Chief Executive of the Third Age Trust for advice. Pat Reeve also contacted her and explained that the majority of the U3As who had responded to the consultation had made it quite clear that they were in favour of the Dissolution and would not wish to attend an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting which had been advised previously by National Office. Therefore it was agreed that a Resolution as opposed to another ballot would be the way forward. The Resolution was drawn up by Jane Pavier, Regional Trustee and Stephne Tewson and circulated to members of the RRC. The members attending unanimously agreed the Resolution and Stephne Tewson will be circulating this to all of the U3As in the Region, together with a summary of the breakdown, county by county and a final statement from Pat Reeve, the Chairman on behalf of the RRC in the next few days. It would be noted in the covering email that if any member U3A required the full information Stephne would be pleased to send it. ACTION ST/PR - COMPLETED</p> <p>It was also reported that within many of the U3A responses that the Officers who had stepped in to help sort out this issue should be especially thanked.</p>
ITEM 4	<p><u>THE FUTURE FOR THE REGION</u> - Ideas and Suggestions offered:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that there should be positive networking with future joint activities being arranged in the Region • that the Trustee should be used fully to his/her potential and that the Regional Volunteers should be utilised to support existing U3As and Networks as well as opening new U3As • not to be strangers. That a reunion of the members takes place in 6 months and that a maximum of 3 members from each County Network be invited. Richard Johnson offered to organise the first one although it was noted that no expenses could be paid. • that more emphasis would need to be put on support by the Networks, Neighbourhood Groups and Cluster Groups throughout the Region. If in some areas where these were not already up and running that the individual Counties would be given help to move forward. • U3As, Networks and Neighbourhoods should overcome parochial attitudes. • That friendship should be emphasised when learning and above all to have fun. • That there could be a regular newsletter from the Regional Trustee updating all on information following the NEC Meetings circulated to all County Contacts • That the Regional Trustee has a list of current County Contacts • That “shared learning” events be advertised by Mandy via the County Contacts, RVs, and Regional Trustee. • That the Web Site is used for advertising events and information

ITEM 5	<p><u>TREASURER’S REPORT ON THE FUTURE FINANCES</u></p> <p>Rita Foulkes explained that there were two accounts, the second account being opened by David Kyle when interest rates were high to boost funds. Rita Foulkes and Jane Pavier are the signatories with both having to sign all cheques. As at today there was £2,038.96 and £597.78 in the accounts. However after paying out expenses for today’s meeting, administration and postage, there will be approximately £2,000+ left to share out as per the Resolution.</p> <p>Rita said that 71 U3As had paid their subscription for 2016/17 and they should be involved in the “Share out”. A vote was taken on whether all 71 U3As should get an equal share or not. 5 Members voted “for” and 4 voted “against”. Therefore Rita was asked to arrange for funds to be divided equally between the 71 U3As with cheques being sent out to the individual U3A Treasurers when convenient to herself and when all other expenses had been paid. ACTION RF</p> <p>Members agreed and approved that the Treasurer, Rita Foulkes, contact Barclays Bank to amalgamate the two accounts with the Premium Account being closed and the funds being transferred into the Community Account. When all cheques have been “cleared” Rita will contact the Bank to close this account as well.</p> <p>Following the closure of the accounts, Jane Pavier informed the members that cheques re Conferences and Workshops in the Region would need to be paid to Third Age Trust who would then bank them with Jane keeping a record of Income and Expenditure within her own budget from National Office. The members agreed to follow the advice of National Office and the Regional Trustee with this arrangement.</p>
Item 6	<p><u>WEB SITE</u></p> <p>Peter Edge volunteered to continue with the current web Site until 2018.</p> <p>This would mean that there would be a cost of £24 for the Hosting (to be paid by 5th July 2017) and £6.75p to maintain the domain name of the website - eastmidlandsu3as.org.uk - for the next year (to be paid for by 14th June 2017). Peter proposed changing the title of the Website from “The Association of East Midlands U3As” to “East Midlands U3A Region”. Members discussed and approved the proposals.</p> <p>It was also agreed that in 2018 the current web site be moved to “Site Builder” which is a free web site when the domain name will change automatically. However Peter was not prepared to continue when this happens and therefore all members were asked to try and find a volunteer to replace Peter, possibly advertising the position via the County Contacts.</p> <p>Members felt the National Office should have a better policy on Web Sites with better templates and Jane Pavier was asked to take this comment forward to National Office. ACTION JP</p> <p>Peter will also remove Margaret’s details as she has been receiving all emails from the Web Site. Peter agreed that any email not having anything to do with U3A will be deleted and others will be forwarded to the appropriate County Contact, Network or Regional Trustee to deal with.</p> <p>Peter was thanked for his services.</p>
Item 7	<p><u>REPORT FROM REGIONAL TRUSTEE – Jane Pavier</u></p> <p>Trying to recruit new Regional Volunteers now that the paid Training & Development Team Pilot Scheme is ending with effect from 31st March. Current Regional Volunteers are being offered extra training on 30th March. They will then be able to choose if they want to do the whole role or bite sized involvement e.g. new U3As, workshops, supporting present U3As. The Regional Trustee can authorise expenses 45p per mile travel and towards cost of lunches.</p> <p>The National Office is appointing a paid Communications Officer to ensure that all information on TV and Radio is correct and press releases follow a standardised process.</p> <p>There have been problems with Pre-Retirement Courses especially in the NHS. These again will be standardised but adapted to individual areas.</p> <p>Now that there are over 1000 U3As up and running it has been decided that they must all have a standard way of doing things and RVs can be involved in achieving this aim.</p>

	<p>The NEC has looked at the Consultation on Future Planning and is proposing to put this on the AGM Agenda at their Conference. In particular they are looking at the sizes of the various regions and the areas covered by the Regional Trustees. Some smaller proposals will hopefully be approved at the 2017 AGM but others may have to wait until the 2018 AGM.</p> <p>JP reported on the new and potential new U3As being set up in the Region.</p> <p>As there have been some problems with Speakers who are U3A members asking for a full fee not just expenses she will be circulating advice to all U3As Speaker Seekers that this must not happen. At the same time she will be advising on having legal firms speaking at meetings as well. ACTON JP</p> <p>Jane responded to the question on how to find a successor to replace the Regional Trustee now that the RRC was ending by informing the members that National Office would circulate information that there was a vacancy, asking for nominations and then asking for all U3As to send in their postal votes.</p> <p>Jane wished to thank everyone for the support given to her as Trustee which was very much appreciated. In turn Jane was thanked by the Chair and all members.</p>
Item 8	<p><u>CONFERENCE 2017 & OTHER REGIONAL EVENTS</u></p> <p><u>Conference</u></p> <p>JP to arrange with the help of the local U3As in Leicestershire.</p> <p>She will arrange a venue in a suitable location accessible to all U3As at the end of September/October 2017.</p> <p>It was suggested that as there have been recent developments in the area re Richard III that the theme of this Conference mirror this. Therefore JP to investigate speakers on the history and how the body was discovered and also on the science which confirmed his identity. She would also try to get a musical group/person to play medieval music. She will keep everyone informed by way of the County Contacts.</p> <p>ACTION JP</p> <p>David Oliver from East Lincolnshire Neighbourhood is hoping to organise a Neighbourhood Cultural Event in June 2018, to which all Regional U3As would be welcome to attend. Information to be circulated via the County Contacts. ACTION DO</p> <p>Richard Johnston to organise a re-union of the RRC members and members of Networks – up to 3 members per county – in the Autumn. ACTION RJ</p> <p>A Regional Workshop on Publicity and Communication to be arranged in March 2018, possibly at Nottingham’s Eastwood College. ACTION JP</p> <p>All members asked to raise this at their Networks and Neighbourhoods and perhaps organise future events for the Region.</p>
Item 9	<p><u>VERBAL REPORTS FROM AROUND THE REGION</u></p> <p><u>Lincolnshire South</u> - Preparing to arrange a Workshop on Well Being.</p> <p><u>Nottinghamshire</u> – Have arranged a workshop on Educational Trips, Visits and Holidays Information. Hoping to open 2 new U3As in Warsop & District and Ruddington. Holding a meeting in April devoted entirely to Communication with Sam Mauger giving a presentation.</p> <p><u>Northamptonshire</u> – Organising a workshop. Is also organising a countywide outing for as many members who would like to come.</p> <p><u>Shared Learning</u> – Mandy Topp advised on two projects, “Joseph Bank and Stanhope Family Papers” and “Surveying Sites and Learning Skills on how to draw up Plans for Archaeological Sites”. Information to be circulated via the County Contacts.</p>
Item 10	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>a) Storage of Files and Financial Records. JP is to keep these once everything has been completed. Pat Reeve confirmed her thanks to all and particularly to the members who had attended today.</p>
	<p>All members present have confirmed that these Minutes are correct and a true copy of the final meeting of the RRC.</p>