

Charity Registration No 1159091

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

For the past two months, most of my attention has been focussed on our Summer School at Newton Rigg College in the Lake District. This year we had 109 U3A members register from 54 different U3As studying a choice of 9 different subjects between 29th August and 1st September. All of these numbers are record highs for the North West Region. It was unfortunate that the dates clashed with the National AGM and Conference in Nottingham, but many members going to the Summer School take advantage of the bank holiday weekend to visit the Lake District. So we could not change the dates. In addition to studying their chosen course, attendees had a choice of a guest speaker or theatre trip on Wednesday evening. On Thursday evening there was a gala dinner followed by another guest speaker.

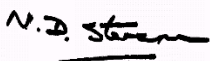
We are completing our analysis of feedback but some of the headline numbers are:

- 95% of all feedback forms were completed and returned
- 76% said that their personal achievement was good or excellent
- 91% said that the food was good or excellent
- 100% said that the Summer School was value for money
- 86% said that they will come to next year's Summer School

I also received 35 emails thanking the North West Region for organising the Summer School. More detailed feedback will appear on our website in due course.

I would particularly like to thank Jacqui Owen, Rosalie White, Margaret Roe and Alan Hough for their tremendous help and support. I would also like to thank the course tutors, without whom it would not have been possible to have a Summer School. They are all U3A members and in the true spirit of the movement they gave their time voluntarily.

Best wishes



Neil Stevenson

TRUSTEE'S MESSAGE

Last month I attended the National Conference and AGM in Nottingham, which was a lively event. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet many people from around the country and our National Chair, Pam Jones, announced that membership is now topping 400,000.

There were workshops on a variety of topics, a couple of excellent speakers, entertainment by a U3A guitar group and a ukulele 'jam' session. The AGM day was live-streamed on U-Tube so I hope some of you were able to watch it.

Comments from people who attended indicated that this was worth going to as it offered so many opportunities for networking, support and exchange of ideas (much of which took place at breakfast in the dining rooms of the University Halls of Residence!) It would be great if all U3As could help to fund one person to attend.

Of course, it meant I couldn't attend our excellent North West Summer School which you can read more about in Neil's message.

Gill Russell

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Some new volunteers have recently begun training for the start-up process of new U3As. There will also be training for supporting existing U3As and for helping to run workshops. At the moment, most of our volunteers are from the centre of the Region and it would be great to have people from more areas, especially the Cumbria and South Cheshire areas.

If you would be interested in receiving training in the future please let me know.



Contact is changing

Newsletter distribution list – a new way

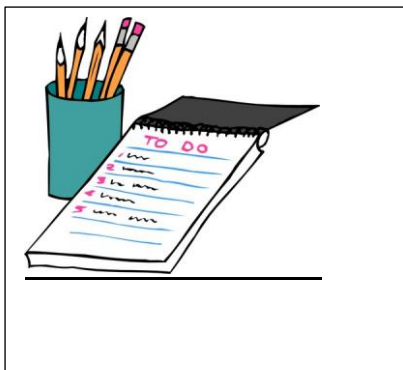
The newsletter now goes out to over 1300 people around the North West Region and more people are waiting for me to add their names. It takes me almost 3 days to send because Google sets a daily limit.

Data protection is also a concern.

The addresses are stored on my personal computer and although I have good security, now that the list is so large I am very concerned that it is vulnerable. To make it more secure, National Office has offered to create a distribution list on Mailchimp which will make it easier and safer to send a bulk message.

I am hoping that I can move the addresses across easily. Once done, I will let you know how you can update your contact details when they change.

The plan is to complete this process by the end of October so you can receive the November newsletter. Please let me know if you have any queries about this.



Also, don't forget that the newsletter is always available on the Regional website.



FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Inclusiveness Awareness Day - November 7th.

Venue: The Gateway, Warrington. 10.30 – 3.45.

Registration details are now available on the Regional website. This is a repeat of a previous event which members asked us to run again. It is aimed at looking at ways members can stay involved when they have disabilities such as mobility, hearing and vision loss. The guest speaker will be Steve Binns who has spoken at many of our groups in the past. Steve is blind from birth. He has worked as a Blue Badge Guide, which will form the focus of his talk, and has been an archivist for Liverpool City Council. There is no charge for this event.

Music event –: December 11th. 10.30 – 4.00

Quaker meeting house, Liverpool. Cost £8. Lunch is not included but we hope to serve mulled apple juice and mince pies. This event will include a performance by Andrew Wilde supported by the North West Music Trust in the morning. Andrew has been a guest at many U3As and has an excellent reputation for his presentation and performance. In the afternoon there will be workshops for ukulele, recorders, singing and musical appreciation

The event will end with a presentation by Chris Devereux from Southport U3A who will perform music from different periods on a variety of unusual instruments.

Please see the attached flyer and registration form. More details are available on the Regional website or contact me for more information.

gillruss71@gmail.com or
gillian.russell@u3a.org.uk

February 2018 'Your Best Ever AGM'. Come and join Much Wittering in the Marshes as they prepare to hold their AGM – and spot the deliberate mistakes. This workshop is being repeated by popular request. More details in the next newsletter.

AROUND THE REGION

WELCOME to two new U3As.

Lymm & Thelwall U3A and Whitworth U3A have now become permanent members of the Third Age Trust.

Health And Well-Being Conference: Thursday 26th October from 10.00 – 4.00

Booking for this event is now closed

Lancaster and Morecambe U3A are hosting the conference at the Banqueting Suite in Lancaster Town Hall.

There will be stalls with information about various support organisations and an opportunity to make a voluntary donation to Cancer care.

Language workshop: October 30th. Lancaster Quaker Meeting House

This is being organised by John Eakins from Grange Over Sands U3A with help from a small committee. It will provide an opportunity for language group organisers and members to exchange ideas. A flyer is attached to this newsletter and is also available on the Regional website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AGMs

Do we have to hold an AGM?

Yes.

Why?

This is a Constitutional requirement. Failure to comply can negate your insurance and compromise your charitable status.

Do we have to have elections?

Yes. Charity Trustees should be elected at the AGM. If vacancies occur during the year you can invite someone to fill the place until the next AGM.

When should we start preparing for an AGM?

It's a good idea to start at least 2-3 months before. Send out a message to all your members

telling them the date, inviting nominations and resolutions, which should be returned to the Secretary at least 28 days before the actual AGM.

Then send out the final AGM notice at least 21 days before the meeting with the Agenda, names of nominees, financial report and any proposed resolutions.

Can we tell our members at a monthly meeting?

Yes, but you must also contact those people who haven't attended the meeting.

You need to make every effort to contact ALL your members.

CAN WE PAY A U3A MEMBER TO BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER?

No. It is part of the ethos of the U3A that our members cannot be paid for services to any U3A. This is stated in the Committee Reference File.

Section 1 – Objects and principles

Principle no. 4 *no salary, fee or financial reward shall be paid to any member of the university for teaching other members, counselling them or helping in any way.*

The Principles of the Third Age Trust – The Mutual Aid Principle: *no payments are made to members for services rendered to any U3A*

Section 4 – Finance: Paid Speakers – *There is no problem with U3As paying fees to external speakers but it is not acceptable within the U3A to pay a fee to any U3A member to give a talk. Legitimate expenses can of course be paid.*

Can They Be Given A Payment To A Charity Instead?

Sorry. The answer is still NO. You can do this for an external guest speaker, but not for a U3A member.

North West Website:

www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west