

Chair's Report to AGM 23rd October, 2024

Welcome to our Nottinghamshire Network AGM 2024.

Another year has flown by and I am happy to report that our Network continues to thrive and develop thanks to the enthusiastic, committed and talented members that we have. So, thank you to all of you that have supported the Network.

In particular I would like to thank our committee who work incredibly hard to not just keep things ticking over but in moving forward exploring and developing innovative ideas.

So, thank you to

Maria Gabrielczyk Vice Chair and Newsbites Editor

Jean Hogg - Treasurer

Sue Blackley - secretary

Rosie Allen - Support Officer

Margot Gale - County Contact

Peer Support Group Co-ordinator – Carole Harrison

Peter Edge - Webmaster

Paulo Saucedo

There have been many events happening during the last year.

As they say in no particular order the u3a Festival was held in York and many of our members attended what was a very popular and successful event.

The North Notts Neighbourhood held a Picnic in the Park in Sherwood Forest and the sun shone on the event which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We now have a Nottinghamshire Network Facebook page thanks to John Butler who has worked hard to get it up and running and also support us IT wise in a wider context.

We have had a workshop on Managing Complaints and Procedures which was very popular and invaluable to committee members, especially those who are new to the role.

We currently have five Peer Support Groups, and I know Carole is eager to increase that, but I am sure she will be covering that later.

Newsbites has been very successful with lots of interesting and informative articles and some great photos showcasing our Network.

Peter Edge our Webmaster is continuing in his role although he is working mostly from home. I know Peter is looking for a successor so if you feel you have the skills and would like to take on this role do get in touch with me or any other committee member.

Finally, I must mention the event of the year which was of course our conference, which we titled Learn, Laugh, Live. We wanted the conference to be a fun interactive event which gave members the opportunity to experience different workshops/groups with the possibility they might take some ideas back to their u3a.

Our first task was to form a working party which comprised; Rosie Allen, Maria Gabrielczyk, Sue Blackley, Margot Gale and myself. We set about securing a venue and date. We then had to decide on a key note speaker, workshops, refreshments and advertising. This involved many meetings and e mails.

On the day we had a fantastic time at the Girls High School who were very supportive and flexible in meeting our needs. The sun shone and the positivity and enjoyment during the day made all the hard work worthwhile. I want to say a thank you to the working party who did a fantastic job especially when I had to step back for family reasons.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all of you who have supported and guided me during this year and I look forward to the next twelve months.
Thank you