

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF u3as
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd April 2025 AT 10am
AT ST PETERS RAVENSHEAD

PRESENT:	Chris Niven Chair Eastwood and District, Margot Gale (Beeston) Network contact, Rosie Allen (Arnold) Support Officer Carole Harrison (Mansfield) Peer Support Groups, Maria Gabrielczyk, (Ravenshead) Vice Chair and News Bites John Lewis (Bingham) Council Representatives, East Midlands, Sue Russell (Worcester) Chair of Council, Alan Russell (Worcester) Board Member. Ashfield, Bingham, Carlton and Gedling, Cotgrave and District, Eastwood and District, Edwalton, Gamston and District, Hucknall and District, Mansfield, Ravenshead, Sherwood, Soar Valley, Southwell, Stapeford and District, The Park, Nottingham, West Bridgford,
ITEM 1	<u>WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Niven welcomed everyone and accepted apologies from: Jean Hogg, Sue Blackley, Anne Pinnock, Alan Comerie, Paul Martinez, Barry Appleby, Diane Hibbert, Mary Howarth, Claire Wilkie, James Bartlett, Liz, Gilder, Sarah Spilsbury Introductions were made around the room by each member present. Chris announced that she would not be standing for re election as Chair at the AGM in October and asked everyone to consider whether they could put themselves forward.
ITEM 2	<u>AGREE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DATED 22.1.25.</u> The minutes were agreed with no matters arising.
ITEM 3	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u> Paco Saucedo, our new treasurer, is still finding his feet but is now signed up with the bank. Balance on our account on 4.2.25 was £1524.08.
ITEM 4	<u>SUPPORT OFFICER ROSIE ALLEN</u> Please publicise strongly the Notts Network Workshop on 23rd June. Emphasis on inviting members with an interest in any and all Interest Groups. Request to amend our poster to make this clear and resend. NB: this has already been done.
ITEM 5	<u>NEWSBITES EDITOR MARIA GABRIELCZYK</u> Thanks re contributions. Guidelines for articles newly redone to reflect Copyright issues. All images must be copyright free. 300 word limit on articles. Please update the names of your content providers. Please provide good quality &sharp photos added as an attachment. Sign and add u3a. Deadline for next edition 7 th June. Constructive feedback very welcome.
ITEM 6	<u>EAST MIDLANDS SUPPORT TEAM MARIA GABRIELCZYK</u> First meeting of this new group was held in March. It represents the 5 counties in the East Midlands region: Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire. Coordinators of the group are Maria Gabrielczyk and Jean Hogg. Purpose: To support our 2 Council Reps – John Lewis and Barry Page To support the 108 u3as in the region. Second meeting 20 May. John Lewis asked for interested members to put their names forward. The group will be self funding although the inaugural meeting was funded by Third Age Trust. The group will not duplicate the Notts Network but will enable the communication between u3a members and our Council Reps.
ITEM 7	<u>SOCIAL MEDIA JOHN BUTLER</u> John administers the Network Facebook page. He picks up on posts from u3as and reposts them. John says it is clear that a number of u3as have really increased their social media presence. Well done.
ITEM 8	<u>PEER SUPPORT GROUPS (PSGs) CAROLE HARRISON</u> Reminder about PSGs which cover many roles performed by a u3a Committee and a few others as well. Very valuable for raising issues that others may face as well. It would be good to have each u3a in the Network represented on each PSG. Margot will add you to the Contact list if you let her know.
ITEM 9	<u>REGIONAL PUBLICITY ADVISER, JOHN PERRY</u> John is involved with an All Party Parliamentary Group on Informal Learning. Individual u3as are invited to contact their local MPs and John has a template form that can be used. U3a Week in September would be a good time to make this contact.
ITEM 10	<u>PRESENTATION BY SUE RUSSELL, CHAIR OF COUNCIL AND FORMER CHAIR OF NETWORK LINK</u> Sue took us through her journey to today which is categorised by a can do attitude and jumping up to the plate. She is strongly in favour of the benefits that working together brings. Strong advocate of Networks and sees one

	<p>of their strengths being that each is different to reflect the different needs and geographies of the area they represent. Also, a strong supporter of Peer Support Groups.</p> <p>The next Network Link zoom meeting is on 9 June with Sheila Crawley re Facebook and Alan Russell on the tools available from AI.</p> <p>Sue showed us powerpoint slides on the new structure of the Third Age Trust under Fit for the Future.</p>
ITEM 10	<p>PRESENTATION BY ALAN RUSSELL, MEMBER OF THE BOARD AND SITEWORKS TEAM</p> <p>Alan’s journey reflects his strong interests and skill in tech which led to him volunteering to Beacon and then being part of the Siteworks team. He is pleased with the way the roll out has taken place and the general value that u3as report they gain from the new template and the support available.</p> <p>Alan’s aim is to influence the board to develop a Third Age Trust digital strategy to support us into the future.</p> <p>A tip: A function called “Oversights” is being set up on Siteworks which allows us to ask a question and have a search carried out e.g U3a Chairs within a 50 mile radius.</p>
ITEM 11	<p>AOB: JOHN LEWIS, COUNCIL REP FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS</p> <p>The grant system for the Third Age Trust is being revised with a roll out date of April 1st.</p>
ITEM 10	<p>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 23rd July 2025 AT 10AM AT THE CENTRE, ST. PETER’S, RAVENSHEAD, NOTTS NG15 9FD</p>

Chair..... Secretary..... Dated 23.04.25

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