

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF u3as
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY 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. Arnold, Ashfield (2), Cotgrave and District (1), Edwalton & Gamston District (1), Forest Town & District (2), Hucknall & District (2), Mansfield & District (2), Mapperley & District (1), Nottingham & District (1), Ravenshead (5), Ruddington & District (1), Sherwood (1), Southwell (1), Stapleford & District (2), Sutton-in-Ashfield (1), The Park Nottingham (1) and West Bridgford (1).
ITEM 1	<u>WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Niven welcomed everyone, including several new members and accepted apologies from: Sue Blackley, Ged Clark, Veronica Perry, Paul Martinez, Barry Appleby, Diane Hibbert, Mary Howarth, James Bartlett, Liz Gilder and Sarah Spilsbury
ITEM 2	<u>AGREE MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL MEETING DATED 23.4.25.</u> The minutes were agreed with no matters arising.
ITEM 3	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u> Paco Saucedo reported that he had authorised five claims for expenses and the balance currently was £925.55.
ITEM 4	<u>NEWSBITES EDITOR MARIA GABRIELCZYK</u> Since the last meeting there had been an issue of Newsbites in early June and a Newsbites Extra issue following the special workshop that took place on 23 June at Newstead. Many thanks to everyone for contributing articles and photographs. Deadline for the next issue is Thursday 7 August 2025.
ITEM 5	<u>SUPPORT OFFICER ROSIE ALLEN</u> The Notts Network Workshop on 23 June had been attended by 65 people, which equates to 70% of Network u3as. Rosie encouraged u3as who had not attended to look for future events. She thanked the team who had supported the event and for everyone who had attended. Thanks also extended to Andy Bebbington for taking the excellent photographs. Lessons had been learnt from the recent Workshop with the 10.00-1.30 timing working well and the Newstead Centre was a good location. The Stapleford Group Co-ordinator had attended but had been unable to attend the session she wanted to, and Jean Hogg apologised for the misunderstanding. Rosie was considering holding another East Midlands Conference and prior to that another Network Workshop. At the October Network meeting she would like to have a discussion on the future of the Network.
ITEM 6	<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 7	<u>PRESENTATION BY TERRY MOORE – WEB MASTER</u> Terry had been updating the website to Site Works. Peter Edge had been unable to close the previous website, so if you go onto the old site you should be redirected to the new site. Terry went through the Home page and asked all members to check their information and let him know of any changes. Terry also encouraged people to send him photos of any groups and events. He had been trying to use the Peer Support Group page to encourage members to join the relevant group. If anyone wanted to send in an email to the site, they should write it originally in word and then send via email, as the system cannot save a copy for you. Chris thanked Terry for all his hard work. The Stapleford representative asked how the general public would access the site if they did not know what a u3a was. On checking a site engine, if you put in u3a it did bring up the Network website.
ITEM 8	<u>PRESENTATION BY SUSANNAH HODGE, HEAD OF LEARNING AND VOLUNTEERING</u> Sue took us through her presentation giving an overview of learning activities. Sue encouraged members to look at the online training events which are held via Zoom and there is capacity for about 500 attendees. There are details of u3a members who are prepared to give free talks. The presentation will be circulated with the minutes. Website is: www.u3a.org.uk/learning-activities

ITEM 9	<p>PRESENTATION BY LIZ WOODMAN, SENIOR VOLUNTEERING OFFICER</p> <p>Liz reported that there are forty trust volunteers working across twenty areas. Liz had only recently come into post, and was looking at running more workshops and would be meeting with the trainers and these would be running by November hopefully.</p>
ITEM 10	<p>PRESENTATION BY JACKIE ON THE WALKING EXCHANGE SCHEME</p> <p>Jackie explained that she was a member of three u3as and had set up the scheme three years ago to utilise the local knowledge that u3as had from their own area. It will also include walks under three miles. Jackie thinks there is a similar cycling exchange scheme.</p> <p>The idea started because Jackie went on a three-day walking holiday and was only provided with one walk as the other days were for getting there and home again. Jackie's group now book themselves individually into a Premier Inn or Travel Lodge, and if necessary, they can decline the booking up until about two hours of booking in. This made it much easier to organise.</p> <p>There are over a 1000 u3as and the database comprises of 70 u3as and is growing. It covers Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The idea is that you contact the u3a in the area in which you want to visit and they will lead the walks. An example was given of Buxton, who had provided several walks of different lengths. Their own members had also joined in and then gone out to meals with the visitors. For members not wanting a walk, they had provided a sightseeing walk.</p> <p>The member from Cotgrave asked if a similar scheme could be set up for an Aviation Group to join up with a group in another area. Liz Woodman suggested they ask the Subject Advisor for this group, as they may know if others might wish to join up with other u3as.</p>
ITEM 11	<p>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING, INCLUDING THE THE AGM, IS TAKING PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025 AT 10AM AT THE CENTRE, ST. PETER'S, RAVENSHEAD, NOTTS NG15 9FD</p> <p>This meeting will be more relaxed and include cakes with the refreshments.</p> <p>Chris said that this will be her last meeting as Chair, and she thanked the Officers and u3a representatives for all their hard work and support. There will be a new chair taking over at the October Meeting.</p> <p>Members thanked Chris for all of her input and support.</p>

Chair..... Secretary..... Dated 23.07.25