

Chair's Report to AGM 22nd October, 2025

Welcome to our Nottinghamshire Network AGM 2025. I am sorry I can't be with you today, but I know you are in very capable hands.

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
Paco Saucedo Treasurer
Sue Blackley - Secretary
Rosie Allen - Support Officer
Margot Gale - County Contact/Beacon administrator
Peer Support Group Coordinator – Carole Harrison
Terry Moore- Webmaster
Jean Hogg

I would like to say a big thank you to Peter Edge who was our Webmaster who did a stellar job of upgrading and maintaining our previous website. Peter retired some time ago as he had other commitments. Many thanks to him.

We have had many events during the last year.

As they say in no particular order.

The u3a Festival was held in York which some of our members attended and was a very popular, successful event.

There have been major changes to the Third Age Trust as the Fit for the Future initiative is becoming embedded.

In January Paul Martinez and John Butler gave us a very interesting presentation on Generational Engagement.

In April we invited Sue and Alan Russel to speak to us. Sue spoke about her role as Chair of Network Link and her new role as Chair of the Council. Alan talked about the Board and Siteworks.

In June we held a very successful workshop at Newstead focusing on Group Leaders and Coordinators.

In July we heard from Liz Woodman, Senior Volunteering Officer outlining her role along with Jackie Carter who gave us a very informative talk on her experience of the Walking Exchange Scheme.

Our Nottinghamshire Network Facebook page is thriving thanks to John Butler who has worked hard to get it up and running and has supported us with our IT requirements.

Terry Moore joined our committee as Webmaster and successfully managed our change to Siteworks. We now have a smart, modern site which Terry gave us a tour round during his presentation in July. He is also a valuable member of our 'tech team' along with Andy Bebbington who has captured our events on camera.

Rosie organised workshop on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and which was very popular. Our Peer Support Groups led by Carole continue to meet supporting new committee members as well as existing ones.

Maria continues to do a sterling job editing Newsbites it is always full of interesting and informative articles and some great photos showcasing our Network.

Jean and Maria have set up an East Midlands Regional Support Team which is a very exciting initiative and one I think we are going to hear more about in the future.

Sue as our business secretary and Margot as County Contact/Beacon Administrator continue to keep the cogs of our business turning along with Paco who manages our finances.

Although I am standing down as chair I hope to stay on the committee and work with the team on our continuing development. I wish all the new committee members well and look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and kind words and wish everyone all the best for the future.

Thank you
Chris Niven