

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NETWORK OF u3as 28TH JANUARY 2026 AT 10am
AT ST PETERS RAVENSHEAD

<u>PRESENT:</u>	John Butler Chair Ravenshead, Maria Gabrielczyk Vice Chair and Newsbites Ravenshead, Rosie Allen, Network Support Officer Arnold, Paco Saucedo Treasurer West Bridgford, Sue Blackley Secretary Beeston, Margot Gale Network Contact Beeston, Jean Hogg Officer Southwell Chris Niven Peer Support Groups Eastwood and District, Terry Moore Website Ravenshead, John Lewis Council Rep. Bingham, John Perry, E Mids PR Adviser Bingham. Also, representatives from Arnold, Ashfield, Calverton, Collingham, Cotgrave, Edwalton&Gamston, Forest Town, Hucknall, Mapperley, Mansfield, Rainworth, Retford, Sherwood, Sutton in Ashfield, Stapleford u3as Karen Green Network Link
<u>ITEM 1</u>	<u>WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from Roz Bott, Marion Edwards, Mary Hood, Ann Marshall, Janet O'Neill, Veronica Perry, Linda Rothwell, Claire Wilkie, Alison Morton
<u>ITEM 2</u>	<u>AGREE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING DATED 22.10.25 AND MATTERS ARISING.</u> The minutes were agreed with no matters arising. Proposed by Sandra Hart - Stapleford Seconded by Carole Harrison - Mansfield
<u>ITEM 3</u>	<u>OFFICERS' REPORTS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Hogg is in the process of setting up a new bank account with the Co-op to avoid bank charges. • The bank account is healthy and only two u3as have still to pay their subs. £1.027.73 in the account. • Members were reminded to send just one article per u3a to Newsbites and the need for good quality photographs. Ensure Newsbites is shared with all members. • A Notts Network event is being organised for June 5th at Newstead Community Centre. More details to follow. • Chris Niven, Peer Support Groups Officer, is looking at how the groups can expand and move forward.
<u>ITEM 5</u>	<u>EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL EVENT MARCH 11TH 2026 Braunstone Civic Centre.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The venue can accommodate up to two hundred delegates. • This is a free event and is no longer limited to 2 places per u3a. • February 9th is the booking deadline as the venue needs to know numbers for catering purposes. • A further reminder is to go out. u3as are urged to encourage members to attend
<u>ITEM 6</u>	<u>NOTTS NETWORK EVENT JUNE 1ST 2026 Newstead Community Centre SAVE THE DATE</u>
<u>ITEM 7</u>	<u>KAREN GREEN CHAIR OF NETWORK LINK</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very new to the post. • Three meetings per year on zoom with a keynote speaker. The next meeting is February 25th 10-12pm when a u3a will share good practice. • There is a link on the Notts Network website for further details. • Any u3a member can attend. • The group aims to share good practice.
<u>ITEM 8</u>	<u>Kate Cowan from the Trust will attend the next Notts Network meeting on April 21st to talk about Copyright and Licensing.</u> <u>Training workshops will start again soon.</u>
<u>ITEM 9</u>	Hazel Ward (Arnold u3a) told us about a plan for Michael Payne Gedling MP to present a question about u3a in Parliament. A confidential email will go out to Chairs asking them to make committee members aware and to contact their MPs to encourage them to go the debate. What do u3as want to gain from this? On March 16th, John Lewis, and Viv Purkiss, (VC of Arnold u3a) will join other CRs in attending a special lobbying event in the House of Lords, which is a separate initiative from the future debate with MPs, initiated by Michael Payne MP, with which Viv and Hazel Ward are already engaged. Expect a separate email from the Trust Office to all u3as once the date of the MPs debate is announced, seeking support from local MPs by each u3a.
	<u>BREAK</u>

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<p>ITEM 10</p>	<p>DISCUSSION IN BREAK OUT GROUPS <u>Discussion notes from Notts Network meeting 28th January 2026 Thanks to Jean Hogg.</u></p> <p><u>How do you think issues, concerns, or ideas from across the Network should be identified and brought forward for discussion at Council meetings?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>It would help if communication was more streamlined. (NB I would have expected that everyone would have John Lewis's email address: john.lewis@u3a.org.uk)</u> • <u>There was a lack of understanding for some about the role of the Council.</u> • <u>A regular agenda item at Network meetings to propose items to go to our Council reps.</u> • <u>Council reps need to consider how to communicate with u3as, including those not in a Network.</u> <p>Feedback: <u>How do you think information, decisions, and outcomes from Council meetings should be communicated back to the Network, and how can Council Representatives gather feedback in return?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reports from Council meetings need to be clear and understandable, without abbreviations that no-one knows.</u> • <u>Are reports for Committee members or u3a members as a whole?</u> • <u>Agenda item at Network meetings for Q & A with reps</u> • <u>Council reps could record a video report to be sent out after meetings.</u> • <u>Pilot projects could be initiated to test proposals out and then reported.</u> <p>Substance: <u>From your perspective, provide examples of the most important things the Council needs to hear from the Network, and how can the Council Representatives best represent those views?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>How to attract younger members</u> • <u>Identify where there are gaps geographically without u3as.</u> • <u>Need to increase diversity.</u> • <u>More notice needed for events (NB Info about 11th March went out well before Christmas)</u> • <u>Support in speaking at/attending retirement events.</u> • <u>Succession planning</u>
<p>ITEM 11</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETNG April 22nd. 2026</p>

Chair..... *JHButler* Secretary..... Dated 28.1.26.