

## **South West Regional Report**

I have attended NEC meeting in London in December, January and March. I now chair the Development subcommittee and am a member of the Finance and Governance Committee. I have attended Network meetings throughout the region, a number of Study Days and accepted invitations to speak at several individual U3A meetings.

Since I last reported the U3A Movement continues to grow. There are now 744 U3As in the United Kingdom with over 275K members. In the south west there are over 38K members in 110 U3As. I have recently presented Full Third Age Trust Membership Certificates to Kingsbridge Estuary, Shepton Mallet, Bourton & District and Westbury. The Isle of Scilly, Seaton, Ashburton and Exmouth are now full members. We have hopes of establishing a U3A in Guernsey. Overall in the UK the movement will have established 60 new U3As in the last 12 months.

You will have received details from the National Office about the Olympic torch relay and I hope that many of the U3As in the region will participate. I am aware that the Northern Somerset Network of U3As is making a special effort as the torch travels to Bristol (check the Wells U3A website for details)

I hope that all U3As will make special efforts to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U3A Movement. I know that several U3As are holding events or activities during the year. The most ambitious I have heard about is the walk from North to South Devon travelling the course of the River Exe organised by Tiverton U3A.

Business Secretaries will have received details of the merchandise that is available to U3As to support the Torch Relay and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

I have received positive comments about the November 2011 regional conferences and the recent Group facilitators / leaders workshop held in Exeter on 14 March 2012.

Whilst I will not be your regional trustee in November I have agreed to facilitate the 2012 conferences which will be held in Sturminster Newton, Fraddon and a venue in the Cotswold Network. The theme of these conferences will be Celebrating the U3A and we will have a range of national speakers providing input.

You will have received information on the revised constitution. There was a slight problem in the version posted on the National website as this contained some minor points which have now been corrected.

The U3A AGM will be held in Cirencester on 11 & 12 September. There will not be a national conference this year but there will be a programme to cover the 2 days. I hope that you are aware that the U3A News is now to be entitled Third Age Matters and this will be published 5 times per year with Sources remaining at 3 editions.

The regional website is now, thanks to Patrick Williams, up and running and I hope this will eventually be a first stop for members wishing to know about individual, network, regional and national activities.

There were 77 responses from U3As who expressed an interest in the proposed Choir Festival in 2013 and plans continue to be made for this event. 22 of the responses were from U3As in the South West Region.

I hope that many U3As will have taken advantage of the grants which are available to U3As – the £100 to promote your U3A to the public and the 5 or more U3As grouping together for a special event.

I am delighted that Avalon Network has taken responsibility for the U3A tent at the Bath & West Show and I am very keen to learn of the progress which has been made. Thanks are due to Val Warren Chairman of Crewkerne & District U3A for leading this initiative.

The Development subcommittee has arranged a series of four training days for existing and potential regional volunteers. The term regional volunteer covers a wide range of activities and includes anyone who assists the region in any way. The events will be held in Newcastle on 12 June, Birmingham on 19 June, Exeter (The Devon Hotel) on 27 June and London on 2 July 2012.

All members who help the region in any way are entitled to attend and if you have not received an invitation and would wish to be present do please contact me when I can arrange for full details to be sent and booking arranged.

All members of the Regional Support Group will have received personal invitations to the above event. The next meeting of the Regional Support Group will be held on 18 June at The Devon Hotel, Exeter.

Thank you for all that you are doing for the U3A Movement.

Colin Tincknell OBE  
South West Regional Trustee

9 April 2012

Attached: Regional Trustees Diary April – July 2012.

## **Regional Trustees Diary April – August 2012**

10 April	Visit Brixham U3A
12 April	Devon Link Network Meeting Torquay
16 April	Visit to meet with Tewkesbury U3A Committee
18 April	Visit to Exe Valley U3A
24 April	Development subcommittee meeting, London
25 April	Dorset Network Meeting, Blandford
26 April	NEC Conflict Resolution Training, London
30 April	Norton Radstock U3A holiday in Belgium – to 4 May
10 May	Two Moors Network Meeting, Tavistock
11 May	Northern Somerset Network Meeting, Churchill
14 May	Development subcommittee meeting London
18 May	North Devon Link Network Meeting, Filleigh
26 May	East Devon / West Somerset Network Meeting, Taunton
12 June	Regional Volunteers Training Event Newcastle
18 June	Regional Support Group Meeting, Exeter
19 June	Regional Volunteers Training Event, Birmingham
23 June	Avalon Network Study Day
27 June	Regional Volunteers Training Event, Exeter
2 July	Regional Volunteers Training Event, London
10 July	Visit to Newquay U3A
11 July	Development subcommittee meeting, London
19 July	Visit to North Devon Coast U3A, Ifracombe
24 July	NEC Meeting Birmingham – 25 & 26th