

SOUTH WEST REGION



WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

20 April 2012

To: Business Secretaries

Dear Colleague

Regional Volunteers

Across the United Kingdom there are a number of regional volunteers who support the regional trustee in a variety of ways. Becoming a regional volunteer can provide opportunities to be involved with other U3As in the Networks or Region. In the south west we have a group of regional volunteers who meet twice per year to discuss and suggest ways in which the U3A Movement in the region can develop.

One of the ways in which regional volunteers work is to support new and emerging U3As and to be available to pass on information received from the regional trustee or National Office to support established groups.

The Third Age Trust has recognised the importance of the work of regional volunteers particularly in respect of the support they offer to new U3As and in order to develop the individual regions a series of Workshops have been arranged in four areas of England with the intention of providing an opportunity for existing regional volunteers and those who feel that they would like to become a regional volunteer or who would simply like to know more about the task to attend a Workshop at which the process of setting up and providing follow up support to a U3A can be achieved which will be common to the rest of the country.

The South West Region Workshop will be held on Wednesday 27th June at The Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. To demonstrate the value which the Third Age Trust puts on the work of regional volunteers all travelling expenses will be reimbursed and refreshments provided at the event.

It is appreciated that not all members will have an interest in the work of regional volunteers in supporting new, emerging or existing U3As but this does provide a learning opportunity for members who wish to contribute to the Movement outside of their own U3A group.

Any of your members who are interested in attending the Workshop can e-mail their interest to myself or indeed contact me to discuss any questions they may have about the initiative. For administration purposes replies by

12 May 2012 would be appreciated. Kindly ensure that all your group members have an opportunity to be involved by publicising this event.

Regional Conferences

The annual South West Regional Conferences will again be held during November 2012.

The dates and venues are:

16 November 2012 The Exchange, Sturminster Newton

23 November 2012 Thistle Hotel (Golden Valley Hotel), Gloucester Road, Cheltenham

30 November 2012 Kingsley Village, Fraddon, Cornwall

The programme for these conferences is nearly complete and will have as a theme a Celebration of the U3A Movement - our past, present and future. Full details will be sent to each U3A together with booking information. The purpose of this early notification is to enable your group to determine which members would like to attend and to have dates in diaries.

With Best Wishes

Colin Tincknell OBE
SW Regional Trustee