

East Lincs U3A Neighbourhood Reports for Meeting 26 May 2016.

Alford & District U3A Report

"Tony O'Brien, who has been our Honorary President since Alford U3A began, sadly passed away last month. We have not yet replaced him. We are making final arrangements for our Open Day on 25th June and have had lots of offers from our neighbourhood U3As to showcase their groups. We are really grateful for their support."

Boston and District U3A Report

Our membership continues to grow. We believe this to be due to the fact that we are getting regular Local newspaper reports about our monthly general meetings. For several months now we have been getting on average 8 / 10 visitors each month. Many of which joined. Our General Meetings are attended by 100 to 120 members which is about the maximum we can accommodate.

In July 2017 we will be 25 years old. Plans are being made to stage a special event at Fydall House in Boston on a Sunday afternoon.

Several new groups have or are being formed. Patchwork & appliqué, Astronomy, Discovering Churches, line dancing and French Conversation and Debate.

This year we put extra emphasis on our membership regarding Gift Aid. We are pleased to report that this has resulted in a 40% rise from HMRC.

No Doubt like all other U3A's, we are particularly interested in seeing how the changes being spoken and written about happen. We hope as members of a small neighbourhood Group that our voice is heard.

Grimsby and Cleethorpes U3A Report

Since the last neighbourhood meeting we have celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a social afternoon which was also an Open Day. About 120 people attended and we increased our membership by 8 as a result. Being, geographically between two regions we were lucky to have representatives from East Midlands, Jane Pavier and Yorkshire and Humber, Beth Rudkin. We were also pleased to see that representatives from Alford came to celebrate with us too. We promise to reciprocate in June. We have two outings planned, one of which we will have already been on by the 26th Sledmere House and in June we are going to Saltaire. Our groups continue to flourish and our membership is growing steadily.

Louth U3A Report

Louth U3A has experienced a rise in numbers attending the monthly speaker meetings. Our current membership is just under 400 with more members joining every month. We have introduced plastic membership cards and in future may be able to use these to register attendance at meetings.

Our magazine continues to be very popular amongst members and the local outlets we supply - Tourist Information Office, Age Concern and cafes etc. We are planning to incorporate an application form in the magazine because our research indicates that some readership is outside of our membership.

Trips have included a concert at Hull City Hall, a mosque in Peterborough and a visit to Burghley House. Much favourable feedback for each trip has been received. Our June speaker is a guide at Bolsover Castle, he will be our guide on the Bolsover Castle trip (June 30th) to follow the talk.

Also coming up; a quiz night, wine tasting and a summer social gathering.

Since our February AGM we have welcomed two new members onto the committee and started the process of reorganising roles within the committee.

Horncastle U3A Report

After our AGM in April it became a case of all change at Horncastle U3A. At the meeting Lynn Urbanowicz (Chairman) and John Mirams (Treasurer) retired under the three year term of office rule. The vacant positions were filled by Richard D'Arcy becoming the new Chairman and Ruth Addison taking over the role of Treasurer. Gill Pugh joined the committee and bravely filled the Speaker Finder position vacated by the new chairman. The April meeting also heralds the start of our membership year and initial indications point to an increase in our membership to around 260. We have had three new groups start up in the last month although it is becoming increasingly difficult to encourage new Group Leaders to come forward.

West Wolds U3A Report

We now have 300 members, which is very encouraging. At one period, just after Christmas our membership seemed to be dropping, but now we have seen much more interest in U3A in the Market Rasen area. Promotion and our new positive and attractive website is paying dividends

A number of interesting groups have started, including Belly Dancing, however, this is now known as Turkish Delight Desert Dancing, whether this change of name was for the benefit of the genteel people of the West Wolds or to shield the personal attributes of the group members, we are not sure.

WW U3A fully supported the Open Day held recently at the Festival Hall in Market Rasen in order to promote the hall and the facilities available to potential users of the venue. The Festival Hall needs to attract users if it is to stay viable, its loss would be a big blow to WW U3A, as it can accommodate our full membership at general meetings and AGM.