



## November 2016 Trustee Tips

Please print this off, put on your noticeboard and circulate it – especially to your newsletter editor and your website manager. Thank you.

Dates for your diary

11th November: N. Wales Discussion morning.

22nd November: Celebration of 1000 U3As, in London

4th April 2017: Creative Writing Workshop , S and W Wales U3As

24th May 2017: All Wales Conference - Consumers or Contributors?

We welcome 2 new U3As in Wales – Gilwern and EbbwVale. Please give them your support, especially if you are neighbours of theirs. Ideas for speakers are very useful

There will be meetings with the Consultation Process team, across Wales, so all members will have the opportunity to put forward their ideas concerning the future structure of our organisation. Please watch out for information giving the dates – probably Feb. 2017.

I often hear the complaint – ‘everything happens in London’ – what about the rest of the UK? If you have any ideas about events in special venues near your U3A, let me know please. It would be wonderful if we could have a special concert, lecture or function – in Wales.

For your benefit: There are some great new publicity items, free of charge – available from the online shop. Also don't forget – there are grants available to U3As who want to hold an open day. Check the Committee Reference file.

Thank you to all those who entered the 3 Short Story Competitions, the winners plus their stories are on the All Wales website [www.u3asites.org.uk/wales](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/wales). Well done to Gwyneth Carey, Ruthin U3A, Mary Burdett-Jones Aberystwyth U3A and Eithne Thornton Dyfi U3A. I hope others will be inspired to enter next year.

To encourage more U3As to have Creative Writing Groups – we have just held a writing course for N and M Wales U3As, the report is on the website, on the N Wales Network page. We will

be repeating the workshop for West and South Wales U3As next April. Watch out for the advertising. Already I have heard of 2 new writing groups being formed as a result of the workshop – great news.

Great to hear that the On Request Workshop, hosted by Crickhowell U3A went really well. I hope other U3As will ask for one of these very useful workshops. Details are on the National website.

Mary Woolley, a N Wales Regional Volunteer (RV), recently went to an RV training meeting in London, for RVs across the UK. She learned a lot and benefited greatly from meeting other RVs. If you would like to train as an RV or at least find out more, do get in touch with me.

U3A in Wales is now a partner in the Ageing Well in Wales project sponsored by the Older People's Commissioner for Wales. Good to see our organisation is valued for the contribution it makes to the lives of Third Agers.

Advice: U3As should not carry big reserves of money – the guide is: enough for 6 months running costs. If you do have an excess, think of some ways of using it – benefiting all your members – free meetings, a special event or a piece of equipment to be used by all. Then look carefully at your membership fees -could you reduce them?

Do encourage all your Group Leaders/ Conveners to be inclusive. If a group cannot accommodate new members – start a second group. Don't turn them away. U3A is open to all Third Agers.

Please promote the fact that we are a learning organisation. Look at and use the All Wales website – promote your U3A – any special event or new group? It may prompt other U3As to copy your idea.

If there have been any changes in your officers or your Network Contact (previously known as Network secretary) please could you let me know the details.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the Beacon Management System – we now have a Regional Co-ordinator Pete Edmondson [beaconwarst@gmail.com](mailto:beaconwarst@gmail.com). Do contact him with any questions to do with Beacon.

Do remember I am here to help – if you need advice or want to pass on an idea – get in touch – I will be delighted to hear from you.

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