

These are the Protocols for networking between the U3As of Washington Village, Washington, Cestria, Houghton-le-Spring and Wessington. They are the result of a meeting with representatives of the five U3As mentioned on 11th January 2016.

It was agreed that we would all work together to keep our U3As fresh and adaptable, extend membership, widen group choices, share expertise and experiences, and widen our social circle, thus establishing a new 'sense of community'.

How to do this?

- Where a U3A has a group with space, members from the network may apply through the group coordinator/leader to attend.
- The group coordinator/leader has the final say whether a new member can join the group. (Please note: Wessington uses the term 'group coordinator' for all their groups.)
- Any cost will be shared between all members of the group.
- Membership cards are available or a check can be run through the membership secretary of each U3A.
- Contact can be made directly through the websites of the U3As either to each group coordinator or to the group coordinator representative on the Committee.

What else might we do?

- Share speaker lists.
- Invitations to group-led talks, for example on dementia or homeopathy.
- Invitations to events such as joint walks, coffee mornings, fill up coaches for trips, exhibitions etc.
- Raise awareness of other organisations such as Beamish WI, or the Western Front Association, Durham.
- Add a Network page to our websites.

No doubt further ideas and suggestions will be put forward in the future, which will enhance the U3A experience for us all.