

## **Becoming the NE...?**

At the Regional Quarterly and AGM I was able to take the opportunity to explain how I'm feeling about NRu3a.

I know people are reluctant to change what has been such a successful long-standing association. I suppose I'll be an instigator to the fighting as I want to give us a jolt along into embracing the future

When John Lloyd of Wearside brought together the five u3as in the area it was to find out what others were doing, how they could help each other and let National office know how we were doing it. He initiated the formation of Northumbria region as in those days there were no regions in u3a only huge areas – ours extended down to the Humber!

We petitioned at a National AGM for smaller divisions as it was impossible for our Trustee on the National Exec to visit every u3a in the Area, never mind report all their ideas to National.

So regions were formed, based on the same regions as the government were using. Some of the u3as in our old Northumbria area wanted to stay with us, because of custom and practice and the ease of transport and we welcomed that.

But now things are different.

This is a time of huge developments in u3a.

I am asking members of Northumbria region u3a to think about change.

Think of the complication of having to consider and apply all the legislation that the Charity Commission and HMRC etc are putting out? What about insurances and licences?

I certainly don't want to have to go to original sources to discover for myself what cover our u3a ought to have, what we ought to be doing about our Policies. All the governance aspects necessary to running our u3as can and are being done for us by The Board and are readily available to us when we fit in with the system.

All our subject and role Networks, Interesting events and outings that we do now can still take place.

And we can go forward into our future as NE Region.

I do hope you agree.



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