

**COTSWOLD LINK NETWORK OF U3AS  
MINUTES OF HALF YEARLY MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM  
ON OCTOBER 28 2020**

**Present:** Jeremy Furtado (acting chairman), Jane Flynn (former chairman), Dennis Chamberlain (treasurer), Susan Russell (Co-opted member) & Jane Mason (secretary).  
Lawrence Moss (co-host) Marian Carroll (Gloucester), David Kealing, Judy Smith & Carla Auger (Evesham & District), Clive Harper (Gloucester), Marilyn Reynolds (Ross-on-Wye), Tony Natt (Cirencester), Jenny Mackelworth (Winchcombe), Gay Enoch (Droitwich), Frank Tustin (Thornbury), Marion Colligan & MaggieConu (Cheltenham), LesleyBrook (Leominster),), Mike Byrne (Bromsgrove), Sue Gibson (Cam & Dursley), Jennifer Harrison & Jayne Wright (Ledbury & District), Alan Russell (Worcester)  
Allan Walmsley (Trustee West Midlands), Susan Parker (Trustee South West).

**Apologies** received from David Barrett

**1.Minutes:** unanimously agreed as a true record.

**2.Matters arising: none**

**3.Regional reports:**

**Allan Walmesley. West Midlands Regional Trustee.**

I have been in post only 4 weeks and have already had a two-day board meeting, 7 briefing meetings/local u3a requests. Reports from these meetings show a reduction in numbers since lockdown in March but u3as are still viable.

These included:

- introducing a winter learning programme, a development plan and upgrade of Beacon. National Office Communication network chaotic.
- on line support – zoom tutorials very popular.
- beyond lockdown
- re-launch of u3a movement – reluctance to re-join during lockdown plus encouraging new members.

The West Midlands is poorly represented on the National Committee so please volunteer to ensure the region is represented.

Finally, from next week I will make myself available at 11am each week.

**Susan Parker South West Regional Trustee**

Like Alan I am new in post and attended the above meetings. I am using zoom constantly and this is my third network meeting. The SW Regional meeting I attended with Jeremy. A new u3a has been set up in the Torpoint Region. Looe is trying to set up which is difficult to do without face to face meetings. During my 3year tenure I would like to attempt to enthuse and combat lethargy. Together with Jeremy I will be setting up a training website. I will also set up a zoom ‘buddies’ network: Derek Harwood to set up a group and peer support network.

**4. Ian McCannah – National Chairman**

The National AGM held via zoom at the end of September attracted 400 members far more than attend the meeting, usually held at the end of a two -day conference. However, the advantages of meeting face to face listening to talks, discussing and exchanging over two days is invaluable. Unfortunately, the largest venue – Nottingham University – limits numbers to 200 delegates. At the National AGM it was agreed that the membership fee would be raised to £4 per capita from April 2022.

An EGM- amendment to article to allow virtual AGMs to be held. The Government gave the Charity Commission permission to extend this to beyond the end of December.

Logo: response to change from the focus groups was positive on the whole. The change cost £1600.

The effect of lockdown on u3a members nationally is unknown. The only way we are able to monitor is through TAM orders and Beacon in April/May.

The implementation of the 2017-2019 development plan:

- Changing of name (dropping university)
- 'Hearing' hub on line
- Internal development
- Raise profile externally – work with likeminded organisations.

Ian would be pleased to hear from members: [ian.mcCannah@u3a.org.uk](mailto:ian.mcCannah@u3a.org.uk)

Questions to Ian:

Jeremy – new u3a logo will be copyright

Frank Tustin – virtual u3a already exists

Gay Enoch -Wording for change of constitution. Can it include voting by proxy and by post?

Tony Natt - u3a logo written: 'lowercase/uppercase/lowercase

Jayne Wright – Clarity needed – Ian replied hands tied by government who it is hoped will extend permission for charities to hold virtual AGMs until the end of the pandemic.

The u3a day will be held next summer on **2 June 2021**.

Jeremy thanked Ian who had to leave for another meeting.

## **5. Airing and Sharing**

Marion Colligan discussion paper on reciprocal arrangements (see discussion paper circulated prior to meeting).

- Monitor open meetings – do members allow non-members to attend?
- Jane Flynn - it is unfair to those members who have paid.
- Jeremy pointed out the use of the internet opens up possibility of non-members joining without paying. Monitoring difficult.
- Jennifer Harrison – is postal voting OK for AGM
- Marian Carroll – Assoc members pay reduce fee. Reciprocal members can join one group
- Laurence Wale – beware effect on insurance. If set up on Beacon you will have to pay the capitation charge.
- Tony Natt – use the term affiliate and you can find that on Beacon
- Jeremy Furtado – use of internet makes it easier for non-members to take part without being noticed

### **Prior to the meeting:**

#### **An impromptu Airing & Sharing**

Maggie Connu – Holidays must be booked through travel agents.

Carla Auger – renewal going well in Evesham & District

Marian Carroll – lost a lot of members during lockdown

Jeremy – Nat Office suggested a reduced fee

Jenny Mackleworth – year ahead a refund

Frank Tustin – fee in January raised to £7

Susan Gibson – Cam & Dursley have lost 100 members and now have 450.

Jenny Mackleworth said their zoom quiz had attracted members

Tony Natt – new numbers scarce.

**Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 24 March 2021 via Zoom

