

## Shared Learning Projects SLPs

Shared Learning Projects are initiatives where members of different U3As join together to undertake some research or task that will benefit another organisation.

### How SLPs work

SLPs are designed to meet a specific brief and timetable. This is agreed with the client and together we decide what skills we will need from the U3A members. We advertise the SLP in Network News to recruit volunteers for the project. Once the application forms are returned we work with the client to select the right volunteers. We look for both a range of skills and experiences so that we provide the service, and the team can also develop their own skills as the project progresses. Normally we would be looking for around 8 volunteers to work on the project for 8 – 10 weeks, it might be one day a week, which may involve going to the client or maybe going to an archive to research an aspect of the brief, or it may involve research on the member's home computer and attend team meetings during the project.

At the end of the project there is always a tangible outcome in the form of a presentation, book or exhibition. These

events then raise the profile of U3A in the public at large. In our area we are fortunate in having many high profile institutions who have been able to 'sponsor' an SLP. Our clients have included the Maritime Museum, The Old Royal Naval College (twice) Eltham Palace. the Thames Discovery Project.

### Two local examples



The first example is a local SLP which looked at the roles of the WRNS at the Old Royal Naval College. The research was used as the basis of an exhibition in the Greenwich Visitor centre which was on view to the general public.

A second example is the project currently underway where a team of 8 U3A volunteer photographers are recording the people involved in the conservation of the Painted Hall ceiling. The project is not yet finished but from June to September there

will be an exhibition of some of our work in the Painted Hall. This will be seen by thousands of members of the public, who will not only see the photographs but learn something about U3A.



### SLPS and the Network

We are always looking for new projects and seek your help in suggesting clients. If you know of any organisation that would benefit from a team of volunteers carrying out an SLP on their behalf, please get in touch and we can help in exploring the idea with you. Contact details on the back page.

The Network takes an active interest in promoting Shared Learning Projects. Many people find that taking part in an SLP is one of the most interesting, enjoyable and rewarding reasons for being a U3A member.

## Current SLPs

There is one SLP currently recruiting at Langdon Down Museum of Learning and Disability. The project is 'Daily Life as seen in the bills and receipts of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries'. The source material will be the large quantity of bills and receipts that are currently held in the Museum at Normansfield. Full details are on the SLP page of the Network Website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork>

There will probably be another SLP working with the Thames Discovery Project. As we go to press the details are not yet finalised but will be published as soon as possible in Network News. This will be digging in the archives not the Thames mud!

We are also currently working on setting up a new project in South London and we anticipate publishing details in Network News next month. We will be looking for volunteers interested in botany and with interviewing skills.

**All our contact details are on the back page overleaf.**

**Network News** is our occasional Network Newsletter which is sent out by email.

U3A members can sign up at <http://eepurl.com/dwkb8P>



or sign up using this QR code

**Our Network Website** is

<https://u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork>

Click on the SLP page for the latest SLP news

### Contact Us

If you have an idea for a new SLP in the Network area send it to the Network Email address.

[U3Aqlsenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:U3Aqlsenetwork@gmail.com)

Our Regional SLP Co Ordinator is Josephine Walters email : [jo.walters.slp@gmail.com](mailto:jo.walters.slp@gmail.com)

The regional webpage for SLPs is at <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/page/83787>



Greater London  
South East Network

Thinking  
about a  
Shared  
Learning  
Project ?