

## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NETWORK FOR LOCAL U3A GROUPS PURBROOK CENTRE, DATE MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> 2015

Present:

Aleck Hayward	- Chairman Gosport U3A
Sally Ingledew	- Group Leader Co-ordinator Gosport U3A
Jean Pike	- Minutes Secretary Gosport U3A
Hilvery Robinson	-Trustee SE Region
Mike Young	- Chairman new Stubbington U3A
Sue Young	- Assistant Treasurer new Stubbington U3A
Beryl Shepherd	- Chairman Portsdown U3A
Carole Chapman	- Secretary Portsdown U3A
Paul Smith	- Chairman Locksheath U3A
Barbara Spiegelhalter	- Portsmouth U3A
Freda Forcey	- Fund Raiser Portsmouth U3A
Brian Bowen	- Membership Secretary, Hayling Island U3A

Apologies: Hamble, Horndean, Chichester, Solent,

1. The meeting opened at 2pm and was hosted by Aleck Hayward and Sally Ingledew. Aleck Hayward gave a welcome speech and everyone introduced themselves.
2. Sally Ingledew gave an introductory talk outlining what the possible aims and advantages could be in setting up this network. She made the following points:

Networks are actively encouraged by the Third Age Trust  
She felt that there should be one network for this area, and hoped that it would be possible to discuss combining with the Emsworth network  
It was understood that all U3As operate differently, and that this was not an attempt to change this  
We could share solutions to problems, i.e. paid tutors  
We could share methods of dealing with internal problems  
Promote best practice  
Share information i.e. speakers although we are aware of Speaker Forum run by Rowlands Castle U3A  
Possibly share resources  
Encourage each U3A to be more outward looking  
Communication will improve between the Third Age Trust and regions  
Possibly more joint groups i.e. cinema, theatre  
Joint projects like study days and open days

3. Hilvery Robinson talked to us of the advantages of networking. She informed us that advice sheets are available on the internet. Some subjects available are: grants available, account report sheets, code of conduct of trustees. She reminded us that as committee members we are all trustees and have responsibilities, which can be found outlined on the website. The 'buddy' system was suggested to help those people who do not have computers. The question of how to finance our network was brought up. Money would be needed to fund halls etc. The question of whether we would have a constitution arose.

There was a break for tea.

4. There was some discussion on what to name the network. **South Central Network** was decided on. It was decided that there was no need for a constitution and that everyone preferred a more relaxed approach. Alex Hayward volunteered to be Chairman. The Purbrook Centre was chosen as a good central venue for the meetings and the cost would be

divided between the members, with a commitment obtained from members to pay their share, to be paid on the day of the meeting. A small agreement would be made up. Other local U3As who had shown an interest would be kept informed and Sally Ingledeew would keep Hilvery updated. Sally would also do the agendas and members would email her details of any items they wanted to add. It was agreed that meetings would take place twice a year initially. Hilvery suggested we make use of speakers from other U3As. Shared Learning Projects – Patsy Thornton of the SE Region could help with this. She can be contacted by email – [patsythorn@tac.co.uk](mailto:patsythorn@tac.co.uk).

The meeting closed at ten minutes past four. Sally Ingledeew will email everyone with the date of the next meeting.