



HAMPSHIRE SOUTH CENTRAL NETWORK of U3As

SCN Chair Persons Meeting - Executive Summary

Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at Somerstown Central Community Centre commencing at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Sally Ingledew (SI) - SCN Manager & Gosport U3A; Graham Woodbridge (GW) - SCN Secretary & Waterlooville U3A; Sue Humphrey (SH) – Hayling Island U3A; Karen Walker (KW) – Hayling Island U3A; John Worley (JW) - Havant U3A; John Bradshaw (JB) – Isle of Wight U3A); Stephen Kirby (SK) - Locks Heath U3A; Beryl Shepherd (BS) - Portsdown U3A; Carole Chapman (CC) – Portsdown U3A; Barbara Spiegelhalter (SP) - Portsmouth U3A; Richard Ryan (RR) - Solent U3A; Jackie Watson (JW) – Stubbington U3A; Bob Duckmanton (BD) – Warsash U3A.

APOLOGIES: Received from the following U3As – Chichester and Ems Valley

Agenda Items	Actions
<p>1. Welcome & Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Portsmouth U3A chairman welcomed attendees and then handed over to Sally Ingledew (SI), Manager of the SCN, who chaired the meeting. b. SI thanked Portsmouth U3A for hosting the event and all the chairmen and representatives for attending. 	
<p>2. Executive summary of last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No comments were raised and the summary was approved as a true record of the meeting 	
<p>3. Matters Arising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Section 4 Communication para c & d. - SI reminded U3A Chairman to advertise the U3A SE Region website (u3asites.org.uk/south-east) as well as our own Hampshire South Central Network of U3As website (u3asites.org.uk/scn) on their own websites and via newsletters/bulletins. b. Section 4 Communication para e. - SI reminded U3A Chairman it was agreed that each U3A should nominate a SCN liaison officer as a single point of contact which would take some of the load off the chairman and ensure that if either the chairman or liaison officer was unavailable e.g. on holiday etc., then SCN messages had a better chance of being read and acted upon. c. Section 4 Communication para f. - GW reminded chairs/ SCN liaison officers to keep him informed of any changes to their contact details. Generic U3A email addresses are preferred. 	<p>All Chairs</p> <p>All Chairs</p> <p>All Chairs</p>
<p>4. Communication matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SI requested that each U3A continues to actively publicise SCN events to all its members. She also reminded Chairman that where individual U3As have spaces available in activity groups struggling to fill them, and on other social events, then they might consider advertising them to adjacent U3As or the whole of the SCN as appropriate. b. Methods for advertising information to all members within each U3A were explored and depending on timescales included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sending out a “stop press” email message to all members with an email account ii. Including in a monthly news bulletin iii. Including in a quarterly news letter iv. Promoting at monthly open meetings verbally, via the information point or the use of posters. v. Asking group leaders to promote info at their meetings for those without internet. 	<p>All chairs</p>

<p>c. SI floated the idea of posting a discussion forum on the SCN website where up to six active topics would be posted for comments. It was agreed to trial the idea and initially restricting access to chairmen/ SCN liaison officers only. One topic worthy of consideration was suggested: "Reciprocal agreements be allowed to permit members to attend events, activity groups, monthly meetings etc at other SCN U3As</p>	SI/
<p>5. SCN Treasurers workshop</p> <p>a. Horndean U3A kindly agreed to host an SCN treasurers' workshop on 28th April (provisionally). Venue and exact start time to be agreed between SCN manager and Horndean chair.</p> <p>b. Agenda will focus on future Beacon Management System (BMS) financial package but other items will be included. SI will call for additional agenda items.</p> <p>c. SI stated that in the meantime she would ask for updates on the BMS and pass them on to all SCN chairmen. Here are some useful links to explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">https://demo.u3abeacon.org.ukhttps://u3asystems.wordpress.com	SI/ Horndean Chair SI
<p>6. Programme for next 6 months</p> <p>a. A rolling programme of study days and workshops for key U3A committee functions will be published on SCN website. The latter will allow members to be kept up-to-date on key issues and provide opportunities to raise issues for discussion.</p> <p>b. Current programme will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair persons (twice a year) October 2016 & March 2017Group Coordinators/liasion officers (annual) June 2016 & 2017Speaker secretaries (annual)Treasurers (annual) April 2016 & 2017Study days October 2016 & April 2017 <p><i>Please note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Additional study days may take place on an opportunity basis2) All dates are subject to change. Some workshops may not take place if there is no demand and additional training workshops may be included if requested.3) In accordance with SCN aims and objectives individual U3As are encouraged to take it in turn to host individual programme events. Volunteers will be called for at chair meetings. <p>c. The inaugural study day organised by Waterlooville U3A but hosted by the University of Portsmouth was deemed a success by the 43 U3A members who attended. A report can be found on the SCN website. An article was published in the Portsmouth News and one sent to "Third Age Matters".</p> <p>d. An additional SCN social programme was discussed with the following ideas floated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quiz nightBridge tournamentSCN art and photography exhibitionU3A has "Got Talent" night <p>It was decided to explore the possibility an SCN quiz night in September. An SCN U3A to consider hosting and organising this event on a break even basis.</p> <p>e. It was suggested organising a network open day for all members with a varied programme of events to promote the network and its activities. However, this will require a degree of planning and a lead person to move the idea forward.</p>	All chairs
<p>7. Experience of "Restricted membership"</p> <p>This item was raised by Locks Heath U3A and to avoid confusion over the title SK explained that he was seeking any U3A who had experience of introducing "associate membership" to overcome the issue of overcrowding at monthly meetings. GW stated that over the last 3- 4 years a number of U3As had posted requests within "National Office Mailings" on this subject and he was aware that these U3As had received useful feedback. He suggested contacting National Office to ask which U3As had been involved. There was also some information contained within the 3rd Age Trust "Growth Matters" document. Any other SCN U3A with further advice to contact Locks Heath U3A.</p>	Chairs

	All chairs
<p>8. Updates from South East Region Trustee For updates on what is going on around our U3A region you might like to check these websites on a regular basis: http://u3asites.org.uk/seregion http://u3asites.org.uk/seforum</p>	
<p>9. Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Additional volunteer for SCN management. SI stated she was keen to seek another volunteer to help herself and GW with running the SCN. The role of a third person would be up for discussion but might involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • liaison with U3As hosting/organising events within the programme, • publicising the existence of the SCN and increasing awareness of U3A in the community, • helping to coordinate and initiate the development of new U3As within the network area. • Investigating other U3A networks for best practices. <p>b. 3rd Age Trust involvement in promoting and setting up new U3As. BS (Portsmouth U3A) raised a concern that the Third Age Trust seemed intent on changing the dynamics over the way new U3A setups were being developed. We appear to be heading in the direction of uniformity and maybe not giving sufficient consideration to the many diverse demographic conditions in different parts of the country. There is an apparent obsession with creating new U3A's for their own sake; even in places where no demand has been registered. There is now a system in place to use Regional Volunteers (known as RV's) to do much of the initial work in finding new places and setting up new U3A's which is then handed over to paid Training and Development co-ordinators. BS questioned whether it might be better if the paid officials did the work and the target of numbers of new U3A's was set a little lower. The bottom up ethos seems to be in danger of disappearing although it was noted that the unpaid regional Trustee was also involved. BS was interested to investigate whether other SCN U3A chairmen shared her views and might consider raising a resolution at the Third Age Trust AGM sometime in the future.</p> <p>c. Research projects. CC (Portsmouth U3A) stated that if a U3A is interested in starting a research project, or making further progress with an existing one then ideas can be found in the U3A Research Database. It has a temporary home at the moment: http://u3a.pageleft.co.uk Permanent address to follow. Also coming soon: a Research Guide, on the lines of More Time to Learn. You can also get help from Research Ambassadors: contact Carole Chapman of Portsmouth U3A: carolecpc99999@googlemail.com .</p>	All chairs
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting October 2016. Warsash U3A kindly volunteered to host the meeting. Times and venue to be decided.</p>	