

Since this meeting, U3A day has been postponed, Summer School cancelled, and meetings cancelled because of coronavirus. Full details are on the Third Age Trust website.

South Central Network Chairman's Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 12th 2020 2pm – 4pm Springwood Community Centre, Waterlooville

Present:

Sally Ingledew	SCN Manager
Kevin Stock	SCN Administrator
Barbara Spiegelhalter	SCN Liaison
Alan Hathaway	Stubbington Vice-Chair
Chris Adams	Stubbington Chair
Mike Polgreen	Emsworth Chair
Elizabeth Jorge	Havant Vice-Chair
Stephen Kirby	Locks Heath Chair
Hilary Nicklin	Portsmouth Chair
Iain Palot	Bognor Chair (visitor from SUN)
Jo Derham	Waterlooville Vice-Chair
Mark Dancey	Waterlooville Chair
Bob Beveridge	Horndean Chair
Pat Humphris	Gosport Chair
Julie Taylor	Hayling Island Co-Chair
Chris Williams	Solent Vice-Chair
David Knight	Warsash Vice-Chair
Judith Sims	Warsash Committee
Hilvary Robinson	Assistant Regional Trustee & Lymington U3A
Beryl Shepherd	Trust Volunteer & Portsdown U3A

Apologies:

Sue Young (SCN Report Taker) Linda Hugo-Vieten (Portsdown Chair) Ian Daish (Guernsey Chair)

1. **Welcome:** Mark Dancey, the Chair of Waterlooville U3A, who was hosting the meeting, welcomed everyone present.
2. **Registration and Contact sheet:** These were passed around with the request by Kevin Stock, SCN Administrator, to update the contact sheet if necessary.
3. **Introduction:** Sally Ingledew, SCN manager, introduced herself and then Iain Palot (Chair of Bognor U3A and a member of SUN who was there as a visitor. Iain said that they have a more formal structure to their network where their U3As pay an amount per head into the network. Sally then invited everyone to introduce themselves.
4. **Planning for U3A Day on 3rd June.** Sally asked for a show of hands to indicate how many U3As were involved in this initiative. Eight U3As were involved.

Stubbington, Chris Adams: Planning to use the Green. Working group set up for tasks and information. Compliment slips will be given out. Details put on their Facebook page. From 10.00 -4.00. Art emphasis am, Singing pm, showcasing the groups.

Gosport, Pat Humphris: Open Day last Saturday, Mayor and MP. 58 groups represented. Entertainment of Folk, Ukulele, Swing Jive. On June 3rd Planning for environmental theme ie speaker on Climate Change for General Meeting, groups – recycling efforts.

Hayling Island, Julie Taylor: A week of activity: beach clean at the weekend, walking netball – open session. Actual day 3 rooms booked for hands-on activities to appeal to different age groups, coffee and cake, board games, rummikub and scrabble. Wine tasting – test of identity. Media plus Mayor, MP Alan Mak. Visitors Guide. Press release ready.

Havant, Elizabeth Jorge: Two short walks, invite members to join them. Media plus maybe the Network could issue a press release for publicity.

Locks Heath, Stephen Kirby: Stall at Community Centre

Solent, Chris Williams: Plans already in place.

Portsmouth, Hilary Nicklin: 35th Birthday anniversary celebrations on 10th July instead. Will plan a U3A day next year.

Emsworth, Mike Polgreen: Will take a stand at the Emsworth Show. Sashes* and leaflets.

*sashes ...could buy in bulk for possible discount. Maybe an order with different U3A names. Julie could organise. Purchasers to pay Julie direct. Or rosettes?

(After meeting note from Hilary ... There are no sashes available from the Trust. On the U3A Day tab on the national website, under Toolkit, there are resources. There is a downloadable template for sashes. Several U3As on U3A Day Facebook, have recommended supplies they use. It is intended, eventually, that merchandise will be available to order via the website but that is not yet available).

Hilary Robinson, Assistant Regional Trustee: U3A Day was planned to take place at the same time as Volunteers Week. The Trust itself would have existed for 40 years in 2022. On the SE Region website, members can see the results of last year's membership survey. This showed that despite many new U3As starting up, there was evidence of a decline and ageing of our membership. There is a real need to appeal to younger retirees.

5. **Trust Volunteer Roles.** Beryl Shepherd. Carole Chapman could not come to this meeting as she was heavily involved with her Research role, being the Chair of the regional research committee. Beryl is a member of the Beacon Independent Group. Beryl and Carole do workshops ie Financial Matters, Interest Group matters, Keeping it Legal, and Managing Growth. Issues from these:
- All committee members are trustees. Must have 4 officers ie Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer
 - Copyright - Check out Freedom of Panorama if taking photos of national monuments
 - Paying other charities – pay it to the person directly in cash.
 - Insurance on holidays, non-members cannot go on trips, not covered. Hiring of coaches and booking hotels has to be on books. Riviera company offer of one extra place free but has to be shared out between members financially.
 - Safeguarding – dementia. Recognising this is the first hurdle. Difficulties may include interfering with people’s things, using inappropriate or insulting language, wandering off. Can bring a carer for free. A paid carer should have their own insurance. Safeguarding includes a duty to mention it to the relatives.
 - Waiting for information on CLA licence – copying printed material eg music
 - Food preparation by a member
 - Meetings in the house of a non-member
 - Trustees and Officers Insurance would this cover a webmaster or Groups co-ordinator? Only Trustees.
6. **SCN Aims, Objectives and Administration document:** Point raised on naming of Chair/ Chairman/ Chairperson. Network use of Chairman. No other comments. Agreement that the document be typed up with all relevant up-dates.

(6b) Change to Agenda - Hilvary Robinson (Chair of South-East Region Support Team) brought in.

The trustees’ role has expanded recently since the start of the Development Plan. In the SE Region there are 194 U3As with a regional membership of 95,000. The SE Region Trustee Support Group was therefore set up to spread the load. Chair- Hilvary Robinson, Secretary- Sally Ingledew, also Susie Berry, and representatives for each county in the Region. They will help and support any U3A.

Details given for Spring Gathering which was going to be on 5th May and was intended to occur instead of the East Grinstead Summer School.

Important after meeting note from Coronavirus Update of 18.03.20 notice on Home Page of the U3A website ... “The UK Government is asking the population now to avoid all unnecessary contact. The Trust has also taken the step of postponing its large events and meetings”

“We’ll be using our Newsletter to send all up-to-date advice about the coronavirus, so make sure you’re signed up

u3a.org.uk/newsletter

(6c) Autumn Gathering 13th October at Crowborough. Speaker – Prof Richie on Life Long Learning since the 1919 report on Adult Education. In the afternoon there will be discussion

groups instead of workshops. A reminder that the results of the 2019 Members Survey are on the national website.

(6d) Ambassadors are needed for training for talking on TV or radio. If you are interested contact the Regional Trustee. Importance of succession planning – need volunteers to shadow. Especially the SE Region Support Team.

(6e) Health Check - a short questionnaire for committees to work together to fill in. 10 key questions with yes or no answers and advisory notes beneath. This is only to help the U3A.

(6f) Handbook for group leaders is available from NO.

(6g) National Conference on 25th, 26th, 27th August at Nottingham.

(6h) Trustee Induction booklet, Induction CC3, Charity Governance Code. Hilvary will put these documents on the South East Regional website. *Post meeting note: This has been done and they can be found under the 'Links' tab, then under 'Interesting Stuff'.*

7. Which strategies/tactics do U3As use to get new volunteers for Committee and Interest Group Leaders?

Hilvary - Workshop last January at Chandlers Ford led by Jane Bailey on this subject. Ethos of the U3A – a self help group. Group leaders to do talent spotting. Share with a friend. Set up a STAR (small tasks as requested) group or a RUG (really useful group) They can step in when required and have the potential to become committee members later. Interest group - leadership could split up different tasks and questions. National subject advisors are really useful for starting up new groups.

Waterlooville: no problems with group leaders as Kevin is straight onto it and has a set of guidelines. 103 groups. Waiting list issues – Kevin is the gatekeeper and ensures no-one jumps the queue. Committee renewal coming up. Handpicked, co-opted, then election at AGM. Jo Derham's poster promoted all over.

Portsmouth: a unique set up, very individual. Almost total use of community centre to run everything a bit like a campus.

Solent: Needs new ideas. Hilvary – STAR group? Sally – maybe have working groups of members run by a committee member eg for publicity.

Warsash: a lunch for leaders to say thank you. Show of enthusiasm, more involvement from committee members.

Locks Heath: Talking to people. Some turbulence – 2 are leaving, 4 are arriving so a gain.

Havant: Group leaders/ co-ordinators speed dating activity to help people get to know each other. Any chances of Havant and Hayling Island doing this? Or Locks Heath and Warsash?

To feed back results from JT and EG

Hayling Island: No Vice-chair. Co-chairs instead are working very well together. Use of a sub committee or signing up to a working group. For Group leaders, a mentoring role.

Gosport: 25th Celebrations. A day cruise trip. Groups are fine. Committee – more job sharing. 6 monthly shadowing.

Emsworth: Groups ok. Committee – needs an extra 2.

Horndean: Co-opt. Have assistant treasurer and membership secretary ready to take over.

Thank you lunches for group convenors'

Stubbington: idea for a competition between U3As for U3A day. C A to report.

Hilvary: There's always the "nuclear" option of maybe having to close down if no volunteer.

8. **Suggestion for another Cinema group:** One running has 5 U3As in the east of the area. Arrangement with a cinema company for small viewings just for U3A members. £3.75 each. Advantages – no adverts, will do subtitles. Could hire a hall, but would need to have the correct licence. Cost £60 a year.
9. **Vice-chairman – do you have one?** 2 U3As no ... Hayling Island and Portsmouth. Charity Commission made it a requirement in 2019.
10. **Have you celebrated a big anniversary?** How? Good ideas needed by Portsmouth who will celebrate their 35th and need a wow factor to add to existing plans. Ideas given included use local school choir, a hobby horse race, little gifts, theatre costumes, a murder mystery.
11. **A.O.B.** Gosport: membership fee from neighbouring U3A? Usually minus £3.50 for Trust.
Hayling Island: Coronavirus? Will be shutting down as child in local school has the virus. Warsash. One group is stopping. Leaving it up to others. Waterlooville: cancelling next monthly meeting.

After meeting note ... please check Kevin's email sent on from national office 18.03.20 with a subject of 'Staying in Touch – the Third Age Trust'.

Meeting finished 4.15 pm