



**SCN Chairs & Vice-Chairs Meeting
Tuesday Oct 24th 2023 10am via Zoom**

Attendees

Kevin Stock	SCN Manager	
Susie Berry	SER Trustee	
Sally Ingledew	Consultant	
Sue Derrick	Chair	Botley HE & District
Geoff Warden	Vice-chair	Botley HE & District
George Cantrill	Chair	Gosport
Alison Botha	Chair	IOW
Terry Hammond	Chair	Locks Heath
Linda Hugo-Vieten	Chair	Portsdown
Alan Hathaway	Chair	Stubbington
Mike Young	Vice-Chair	Stubbington
Mark Dancey	Chair	Waterlooville

Apologies from: Emsworth & District, Havant, Hayling Island, Horndean & District, Portsmouth, Solent

- 1. Welcome** by Kevin Stock, SCN Manager
Permission was received to record the meeting for the purpose of producing this report.
- 2. SCN Manager handover** Sally Ingledew officially handed the SCN Manager role to Kevin Stock.
- 3. Introductions** All attendees introduced themselves and said which role(s) they perform.

4. Recruiting more men – should we – how can we (Botley u3a)

GW read an article in TAM that said that u3as tend to have twice as many women than men, and should we try to attract more men. TH Locks Heath have held open day events outside a shopping centre where men are shown the list of u3a groups in the hope that they would be interested. Their main competition is a Mens Shed in Gosport. SD Botley had an event at the recreation ground to attract more members. TH Locks Heath have a dedicated Events Manager that looks for opportunities for displays. MD Waterlooville hold Open Days at a community centre in an ASDA car park that attracts the public to come in and see what they do in the hope of getting new members. AB IOW had a publicity campaign in Newport with emphasis on Walking, Discussion, and Wine Appreciation, and possibly starting an Astronomy group.

Chichester u3a were unable to attend this meeting but emailed comments in advance: We have more couples and single men joining now than pre-pandemic; we have good links with our local sports centre, and they have set aside sessions for u3a badminton, short tennis and table tennis. These seem to attract men!

5. Recruiting new Members particularly younger ones (Havant u3a)

TH Locks Heath TAT should clarify in leaflets etc that the u3a is not only for retired people, but semi-retired too. KS A person working full time could in fact join the u3a if a group they wanted to join met on their day off. TH and SB There is a 27 year old Treasurer in one u3a that runs his own accountancy business but has time on his hands to attend committee meetings etc. LH her daughter is 37 and is a member of her u3a.

Chichester: We have younger/recently retired members joining who have suggested new groups: discussion, metal detecting and a Members On Their Own Group (MOTO) all very popular. The secret of new groups is to get them set up and active before the enthusiasm wanes.

6. Vice-Chairs Do you have one? Do you need or want one?

SI asked if you must have a Vice-Chair or not. SB Having one is optional unless your constitution states you must have one. Ideally the Vice-Chair is training to become Chair. TH Locks Heath have a Vice-Chair that is highly valued. GA Gosport have one but he does not wish to become Chair. SD Botley have one that is very supportive and incredibly helpful. Chichester: We have a VC, one of our 4 officers.

7. Length of service of committee members How long can someone serve?

MD Waterlooville do not have a Vice-Chair but pointed out that having a time restriction on Officer roles may mean if a Secretary or Treasurer became Vice-Chair they may not have any time left to be Chair. Their constitution was changed to say

time the limit is recommended but not mandatory. TH Locks Heath said they can co-op people back on after their length of service. SI asked for clarification on the minimum number of officers that the Charity Commission require. SB thinks it may be two, and the next Governance Committee are due to discuss this. Also, u3as are now able to set a time limit of 3 years plus another 3 years for Officers.

Chichester: VC is the only position on our Ctte which can serve longer than 3 years. This assumes that the only Ctte member who can take on the role of Chair is the VC. SB Check your constitution as it may say that officer roles must be different people and not one person covering two officer roles.

8. Demo of SiteWorks the replacement for SiteBuilder.

KS gave a demonstration of what a u3a website could look like using SiteWorks, showing a modified version of the one supplied by the SiteWorks team. He also showed the SiteWorks version of the SCN website that he had developed and is waiting for it to go live. MD asked if there will be a cost to use SiteWorks. SB said it has been agreed that it will be £50 per year per u3a, regardless of their size, starting in 2025. Chichester considered moving to Site Builder 3 years ago, but their IT members decided it was too limiting so they built their own, which they are happy with.

9. Any Other Business

SB The Autumn Gathering will be 10am Thurs 16th Nov, and the topic will be on Subject Advisors. A link will be sent to all u3as closer to the date.

SD asked if groups/events that have spaces could be advertised on a website. KS offered to email the network for these. SI suggested that coach trips etc be advertised at the outset and not wait until the last minute when realising they have spaces, with the proviso that members of the original u3a given priority, and others would be put on a waiting list until say 2 weeks before the event when they will be offered any spare places.

GA Gosport are having a members forum in Nov where all members can have a say in how their u3a is run.

SI said that at the National AGM they were open for feedback. SA said the AGM recording is available on the u3a YouTube channel.

AB pointed out that there is a Chairs forum on Facebook that is very informative.

TH asked if a transcript of the AGM will be available. SB said it probably won't, but the minutes will be soon.

LH mentioned the Portsdown u3a Annual Lecture on 15th Nov.

SCN Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/hants-sc-network/home>

SE Region Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=465>