

SCN Group Liaison Meeting Report

Tuesday May 11th 2021 10am – 12 Noon via Zoom.

Attendees

Sally Ingledew	SCN Manager	
Kevin Stock	SCN Admin & GC	Waterlooville
Ann Sims	GC	Ems Valley
Anne Powel	Chairman	Ems Valley
Bridget Watts	GC	Emsworth & District
Adrian Wakeford	GC to be	Emsworth & District
Maureen Nicholas	GC Support	Emsworth & District
Kathy Parker	GC	Gosport
Robert Child	GC	Havant
Trevor Brash	GC	Hayling Island
Geoff Smith	GC	Horndean & District
Braith Harris	GC	Horndean & District
Lynne Weyman	GC	Portsdown
Sue Ponting	GC	Stubbington
Maggie Morter	Assistant GC	Stubbington
Mary Paddey	Secretary	Stubbington
Judith Sims	GC	Warsash
Kevin Stock	GC	Waterlooville
Jane Pearson	GC	Guernsey

Apologies received: Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Rowlands Castle

- 1. Welcome** by Sally Ingledew, SCN Manager
- 2. Meeting Procedures** Kevin Stock, SCN Administrator
- 3. Introduction** by Sally Ingledew, SCN Manager

Those present all introduced themselves.

Most are using zoom several have new members

Ems Valley 412 members, 50 groups
Emsworth 232 members, 34 groups
Gosport 400 down to 200 members. Problem financially had 55 groups several now stopped 6 grps relaunched plus 3 new group proposals.
Havant 246 members, 32 groups
Horndean 200 members, 33 groups several still running some new members
Portsdown 260 members, 29 groups
Stubbington 415 members, 60 groups
Warsash 190 members 5 new last 2 months, 30ish groups.
Waterlooville 830 members, 101 groups membership increasing
Guernsey 900+ members 80+ groups running as normal

Rowlands Castle could not attend but provided a list of their 25 Groups and the types of activity they are doing and plan. They also provided comments for some agenda items.

4. Members link.

Several had not heard of it.

Of those that had Gosport sent out info to all members

Stubbington sent link to committee members. Aware of amount of work done but commented that a lot of it was common sense and it is intimidating because it is so in depth. Asked if the information could be organised to be more role specific.

5. Maintaining Group numbers during lockdown and how to increase numbers afterwards (Havant u3a)

Concern about impact of covid, but not so bad lost 50, but new members joining. Zoom experience very positive.

Havant and Emsworth have shared a very successful quiz night on zoom. To be continued with other u3as, Waterlooville and Hayling Island. Had some advantages over live events.

Zoom also very good for presentations and access to different groups.

Horndean allow 50% quiz team to be non members which encourages new members Also allow members to bring a friend to monthly meetings.

Ems Valley big effort u3a day all groups doing a display in hospital gardens (including wine tasting) comment for KIT etc feels put off because of what everyone else is doing. SI emphasised to take what is relevant to you.

Horndean very welcoming and this does encourage new members.

SI meeters and greeters and coffee mornings for new members help a lot.

Using local press Gosport and Emsworth.

Emsworth have RUG Really Useful Group pick up all sorts of jobs etc

6. Having a small sub-Group to head up each Interest Group (Havant u3a)

Havant some groups are already spreading the load by having others in the group.

Offers support and helps with succession.

SI misconception the GL does all the work. Can have one person responsible for IT in particular, one to organise venue, also encourage members of the group to lead. Can be very empowering.

Horndean have done this successfully with walking group.

Ems Valley also done for history group.

Horndean speakers are suggested by different people after Speakers sec resigned, and is working well.

Some GLs won't have someone else do zoom or IT this is a hard problem to deal with.

Stubbington tell GLs that they do not have to do everything themselves.

SI pop up groups are also a good idea.

Emsworth starting up Sea Shanty singing group. Will ask others for ideas.

Havant GLs first point of contact, but others that help are not necessarily recognised but many groups do have shared responsibility.

Zoom has led to IT support group.

Most groups have subgroup not necessarily recognised, but way forward is to share the load.

Horndean commented that at present groups must follow government guidelines.

Stubbington commented that the venue also important. Venue should follow guidelines, but u3a /groups should ensure this is done.

Rowlands Castle Most of their Groups all have a coordinator and deputy but are too small to require a sub-group.

7. Are any of your groups doing anything for u3a Day? (Waterlooville u3a)

Waterlooville doing table display at the Bandstand.

Wine appreciation group will be attending!

Gosport monthly meeting on zoom and then meet afterwards in park for a picnic, wearing blue and yellow.

Hayling Island static display in library of group activities etc to signpost interactive open day in September.

Emsworth small display at Horticultural Show.

Ems Valley in gardens with stewards talking to people, and a small table in the shopping centre with leaflets etc. Also many leaflets have been posted in the local area. When delivering posters talk about u3a day, co op has a community board.

Social prescribers from Drs very interested.

Havant in touch with local press and radio. Small pieces of wood with u3a colours on popular walking groups to raise awareness.

Horndean mentioned yarn bombing not considered useful by meeting.

SI mentioned that all age ranges should be included message can get passed on.

Emsworth u3a is not recognised generally.

Stubbington can be misconception for younger people who think it's a care service for parents!!! More value to raise consciousness nationally.

Rowlands Castle They may organise an event for u3a day but nothing to report yet, waiting to see how lockdown releases.

8. Are any groups going to continue using Zoom Pro after lockdown, either instead of or as well as meeting in person? (Waterlooville u3a)

Waterlooville have groups who want to continue to use zoom after lockdown.

Horndean zoom opens up evenings.

Hayling Island zoom only may attract a new group including carers, the housebound and younger people.

Groups and IT.

Horndean limiting factor is broadband. Shared meetings with other u3as, and zoom has taken the place of conference for the Science Network.

Hayling can buy a device (dongle) to provide internet. Is quite expensive.

SI hybrid meetings Liz Thackray does a presentation on how this can be done. This is a link to one she has done and there should be a video on the u3a YouTube channel in the near future.

SI sharing resources post lockdown a possible workshop on how this could work.

Horndean commented zoom also allows international speakers.

9. How to make your group welcoming to new members.

Ems Valley several new members felt out of it in established groups. To correct this, try to form a different group if there is a waiting list.

SI some u3as expect group members to reapply to group at AGM - not considered positive by the meeting.

Emsworth GL coordinator goes to see how groups work.

Also check at new member coffee morning how people are settling in.

Gosport Beacon is very useful. Want to analyse how many groups each member joins.

Hayling Island attempted an audit of groups/waiting lists and discovered many anomalies. Beacon was recommended by others to deal with this.

Waterlooville all applications go through Group Liaison KS. This means that there is consistent and fairness. A lot of work but it is an efficient system.

Emsworth some groups were effectively vetting applicants by not always admitting to spaces available in a group.

Waterlooville annual health check with details of members of groups for GLs to confirm these are correct.

Emsworth at coffee mornings for new members check if able to join groups and if there are vacancies. Done very informally.

RUG pick up potential problems and have many informal links.

Rowlands Castle Some use Zoom. A few use the group function on Beacon. Otherwise they all use email well. The website is used as an outward facing resource and Groups do not use it regularly.

Meeting closed 12.00

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