



SCN Group Liaison Meeting Agenda
Tuesday May 23rd 2023 10am via Zoom

Attendees

Sally Ingledew		SCN Manager
Kevin Stock	Waterlooville	SCN Admin
Sue Derrick	Botley HE&D	Chair
Margaret Le-Good	Chichester	Vice-chair
Jackie Treacher	Emsworth & District	Groups
Robert Child	Havant	Groups
Braith Harris	Horndean & District	Groups
Lois White	Locks Heath	Groups
Ann Riglin	Portsdown	Secretary
Barbara Spiegelhalter	Portsmouth	Chair
Jean Ryan	Solent	Groups
Sheila Liggins	Stubbington	Groups
Mary Paddey	Stubbington	Groups

Apologies received: Susie Berry, Ems Valley, Guernsey, Hayling Isle, Meon Valley, Warsash, Waterlooville

- 1. Welcome** by Sally Ingledew, SCN Manager
- 2. Meeting Procedures** Kevin Stock, SCN Administrator
Permission to record the meeting for the purpose of producing a report.

3. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

4. Setting up new groups & closing groups How to help them achieve it (Havant u3a)

RC Havant Some new groups are easy to set up if they have a member willing to be the convener, but some are harder, especially if they have an outside tutor. A start-up allowance is available. If a convener leaves then the group is put to sleep and kept on the display board until a new convener steps forward.

KS Waterlooville have a £50 start-up allowance for new groups, and for the first meeting the room hire is paid for by the u3a.

MP Stubbington also have a £50 allowance. If a group is failing it is paused, and if closed all items are returned to the u3a. Their Creative Writing is struggling.

LW Locks Heath suggested that members of Stubbington Creative Writing may like to join them. Their singing group has members of Warsash u3a in it.

SI said that if a member of one u3a joined a group of another u3a they should also join that u3a as an associate member.

SL Stubbington allows a member of another u3a to join one group of theirs without having to be a member.

JT Emsworth have an Art group where the leader took a break from leading and each member took a turn to lead.

5. Risk Assessments How to get the Group Leaders to complete a Risk Assessment and what to do with them once complete (Havant u3a)

RC Havant are trying to get all conveners to complete a RA for their hired venue.

Most have done so but he is having problems getting the rest to do one. He said the request to do them came from the committee.

SL Stubbington said that venues should have their own RA. MP said they have never done one for members homes, (and neither have any other u3a at the meeting). She said hosts would point out verbally any 'danger' like steps. They do a RA for any outdoor events.

6. 50p contribution to home hosts Should this be raised to £1? Are there other ways to provide refreshments for groups meeting at members' homes? (Stubbington u3a)

MP Stubbington Some home groups put in 50p, but they appeared to be in the minority with other u3a.

JR Solent said it is optional for their groups.

KS Waterlooville said for his home groups he was happy to provide tea/coffee, as he didn't have to go out and use petrol, and group members took turns bringing the biscuits. It worked very well.

SD Botley also do that and it works well.

7. Ideas/tips for getting new group leaders to come forward

Do you have any to pass on? (Emsworth u3a)

SI suggested short-term groups, say 6 month, would better attract a convener.

RC Havant suggested sharing the role.

SD Botley have two large groups that go out and each member takes turn to run each trip.

MP Stubbington had a new group that no-one was confident to lead so MP did it for a short while until someone finally took over.

JR Solent emailed all members pointing out that the u3a is a self-help organisation and members should take part in some way, and from that four new groups were formed. They are thinking of pointing that out in their new members form. *KS The Principles of the u3a are appended at the end of this report.*

KS said asking someone to be the initial convener for just a month or so worked well, as they usually end up being confident enough being permanent.

SI said a convener's Role Description may be off-putting and to have an initial very short one to show potential conveners.

8. Do you encourage Group Leaders to have a Deputy? What do groups do when the GL is away?

Portsmouth try to have deputies, but this only really works if they are friends and can work together.

JR Solent don't have deputies, but someone usually steps in when the convener is away. SL Stubbington do the same.

RC Havant have about half the groups with deputies.

BH Horndean don't but it will be suggested now.

9. Do you have an annual 'Thank You' event for Group Leaders?

Portsmouth have one that starts in the morning with a meeting, followed by a lunch.

KS Waterlooville have a BBQ with croquet on the lawn, and outside barn dancing.

JS Solent have stalls at a pub combined with new members followed by a buffet. They also have an annual meal at a pub for the committee.

LW Locks Heath plan to have tea/coffee for all conveners so they all meet each other.

RC Havant have a tea party, but they also have a convener's meeting to exchange views etc. BH Horndean have been to Southwick Park Golf Course for lunch for all conveners/helpers over the last ten years.

JT Emsworth have a lunch that goes down well. MP Stubbington used to have a lunch before covid. SI commented that it may be the only time that conveners meet and talk to each other. ML Chichester have lunch at a college for around ten conveners each time. BS Portsmouth have a fish & chips supper, also a coffee & cake afternoon.

10. Any Other Business

MP Stubbington Can a convener remove a member from their group if a member is making others uncomfortable. No, they can't, but the committee could get involved and point out the code of conduct to that member.

The Principles of the u3a Movement

The u3a movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.

Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.

Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.

No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.

There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

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The Mutual Aid Principle

Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.

No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.

Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.

Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement.