

**SCN Treasurers Meeting Report**

**Tuesday April 25th 2023 10am –12 Noon via Zoom.**

**Attendees**

Sally Ingledew	SCN Manager	
Kevin Stock	SCN Admin	
Kenneth Laing	Treasurer	Emsworth & District
Anne Powell	Chair	Ems Valley
George Cantrill	Chair	Gosport
Peter Langford	Treasurer	Guernsey
Sue Dobson	Treasurer	Horndean & District
Les Hill	Treasurer	Locks Heath
Terry Hammond	Chair-to-be	Locks Heath
Graham Dandy	Treasurer	Meon Valley
Olivia Quinn	Treasurer	Portsmouth
Sue Marshall	Treasurer	Solent
Richard Herbertson	Mem Sec	Stubbington
George Pickburn	Treasurer	Warsash

**Apologies from:** Botley HE&D, Chichester, Havant, IoW, Portsdown, Waterlooville

1. **Welcome** by Sally Ingledew, SCN Manager  
Sally will be standing down as Manager of the SCN over the coming months and asks for a replacement to come forward, so are there any takers for this? The role description is on the SCN website.
2. **Meeting Procedures** Kevin Stock, SCN Administrator  
Permission to record the meeting for the purpose of producing this report

### **3. Introductions** by Kevin Stock, SCN Administrator

KS took over chairing the rest of the meeting during this transition phase and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### **4. Associate members and how it could impact on your u3a.**

SI If someone is a FULL member of one u3a and then also joins another u3a they could be classified as an associate member in the second u3a and not pay a second fee to TAT if that u3a chooses to have associate members. If so, that member should be treated just like a full member and be able to vote and to be on the committee. In addition, TAT have now said that an associate member can be on the committee of both u3as (check your constitution though). This will help, particularly smaller u3as, to find a new Treasurer etc. as one person can be Treasurer for two u3as.

### **5. Difficulty finding a replacement Treasurer** (Meon Valley u3a)

GD explained that Meon Valley is a small u3a (80 members) and last year said he wanted to stand down as Treasurer. No-one came forward so he wants to say the same again this year but is finding no response to his request. They have an aging membership that would have difficulty working with spreadsheets and maybe online systems would make it easier. They are not on Beacon. They are having to consider that their u3a may have to be wound down and closed. GD wonders if any of their members have also joined the new Botley u3a as associate members as they are quite close. *KS Post meeting – Botley have no MV associate members.*

AP said that retiring committee members should not say they would LIKE to stand down, but they ARE GOING to stand down. That should provoke a better response. AP also said that charging £1 for members to attend a Monthly Meeting just complicates a Treasurers role. GP said it helps if the Treasurers role is described as a wonderful learning opportunity, also the Beacon Forum is a good source. SI said there are Workshops available too.

### **6. Interpretation of HMRC Gift Aid Guidelines** (Locks Heath u3a)

LH said there still seems to be some sort of confusion on how this should be treated and the inadequacies of Beacon producing the Gift Aid details. He heard a rumour that we may not be able to claim GA! No other u3a has heard the rumour though. SI offered to investigate.

*KS Post Meeting - Reply received from Derek Harwood, National Treasurer:*

*Yes, we are aware of this situation & that HMRC seem to be currently challenging some u3as gift aid submissions. For those u3as asking about the situation currently we keep quoting the guidance we have on the national website as this is based on the written advice we got from HMRC in early 2021:*

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/all-documents/gift-aid-guidance-oct-2021/download>

*However, it appears the current HMRC Inspectors are not applying their previous advice. Most annoying. Our next stage is to try to call a meeting with HMRC so we can table the previous agreement - & understand their current position. I'd imagine this won't be that easy to set up but hopefully we can sort this out 'centrally' before it spreads to other u3as. Our stance will be – membership to Interest Groups is open to a u3as full membership. Therefore there is no individual 'personal' benefit. So group fees can be included in the gift aid claim. We'll advise all if we achieve the meeting with HMRC and the outcome.*

*You mention also Beacon: this will only create a Gift Aid download for membership fees (for those paying through Beacon/PayPal). Useful as far as that goes, but you have to then manually add in where members have renewed by other means (eg direct Bank Transfer or cheque or.....) and a separate (manual) Gift aid Declaration form is required for them.*

#### **7. Do you use a Card Reader so members can pay by Debit Card?**

AP Ems Valley are very please with theirs. RH Stubbington have one from Barclays which is very popular with contactless payments. SM Solent have bought a Sumup one for £20. They pay a small fee for each transaction. PL Guernsey have several Sumup machines. LH Locks Heath have a reader for short term events only as one of the conditions for using a Sumup card reader is not to use it for membership subscriptions. However, other u3as say that our subscriptions are donations which are allowed.

*KS Post Meeting - Reply received from Derek Harwood, National Treasurer:*

*My easiest response is to provide link to a London Region Shared Practice Guide on the topic. See the section re Sum Up. You are correct, they have told 'us' that it can't be used for collecting subscriptions (strangely).*

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/l/london-region/docs/sharedpracticeguide018-bankcardreadersrev01-03.pdf>

#### **8. Can your members pay by PayPal?**

PL Guernsey have members that pay using PayPal via Beacon. GC Gosport doubt if many members have a PayPal account, but GP and PL commented that members don't need a PayPal account.

#### **9. Have you stopped accepting cheques?**

All u3as at the meeting still accept cheques. They are however discouraging the use of cash.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

GP Cheques are self-documenting, and he pays them in using his smart phone. Cash is paid in at his local Post Office. OQ and GC have seen an increase in the use of members using BACS. GD is looking into getting a Debit Card. GP commented that they had a talk from Highbury College about online security and unfortunately that put several members off using online banking.

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

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

For the meeting, please have your name and your u3a showing:

- With a mouse, right click your own picture and select 'Rename'
- With a touch screen, tap your own picture, tap the 3 dots and select 'Rename'