



CHAIRS' NETWORKING
25TH MAY 2023 4.30pm-6.00pm
Online, Zoom

Brief notes from the meeting

	ARRIVAL: Informal introductions
	WELCOME: Stella Morris, new London Region Trustee was welcomed to the network.
	LRU3A: A brief summary of LRU3A's, the network's, activities for new Chair's present.
	REVIEW of Chair's Lunch – the venue, Agenda, presentations and Discussions, using the evaluations and list of Points to Take Awa.
	<p>OPEN DISCUSSION (WHAT HAVE U3AS TAKEN FORWARD FROM THIS MEETING?):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruiting Volunteers: many still struggling to recruit committee members or volunteers generally. Discussed how best to do this: create the right culture from day 1, give current volunteers 'recognition', highlight that won't survive without volunteers coming forward. 2. Membership Levels: some reported good growth. Overall figures for London Region show a 4% growth level this year (based on recent Annual Return figures). Need to support neighbouring struggling u3as. 3. Bite size/Taster sessions: still a high interest on this concept. Good way of finding a Coordinator. If they feel commitment is short term then more likely to volunteer & give it a go. Some will then stay on longer 4. New Groups: national normal is 10:1 (10 members per 1 group). So if you are above that then need to create more groups, more capacity. If you are below then should be able to recruit new members (spare capacity). There was view that no Groups should be shown as 'Full'. Due to 'no-shows' often there is space (even in a Coordinators house). So can take on more members. Or switch to a bigger venue. 5. Chairs WhatsApp Group: Paula Kahn has set this up now. Any Chair wanting to join should send phone number to Paula (at chair@islingtonu3a.org) 6. Support/ Buddy System: several have this/ have tried this. So roles are shared, or supported. Good also for finding a successor. 7. Survey of Members: can be a good way to gain data on members wishes. Have shown that younger members not so keen on meeting in members houses. 8. Focus groups can then be set up to examine issues in more detail, identified by the survey. 9. Need to work in many u3as to continue to identify long established Interest groups with the local u3a, through social events, regular communications, etc.
	<p>DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegates meeting/ AGM: was a suggestion that a national speaker on use of Social Media could be useful. 2. Next Chairs Networking Meeting: some wanted a follow up in the Summer or the Autumn but concluded that next physical one might not be until January or February. All agreed the last venue (LIFT, Islington) worked well. 3. This last Chair's lunch was focused on HOW we run our u3as. Maybe a future event might address the uniqueness of the u3a movement, its Ethos and Culture, with HOW we do things. (Learning, Participating, a sense of Belonging?)