

AGENDA	
Meeting Title:	GROUPS COORDINATORS NETWORK (GCNet) MEETING
Date/ Time:	28th March 2022, 14.30-16.30 (log on from 14.00)
Venue:	Online with Zoom (Meeting link to be disseminated 2 days before meeting)

Aim of the GC Network: To provide a forum to offer mutual support. To share good ideas and best practice. To jointly develop solutions for our mutual benefit. To request further support and training, advice, and resources from London Region of U3As and National Office.

1. **Welcome and introductions -- Liz Day (LD)** (Dulwich & District u3a) to chair *[5 mins]*
and
Minutes of last meeting 13th December 2021
Recordings & Minutes uploaded to [Peer Support](#) section of LR website (scroll down to Groups Coordinators).
2. **Overview of u3a Learning Provision**
 - **Chris Winner (CWi)** Groups Coordinator of Trust u3a; Chair of Online Learning Working Group; PR & Media Advisors Coordinator; Chair of Prestatyn, Rhyl and District u3a and Chair of the North Wales Network
 - **Alison May (AM)** Head of member services, u3a Office
 - **Georgia Laws (GL)** Learning, Advice & Volunteers Officer, u3a Office
 - 2.1. Subject Advisors – Recruitment & support/ Subject Networks **(GL)** *[10 mins]*
 - 2.2. Trust U3A -- Structure/Groups/Recruitment & support of Group Convenors **(CWi)** *[10 mins]*
 - 2.3. **Q&A (LD)** *[20 mins]*
 - 2.4. Online Learning Working Group – Terms of reference/activities/access **(CWi)** +
 - 2.5. The Learning Hub - background and overview – **(AM)** *[20 mins]*
 - 2.6. **Q&A (LD)** *[15 mins]*
3. **Further issues for future discussion & attention/ Future of GC Peer Group** *[10 mins]*
4. **AOB**

GCNet Steering Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judith Altshul (Islington) • Val Girling (Palmers Green & Southgate) <p>More volunteers required!</p>	LRU3A Executive Committee support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Day, Learning Development Coordinator (Dulwich) • Vivek Nanda, Communications Coordinator (Islington) • Catherine Ware, Talks & Summer School (Merton)
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APPENDIX: NEWS UPDATE

1. REGIONAL

1.1. London Region Online Talks: These talks were started to enable/encourage members to be connected and active during Lockdown, and have proved very popular especially during winter months. Attendance dropped last summer when the weather improved and Covid restrictions were lifted so it was easier to meet in person. However, a number of attendees, and speakers, have said that they are unable/disinclined to return to in-person u3a activities even with their local u3as. Online/hybrid activities are clearly important, especially at regional level.

1.2. London Region Summer School 2022

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th July at the St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane (off Fleet St). Further information on [Events](#) page of LRU3A website. Booking starts 8th April.

An annual non-residential, in-person event attracting u3a members from across London and further afield. This year's theme: London: past, present and future. There will be 18 talks, 3 workshops, and 8 guided walks. About 50% of the contributors are u3a members.

1.3. London Region SW Consortium Study Day: The Challenges of Architecture Today

Tues 24th May at Mayo Hall, Kingston. Registration 10.00am Further information on [Events](#) page of LRU3A website

1.4. Capital Ring Walk: This has been suggested as a possible London Region event to celebrate u3a's 40th birthday. The idea would involve groups from London u3as walking a local segment of the Capital Ring Walk. Still in planning stage. Coordinated by Derek Harwood, LRU3A Vice Chair, who is in contact with London u3as. Further information to come.

2. NATIONAL

2.1. Science Network:

Instead of the usual in-person Summer School there will be three online events: April 5th (now booking); July (date TBA – this will be the main event to celebrate u3a's 40th birthday); and October date TBA). Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/u3asciencenetwork>
Gloucester u3a has announced an Anniversary Robot Challenge, 26th October, open to all u3as members. Further information: <https://u3asites.org.uk/u3asciencenetwork/events>

2.2. Research & Shared Learning: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-research>

Research and Shared Learning Conference: 3rd August in Preston, Lancashire, at the County Hall (opposite the West Coast main line railway station). Booking opens in April (admission free of charge, including lunch). One of the aims, as part of the 40th birthday celebrations, is to showcase the research/enquiry-led learning, including Shared Learning Projects, undertaken by u3a members over the years. Please encourage your groups to record their research on the u3a Research Database: <https://www.u3aresearch.org.uk/> (it's a source of inspiration for others and good publicity for u3a).

2.3. Some useful national u3a web pages:

- Resources and Support for Learning: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning>
- Sources: <https://sources.u3a.org.uk/>
- u3a Newsletter: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>
- u3a 40th birthday: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary/40th-anniversary-national-events> and u3a Day: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/u3a-day>
- Network Link: Website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/u3a-networks>
Click on link to subscribe to [News for Networks](#) (Jan, May, Sept)