

MINUTES (without contacts)	
Meeting Title:	GROUPS COORDINATORS NETWORK (CGNet) MEETING
Date/ Time:	1st July 2020, 10.00-12.00
Venue:	Online meeting with Zoom

	TOPIC	ACTION BY
1.	<p>Attendance</p> <p>There have been a few changes to people involved in the GCNet, but there are currently 61 members, with 48 having a Groups Coordinator role, although titles vary. In a few cases where no Groups Coordinator nominated, U3As have been represented by others. See table in Appendix.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by 20 members of the CG Net, representing 14 of London's 44 U3As.</p> <p>A check of the Mailchimp report indicates that the email was sent successfully to 55 names on the database (update required). There were no bounce-backs, but only 43 people opened the message, and only 23 clicked on any links. (Number of clicks per link: Agenda (63 clicks; Survey analysis 50; Zoom link 44; CG role 36)</p>	
2.	<p>Survey feedback</p> <p>Steering Group members gave their observations on key points arising from each section of the survey, forming the basis of the Summary in the final copy of the survey report, which can be viewed on the Sharing page of LRU3A website.</p>	
3.	<p>Reports from Break-out group discussions</p> <p>Rapporteurs from the 4 break-out groups added to the above with their observations on the survey analysis plus – looking forward – what they consider to be the priorities, suggested solutions, and what can be done by CGNet to help. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members' fear of technology and how to overcome it? • Keeping groups running and bringing on board reluctant Group Convenors • Need to build confidence using computers as a life skill with our age group (e.g. Keeping in touch with family/friends; online shopping, banking, government services) • Confident members offering to host Zoom sessions for less confident Convenors. • Continue providing more Zoom training opportunities to include more members and Convenors • Challenges of using different devices and operating systems each needing different support from experts (e.g. 'Zoom Gurus') • Groups meeting more frequently on Zoom might put too much pressure on their Convenors. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If groups have expanded because of the increased capacity of virtual sessions, how can those numbers be accommodated in face-to-face sessions after Lockdown? • Update Beacon with members' profiles. • Recognise the consensus in U3As to work on a new strategy to keep U3As alive. • Some concern expressed about the ease of participation in virtual groups with no check on membership. It was feared this could facilitate 'cherry-picking' without payment, loss of members, and inter-U3A rivalries. • Better communication is required about the Risk Assessments suggested by National Office, and U3A insurance implications as groups move toward more face to face activities. <p><i>After note:</i> Advice on U3A national website was significantly improved 30th June. Click on Advice (password required) and then on Running your U3A during COVID-19 https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/running-your-u3a-during-covid-19 The Advice section also contains information on other U3A risk assessments.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Good ideas The following examples were described by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dulwich & District: Two Showcase events 'Our U3A's Got Talent' and 'On with the Show'. Convenors invited to showcase their groups activities. The first event attracted 100 attendees. Helped people to understand Zoom. Recorded – will share link with GC Net. • Ukulele and other music groups exist (e.g. Dulwich and Hillingdon). Synchronisation complex but can teach if 1 person leads, others mute. • Suggestion that London region should set up some Zoom talks, partly as a substitute for cancellation of the 2020 Summer School, and partly to demonstrate the possibilities and benefits of virtual events, reduce fear, and encourage more members to embrace the new technologies. • How Google Maps and Street Finder can be used to create virtual walks, as demonstrated by Islington's Architecture Group. • Use MOOCs as resources to support existing groups and generate new. • Entertainments such as Bingo & quizzes 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Ways Forward It was noted that the situation is changing rapidly. When we went into Lock-down we thought it would be short-term, but now we are needing to look more long-term. A consensus emerged around this network designing a 'Model Strategy for the Future for revitalising LR U3As after Covid', to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New technologies: provide more training & support – Committees, GCs, Convenors, and members • New members: encourage and support computer skills (e.g. during induction) to enable their U3A participation. • New opportunities: identify/ embrace/ integrate opportunities for virtual learning and communication • Communication: improve avenues for two-way communication & support for GC – Group Convenors; GC – Committee; Committee - GC - members. • GC Role development: include identifying tasks, induction, shadowing, job sharing, training -- tutorials (including online), resources 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Group to hold a planning meeting end July/early August, to plan an Agenda along the above lines for a future GC Network meeting Sept/Oct. 	<p>Steering Group</p>