

AGENDA & REPORTS

Meeting Title:	DELEGATES MEETING
Date/ Time:	28th January 2022, 2.00-4.30pm (log in from 1.30pm)
Venue:	Online with Zoom

'LOOKING AHEAD POSITIVELY'	
1.30 - 2.00	Log in / Registration
2.00 - 2.10 10 mins	Welcome (Derek Harwood) Comments on previous Minutes.
Reports (chaired by Derek Harwood)	
2.10 – 2.40 30 mins	Reports from Trustees (all) & Peer Support Groups: Public Relations - Rodney Fox Group Coordinators – Liz Day IT/Webmasters - Derek Harwood Communications – Vivek Nanda Regional Trustee – John Bent Highlights from below and any questions.
Topic 1 (chaired by Liz Day)	
2.30-2.50 20 mins	The Trust's Developing Strategy: Alan Walmsley , Regional Trustee, West Midlands. Alan will give us some feedback from the consultation held so far and how the future strategy of the u3a is being developed.
2.50-3.10 20 mins	Breakout Rooms: (approx. 8 rooms of 6 members). Delegates will be randomly placed into Zoom Breakout Rooms.
3.00 -3.15 15 mins	Plenary: One member per room to summarise key points arising in their room.
Comfort Break	
Topic 2 (chaired by Rodney Fox)	
3.25-3.45 20 mins	u3a's 40th Anniversary Planning: Michaela Moody , u3a Deputy Chair. Michaela will tell us about the numerous national events being planned to celebrate our birthday with some ideas for you and your local u3a
3.45-4.05 20 mins	Breakout Rooms: (approx 8 rooms of 6 members). Delegates will be randomly placed into Zoom Breakout Rooms.
4.05-4.20 15 mins	Plenary: One member per room to summarise key points arising in their room.
Wrap Up (Derek Harwood) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers for the Executive committee Dates for next meetings: 22nd April, 8th July, 21st October (& AGM) 	

NEWS UPDATES:

VICE CHAIRS (Jenny Wilson & Derek Harwood):

Committee resource is a limitation. We are such a small team. We are highly dependent on a very few individuals. We can't fill our vacancies, eg Chair.

In December a Chairs Lunch was organised. 33 people attended. Seen as a success. It was a lively event, and for some (including LRU3A committee members) it was the first time they had met in person due to the pandemic. Participants rotated around 5 tables to discuss key topics including:

- New technologies & developments for u3as
- Attracting and retaining a diverse membership
- Collaboration and regional networking (Open Door Policy)
- How do you see the future for London u3as?

Feedback forms were received from 17 participants, of whom 36% said they would like to attend a similar event in future. There is an intent to try to hold a Chairs Lunch twice a year but there was no energy to form a Chairs Peer Support Group (only 21% voted for one to be formed).

COMMUNICATIONS (Vivek Nanda)

No issues within Communications, all going smoothly thanks to Stuart and Ricky Wallman. We are registered for Beacon for Networks but no date given on when this will be available for us. Once we get a date then the EC needs to consider if we want to shift from MailChimp on to Beacon or not.

Also supporting u3as trying hybrid meetings through the 'Let's Talk Tech' initiative. Dedicated Facebook page, website and weekly drop in sessions all proving popular.

TALKS COORDINATOR (Catherine Ware)

Seven fortnightly online talks were hosted from September to December – these were basically the remainder of the postponed 2020 Summer School sessions. Analysis by Rikki Wallman of responses to Mailchimp messages and registrations for the talks shows a decline especially when compared with the earlier months of lockdown. The number of those registering and attending dipped in April, late summer, and early autumn.

Seven more online talks have been organised for January to Easter. Most of these have attracted over 200 registrations, but it remains to be seen what effect the current lifting of restrictions will have on % attending. Based on the trends for 2021, it is assumed that there will be a decline so there are no current plans for a summer series of LRU3A online talks.

SUMMER SCHOOL PLANNING (Catherine Ware)

The Events Committee has decided to restrict the Summer School to two-days this year, due to the risks still posed by the pandemic. Nevertheless, we are planning a rich programme offering a choice of 8 talks, 2 workshops, and 4 talks per day. The walks have been increased so that we can plan for some socially distanced seating indoors, while still aiming to accommodate about 150 people per day. The theme will be Discovering London – past, present and future. The venue will again be St. Bride's, and we are planning to announce the launch of bookings around in mid-April.

GROUP COORDINATORS PEER SUPPORT GROUP (Liz Day)

The last of our GS meetings was on diversity and inclusion and was well received with some of the presenters from the National D&I Committee. There was a reasonable attendance level. Good sharing on the subject, we raised issues about diversity and how to broaden out the membership of u3a.

The plan for the next meeting is likely to be about Trust U3A and their online groups. To understand better its purpose and its ongoing organisation.

Also discussion about the ongoing challenge of finding volunteers and get them involved in London Region level activities or national activities.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PEER SUPPORT GROUP (Rodney Fox)

Invitations for Peer Group meetings go to Publicity / PR contacts where appointed, also to Chairs. The next meeting subject is 'How to Write Effective Press Articles for Maximum Impact', with Jeff Berliner PR Advisor (PRA) for East Midlands, and is on February 7th. Materials from previous Peer Group meetings are available on the London Region website under the Peer Groups tab.

In common with PRAs in other Regions, London Region is producing a regular mailing of information and commentary to our u3a PR contacts where they are in place and also to our u3a Chairs. These newsletters includes both national and regional information. PR Mailing No.6 is now issued. Copies of previous mailings are available on the London Region website under the Peer Groups tab.

We look for participation by all London u3as, if they provide details of their PR initiatives and developments then we pass these on to all London Region u3a colleagues. That way all u3as pick up good ideas for activities in their own u3as.

The PRA national "team" continues to meet. We have regular meetings from PRAs across the regions for idea sharing and common interests. There is a growing closer involvement with Liz Drury National Policy & Comms and her team especially for national campaigns and planned national press announcements. Our focus will include heavy 40th Anniversary involvement and our last meeting included Michaela Moody Trust Vice Chair and 40th Anniversary Coordinator and Julie Travers, Special Projects Officer present. We aim to share a lot of 40th Anniversary ideas and developments from national and regional u3as with you during the year. The other point is that we are on the national PR team, we cover the country. Unfortunately there has been quite a few leader changes. Now it's to move to Chris Winner.

WEBMASTERS PEER SUPPORT GROUP (Derek Harwood)

Our last meeting was in December. We covered: hybrid meetings, website analytics, Gmail autoforwarding and Sitebuilder Replacement (about half of the 43 London u3as use SiteBuilder). Hybrid meetings is still the main relevant topic at present. Some u3as are hosting hybrid meetings but others are just moving straight back to physical meetings.

Some u3as use the analytics package within SiteBuilder but it is limited. Others use Google Analytics. Can be surprising how many 'hits' some pages receive.

Discussion on how to do autoforward on gmail to multiple recipients.

Site Builder will be switched off by end of 2022 and all users will be migrated on to a new system before then. Replacement is most likely to be WordPress.

Mark Serebriakoff is now deputy webmaster for LRU3A to cover for holidays, etc.

TREASURER'S PEER SUPPORT GROUP (John Bent)

Nothing to report yet as no one found yet to lead this PSG. However note workshops below.

REGIONAL TRUSTEE (John Bent)

There is a financial workshop on 31st of January hosted by JB. It's advertised on the national website so any Treasurer who have any questions or want any advice or wants to refresh what you should be doing, they can register for this. There'll be another one in early February.

The u3a Office has seen some losses and currently are advertising to fill the vacancies. There is also going to be an expansion from the current 17 FTE staff positions to support for example the 1000 telephone queries and over 850 email enquiries received per month. A new Finance Manager has been recruited to fill one of the vacancies. The London Regional Trustee had been covering this vacancy for sometime prior to this.

We are still represented on the GLA forum to advise on making London an Age Friendly City, where we are lagging pathetically behind the lights of Leeds, Manchester and almost every other large UK conurbation. We've got meetings coming up with the deputy mayor in about two weeks time and a round table with representatives of the four GLA assembly members.

We also work closely on Age Friendly City with Age UK London who are really professional with anything we receive from them. There is a petition regarding the potential of losing the free travel for the 60+ card and there are rumours about even the freedom pass coming under pressure.