

## AGENDA & REPORTS

Meeting Title:	<b>DELEGATES MEETING</b>
Date/ Time:	<b>21<sup>st</sup> April 2023, 2.00-4.30pm (log in from 1.30pm)</b>
Venue:	<b>On line with Zoom</b>

1.30- 2.00	Login /Registration
2.00- 2.10 10mins	<b><u>Welcome</u></b> (Derek Harwood) Comments on previous Minutes.
<b>Reports</b> (chaired by Derek Harwood)	
2.10– 2.30 20mins	<b>Reports:</b> Vice Chairs – Jenny Wilson & Derek Harwood Treasurer – John Bent Communications – Vivek Nanda Peer Support Groups- Liz Day. Talks & Summer School – Catherine Ware Vacancies (no reports): Regional Trustee Chair Public Relations Advisor
<b>Topic1-News</b> (chaired by Liz Day)	
2.30- 2.40 10mins	<b>News from the Trust &amp; Networks</b> (see reports): What's known, cascading information. Take questions.
2.40- 3.10 30mins	<b>News from London u3as:</b> Delegates asked to share news– one thing they have done in their u3a or one thing that they are considering and wondering if anyone else can offer help or one thing they are concerned about (6 examples only @5min each).
<b>10 mins Comfort Break</b>	
<b>Topic2–Contingency Planning</b> (chaired by Vivek Nanda)	
3.20- 3.50 30mins	<b>Susannah Hodge</b> (u3a Office): To consider how we (each u3a) can plan ahead, prepare a contingency plan for the sustainability of your u3a. This includes role succession but much more.
3.50- 4.10 20mins	<b>Break out Rooms:</b> (approx 8 rooms of 6 members). 1. To discuss Contingency Planning. 2. & any general points arising from the News cascade section.
4.10- 4.20 10mins	<b>Plenary:</b> One member per room to feedback their room's views; any questions arising for Susannah.

4.20-4.25 5 mins	<b>AOB:</b> Regional events, any ideas?
4.25– 4.30 5mins	<b>Wrap Up</b> (Derek Harwood) Any volunteers for the LRU3A Executive Committee.....?  Dates for next meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21st July</li> <li>• 20th October (&amp; AGM)</li> </ul>

## REPORTS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**CHAIR:** vacant position so no report

**VICE CHAIRS** (Jenny Wilson & Derek Harwood):

Main activities since the January's Delegates meeting have been the Chairs' networking event, the ongoing Winter Talks Programme, some Peer Support Meetings and a regular communications programme of MailChimp mailshots. Details of all of these follow.

**TREASURER** (John Bent)

The Network's bank balance, consisting of our Current Account at HSBC plus a Scottish Widows Deposit Account, stood at £14,090 at 15th April 2023. That balance includes prepaid booking receipts for the 2023 Summer School, of £9,570. We have prepaid £3,987 for the Room Hire at St Brides for the Summer School. Without those two Summer School items the basic Bank Account (i.e. our Reserves) is £8,507. This is a slight increase on the balance from last year, which reflects a small surplus on the 2022 Summer School.

The Zoom Pro account we have for Regional talks, AGM and for use by London's u3as is now £720 pa. The 50% discount from Charity Digital has run out. The full cost of this has been paid from the London Region Trustee's budget. We also received from The Trust a grant of £500 towards the cost of the Chairs networking event held this year.

The switch to John Bent as Administrator of the bank accounts is now complete – thanks to Jim Jenkins. Getting access to our Paypal account is proving more difficult (surprise). Thanks to Catherine Ware for providing Paypal information to keep our Accounts up to date.

John Bent CIMA, Treasurer London Region of u3as

**COMMUNICATIONS** (Vivek Nanda)

In the first quarter of 2023, almost 5400 emails were sent by the Communications Team to around 1400 unique email addresses on the London Region's email platform (MailChimp), with almost 2200 emails sent in the busiest month. In the same quarter, Mailchimp announced major changes to their free plan that is used by London Region, with the number of contacts being reduced by 75% to 500 and the number of emails being reduced by 90% to 1000 per month. As a result of these changes, London Region is exploring alternative ways of sending emails for Regional Communications, Summer School and Talks. London Region had already reviewed Beacon for Networks evaluated in early 2022 and found the inability to import 100s of email contacts for London Region Talks on Zoom and for the Summer School made it unworkable for the Communications Team. Please email Vivek on [communications.lru3a@gmail.com](mailto:communications.lru3a@gmail.com) if you are using another email platform, apart from MailChimp or Beacon.

**ONLINE TALKS** (Catherine Ware)

Between October 2022 to Mar 2023, six monthly talks were hosted on Zoom by LRU3A. A total of 1,234 members attended, with an average of 206 attendees per talk. There was an average no-show rate of 36% of those who had registered for each talk, but many expressions of appreciation from attendees. The programme is expected to resume in October.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL -- our 10th Anniversary (Catherine Ware)**

July 25th & 26th at St. Bride's Foundation Institute (off Fleet St). Ticket sales were launched on 26<sup>th</sup> March after emails with links to the Programme and Application Form had been sent to all London Chairs and Delegates for further dissemination to their members. An article appeared in February TAM, and emails were sent to individual members who had registered to be notified directly. There was an immediate rush of applications, with several sessions now fully booked. However, there is still good capacity, especially for Wednesday 26th. A second notice has appeared in April TAM and u3as are urged to continue actively promoting the event amongst their members. Applicants can make individual selections from 29 sessions (17 Talks, 4 Workshops, 8 guided Walks) representing a broad range of topics. Ticket price £41 per day. Members can attend for one or both days. Full Programme, application form and a publicity Flyer are available on the [Events](#) page of London Region website.

## **PEER SUPPORT GROUPS:**

### **CHAIRS:**

There was a networking meeting for all the LRU3A Chairs held in February (the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the series which is becoming an annual event). This was held at a new venue in Islington ('LIFT'). All attending seemed to feel it was very good with many interesting aspects being shared between all u3as. Three u3as provided presentations on specific topics and these were then discussed amongst each table. A follow up Zoom session is planned to assess what the Chairs took away from the network event and what they have tried to apply to date.

### **GROUPCOORDINATORS PSG (Liz Day)**

Nothing to report. No PSG meeting since October's Delegates meeting. Hoping to re-start if there is an offer from a member to lead on organising the group.

### **WEBMASTERS PSG(Derek Harwood)**

Last meeting was on 13th February. Topics discussed included: review of Actions Arising; Status Sitebuilder replacement, SiteWorks; progress re national Digital Strategy development and specifically, Commission 5, Support to u3as; open discussion (covering: Bulletin Boards; Lets Talk Tech; Microsoft Windows 11; Mailchimp and MS Teams). Next meeting scheduled for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 16.30.

### **TREASURERS PSG**

First meeting was on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 4.30pm. Discussed format for ongoing meetings; open discussions; topics for next national 'Finance Extra' newsletter; topics for next meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Work ongoing to develop a common Excel template for a u3a's accounts.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS PSG**

In abeyance as no Coordinator since Rodney Fox left the Region. **Any volunteer to re-start this PSG?**

## **OTHER LRU3A GENERAL NEWS:**

(Catherine Ware):

Climate Crisis and Some Solutions: online talk by Brenda Ainsley on Monday 22nd May 2-3pm. Organised by Kingston u3a Climate Emergency Group, the talk is open to all members of London u3as. An email was disseminated on 28th March to all London Chairs and Delegates for further dissemination to members. To register for Zoom link, please contact Christine Thompson at [chris.cpt3@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chris.cpt3@tiscali.co.uk).

Brenda is a u3a member, a trained Climate Reality Leader -- the Climate Reality Project was founded by former US Vice President Al Gore. Brenda is also Community Lead for Plastic Free Cotgrave and a Green Flag Assessor for Eco Schools. She works closely with members of the u3a Office team to raise the profile of Climate and Environmental matters within the u3a. She has given several online talks, led various Eco and Climate Groups for the u3a, and jointly leads the 'Countdown to COP' group for u3a Interest Groups Online. Along with members of that group, she is a regular contributor to 'Third Age Matters'.

Further to last year's successful Capital Ring/Loop walks and discussions at the January Delegates meeting (p.4 point 1 under AOB -- regional event), I have been following up the idea of collaboration between London Region u3as and the [London Parks & Gardens Trust](#). It's premature to mention anything in detail at present, but ideas have been floated and we'll let Chairs/Delegates know of any substantial developments.

### **NATIONAL GENERAL NEWS:**

News from the Third Age Trust (Key elements)

The application for a Regional Trustee for London has been publicised. Nominations should have been submitted by 17 April. We understand there is one candidate to date. Please vote to support all candidates in due course. Follow the link here for more information.

<https://mailchi.mp/u3a/the-third-age-trust-trustee-elections-3-04-2023-london?e=72c67588a8>

In the meantime we have no direct report of national and Board activities. However a quick round-up is:

- Governance: possible changes to the Board's structure is ongoing with a pilot test of a new 'council' This will provide more and wider contact between the regions/ nations an a slimmed down Board rather than just relying on one Regional Trustee per region/nation
- Off the (Hadrian's) Wall national event: ongoing planning continues. Currently over 100 u3as plan to attend the several events planned on or near the wall
- Festival: initial concept development for a national festival to be held in 2024 ae ongoing
- Finance: Spend during 202/23 due to be lower than Budget (due to feedback from AGM & lack of approval to raise Membership Fees); Budget set for 2023/24; review of longer term finances due to inflation impact ongoing; preparations for annual audit (by new Auditors) underway.

### **NETWORK LINK**

Last national Network Link meeting was in February. The covered three topics:

- Local Governance -a presentation by Allan Walmsley, VC
- Hadrains Wall national event – a presentation by Allan Walmsley, VC
- Banking Issues – a presentation from NCVO

Ongoing development of new supporting documents: 'How To Start Up a Network' and 'Network Link Privacy Policy'. Next meetings scheduled are on Tuesday 13 June at 10am and Thursday 12 October. Topics for June will probably be: 'Beacon for Networks' and update on 'SiteBuilder/SiteWorks'. Link to their latest Newsletter : [here](#).