

AGENDA & REPORTS

Meeting Title:	DELEGATES MEETING
Date/ Time:	19th January 2024, 2.00-4.30pm (log in from 1.30pm)
Venue:	On line with Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85344944825?pwd=eEthU1lx0RuVEtXVWxOdzdkTU1ydz09 Meeting ID: 853 4494 4825 Passcode: 374593

1.30- 2.00	Login /Registration
2.00- 2.10 10mins	Welcome (Derek Harwood) Comments on previous Minutes (20 th October).
Reports (chaired by Derek Harwood)	
2.10– 2.30 20mins	Reports: 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): Chair Public Relations Advisor Regional Trustee – Stella Morris
Topic 1 - News (chaired by Liz Day)	
2.30-2.40 10mins	News from the Trust & Networks (see reports): What’s known, cascading information. Take questions.
2.40-3.10 30mins	News from London u3as: 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, 5 mins each).
10 mins Comfort Break	
Topic 2 – A View of the u3a Movement (chaired by Jenny Wilson)	
3.20-3.50 30mins	Rosemary Mayes (LRU3A rep on London Age Friendly Forum): Rosemary will give us an update of the progress of this forum and the recently released Mayor’s plan: “Towards an Age-friendly London”.

3.50-4.10 20mins	Break out Rooms: (approx 8 rooms of 6 members). To what extent do you agree with our work, our campaigning, on this topic. Do you think u3as should be trying to influence our built environment?
4.10-4.20 10mins	Plenary: One member per room to feedback their room's views;
4.20-4.25 5 mins	AOB: Regional events, any ideas?
4.25– 4.30 5mins	Wrap Up (Derek Harwood) Any volunteers for the LRU3A Executive Committee.....? Dates for next meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 19 April • Friday 19 July • Friday 18 October + AGM One of above to be a face to face meeting. Chairs networking event: 26 th February.

REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHAIR: vacant position so no report

VICE CHAIRS (Jenny Wilson & Derek Harwood):

Since our last meeting in October planning work has progressed toward our Chairs networking lunch, establishing what can be done regarding some 'Summer Study Days' to replace our Summer School (due to lack of ability to host a full Summer School this year). Some of our Peer Support Groups have had meetings in the period as described below. Work is ongoing in preparing another 'Shared Practice Guide', this one being on 'Management of Full Interest Groups.

TREASURER (John Bent):

The results for the year to 31st August 2023 showed a surplus of £2,198 (against last year's deficit of £97). This has improved our cash reserves to £10,672, from £8,474 at the end of last year.

Our Annual Summer School provides the main contribution to our finances. The bookings for our Summer School were above target (325 target days sold vs 315 budgeted) While anticipating about 10% inflation, we nevertheless kept the ticket price to £41 (just £2 up on last year). However, by putting down early deposits for venue hire and catering, we were able to hold costs down and made a healthy surplus of £2,756 on the event.

The Summer School is our main source of revenue to fund anything else we provide in the year. Conducting meetings (e.g. for Delegates and Peer Groups) online rather than in person has helped to keep our annual costs down by avoiding the need for venue hire. However, we did incur costs for the in-person Chairs' Forum, but these were partly offset by a £500 grant for the event from the Third Age Trust. The meeting itself was well attended with interesting presentations and lively discussion from participants.

Mailchimp (providers of the software we use for all our LRU3A bulk mailings) have changed their terms so that to ensure we keep within the free account level, we have to restrict our quantity of

messages sent. Any further change by them may necessitate having to start paying for the software which would impact on our finances.

A Copy of the 2022/23 Annual Accounts is available on the London Region of u3as website.

Since the year end there has been little activity. Only bank service charges (£20) incurred and no income received so Reserves now stand at £10,652.

Initial venue bookings have been made for the Chairs Lunch at Lift, Islington, but no payments made yet.

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR (Vivek Nanda):

While sending fewer emails to keep within the much smaller allowances of the free plan on our bulk email platform (Mailchimp), the Comms Team is having to put in much more effort on the security arrangements to handle holidays. The search goes on for another volunteer to make the Comms Team more resilient, as holiday plans for all members of the team clash for the first time in July 2024. Please let us know if your u3a uses Mailchimp for sending emails, so that we can develop a robust contingency plan.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP COORDINATOR (Liz Day):

CHAIRS: The next annual face to face 'Chairs Networking Lunch' is now open for Registration on 26th February 10.30-3.30 to be held again at 'LIFT' at Angel Islington. As last year, this convivial meeting provides u3a Chairs, or their deputies an opportunity for shared learning, problem solving and inspiration. It is important to register your u3a immediately so we can facilitate this in person occasion and have every London Region u3a represented. Ian McCannah, retired u3a Chair, will also contribute his reflections on the u3a movement and its future direction.

There hasn't been much use of the Chairs WhatsApp group but it's operational if Chairs want to raise any query or share a learning.

GROUP COORDINATORS: Nothing to report. This PSG is dormant awaiting a new organiser.

WEBMASTERS PSG (Derek Harwood)

The last meeting was on 13th November. Most of the interest and discussion was on the Sitebuilder replacement (SiteWorks). There was a 'demonstration' from Palmers Green and District who have already now set up their SiteWorks website was given with many questions arising.

There were a number of other topics raised in the group and discussed. Next meeting scheduled for 12th February.

TREASURERS PSG (Derek Harwood)

The last meeting of this PSG was on 26th October. Agenda items included: Gift Aid update, Groups Cash Management and general open discussions. Next meeting is scheduled for 23rd January.

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:

While last year's Summer School was another success we have challenges for 2024. Due to lack of the volunteers the current plans are to organise a series of Study Days instead.

The better news is: 5 new volunteers have come forward to help the London Region Events Team. With their involvement, some new types of events are close to being finalised for 2024:

1. 4 different 2hour walks held in different parts of the City of Westminster and finishing somewhere near Trafalgar Square around lunchtime on 21 May 24
2. Guided tour of the National Gallery OR the National Portrait Gallery on the afternoon of 21 May 24
3. 4 different walks held in Bloomsbury, Fitzrovia or Holborn areas and finishing somewhere near the British Museum around lunchtime on 13 June 24
4. Guided tour of the British Museum on the afternoon of 13 June 24
5. A walk called "Rebel Girls and Wicked Women" around the City of London and finishing somewhere near the Guildhall around lunchtime on 11 July 24
6. Guided tour of Guildhall Art Gallery on the afternoon of 11 July 24
7. Two talks at the Nat History Museum on the afternoon of 23 July 24

These events will be publicised in the usual way, once the plans have been finalised. Further events for the autumn are starting to be planned.

NATIONAL GENERAL NEWS:

News from the Third Age Trust: Work on trialling a 'Council' has continued with a 'Pilot Council' meeting several times now. The general intent of a Council is to provide more regional representation to share experiences across all Regions and Nations. A full roadshow and roll out of progress and proposals will commence early in 2024.

Our new Regional Trustee 'reached out' to all London u3as and a few Zoom sessions were held to get to know each other and share expectations.

NETWORK LINK

The last national Network Link meeting was held in October with presentations on 'media'. These included presentations of 'u3a Radio' and 'The Role of the PR Advisor'. However again the main purpose was to share experiences (good and bad between the various Networks).