



London Region of U3As

MINUTES OF MEETING

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	Welcome (Derek Harwood) Comments on previous Minutes (20 th October).

Reports (chaired by Derek Harwood)

2.10– 2.30	Reports: Highlights from Reports (Appendix 1) read out. Catherine Ware provided additional information regards Talks and Shared Learning Projects (added to the Reports section below). She also raised a concern that SLPs seemed not now to be getting national support or advertising. DH to follow up on. Vivek Nando highlighted the LRU3A vulnerability of issuing Mailchimp communications with no (limited) holiday cover. He asked for an indication of which other u3as used Mailchimp. About half attending raised their hands. Discussion around LRU3A's finances (if no income from Summer School to cover other expenses – what do we do?). Some thought LRU3A should charge for attending events. Some felt an annual membership charge was reasonable. Scenarios are being developed. A reminder that the next Network Link meeting is on 12 th February (on Zoom), all can attend. Time: Feb 12, 2024 10:00 AM London https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84276020515 Meeting ID: 842 7602 0515 Liz Day brought delegates attention to the up-coming Chairs' Networking Day on Monday 26 th February at Lift and asked attending chairs to sign up / delegates to encourage their chairs to sign or arrange to attend as their chair's proxy. This day was much valued in 2023 for meeting in person, sharing good practice, very helpful for new chairs etc. – and see below in the Report. Liz Thackray, Trust Chair, has been visiting London Region this week. She has visited several London u3as.
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Topic 1 - News (chaired by Liz Day) – Air & Share

2.30-3.10	<p>News from London u3as (Delegates asked to share news):</p> <p>Rosemary (Barnet) felt that if the proposed Council was similar to the WA one then it would be bureaucratic and not very effective.</p> <p>Margaet (HGS): one of their members had opened his home for Christmas lunch to other members. Had proved very popular and successful. Generally all felt that more evening or weekend activities were needed.</p> <p>Sue (Orpington) raised WhatsApp communications. The LRU3A Chairs WhatsApp groups existed but wasn't used very often. Others asked to join. Send mobile number to Derek Harwood.</p> <p>Michael (North London) asked about shared groups (between two u3as). A few had tried this / did have groups like this. If a u3a wanted to set one of these up with another u3a they could contact LRU3A for assistance.</p> <p>Associate Membership: some u3as do offer this if they are a member already of another u3a (at a reduced cost, ie without the £4.00 national subs).</p>
	<p>First Aid Training: general discussion. Request for providers. Islington recently researched this. Contacts are:</p> <p>Siren Training is at: info@sirenttraining.co.uk</p> <p>The St John Ambulance reference is: Kayleigh Ferguson (She/Her), Sales Executive – Workplace & Community Training, 03330 154 410 Ext 5921 Kayleigh.Johnston@sjambulance.org.uk St John Ambulance Unit 1A, Centurion Business Park, Sturrock Way, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8YF</p> <p>Red Cross contact is: Richard Marsden, Sales executive T: 0344 871 8000 E: RCTSales@redcross.org.uk</p> <p>British Red Cross Bradbury House, Ohio Avenue, Salford, Manchester, M50 2GT</p> <p>Mixed views about if this sort of training should be provided (to eg Walk Leaders).</p> <p>Sandy (Bromley): highlighted that they are seeing more members now coming back to physical face-to face meetings.</p>
<p>Topic 2 – London Age Friendly Forum (chaired by Jenny Wilson)</p>	

3.20-4.20	<p>Rosemary Mayes (LRU3A rep on London Age Friendly Forum): Rosemary gave us an update of the progress of this forum and the recently released Mayor’s plan: “Towards an Age-friendly London”. Presentation posted on the ‘Delegates’ webpage. There were then 3 break out rooms for discussion on LAFF and ‘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?’ Feedback and discussions included: Good that Sam Mauger, our CEO was chairing this working group – raising our profile in London. Mayor’s Plan was good but Councils have no money for implementation. Manchester Council had implemented some good examples. Need to see more ‘measures’ to allow monitoring of implementation Age UK still have a higher profile than the u3a movement. Need to work in collaboration with eg Age UK and others on such issues. Most happy with campaigning as a principle, if it was about issues affecting us (eg LAFF); some still felt it was not a u3a role. Many felt it (Campaigning) should be a u3a national effort, and couldn’t contribute themselves. The u3a’s ‘Future Lives’ initiative was seen as good. Good reference book: ‘Positive Ageing’. Adult learning is still important (for u3as) even although the ‘Fun’ side, social events, are growing. Yes important to support local campaigns for protecting community spaces. Members needed locations to meet.</p>
4.20-4.25	<p>AOB: Still need volunteers to help run the LRU3A network. If we want to put on more events, then need someone to volunteer to organise. Delegates were asked to remember to cascade to their u3a what they had picked up at this meeting.</p>
4.25– 4.30 5mins	<p>Wrap Up (Derek Harwood) DH thanked all for attending and hoped they found it of value. Dates for next Delegates meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 19 April • Friday 19 July • Friday 18 October + AGM <p>One of above to be a face to face meeting. Chairs networking event: 26th February.</p>

APPENDIX 1 - 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

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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.

TALKS: There are two remaining online talks in the winter series:

Feb 5th: 'Louis Moreau Gottschalk' – early jazz composer from New Orleans

Mar 4th: The Shaping of Eastern Europe.

OTHERS:

Response to 10th November Mailchimp message requesting volunteers for two collaborative projects with London Parks & Gardens Trust:

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1. Volunteers to help with LPGT Open Gardens Weekend 8th/9th June 2024. Only 3 u3a members have responded so far, but there is still time to volunteer. It's enjoyable and appropriate training will be provided
2. Research: Jo Walters says she has 10-12 people interested and enquiries are still coming, and we have certainly acted as a recruitment facility for LPGT. SW London Network has formed a group to work out what they will focus on and others will join them. Waiting to hear about developments from Sue Leigh.

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).

Next Link meeting 12th February.

APPENDIX 2 - Register

ATTENDANCE					
		<u>Present</u>		<u>Apologies</u>	
	LRU3A Committee & other posts				
	Jt. Vice-Chair, North	Derek Harwood*			
	Jt. Vice-Chair, South	Jenny Wilson*			
	Treasurer			John Bent*	
	Learning Development Coordinator	Liz Day*			
	Communications Coordinator	Vivek Nanda*			
	Talks & Summer School Coordinator	Catherine Ware*			
	Guest:	Rosemary Mayes, Barnet*			
	Third Age Trust				
	London Region Trustee			Stella Morris	1
	London Region Local Networks:				
	BOB	No rep			
	SW London	No rep			
	London U3A Representatives (Chair, Delegate, Other)				
1	Abbeywood & Thamesmead			Victor Lambert (VC)	1
2	Barnet	Rosemary Mayes (VC)	1 1	Joanna Tambouridou (VC) John Bent	0 1
3	Beckenham				
4	Bexley			Wendy Scott (C)	0
5	Brent				
6	Bromley	Sandy Boden (.C) Angela Dowling (S)	1 1		
7	Crouch End			Sally Whitaker	1
8	Croydon	Jenny Wilson Joy Ellery (VC)	1 1	David Apps	0
9	Dagenham			Melody Cohen (C)	0
10	Dulwich & District	Liz Day	1	Tim Pagan	0
11	Ealing		1	Derek Atkinson	
12	Enfield			Michael Witter (C)	0
13	Hackney			Liz Southcombe	0
14	Hammersmith & Fulham	Sue Adams	1		
15	Hampstead Garden Suburbs	Margaret Harris	1		
16	Harrow			Anne Gerrard	1
17	Havering				
18	Hillingdon			Ann Lines George Prybyla	
19	Hounslow				
20	Islington	Chris Bulford (D) Sally Fox (D) Derek Harwood Vivek Nanda	1 1 1 1		
21	Kenton & District			Diana O'Reardon	
22	Kingston			Jane Hoyland (C)	
23	London South East	Timothy Crossley (Co-C)	1	Chris Melville (C)	

24	Merton	Linda Thompson (VC) Catherine Ware	1 1	David Drummond	
25	Mill Hill			Melyvn Sandler (VC)	1
26	North London	Michael Johns	1	Ruth Silver	
27	Northwood & District			Rob Thomasson (C)	1
28	Norwood	Judith Foskett	1		
29	Orpington	Sue Howe (S)	1		
30	Palmers Green & Southgate			Val Golding Robin Charnley (VC) Coral Datta	
31	Redbridge & District	Loretta Mather	1		
32	Richmond			Christopher Barclay	
33	Sidcup & District	Sandra Applegate (S)	1		
34	Stanmore & District				
35	Sutton Area			Lin Harris	1
36	Tower Hamlets			Colin Pluckrose	1
37	U3A in London	Barbara Stevens (T)	1		
38	Upminster			Linda Davey (VC)	0
39	Waltham Forest	Barbara Humm	1	Christine Farnes	
40	Wandsworth	Andy Crane	1		
41	Wanstead & Woodford				
42	Welling	Pat Perry (C)	1	Marlene Harmer	1
			26		9
TOTALS		Participants online at peak: 26 People registered : 35 (so 8 no shows) u3as represented on the day: 19 out of 43 (49%) u3as not represented on the day: 24 (43-19) Apologies received from members: 9 u3as covered by apologies: 9 u3as active: 28 (19+9) u3as inactive (no response): 15 Attendance slightly down since last meeting.			

* Duplicates not counted in totals