



London Region of U3As

AGENDA & REPORTS

Meeting Title:	DELEGATES MEETING
Date/ Time:	19th April 2024, 2.00-4.30pm (log in from 1.30pm)
Venue:	On line with Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87364010052?pwd=RUFpb1FBb3A5KzdzTjJhOUFKYW9oZz09 Meeting ID: 873 6401 0052 Passcode: 229378

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
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 – Use of Social Media within the u3a Movement (chaired by Jenny Wilson)	
3.20-3.50 30mins	'Nelly' Mair (the Trust's Communications Officer): Nelly will give us an insight to how the Trust uses social media currently, and why. She will also hence suggest ways of how u3as can use social media to enhance its local recruitment There will be time for Nelly to take questions.

3.50–4.05 15mins	Examples of u3a’s best practice: u3as will be invited to provide examples of their use of social media and what has worked well for them.
4.05-4.20 15mins	Break out Rooms: (approx 8 rooms of 6 members). Time to discuss in smaller groups, what you’ve heard today and thoughts arising.
4.20-4.30 10mins	Plenary: One member per room to feedback their room’s views;
4.30-4.35 5 mins	AOB: Regional events, any ideas?
4.35– 4.40 5mins	Wrap Up (Derek Harwood) Any volunteers for the LRU3A Executive Committee, or for our Regional Trustee or Lead Volunteer (2 nd rep on the Council)? Dates for next meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Delegates meeting in January we have held the Chairs networking lunch. This annual event again went well and was much appreciated by the Chairs attending. The guest speakers provided ‘Reflections on the u3a Movement’ (Ian McCannah), ‘Pilot Council of u3a’ (John Bent) and a brief report on the national initiative of the ‘u3a Chair’s Forum (Jenny Wilson) with questions to clarify taken by all three speakers. However the real value of the session was the second part, the round table time for Chairs to discuss matters affecting them. Sharing problems and solutions.

The winter talks programme came to an end after again a great range of fascination talks. The Events team are now continuing with preparations for the ‘Summer Walks and Visits Programme’ (from 21st May 21st to 18th July). Booking for each event is open now and some are filling up fast.

Some of our Peer Support Groups have had meetings in the period as described below and we launched our latest ‘Shared Practice Guide’, this one being on ‘Management of Full Interest Groups.

Unfortunately our Regional Trustee, Stella Morris has stood down so we are back looking for a volunteer for this role. The advert for our Regional Trustee vacancy will be published in May.

TREASURER (John Bent):

Annual Return submitted to Charities Commission (CC) for LRU3A, year to 31.08.23. CC now insist on registered charities having an account with them to submit the Return. We applied for one in December last year, got an acknowledgement, but no account turned up. We've re-applied and got a response but no indication of when it will be issued. There is no Penalty for late filing.

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Wellness Day October 2024: we've paid an agreed deposit to secure the booking of LIFT (£495, the cost of the hall for the day). Also, worked with Vivek on likely cost to attend.

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 members of the team clash for the first time in 2024. Please let us know if your u3a uses paid Mailchimp for sending emails, so that we can reach out and learn about new features only available in the paid plans.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP COORDINATOR (Liz Day):

CHAIRS: The annual face to face 'Chairs Networking Lunch' was held on Monday 26th February at 'LIFT' Islington. There were 35 participants (4 last minute apologies and 2 additions). The venue, lunch and refreshments all worked well. The Agenda comprised a mix of discussions and information sharing, both about national and local forums. There were lots of good ideas advocated and some discussion about current concerns.

Ian McCannagh, retired Chair of The Third Age Trust, presented an interesting overview of the movement from his time in office which led to discussion on the direction of the u3a Movement – more on social activities rather than learning. Was this a good or bad thing?

John Bent gave an update on the roll out process for the proposal to change the governance model of the u3a Movement. This includes creating a 'Council' to give more representation for each Region/Nation with two reps from each and to simplify the remaining role of the Board. Two presentations will be given to those interested across London Region.

Jenny Wilson gave a brief presentation on the national 'Charis Forum'. This is open to all u3a Chairs with an online meeting every month. It provides space for Chairs to discuss common issues. It does highlight the variety of views held by u3as, by Chairs.

More information on the round table discussions can be seen in the full report here: [Chairs Meeting](#) and the summary report from the Feedback Forms can be viewed here: [Feedback](#).

GROUP COORDINATORS:

This PSG is dormant awaiting a new organiser. **Any volunteer to re-start this PSG?**

WEBMASTERS PSG (Derek Harwood)

The last meeting was on 12th February. The main agenda items was on the status of SiteWorks (including a report back from Let's Talk Tech SW presentation). As always there was then time to have an open discussion on any aspects. Next meeting scheduled for 13th May.

TREASURERS PSG (Derek Harwood)

The last meeting of this PSG was on 23rd January. Agenda items included: Gift Aid Dispute (Trust vs HMRC); Holidays /Outings management; Dual Authorisation arrangements; hassles with banks and Event Management. Next meeting is scheduled for 23rd April.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PSG

In abeyance as no Coordinator. **Any volunteer to re-start this PSG?**

EVENTS TEAM (Catherine Ware)

Online talks: Six talks were hosted between October 2023 and March 2024 attracting a total of 1130 to register, of whom 294 had not registered for online talks before. In the end, 762 (68%) actually attended, indicating an average no-show rate of 32%, which is fairly normal. No formal survey was

conducted, but many members -- especially those who found in-person events difficult -- expressed their appreciation and said they hoped the online programme would continue.

Summer Programme: As reported at the January Delegates meeting, the Events Team was unable for various reasons to organise a conventional Summer School in 2024 at the St. Bride Foundation Institute. Instead, it was decided that the Team would work with external partners to host a number of smaller events during the year. We were extremely lucky that our call for volunteers resulted in a response from Mike Marriott (member of Orpington u3a) who is a qualified London guide with extensive guiding contacts. They were invited to offer guided walks and visits in the central London area at a price of £10 per person, with the guide retaining 80% and LRU3A 20% (a contribution toward LRU3A expenses). The result was a programme of 30 guided walks and visits between 21st May and 18th July, with a potential of 520 places. After widespread publicity, ticket sales were launched on 22nd March. By 1st April 380 tickets had been sold.

An additional summer event is being organised by Sue Leigh (Wandsworth u3a) in conjunction with the Natural History Museum on 23rd July as part of their 'Meet the Scientists' programme. The event comprises a half day of lectures by 2 NHM scientists who will talk about their work. Seating capacity 80 (to include both lectures). Tickets will again cost £10 pp which will cover the Museum's charges, and provide a small contribution to LRU3A expenses. Ticket launch expected in April and will be publicised shortly.

Other events are being planned for the autumn/winter, to be publicised in July.

Keep an eye on our [Events](#) page of LRU3A website for all of our up and coming events.

OTHER LRU3A GENERAL NEWS:

New London u3a: Possible new u3a Start Up in Newham. Liaising with Peter Chung (Volunteer) and Trust Office to provide advice and support.

Research and Learning:

The **Revealing the Past** project with London Transport Archives was completed at the end of 2023. Many of the volunteers from across England who did the work originally, plus 5 more recruited from the London area in January 2024, will continue to work directly with the Archive staff for at least the next year. It is no longer an SLP as such.

London Parks and Gardens Trust: Following a successful publicity initiative at the end of 2023, a number of volunteers have been recruited and organised. They will work with the support of the research volunteer at LPGT over the next few months. There are two groups working in SW London and a few individuals across London doing individual research.

It is too early in the process to go into details of the exact topics which will be covered. The goal is to produce one or more articles for one of the LPGT publications.

Volunteers for London Open Gardens Weekend June 8th-9th: Chairs and Delegates are requested to forward the following message to all their members – not just gardening groups -- so that they can participate:

Volunteers required for London Open Gardens weekend June 2024

As part of a collaborative initiative with London u3as, the London Parks and Gardens Trust is looking for volunteers to assist with the London Open Gardens Weekend 8th-9th June.

Click on this link for further information. The event provides access to over 100 London parks and gardens, many of which are not normally accessible to the public. Volunteers are offered free tickets for the weekend. There are many varied aspects to enjoy in addition to

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gardening/horticulture e.g. London landscapes and heritage, guided walks and cycle rides, food, music and other entertainments for all generations.

*If interested, please email Jordan Gaughan, Office Manager at office@londongardenstrust.org
In addition to your name and email address, please give the name of your u3a and where you heard about this call for volunteers.*

NATIONAL GENERAL NEWS:

There have now been two presentations to London u3as on the proposed national 'Council' and the consultation period has concluded with results and feedback now being collated. The general intent of a Council is to provide more regional representation to share experiences across all Regions and Nations. The 'Pilot Council' continues to meeting covering a range of topics.

London Region needs two volunteers to sit on the Council. Anyone interested in the role should contact Derek or John.

The extensive national workshop programme continues (to provide support for all role posts).

Both the Trusts Chair and CEO will stand down at the Autumn AGM. The advert for nominations for the Chair will come in May. A recruitment agency has been engaged to help fill the salaried position of CEO.

NETWORK LINK

The last national Network Link meeting was held in February with a presentation on 'Fit For the Future'. This described the proposals for a 'Council'. The next NL meeting is on 13th June (by Zoom). The consultation phase is now concluded and all feedback being consolidated.