

MINUTES

Meeting Title: **DELEGATES MEETING**
 Date/ Time: **20th October 2023, 3.00-4.30pm**
 Venue: **Online via Zoom**

This meeting followed directly on from the AGM.

<p>Topic 1 – Guest Speaker, Same Mauger, Chief Executive of the Third Age Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust going Forward • An Age Friendly London 	
<p>3.00-3.20</p>	<p>Presentation: Sam Mauger gave a detailed presentation covering her personal approach to her job, the three overall focus areas for the Third Age Trust: strategy, digital strategy and Governance/fit for the future.</p> <p>Part of ‘Fit for the Future’ initiative is trialling a ‘Council’. This has had three pilot meetings so far. The intent is to allow more representation per region (two now allowed) and space for more regional discussion and sharing.</p> <p>The four strategy aims are a single u3a movement, the next generation of members, enjoy and collaboration.</p> <p>She described the work of the Third Age Trust and the Trust teams, the Trading Company (paid for services) and the emerging Member Added Value scheme (member discounts).</p> <p>She gave a short update on the London Age Friendly City and the Mayor’s upcoming plan. This also links to the Trust’s national initiative of ‘Future Lives’ (more info on the national website).</p> <p>The presentation will be available on the LRU3A website (on the ‘Delegates’ page).</p> <p>Regarding the Age Friendly London initiative – Sam explained how she represented u3a on this London Mayor initiative. This committee was largely made with Council representatives, but also include reps from relevant organisations, such as the u3a movement, Age UK, etc. The Mayor is due to publish the resulting ‘plan’ early in 2024. Rosemary Mayes is LRU3A’s rep on the committee and will give future progress reports.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Sam for an informative presentation.</p>
<p>3.20-3.45</p>	<p>Questions for the Speaker:</p> <p>There was only one – Sue Howe, Orpington, asked for tips/suggestions for recruitment. Sam responded suggesting more use of social media / short videos on Twitter (X) and also suggested viewing the ‘Recruitment & Retention’ advice on the national website.</p>
<p>3.45-4.15</p>	<p>Breakout Rooms</p>

4.15-4.25	<p>Breakout Rooms feedback and Plenary:</p> <p>Room 1: No interest in the proposals to foster a collective national identity. Focus in the group was largely around their individuals u3as with no or little wider interest in the movement.</p> <p>Room 2: discussed how best to recruit younger members. Offering (publicising) groups most attractive to younger members. These tended to be the ‘fun’ ones rather than the more ‘academic’ learning ones. Some felt this was an adverse move away from the specific ethos of u3a.</p> <p>Room 3: Richmond stated they were not interested in anything nationally and were against centralisation. They were only focussed on activities for their u3a. Some Regional events (eg Summer School) were tolerable.</p> <p>Room 4: Discussed the difficult dilemma & dichotomy of pushing forward with the digital strategy and encouraging younger more tech savvy people to join while at the same time not leaving members who are off-line feeling discriminated against and neglected. There was also discussion about u3as not being service providers as with Age UK, because some such as those in charge of Patient Services (GP surgeries) have unrealistic expectations of us under the banner of Social Prescribing.</p> <p>Room 5: Sue from Orpington reported back. She was looking for more detailed examples of recruiting ideas for specifically the ‘Next Generation’. She had already read the documents that Sam pointed her to on the website but felt these were too general and didn’t answer her plea. Another discussion point had been around the new youngest members (two now at 27) was to understand why they had joined. Where they eg a young mum , who might have had a full on career and is now on maternity leave? Maybe this is an area we could look at (leaflets at nursery schools, parents at the gates of junior schools). If they are not interested maybe they have parents who might be.</p> <p>Room 6: Vivek for Islington suggested that ‘Innovations’ could be a topic for a future Delegates meeting. Then we could discuss what new ways u3as are operating.</p> <p>There was a view expressed by Kenton u3a that there was too much focus on recruiting and other topics should be discussed in the future. The Chair reminded all that ideas for future presentation (guest speakers) at the Delegates meetings would be welcome.</p>
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4.25-4.30	<p>AOB & Wrap Up</p> <p>Nothing arising.</p> <p>Next Delegates meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Friday 19 Januaryb. Friday 19 Aprilc. Friday 19 Julyd. Friday 18 October + AGM <p>One of above to be a face to face meeting.</p> <p>Chairs forum date not fixed yet but will be in February.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to all for attending.</p>
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For attendance see the AGM minutes.