

**FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 at 2.30 pm**  
**at Canada Water Library 21 Surrey Quays Road SE16 7AR**

## MINUTES

### Attendees and apologies for absence recorded

Present		Apologies	
Chair	Chris Feldman		
Vice-Chair	Catherine Ware		
Treasurer	Jim Jenkins		
Membership Secretary	Jo Livingston		
Outreach Liaison	Liz Day		
Regional Trustee	John Bent		
		Webmaster	Mike Black
SLP Co-ordinator	Jo Walters		
Summer School Sub-Ctee	Rona Black		
Summer School Sub-Ctee	Phyllis Rosenberg		
Delegates Liaison	Carole Schomberg		
Abbeywood & Thamesmead	David Cross	Abbeywood & Thamesmead	Ron Hammond
Beckenham	Sally Stalley	Beckenham	Win Casey
Bexley	Jean Playford		
Barnet	Jim Jenkins		
Brent	Thrasyvoulis Maroulis		
Bromley	Shirley Eagar	Bromley	Steve Woods
Croydon	Jenny Willson		
Dulwich & District	Roman Bednarz		
		Ealing	John Moore
Enfield	Joy Lewis	Enfield	Frances Pope
Enfield	Roger Lovegrove		
		Hackney	Barry Blinko
Hammersmith & Fulham	Sue Adams	Hammersmith & Fulham	Pamela Keep
Hammersmith & Fulham	Angela Elkholy		
Harrow	Kathy Westhead		
		Hampstead Gdn Suburbs	Daphne Berkovi
		Hampstead Gdn Suburbs	Jack Berkovi
Havering	Alan Clayden		
Havering	John Gordon		
Hounslow	Gail Hébert		
Hounslow	Eileen Marsh	Hounslow	Christine Hay
Merton	Robert Cole	Merton	Valerie Bixley
Merton	Rosemary Mattock		

Present		Apologies	
North London	Estelle Cohn		
North London	Sue Collingridge		
Norwood	Brenda Whitaker	Norwood	Jenny Caro
		Norwood	Bev Wight
		Orpington	Janet Holmes
Palmers Green & Southgate	Mike Bleach		
Palmers Green & Southgate	Pat Bleach		
South East London	Roger Mead		
Sutton Area	Elizabeth Aumer		
Sutton Area	Doris Richards		
U3A in London	Jenni Bartlett		
U3A in London	Marjorie Power		
		Waltham Forest	Barbara Humm
Wandsworth	Jane Castle		
Wandsworth	Andy Crane		
Welling	Laurence Harmer	Welling	Kathy Dersley
Welling	Marlene Harmer	Welling	Pauline Griffin

**1. Apologies for Absence:** See above.

No attendees or apologies registered from:

Haringey, Hillingdon South, Islington, Kenton & District, Kingston, Mill Hill, Northwood & District, Redbridge & District, Richmond, Sidcup & District, Stanmore & District, Tower Hamlets, Upminster, Waltham Forest, Wanstead & Woodford.

**2. Minutes of the Fifth London Region AGM held on 28th October 2016**

These were approved with no amendments

**3. Matters arising not covered in the Agenda:** There were none

**4. Chair's Report**

**4.1.** Chris Feldman hoped the venue was comfortable and easy to access from all areas of London. Helpful comments on the venues and meetings are always welcome.

**4.2.** While being pleased to see many U3As represented, he was aware of gaps, and emphasised the value of regional meetings for networking and exchange of ideas between delegates, as well as learning from speakers. In due course, he looked forward to welcoming the delegates of the 2 new U3As at Hampstead Garden Suburb and Crouch End.

**4.3.** Notes on events arranged in the London Region Network over the year  
See Appendix

#### 4.4. Events planned by London Region Network in 2018

- 1) Music Study Day 2018: This is being arranged by Phyllis Rosenberg and Gwen Wright, probably in May. More information will be given at the January Delegates' Meeting. If anyone knows of any possible contributors in their U3A, please contact Gwen with suggestions at [gwenwright@virgin.net](mailto:gwenwright@virgin.net)
- 2) London Region Summer School 31<sup>st</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018  
Planning has begun for the 2018 summer school which will be held from July 31-Aug 2, at the St Bride Foundation again. There will be 4 rather than 3 rooms to reduce congestion at lunchtimes. An email has been sent to Delegates and Chairs asking for recommendations of speakers by 17<sup>th</sup> November.

#### 4.5. National Events organised by Third Age Trust in London: Most are shown in Third Age Matters or on the U3A website. Information about these events should be passed on to your U3As as soon as possible as they book up quickly and most are fully booked

- 1) December 4<sup>th</sup> (2 performances) & 19<sup>th</sup> 2017: Xmas concert the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. There may still be spaces.
- 2) U3A/Ri Scientific Lectures: these are planned for March and October

#### 4.6. As this was his last AGM, Chris finished by thanking all members of the committee, and wished the new committee every success.

### 5. Vice-Chair South of Thames Report

Catherine Ware reported that she had accompanied former Trustee Ian McCannah on visits to several U3As in the area although Greater London South East Network meetings had proved a challenge due to distance and other commitments. She had helped to develop links with Roehampton University and hopes to build more university and higher education links in the coming year.

### 6. To receive and adopt the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2017

- 6.1. Jim Jenkins, Treasurer, presented these accounts which had been circulated with the Agenda. He reported a very modest surplus of £49.83. In this period there had been a small loss on the Summer School 2016, compared with a modest surplus in the current year.
- 6.2. Jim thanked Brian Levy for making the handover of financial matters so straightforward.
- 6.3. He suggested that in future the financial report for the AGM should cover a 12-month period so that they presented a more current picture.

- 6.4. Roger Mead proposed acceptance of the accounts; seconded by Marlene Harmer. This proposal was carried unanimously.
- 6.5. A discussion took place on the desirability of events to cover costs but not make a large surplus (although any surplus would be reinvested in future events)
- 6.6. He also mentioned the desirability of having the accounts examined. Chris Feldman volunteered to do this once he was no longer on the Committee, and this offer was received by Jim with gratitude.

## 7. Report on Shared Learning Projects by Jo Walters

- 7.1. Jo's full report is circulated with these Minutes and can be viewed can be viewed on the SLPs page of the London Region website: [SLP REPORT, 2017-2018](#)

Four projects have been completed and three of these have won awards. These include a project about the Wrens and the exhibition can be viewed at The Visitor Centre of the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich until December 3.

Four projects are to commence in 2018, and three still have capacity for members to get involved:

- 1) The Hearth Tax project is looking for members from South East London to work at the Greenwich West Community & Arts Centre
- 2) Citizens 800 -- Please tell your local members about this project - there is still plenty of time to participate - and ask them to look at the website site at: [www.citizens800.org/u3a](http://www.citizens800.org/u3a)
- 3) Local heroes and events: This is a SW London network project still looking for participants. Contact project Co-ordinator Leader Sue Leigh [smleigh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smleigh@hotmail.co.uk)

- 7.2. In response to a question from the floor about the role of U3A members in university-led projects, it was stressed that U3A members provide additional volunteer help and do not replace paid academic staff.

## 8. To elect Officers and Committee Members to the Executive Committee for the coming year

The following, having been duly proposed and seconded were elected unanimously:

### Officers:

Chair: Catherine Ware (Merton)

Vice Chair, North of River: Margorie Powers (U3A in London)

Vice Chair, South of River: Rona Black (Dulwich and District)

Hon. Treasurer: Jim Jenkins (Barnet)

Hon Secretary: Sylvia Stirling (Ealing)

### Committee members confirmed in post:

Outreach Liaison: Liz Day (Dulwich and District)

Membership Secretary: Jo Livingston: (Bexley)

Delegates' Liaison: Carol Schomberg

### Ex Officio:

Web-master (ex officio): Michael Black (Ealing)

Regional Trustee (ex officio): John Bent (Barnet)

## 9. AOB – re: AGM There was none

Catherine Ware then thanked Chris Feldman for all his hard work as Chair which had resulted in such a good attendance at meetings.

## 10. Report on National Conference by John Bent

- 10.1.** John reported that this was his first National Conference and he had been glad to have had the opportunity to attend and meet so many enthusiastic members, including participants from London. There had been over 400 attendees, 27 from London region. There was a choice from 14 workshops and there were and 2 external speakers.

Facilities at East Midlands Conference centre were in general good but some of the break-out rooms were too small for our needs and next year's event may be held elsewhere.

John reported that he had helped with the financial workshop, and had also helped Ian McCannah to present the Treasurer's report.

He mentioned that all workshop materials can be downloaded from the national website. The AGM had been streamed for the first time, and could be viewed on You Tube. He particularly recommended viewing the entertaining and helpful talk on 'Gruesome Governance' by Jo Coleman.

Salient points to note from the AGM:

- 1) A reduction from two to one Vice Chair, now Ian McCannah
- 2) The past chair is no longer a member of the National Executive Committee
- 3) The normal Regional Trustee term of three years can be extended by a further two years
- 4) Finances are healthy, with the Third Age Trust having an income of £2.6 million and a net surplus for the latest financial year of £21,000
- 5) Ian McCannah gave a summary of the findings of the Governance consultation. There will be no change to Regional boundaries, but the role of Networks is to receive more attention. The role of Trustees will also focus more on managing the Trust while a team of volunteers is being trained up to support individual U3As.
- 6) Our articles of association are being revised and will be ratified at an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held in March 2018.

- 10.2.** John mentioned that he has a regional trustee budget and can help with loans for preliminary costs for booking study days etc. before fees from attendees are received

## 11. Update on U3A research by Catherine Ware

- 11.1. Catherine Ware reported that she and Jo Livingston helped to present the Research workshops at the National Conference in August.
- 11.2. Jo and Catherine will also be giving presentations at a national meeting on research convened by Pam Jones in Birmingham on November 10. The purpose is to assess research in the portfolio of U3A learning activities, and how this is to be supported nationally in future
- 11.3. West Midlands are hosting a research workshop on Nov 17 at which Catherine has been asked to speak.
- 11.4. A London Region research workshop is being planned for February 2018.
- 11.5. Brenda Whittaker (Norwood) asked what was meant by U3A research. While it is very varied, Catherine emphasised that it need not be scary or boring. She quoted a simple example initiated at Meopham U3A where a walking group is studying bees in their habitats in order to provide information to a bee conservation charity.

Liz Day added that research can be described as active, enquiry-based learning rather than passive learning (such as listening to a talk which is dependent on someone else's research). As such, research supports the U3A ethos of participation and self-development.

## 12. Update on university research panel by Jo Livingston

We now have 3 panels of about 20 members each prepared to assist researchers at Westminster, UCL and Goldsmiths, but these Universities have not yet made use of the panels. It is hoped that similar panels will be established and used by Roehampton and Birkbeck.

## 13. Presentation on the London Region Network by Catherine Ware

London is both a region and a network of 42 U3A groups with over 23,000 members. Catherine's presentation provides latest membership statistics (received from National Office) as well as information about the London Region network and sub-regional networks, and the benefits of belonging to each.

A PDF of the [London Region Presentation](#) is available to view/download from Welcome page of the London Region website.

- 13.1. A discussion took place on capitation fees if a member wishes to join a second group, and John Bent emphasised that only one capitation fee should be paid.

## 14. Update on Networks by Network representatives

**14.1. Greater London South East Network:** Roger Mead reported on that 7 groups currently belong to the network which amongst other things runs study days and workshops. A charge is made of £30p.a. to each member group. The Network's Study Day on Historic Greenwich was a great success although upfront financing had caused some difficulties.

John Bent responded that there is funding available to assist and this should not be a difficulty in future.

### 14.2. SW London Consortium: Sue Leigh's report was read by Liz Day

We have linked with Roehampton University, and this term they have opened up their departmental seminars to U3A members of SWLondon. At present we don't know how big a take up there will be as the subjects are somewhat esoteric and possibly of limited interest, but this is a considerable leap forward in providing members with the opportunity to take part in high quality learning. I feel sure that with the number of universities in the London Region this idea could be developed throughout London networks and individual U3As.

**14.3. North London Network:** Estelle Cohn reported on behalf of Patricia Isaacs. North London Network has nine member groups two of which are new U3As. We meet three times a year with some groups sending two of their committee members (chair and Secretary or other). We work to a standard agenda, but it is always useful to digress a little and discuss any problems we have come across, or ideas for new groups that have been successful, or how we manage membership, and so on. Our next agenda will include an item on ways in which networks should develop, and how much involvement and advice we might need or want to have from the Third Age Trust.

**14.4. Network Links Meeting:** Catherine reported that all U3A Networks in the UK have been invited to send a representative to a meeting is being organised by Ian McCannah in London on 21<sup>st</sup> November to discuss the development of Networks, and how they inter-act with each other, with Regions and the Third Age Trust. She and the London sub-regional network representatives will report back at the next Delegates' Meeting.

## 15. Date of next Delegate Meeting:

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 2.30pm at Canada Water Library, Rooms 1&2.



## APPENDIX

Chair's report on meetings arranged by London Region during 2017

### 1. Notes on events arranged in the London Region Network over the year:

#### 1.1.27<sup>th</sup> January Delegates' Meeting:

Liz Day had circulated previously a summary of the matters raised at the at the Delegates' Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and at the Chairs' Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Most of the points raised had been dealt with by the Executive Committee, but there were two remaining points passed on to the National Office. The points raised (in quotes below) are followed by Sam Mauger's replies in italics:

- 1.1.1. "New U3As need more support from National Office" - there was a complaint that the information pack is generally too large and prescriptive:
- 1.1.2. *Currently all new U3As are now given information in chunks as they work through the start-up phase.*
- 1.1.3. *All existing U3As have access to the advice on the website. The information provided where they must follow external laws will be prescriptive e.g. data protection and copyright*
- 1.1.4. *The web advice replaces the blue file. The blue file was frequently lost, and only one person had access to it at a time. Everyone has access to the website*
- 1.1.5. *Information that is not a legal requirement is guidance, except where it is something all U3As must adhere to [in order] to be a U3A, such as the guiding principles laid down by our founders. This is in the advice section on the website.*

#### 1.2. Subject Advisers:

"Third Age Trust should recruit Subject Advisers more actively": *We will be introducing a more systematic approach to supporting new and existing subject advisers in 2018.*

and "Roles should have job descriptions": *All volunteers will receive role descriptions, and this will be completed in 2018.*

1.3. Also at the 27<sup>th</sup> January Delegates' Meeting: there were useful discussions on 'Outreach to non-U3A organisations" led by Liz, and a report was issued subsequently.

1.4. 7<sup>th</sup> April Delegates' Meeting: There were group discussions on "Ageing Well" summarised in a report by Catherine Ware. Sam Mauger, Third Age Trust's new CEO, commented on the above discussions and gave a talk on her aims for U3A nationally.

1.5. 19<sup>th</sup> May: There was a Regional Seminar on Membership Systems

1.6. 7<sup>th</sup> July Delegates' Meeting: Jim Jenkins presented a report on his Communications Survey which was very detailed and interesting. There was also a talk by Catherine on the importance of research in U3A's aims and objectives. In addition, Jo Livingston talked about her development of University contacts and a panel of members to assist in designing research projects that involve older participants.

**1.7.** Also at the 7<sup>th</sup> July Delegates' Meeting: We said goodbye to Ian McCannah as Regional Trustee and elected John Bent as the next Trustee.

**1.8.** The 2017 London Region Summer School was a great success with over 260 members coming to 32 sessions plus six walks which were very popular. Financially the event just broke even (further details in Treasurer's report). Chris the Summer School Committee for all their hard work.