



CHAIRS' LUNCH

6TH FEBRUARY 2023 10.30am-3.30pm

LIFT Islington, 45 White Lion Street, London, N1 9PW

REPORT – AGENDA & TABLE DISCUSSIONS

PART 1: LEARNING FROM OTHERS – <u>HOW</u> WE RUN OUR U3AS?	
10.40	<p>SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION: Share your experiences of being a u3a Chair in the context of your u3a, based on Questionnaire Nos 2,3,4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ways of chairing including useful skills and experience. u3a's benefit to the community finding your own inspiration. <p>SEE APPENDIX 1</p>
11.10	<p>COMBINED GROUP DISCUSSION: Discuss what you've learned from the small group discussion that would be useful to share with the wider audience.</p>
11.40	<p>PLENARY: Report from each group, plus general comments.</p>
12.00	<p>PRESENTATIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Boden (Bromley) : Nurturing and investing in new members - their expectations of u3a and their skills and interests. Follow up 1yr on (Islington). Val Girling (Palmers Green) : Developing new Models of Learning (Taster courses, Bite size, use of streamed materials) Rosemary Mayers and Joanna Tambouridou (Barnet) on successful workshops and interest groups and future events and community links. Jenny Wilson (Croydon) : Contributing to the community on Environmental Sustainability and working with local partners to influence local and national issues. <p>SEE SEPARATE PRESENTATION FILE</p> <p>5. Mention staging u3a Events, if time – Winter party (Kenton) Speed dating (Hounslow) Barn Dance and Quiz (Barnet) Interest Group Showcase Event (Ealing) –</p> <p>NOT COVERED DUE TO LACK OF TIME</p>
PART 2: APPLYING NEW IDEAS – <u>WHAT</u> TO DO NEXT AND <u>HOW</u> ?	
1.45	<p>GROUP DISCUSSION: What ideas have you heard in presentations before lunch that are applicable to your u3a? How could you adapt these projects or others you think of, in your context? Share your ideas firstly with a partner, then the larger group. Identify questions, new suggestions, ways of working</p>
2.20	<p>PLENARY: Feedback from each table group and reflection. Reflective comments from individuals on what you have heard today that you'd like to take back to your u3a -- new ideas? – work in progress? – important considerations?- ways of developing your role? – your practice as a Chair?</p> <p>SEE APPENDIX 2</p>
3.15	<p>Suggestions for London Region Network: Suggestions to carry forward these ideas and problem-solving opportunities. Next steps.</p>

APPENDIX 1 - NOTES ARISING:

Questions:

2. ways of chairing including useful skills and experience.
3. u3a's benefit to the community
4. finding your own inspiration.

Table 1:

Q2

- Covid as an opportunity to now 'develop'.
- Communications with Members
- Increasing Membership
- Increased Interest Groups & develop new ones
- More inclusion due to Zoom

Q3

- Wide Variety of Group Activities & Social Opps
- Catalyst for local initiatives
- Adult education gap – languages
- More activity based groups

Q4

- Trust website
- Own interests
- Other u3as
- Newsletters

Table 2:

Q2

- More problems than tips
- Recruiting to Committee (& to u3a)
- Aging; IT skills (lack of)

Q3

- Benefit from interest groups & monthly talks
- Learning & companionship

Q4

- 'Virtuous Circle' of enjoyment of interest groups
- Ideas & suggestions from other members, outside organisations

Table 3:

Q2

- Legacy problems & how you can deal with/ overcome.
- Move forward from Covid
- Finding personal skills od an 'outreach' team to support you as Chair
- Use of Zoom
- Get other 'non-committee' people on board – to help with eg events
- Phone new members to get them interested
- More publicity

Q3

- Community – 'library closures' issue
- Not easy to benefit the community
- Link in with other u3as for eg events or outings
- Local 'Bexley' champions...help....the local community (in Covid times)

Q4

- Inspiration – Facebook, TV, Other u3as
- U3a London Region meetings

Table 4:

Q2

- Co-chairing works
- Sharing role without being too rigour
- Skills or previous experience
- Weekly email update
- Quarterly newsletter
- Invite renewers to special event for them
- Zap (barcode reader) their membership badge on entry for events (for attendance records)

Q3

- Speaker followed by local community speaker
- London
- Social event monthly
- Diversity

Q4

- Members Interest Groups (range)
- One off sessions based on: interest (eg Green) or Taster sessions

Table 5:

Q2

- Listening to all
- Open to all
- Better processes & management
- More relaxed & fun!

Q3

- Social focus
- Mental activity
- Inter actions with others

Q4

- A job well done
- From everywhere & everyone
- Other local organisations

Table 6:

Q2

- Managing old school ideas, 'we've always done it this way'
- Supporting people with new ideas and strategies
- Dealing with new issues: mediators; future proofing planning
- Knowing who to trust with certain roles/ tasks
- Fitting committee members to suitable roles
- Committee need to know their members (as far as poss)
- Listen to the members / group leaders

Q3

- Great opportunities Social focus
- Mental activity
- Inter actions with others

Q4

- INSPIRATION leads to:
- Listening
- Being aware
- Ideas from other u3as
- Avoid complacency