

DELEGATES MEETING

20th April 2018

Committee and other reports disseminated with Agenda

Chair's Report

Catherine Ware

13.04.2018

1. I would like to thank Jim Jenkins for the enormous amount of work he has put into steering the revision of our Constitution. Many thanks also to John Bent for his patient support in clarifying many issues relating the Trust. I think we now have a much clearer and robust document. This should enable us to move forward as the London Region of U3As with a stronger sense of purpose.
2. I would also like to welcome Derek Harwood (Islington U3A) who has agreed to take on the role of Webmaster following the resignation of Mike Black. Derek has already made big contributions not only toward the Website, but also to the Committee. The website developments are a work in progress but will be guided by a strategy document ensuring that this important channel of communication supports our Aims and Objectives. Inputs and feedback from all users will be gratefully received.
3. We are seeking to co-opt a **Vice-Chair (North of Thames)** to succeed Marjorie Power who has resigned from the Committee, although she is still a member of the Summer School Sub-Committee. The role of Vice Chair is broadly described in the Constitution, although individuals may choose to apply their skills and experience to additional regional activities as appropriate. The Committee is new, energetic, and keen to work with Delegates and other London U3A members as well as the Regional Trustee to develop initiatives that add real value for participant U3As. If interested in this role, please do get in touch with me via the website Contact page.
4. **'Keeping it Legal' national workshop 5th April**
This is one of the national workshops developed by the Third Age Trust in response to enquiries from U3A committee members regarding the legal requirements and responsibilities of running a U3A. This event was held in Surrey and aimed at U3As in the south of England. Talks were given by industry experts but specifically geared to a U3A audience, and covered the following four topics:
 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Insurance
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Safeguarding

Please click on the link to download the handouts: workshops.u3a.org.uk/surrey

There is further specific advice available on the U3A national website (you will need to log in to access the Advice section of the website).

The Committee will be looking at each of these areas to ensure that the London Region of U3As is compliant. The most urgent will be looking at how we manage personal data such as names, contact details and images in compliance with the GDPR which

becomes law on 25th May, and we may be seeking your consent in certain cases in order to continue providing the level of support required.

5. **Network Links:** Following the initial meeting on 21st November to discuss issues related to 'groupings' of U3As, I will be attending the second meeting on 1st May on behalf of the London Region of U3As.
6. **July 4th Guided walk for Delegates around the Surrey Docks.** Roger Mead (U3A SE Greater London Network) has very kindly offered to lead this walk for Delegates prior to the Delegates Meeting. 10.15am start. Maximum capacity 20 people. Details to follow.
7. **Forthcoming events planned by London Region of U3As**
Details on London regional website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/events>
 - **May19 (Saturday): London Region Music Day** 10.00m-4.15pm at Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG (adjacent to Kings Cross Station). The programme features both classical and popular music with contributions given by U3A members. The programme and application form have been disseminated to all Delegates and posted on our website on 5th April and bookings are being taken. Contact: Gwen Wright gwena1wright@outlook.com
 - **July 31-August 2nd: London Region Summer School 2018**
We started taking bookings in mid-February and have already received applications from 200 members. Most members are booking online. Many thanks Chris Feldman for developing such an interesting programme again this year, and to Jim Jenkins for managing the bookings (See Treasurer's Report). A new flyer has been disseminated to all Delegates and posted on the website indicating that we have made more spaces available for sessions that had booked up quickly. Please encourage you members to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Contact: Chris Feldman cgris@waitrose.com
8. **Forthcoming events planned by U3A Local networks in London area**
 - June 8: On the Shoulders of Suffragettes. Study Day organised by Greater London SE Network <https://u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork/events>
9. **Forthcoming national U3A events in London:**
 - Apr 24: Brandenburg Spring Concert at Temple House <http://www.brandenburg.org.uk/bcf-concerts/2018/4/24/faur-requiem-by-candlelight>
 - Sept 19: Jazz Study Day at Cecil Sharp House, Camden. Details TBA
10. **Forthcoming national events outside London:**
Further information in national Newsletter emails and *Third Age Matters*. Online booking via Events pages of U3A national website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events>
 - May 17: Backstage Secrets: hands on and different, Mold, Wales
 - July 23-26: National Summer School, Harper Adams University.
 - Aug 6-9: Science Network Summer School, Nottingham University.
 - Sept 11-14: National Summer School, Royal Agricultural University..
11. **Regional events near London:**
 - June 18-21: South East Forum Summer School, University of Chichester <http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=465&page=3>

Treasurer's Report

Jim Jenkins

08.04.18

At this Delegates meeting we are hoping to get agreement from the Delegates for a change to our financial reporting period. But at the time of writing this report I cannot assume this will be approved and therefore this report shows the position at the close of our current financial year - i.e. to 31st March 2018. At this early stage it has not been audited.

The **Financial Report** (accompanying the Agenda) shows a small loss on the year of £58.

We currently have nearly £18,500 in the bank but this includes over £10,400 received in advance of the 2018 Summer School. We have also paid out a deposit of £360 on the Music Day and assisted SE London by lending them the deposit of £980 on their Suffragettes Study Day. All of these are ignored until such time as the events have taken place and all costs and receipts can be accounted for together. Therefore, in real terms, we have £9,390 in available funds together with £239 of equipment assets.

Last year's Summer School made a healthy surplus of £709 thanks to a higher than expected attendance.

But this was offset by the recent Research Study Day making a loss of £173, and the usual costs of the Delegates meetings and general expenses which has led to the small nett loss of £58.

Looking forward we are confident that the Music Day will break even. We need to sell 90 of the 100 available tickets which should be achievable as this is always a popular event.

The 2018 Summer School is booking well. In order to break even against the anticipated expenditure, we need to achieve 403 day-bookings. We are currently at 329 day-bookings which is 82% of our target after 9 weeks since the booking system went live. It always tails off in the later weeks leading up to the event but nevertheless we are confident we will at least break even.

Webmaster's Report

Derek Harwood

03.04.18

The handover between Mike Black and myself has been completed.

I am currently undertaking a complete revision of the web site strategy, layout and content. Current changes are already live -- have a look at the new web pages. Any views from the Delegates or their U3As on what should be on the London Region of U3As website would be welcome. Send any thoughts to me via the CONTACTS page of the website. I will lead a further discussion on website content etc. at the July Delegates meeting.

Research and University Links

‘Active Learning and Research -- A workshop for Enquiring Minds’:

Catherine Ware & Liz Day

11.04.18

This regional workshop was held at Canada Water Library on 26th February. The aim was to inspire more U3A members in the London area to get involved in enquiry-based learning.

The workshop booked up surprisingly quickly, indicating a strong interest, and we hired an additional room to cope with extra numbers. Many thanks to our Secretary Sylvia Sterling for all her hard work in negotiating complex arrangements for the venue and to Jim Jenkins for managing the bookings.

Feedback indicated that attendees particularly enjoyed the inspirational presentations by members talking about their involvement in various types of U3A enquiry-led learning, such as interest groups, Shared Learning Projects and collaboration in university research projects. Most respondents said they had found workshop useful and welcomed the prospect of follow-up sessions. All were encouraged to draw up a To-Do List of ideas on how to promote enquiry-led learning upon returning to their U3As. There is evidently a need for committees to raise the profile of this active form of learning within their U3As by improving communications, possibly through a post-holder responsible for identifying and communicating opportunities and sources of support. An article about the workshop entitled ‘A Gathering of Enquiring Minds’ can be viewed in Sources Online <https://sources.u3a.org.uk/>

Shared Learning Projects:

Jo Walters

11.04.18

The Charterhouse SLP ‘The Year of the Plague’ gave a successful presentation to the Brothers, Volunteers at Charterhouse, and visitors on Thursday 29th March.

The ‘Chartists’ SLP presentation will take place on Chartism Day Saturday 9th June.

The presentation on the Hearth Tax SLP is scheduled for 21st June (Venue TBA).

Other SLPs are in the pipeline. See also Sue Leigh’s report on SLPs in SW London.

University Research Panel

Jo Livingston:

04.04.18

Following a meeting at Roehampton with their research facilitators, the university now has the list of volunteers who have offered to get involved as advisers rather than just as one-off subjects for the researchers. Everyone on that list is from south-west London U3As and most of them are from Richmond. All those whose names have been submitted have confirmed in the last month that they are still interested.

Reports from North of Thames

Vice-Chair, North of Thames

We are seeking to co-opt a successor to Marjorie Power who has resigned from the Committee. See Chair’s Report p.1

North London Network

Patricia Isaacs (North London U3A)

Nothing to report this time, but next meeting scheduled for May, so there should be some news to report at July 4th Delegates Meeting.

North West London Network

Gwen Wright (Harrow U3A)

06.04.18

At the January Delegates meeting I offered to try and resurrect the effort to establish a network of U3As in North West London. No-one has yet come forward from the U3As concerned – Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Stanmore & District. I look forward to hearing from the Chairs with their thoughts about whether/how to proceed. Please email me at gwena1wright@outlook.com

Reports from South of Thames

Vice-Chair, South of Thames

Rona Black (Dulwich & District U3A)

13.04.18

I continue to visit U3As south of the Thames and am really impressed by the ranges of approaches and activities. Last week I had a very friendly meeting with members of the South West Consortium and heard about their collaborative plans.

In addition, I have now taken responsibility for promoting international activities for the London region, and am currently establishing a small sub-committee to take this forward. We plan to start by establishing friendly links with French U3As. If any member has a specific connection already with a French U3A and would like to be involved I would be very pleased to hear from them.

SW London Network

Sue Leigh (Wandsworth U3A)

11.04.18

A meeting with Roehampton University discussed arrangements for a Study Day on the campus for U3A members. The date is likely to be Wednesday Oct 24th (TBC) during their Reading Week when lecture rooms are available. About 4 or 5 lecturers are prepared to talk, all round a theme of 'The Mysteries (or Marvels) of Memory'. We will advertise this in the London Region as well as SW London in the late summer.

Another, shorter, Study Day is being prepared for September on the theme of the 'Changing Lives of Women in the 20th Century'. We will be making use of the new Community Room at John Lewis Kingston who are keen for us and all local organisations to use it free of charge!

The 4th Normansfield SLP has just finished successfully, with a Presentation on 11th April.

The Citizens 800 SLP based in SW London has completed its work for Royal Holloway and is

now preparing a book for U3A members on their research, including more citizens they have found who are worthy of note. This book will be dedicated to Jennifer Anning, former National SLP Co-ordinator who sadly died last month after a brave battle with cancer.

We have felt a great loss in Jennifer's death. She was an integral part of our team and a founding member. She was totally committed to our aim of enhancing the work of the U3As in SW London and providing a means by which ideas could be exchanged between local U3As. She had the experience to anticipate problems and make contacts for further projects. But above all she was quite simply a very good friend. She will be much missed.

BOB (Bromley, Orpington and Beckenham)

Janet Holmes (Orpington U3A)

07.04.18

The BOB group met in a Bromley café on Friday 6th April. Janet sent her apologies as she was unable to attend this meeting. Sandy Meggs was welcomed into the group as the new Secretary for Bromley.

Sally Stalley (Secretary, Beckenham) gave a brief report on the "Keeping it Legal" conference she had been to the day before. The information on each of the sessions discussed is available on the national website at: workshops.u3a.org.uk/surrey Sally felt that the day was generally well organised and in a lovely setting. The best sessions were on Insurance and GDPR. Neither of these sessions seemed to suggest that the BOB groups were not doing the right thing!

Steve Woods (Chair, Bromley) requested that the group "learning to be retired" could be opened to Beckenham as part of the BOB groups. Win Casey (Chair, Beckenham) is to talk to Groups Coordinator Anne re this at Beckenham. Next meeting Date Friday 18th May

Greater South East London Network

Angela Brown

12/04/18

On 14th March a very successful Membership Database workshop took place where six of our seven U3As were represented. Members of the Beacon Team attended to demonstrate the system and answer questions. As always, much learning took place from exchanging information with each other

The Garden workshop in conjunction with Coolings Garden Centre in Kent on 26th April is now almost fully booked. We look forward to visiting the site, the session on gardening for the older gardener, and finally going home with beautiful self-made hanging baskets.

The Study day with SE London U3A on Women's Suffrage has been booked for 8th June at Greenwich Naval College. We have an interesting selection of speakers. Tickets will go on sale soon.

The Shared Learning Project with the South London Botanical Institute is now in negotiation. Date to be confirmed.

Our next project is likely to be a joint venture with the London Metropolitan Archives.

Trustee's Report

13.04.18

Clarification on eligibility for regional Trust funding:

- Study days or workshops that have the objective of improving the governance or running of U3As can apply to the Regional Trustee for a grant and would generally qualify.
- If study days or workshops run by U3As or Networks are about subjects, activities or interest groups they do not qualify.
- If U3As or networks have a day promoting growth of the U3A they can apply directly to the Trust for support for that.

Other topics I will report on at the meeting:

- Third Age Trust EGM
- New U3A, Dagenham (Inaugural Meeting Monday 16th April)
- Focus Group – Impact of U3A
- Agile Ageing Alliance Conference
- Proposed Beacon Demonstration
- 'Keeping it Legal' workshop
- Volunteers