

DELEGATES MEETING

4th July 2018

Committee and other reports disseminated with Agenda

Chair's Report

Catherine Ware

27.07.2018

- 1. Vice-Chair (North of Thames):** The Committee is still seeking to co-opt a volunteer for this post. The role essentially involves supporting the work of the Committee and liaising with U3As north of the Thames to ensure that needs and interests are communicated. It's a good way to learn more about the wider U3A. The Committee is 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 you are interested in this role or know someone who might be, please do get in touch with me at Chair.londonregionu3a@gmail.com
- 2. Network Link meeting 1st May:** This was the second meeting of representatives from U3A networks and other 'groupings' across the UK. I attended on behalf of the London Region of U3As. A wide range of issues was discussed. The Agenda and Minutes are available on the Networks & Groupings page of our website (which is accessible via a link from the Welcome page). <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/page/83731>

Also available is a presentation by Ian McCannah summarising the results of a survey about the various characteristics of U3A networks and other 'groupings'. In addition, there is a leaflet entitled 'Why Join a Network?' -- this is to be updated.

Next Network Link meeting scheduled for 12th October 2018

- 3. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):**

I would like to thank Jim Jenkins and Derek Harwood for their hard work in helping to produce the action plan, data inventory, and policy documents required to ensure that the London Region of U3As is compliant with GDPR requirements. The Privacy Policy can be viewed on the Welcome page of our website. Other documents will be retained and reviewed from time to time by the Committee and will be accessible on request by contacting our Hon. Secretary, currently Sylvia Stirling.

- 4. Ideas for Regional activities:**

At the meeting on 20th April, Delegates were asked to submit their completed questionnaires about ideas for regional activities that would add value to membership of the London Region of U3As. The questionnaires asked Delegates to rate suggestions made by Committee members, and also asked Delegates to add their own suggestions. The questionnaires were disseminated prior to the meeting so that Delegates would be able to discuss ideas with their Committees.

Only 17 completed questionnaires were received. Nevertheless, an analysis gives some indication of which ideas had most support, and which were of least interest.

Enthusiasm was mostly in the 'Moderate priority' category. 'High priority' was given to the following:

- Presentations/Discussions at Delegate Meetings on the subjects of Data Protection and Volunteering
- Workshops on Public speaking/presentation; Communication; Inclusion/Diversity;
- Peer networking events for Membership Secretaries, Newsletter Editors and Webmasters
- Study days on all topics but especially science/health

These responses will require further discussion by the Committee to decide what is feasible to organise. The Committee will continue to welcome and encourage further ideas from Delegates, and also offers of help to make things happen. An example of one such initiative is described in the following paragraph.

5. Steering committee to explore international activities for London region

Rona Black

27.06.18

This small group has met once, and a second meeting is scheduled. We hope to build up friendly relations with U3As (or equivalent organisations) in a few countries and explore the possibility of exchange visits. At present we are in active conversation with the U3A in Anger, France, and the anticipation is that a small group will come from Anger to London in 2019 and attend one day of our Summer School as part of their stay.

We are also in active contact with the large and lively U3A in Uppsala Sweden.

Will anyone who would like to join this committee and contribute to its work please contact me at ronamblack@hotmail.com.

6. Forthcoming events planned by London Region of U3As

Details on Events page of our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/events>

- **July 31-August 2: London Region Summer School 2018**
Some sessions are full, but there are still plenty of options available, so please keep encouraging your members to book. Details on Events page of our website or contact: Chris Feldman ccris@waitrose.com
- **Promenade Concert Rehearsals August/September 2018**
This programme has been organised for several years by Phyllis Rosenberg (U3A in London) and has been opened up to all members in the London Region. There are usually 5 Proms with 50 spaces each. Further details for 2018 programme to be announced shortly.
- **October 20 (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 and bookings are being taken.
Contact: Gwen Wright gwena1wright@outlook.com

7. Forthcoming events planned by U3A Local networks in London region

- Oct 24: 'The Mysteries/Marvels of the Memory'. Study day organised by SW London Consortium with University of Roehampton. Details TBA on LR website shortly. (see report from Sue Leigh p.5)

8. Forthcoming national U3A events in London region

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>

- Sept 19: Jazz Study Day at Westminster Cathedral Hall London SW1. Booking now
- Oct 15: U3A at the Royal Institution. An afternoon of science talks. Booking in July.
- Nov 1: 'Makers not muses' study day at National Gallery. Booking in August.
- Nov 12: 'From Page to Stage' (Ambassador Theatre Group) at Lyceum Theatre Booking in August
- Nov 28 or 29: 'Roman London' study day at Guildhall Gallery. Booking in August.

9. 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>

- July 23-26: National Summer School, Harper Adams University.
- Aug 6-9: Science Network Summer School, Nottingham University.
- Aug 28-30: U3A national conference and AGM, Nottingham Conference Centre
- Sept 11-14: National Summer School, Royal Agricultural University
- Sept 20: 'Five Senses? You May Have 33!' at Bristol Science Centre – We the Curious. Booking now
- Oct 4: Textiles study day at the Whitworth Gallery Manchester. Booking in July.
- Oct 9: National Museum Cardiff. Afternoon talks on Welsh music, art, history. Booking in July

Treasurer's Report

Jim Jenkins

27.06.18

We currently have £23,260 in the bank but this includes £14,760 received in advance of the 2018 Summer School. We have also paid out a deposit of £360 on the Music Day. Ignoring these until such time as the events have taken place and all costs and receipts can be accounted for together, in real terms we have £8,140 in available funds together with £239 of equipment assets.

The 2018 Summer School is booking well. With 6 weeks to go, we have gross sales of £14,760 which has just exceeded our break-even target of £14,500.

We have assisted SE London Network by lending the money for the deposit on the hall booking for the "On the Shoulders of Suffragettes" Study Day (now fully repaid) and we have also agreed to assist SW London Network by lending the money for printing a booklet produced by their Citizens 800 SLP with Royal Holloway, University of London.

We are in the process of registering as a charity and should be successfully registered by the time of the next Delegate meeting.

Report on LR Summer School

Chris Feldman, Chair of Summer School Sub-Committee

26.06.18

Bookings have been very good. So far, we have received applications from 261 members, many coming for 3 days and some for less. Applicants represent 32 of London's 45 U3As, and 40 U3As outside London (21% of applicants).

We have reached break-even point financially which is very heartening. Art talks are always very popular and this year we have spread them out over the three days to create more of a mixture of the daily talks. We have also included sessions with reference to the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act which saw the beginning of Women's Suffrage in the UK.

Although members are always very enthusiastic about the talks, walks and workshops, we are very conscious of the amount of queuing necessary for lunch which has caused some frustration in the past. We are addressing this by stewarding the process very closely this year which we think will make a big difference.

There are still a few vacancies for some talks, especially on the Thursday and details are on the London Region website. Catherine and Jim have been working very hard with the on-line booking system which has been working very well this year.

Webmaster's Report

Derek Harwood

15.06.18

The LRU3A's website has now been reviewed and updated with some re-arranging of the structure of the site. It is hoped that it now better reflects our constitution and is aligned with our aims and objectives. It's hoped that the website will be a critical part of our communications strategy and be of value to all our London Region U3As.

The next phase will be to build on this revised structure particularly the 'Delegates' page. Here it might be possible to develop a facility to share ideas on what works well and lessons learned – perhaps through a link to an online forum, or some other means. Suggestions would be welcome on how best to share this sort of information. Please contact me at Webmaster.londonregionu3a@gmail.com

SLPs, Research and University Links

Shared Learning Projects:

Jo Walters, Shared Learning Project Coordinator for London

26.06.18

- **5th Shared Learning Project at the Langdon Down Museum at Normansfield:** Scheduled to start in late September 2018. Closing date for applications 27th July 2018. Space exists for a couple more volunteers. Details and application form are on the SLP page of London Region website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/page/83787>
- **South London Botanical Institute SLP:** This is the first of a two - part SLP at the SLBI. The project is likely to run September-November 2018. Closing date for applications 21st July. Description and application form available from website of SE Greater London website <https://u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork/page/64927>. The information will be added to SLP page of LR website shortly, pending confirmation of project start date.

University Research Panel

Jo Livingston

14.06.18

Nothing new to report at this time.

Reports from North of Thames

Vice-Chair, North of Thames

We are seeking to co-opt a volunteer for this Committee role. See Chair's Report p.1

North London Network

Patricia Isaacs (North London U3A)

27.06.18

I have agreed to stay on until our September meeting in the hope that someone will take my place then.

We have recently had two problems on a study trip: one member with a physical disability and one with dementia. I asked all our network members to give me suggestions as to what to do in a similar situation in future; they responded with excellent suggestions, and on that basis, I compiled a report for my committee. I am now in contact with several members of U3APlus, and with Regional Trustee John Bent, and will finalise a draft report for their consideration. North London Network responses got this going, which shows how great a network can be! If anyone would like to contact me regarding these issues, please email patricia.highgate@yahoo.co.uk

Further information about **U3APlus** is available on the national U3A website at <https://plus.u3a.org.uk/> Members of the group are also prepared to talk at Network meetings. For further information, please contact Hilary at hilary.jones@u3a.org.uk

North West London Network

Gwen Wright (Harrow U3A)

Nothing to report.

Reports from South of Thames

Vice-Chair, South of Thames

Rona Black (Dulwich & District U3A)

27.06.18

I have now visited a large number of U3As south of the Thames at their open monthly meetings and am really impressed. The strength of U3A lies at ground level, the number of interest groups exercising both mind and body is excellent and the social function of U3As in minimising loneliness is also apparent. I will be delighted to visit those U3As south of the river that I have not yet explored but would welcome an invitation.

My email is ronamblack@hotmail.com

SW London Network

Sue Leigh (Wandsworth U3A)

25.06.18

1. There will be a Study day at Roehampton University on Wednesday 24 October. The talks will be on different aspects of memory given by staff of Roehampton University. Details of this are just being finalised and will be publicised throughout London Region.

2. The 5th Shared Learning Project at Langdon Down Museum, Normansfield. (See Jo Walters' report on SLPs p.4).

3. A Study Day on the changes in women's lives in the 20th century has had to be postponed to later, probably in the new year.

4. There has been contact with Leonie Cooper, Greater London Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, and we will be planning to have a meeting with her at City Hall with the aim of increasing awareness of the U3A in her constituency. This will be on our agenda after the summer. I mention this as it seems that this could be an idea for publicising the role of the U3A in London amongst our London politicians that LR could take up.

5. The Citizens 800 SLP in SW London has now produced a book entitled *Citizens* which will be available for sale (price £3) at the next LR Delegates meeting on 15th October.

BOB (Bromley, Orpington and Beckenham)

Sandy Trott (Abbeywood & Thamesmead U3A)

27.06.18

Nothing new to report. Next meeting is planned for 7th September

Greater South East London Network

Roger Mead (SE London U3A)

27.06.18

Since the last meeting we have had two large events for members.

The first was a meeting held at Coolings Garden Centre. We had a talk about making gardening easier for those less able. This was followed by a demonstration of planting a herb basket. After the demo we were each able to plant a basket of our own. Every member came away with their basket and a free gardening tool. We have since run a competition for the best photograph of members baskets. It was judged this week and the winner was Gertrude Lay from SE London.

Our major event was 'On the Shoulders of Suffragettes', our conference at the University of Greenwich. Some 70 people attended, and the feedback was excellent. It was chaired by Bridget Prentice and we had a number of speakers on Suffragettes followed by sessions on women's place in society. Attendees were given 10% off vouchers for tours of the Painted Hall ceiling. We are grateful to the London Region for lending us the deposit, which we needed to pay before the tickets were sold. We were also grateful for support from the Regional Trustee who contributed money as recognition of our SLP contribution. Our next event is running a recruitment stall at an event in September.

We continue to publicise our work through Network News and our Mail Chimp list which currently has over 150 names.

Trustee's Report

John Bent

Report to be delivered verbally