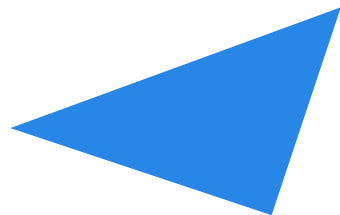




London Region of U3As

News Editors Workshop London Region in Context

November
2020



U3A Regions and Countries

The Trust's regional structure as constituted in 2008



U3A Governance Structure

➤ Third Age Trust

- Registered charity
- Board of Directors (Officers/Regional Trustees)
- Chief Executive Officer/National Office (*not* Head Office)

➤ Countries/Regions

- Formal constituencies of Third Age Trust governance
- Each U3A a registered charity
- Each U3A belongs to just one Country/Region

LONDON REGION



North of Thames
28 U3As
15,103 members

South of Thames
16 U3As
10,785 members

44 U3As
25,888 members*

*U3A National Office data 2020 (excluding Associate members)

U3A 'Networks'

- No part in Third Age Trust governance
- Most Countries/Regions have several 'networks'
3 regional networks (London/N.Ireland/Scotland)
- Develop informally/organically for mutual support
- Names vary e.g. Network/Forum/Consortium/Cluster
- Membership by U3As voluntary
- Usually small areas but boundaries very varied
(may overlap each other/straddle region boundaries)
- U3As can belong to more than one network

U3A 'Networks' cont'd

- About two thirds of U3As belong to a 'network'
 - Estimated 70 such groupings in UK
 - Network Link: National network of networks
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/network-link#why-should-a-u3a-join-a-network>
 - Meetings twice per year, organised by Third Age Trust
 - Meetings attended by the Board Officers, Regional Trustees, Trust's CEO and some National Office Staff
 - Representatives of Networks throughout the UK invited
- “Opportunity to hear updates from Trust, Networks and share best practice”

LONDON REGION OF U3As (LRU3A)

- A regional network - successor body to the Greater London Regional Forum first established 1994
- Same geographical area (London Region) but not part of the Trust's governance structure
- Exists for the mutual benefit of all London U3As and their members
- Network Affiliation Agreement with Third Age Trust (mutual support)
- Registered charity
- Executive Committee + U3A Delegates (2 per U3A)

LRU3A Support for U3A Committees

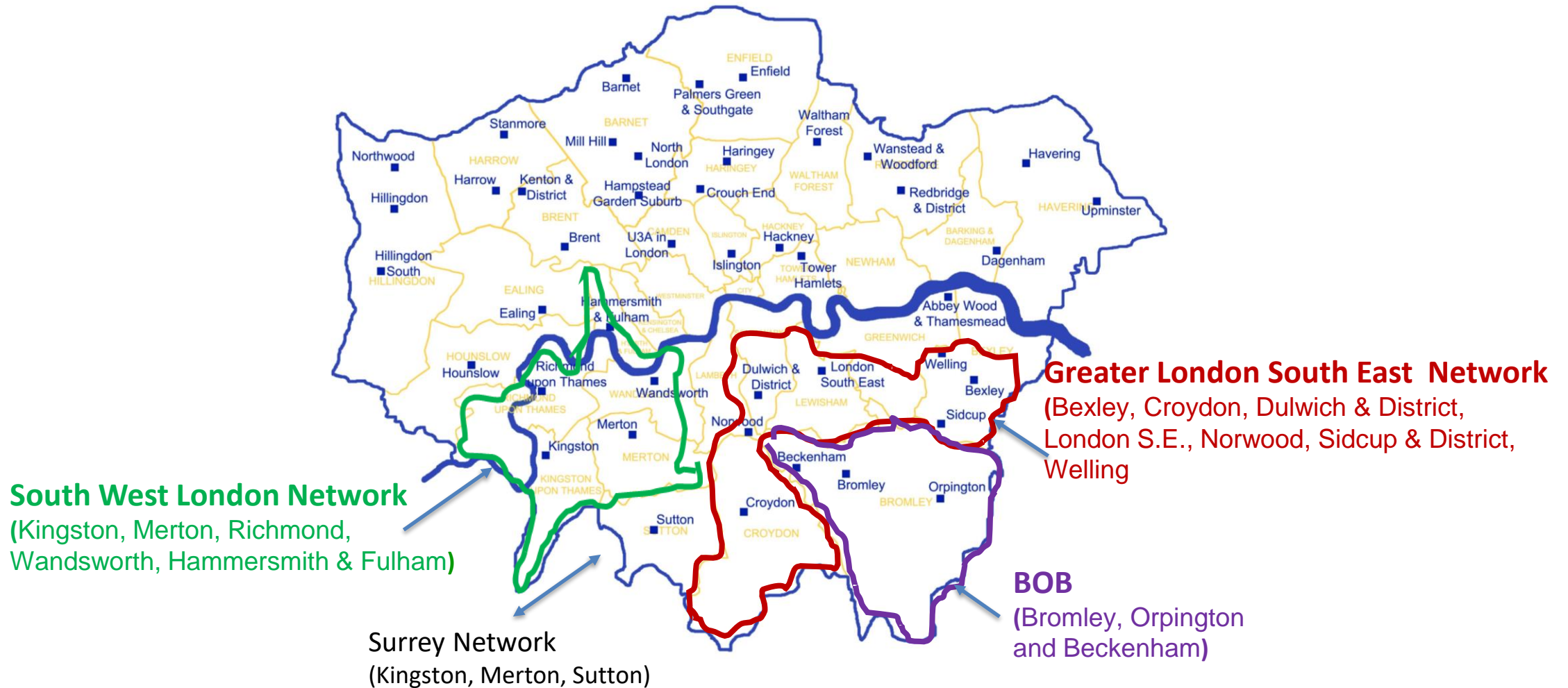
- Inclusive /no membership fee
- A voice for London U3As
- Communication with Trust Board/National Office
- Discretionary funding via Regional Trustee*for regional activities (*ex-officio member of LRU3A Executive Committee)
- Workshops/Speakers/Peer Groups/Surveys/Advice & best practice
- Delegates forum/Website/Information & news updates/email alerts
- Support for online meetings and AGMs
- Regional publicity/influence/outreach & collaboration
- Support for local networks

LRU3A – Enjoyable learning

- Regional programme of educational/social activities (self-funding)
 - Talks
 - Study Days
 - Summer School
 - Shared Learning Projects
 - Online learning
 - Social events

- Central London venues/good public transport access
- List of speakers

LONDON REGION: Local Networks



Advantages of local networks

- Smaller geographical area: Shorter distances to travel, easier to participate and share organisational workload
- Interest groups: easier to make up groups where subjects are less 'mainstream'/small numbers
- Shared Learning /Study days/Talks
- Social events e.g. friendly competitions (games/matches)
- Social events/Outings: vacant spaces filled more easily to cover costs
- Shared venues, equipment, funding and other resources
- Local interests, information/knowledge, and contacts
- Mutual support: sharing ideas, expertise, communications
- Shared publicity/outreach & collaboration with relevant organisations

Some useful U3A information sources

- u3a National website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>
[National Newsletter](#); [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#)
TAM
[u3a Sources Online](#)

- London Region of U3As: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region>
- Member U3As: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/members>
- Local London networks: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/page/83731>

- Neighbouring regions/bordering networks:
 - South East Region <https://u3asites.org.uk/south-east/home>
 - East of England Region: <https://u3asites.org.uk/east-of-england>