

MINUTES

Meeting Title: **DELEGATES MEETING**
 Date/ Time: **20th January 2023, 2.00-4.30pm**
 Venue: **Online via Zoom**

1.30 - 2.00	Registration
2.00 - 2.05	Welcome (Derek Harwood)
2.10 - 2.30	<p>Reports from Trustees & Peer Support Groups:</p> <p>Highlights were given from the issued reports (as in Appendix 1 below). In addition: Mailchimp mailshot will be issued shortly re looking for volunteers for a focus group for product testing a hearing test using birdsong.</p> <p>Booking for Summer school to be open by end of March.</p> <p>No particular questions arising.</p> <p>Liz Day asked the Delegates to check that their Chair was attending the LRU3A Chairs' Lunch. If they hadn't registered then there is still time to do so. If they can't make it a representative can come instead.</p> <p>Also there was a reminder that the two way communication, the purpose of these Delegates meetings, only works if info shared today is fed back to committees & all u3as.</p> <p>There is a London Parks & Gardens weekend (2nd weekend in June) which is partnership opportunity. Contact Catherine Ware for further information.</p>
Topic 1 - News (chaired by Liz Day)	
2.30 - 2.45	<p>News from the Trust:</p> <p>Covered by Reports given (see above). No particular questions arising.</p>
2.45–3.15	<p>News from u3as:</p> <p>Discussed and shared idea from the u3as. Loads of successful Christmas events. Poor weather didn't seem to deter members coming out & taking part. Ad hoc poetry reading, dancing, skits, etc all utilised.</p> <p>Some u3as joining up with neighbouring u3as to share invites, share events, share the organising. Works also for sharing Talks and even sharing Interest Groups.</p> <p>Some u3as had been successful with partnering up with local borough organisations – some being offered free workshops & talks in relevant subjects.</p> <p>Also some utilising the national resource. There is a national programme (of talks and workshops) being offered but the resources (staff and Volunteers) are available to support Regional events or even local individual u3as in their event programmes.</p>
There was then a 10 minute comfort break.	
Topic 2 – Campaigning and Influencing (chaired by Jenny Wilson)	

3.15-3.40	<p>A short Video from Sam Mauger: https://youtu.be/uhfGXctR9Go - 'The impact of u3a', was shown (unfortunately sound could not be heard but subtitles good). This set the scene in showing how it was part of our Object clause, and even our duty. But the right topic was important to be relevant to u3a and our members.</p> <p>This video was followed by a talk from Ann Keating (previous Regional Trustee-Scotland) on Campaigning & influencing. This showed the importance of us all trying to raise our 'Voice' so we are known nationally, known as well as eg the WI or Age UK. A wide range of relevant subjects is available: eg banking hubs, transport issues, council services, crime, library closures etc. Members need to pick the ones they have energy on. Also it's expected that our next generation of membership might expect this – to be influencing society for better future lives for our members. It is important to emphasis that this isn't an either/or scenario. It's NOT learning (Interest groups , talks etc) OR being an influencing force. It's doing the latter to facilitate Living Longer Better for the benefit of everyone, young & old.</p>
3.40-4.00	<p>Questions:</p> <p>There were many questions to Ann – mostly supportive, if it was the right topic for their members, but Committees were struggling doing the basic current functions of running a u3a, and ensuring there was good learning and social experiences, without now trying to take on campaigning. Also concern that we could slip into political issues – even trying to petition TfL re the 'Freedom Pass' and start times could be seen as political. But this was countered – it's just about having good, available, public transport (with seats in bus shelters!).</p> <p>There is a 'Sheila McKechnie toolkit being developed and will be available later in 2023. There is also support from the u3a Office through Harriet Radermacher (the 1 staff member that supports this topic). Her email address is: Harriet.Radermacher@u3a.org.uk</p> <p>The energy and passion on the subject set the scene for the Breakout Rooms that followed.</p>
4.00-4.17	<p>Breakout Rooms</p>
4.20-4.35	<p>Breakout Rooms feedback:</p> <p>Key points raised by each of the 4 breakout rooms were fed back. These included:</p> <p>Room1: good sharing of particular ideas.</p> <p>Room2: some push back due to the difficulties of generating interest in their memberships; hands full already by the committee on just the basic.</p> <p>Room3: mixed views; could see the benefit with partnering with local organisations (eg local Age UK branch, or another local charity to petition local councils</p> <p>Room4: some do get approaches from local authorities; also could see this might be more attractive to 'younger' members who want to be active locally.</p>

4.35-4.45	<p>AOB & Wrap Up (Derek Harwood)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ideas requested for possible Region wide annual 2023 programme. A 'Large National Event' grant is available this year, as well as Grants for Regional Workshops or Special Events. Catherine Ware mentioned a London Parks programme – details to be circulated by CW2. A reminder that attendees were our conduit – please pass back to your committees and membership what's being covered today. And thanks for bringing points, not just your personal points, from your u3as. Cascade works two ways.3. Volunteers for the LRU3A Executive Committee still required. Current vacancies include: Chair, Business Secretary, Public Affairs Coordinator and a Regional Trustee for London- we have no voice on the national Board at the moment.4. Dates for next meetings: Dates for next meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6th Feb – Chairs Lunch• 21st April (physical hopefully), venues being considered• 21st July• 20th October (& AGM)5. Current attendance at the Chairs Lunch was checked.6. Low attendance: it was questioned why we only had 17 u3as represented today out of the 43 London u3as. It was explained that the network (LRU3A) struggles to get any form of contact or response from about 15 of these. They just don't seem to be interested. Others where we have at least contact information then never take part. It was suggested that maybe another day of the week should be considered. <p>Thanks were expressed to the co-chairs for today, and all for attending.</p>
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APPENDIX 1 – REPORTS (as published with the Agenda):

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VICE CHAIRS (Jenny Wilson & Derek Harwood):

Main activities since October's Delegates meeting (& the AGM) has been the start of a Winter Talks Programme. Organised by Catherine Ware, these again have proven to be very popular. The other main activity for the committee has been the preparation for the 'Chairs Lunch'. This event, requested by the u3a Chairs, will be a repeat of the format used successfully last year.

TREASURER (John Bent)

Control of HSBC Current Account successfully transferred from Jim Jenkins to John Bent. Transfer of authority for Scottish Widows Deposit still pending (Forms submitted).

A Grant of £500 was applied for from the Third Age Trust for the Chairs Lunch event and has been received.

The rental of the 3 rooms at Bridewell Centre required for the 2 days of Summer School has been prepaid to take advantage of an advantageous rate.

COMMUNICATIONS (Vivek Nanda)

Nothing specific to report. All communication channels (MailChimp and Zoom) operating successfully.

ONLINE TALKS (Catherine Ware)

Since members now have access to more activities, in-person and online, the Events Team has decided to hold monthly (rather than fortnightly) talks between October-March. Details on website.

The 3 autumn talks attended by total 540 (average number of attendees per talk 180/62% of those registered).

LRU3A SUMMER SCHOOL our 10th Anniversary (Catherine Ware)

Dates/Venue: July 25th & 26th at St. Bride's Foundation Institute (off Fleet St). Programme: 29 sessions (Talks, Workshops, Walks). Individual selection from wide range of topics. Ticket price approx £40 (TBC)

Publicity:

- Article about all Summer Schools planned for 2023 has been submitted for Feb TAM by Rob White (SE Region), with a contribution from London Region. No in-person national Summer School planned by u3a Office.
- Further articles planned for TAM March & May.
- January 13th: Message disseminated to all LR Chairs & Delegates for onward dissemination to members asking them to Save the Dates.
- End of February: Message to mailing list announcing availability of Programme for preview.
- End of March: Message announcing launch of ticket sales. Programme and online application forms also available on website.

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS:

GROUP COORDINATORS PSG (Liz Day)

Nothing to report. No PSG meeting since October's Delegates meeting.

WEBMASTERS PSG (Derek Harwood)

Last meeting was on 20th November. Topics discussed included: status of Sitebuilder replacement, Digital Strategy development and specifically, Commission 5, Support to u3as.

TREASURERS PSG

Being re-started. First meeting on 30th January, 4.30pm. All Treasurers welcome.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PSG

In abeyance as no Coordinator since Rodney Fox left the Region. Any volunteer to re-start this PSG?

OTHER GENERAL NEWS:

News from the Third Age Trust (Key elements)

As we currently have no Regional Trustee for London we have no direct report of national and Board activities. However a quick round-up is:

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- AGM fall out re lack of approval for Subscription Increase for inflation is ongoing; main aspects were: greater communication requested on current financial status and long term sustainability; more awareness of staff activities; more information requested on the Development Projects. All actions are ongoing.
- Strategy: following member input this is now being translated into near term aims and longer term. The main Committees are assisting with delivery. Near term 'Projects' will be scoped for 2023/24 budget and implementation
- Digital Strategy: this has been developed over 2022 in consultation with the u3as. There will be a period of consolidation of this work and then development of an Implementation Plan.
- National Large Events: new are for grants next year; 4 main events to be sponsored. One will be the 'Off-The-Wall' (as in Hadrian's) event with many regions and u3as taking part (details in the last Newsletter).
- Considerations for re-shaping the Trust's governance, creating a 'Council' (as presented at the AGM) to allow more time for regional engagement is under development and testing.

Network Link Meeting - 15 February 2023

Have you registered? You can here: [TicketSource Network Link](#)

Apart from time to 'Share & Air' there will be presentations on 'Local Governance' from Vice Chair, Allan Walmsley and a presentation from NCVO on 'Problems with Banking?'

APPENDIX 2

ATTENDANCE		
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Apologies</u>
LRU3A Committee & other posts		
Jt. Vice-Chair, North	Derek Harwood*	
Jt. Vice-Chair, South	Jenny Wilson*	
Treasurer	John Bent*	
Learning Development Coordinator	Liz Day*	
Communications Coordinator		Vivek Nanda*
Talks & Summer School Coordinator	Catherine Ware*	
Third Age Trust		
London Region Trustee	vacancy	
London Region Local Networks		
BOB		
Greater SE London		
SW London		
London U3A Representatives (Chair, Delegate, Other)	No text means no response	
Abbeywood & Thamesmead		
Barnet	Joanna Tambouridou	
Beckenham		
Bexley	Sandra Goulding	
Brent		
Bromley	Angela Dowling	Sandy Boden
Crouch End	Jackie Langford	Sally Whitaker
Croydon	Jenny Wilson*	David Apps
Dagenham		Felicity Hawksley
Dulwich & District	Liz Day*	
Ealing	Derek Atkinson	
Enfield		Michael Witter
Hackney	Liz Southcombe	
Hammersmith & Fulham	Sue Adams	
Hampstead Garden Suburbs	Margaret Harris	Robert Abramson
Harrow		
Havering		
Hillingdon		
Hillingdon South		
Hounslow		

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Islington	Sally Fox Derek Harwood*	Paula Kahn Vivek Nanda*
Kenton & District	Diana O'Reardon	
Kingston		
London South East		
Merton	David Drummond Catherine Ware*	
Mill Hill		June Burton
North London	Michael Johns	Ruth Silver
Northwood & District	Rob Thomasson	
Norwood		
Orpington		
Palmers Green & Southgate		Val Golding Coral Datta
Redbridge & District		
Richmond		
Sidcup & District		Sandra Applegate
Stanmore & District		
Sutton Area		
Tower Hamlets		
U3A in London		
Upminster		
Waltham Forest	Barbara Humm; Dorritt Okoye	
Wandsworth		
Wanstead & Woodford		
Welling	Maria Guest-Naharowicz Marlene Harmer	
TOTALS	22 members on total on line at peak. 25 members responded (so 3 no shows) u3as represented: 17/43 (40%) u3as sent in apologies: 6 22 u3as not represented (of which 21 no response)	

*Duplicates not counted in totals