

## MINUTES

Meeting Title: **DELEGATES MEETING**

Date/ Time: **21<sup>st</sup> October 2022, 14.00-16.30pm. Following on from the AGM**

Attendance: **as per the AGM Minutes**

Venue: **Online via Zoom**

	<b>Welcome</b> (Jenny Wilson)
14.15-15.10	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Guest Speaker:</b></p> <p>Susannah Hodge, Training &amp; Regional Support Officer, from the u3a Office presented on the u3a Office staff roles and particularly 'Member Services'. See details notes below and recording on the Delegates website: <a href="https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aq6tJrJl9KVRoHrJaD4xj4eglTJb?e=Vrflf3">https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aq6tJrJl9KVRoHrJaD4xj4eglTJb?e=Vrflf3</a></p> <p>Questions were then taken and are recorded in the above recording. Breakout rooms were not utilised.</p>
15.10-16.20	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Guest Speaker:</b></p> <p>Allan Walmsley, Vice Chair (&amp; ex Regional Trustee for West Midlands) presented on the Trust's Strategy. See details notes below and recording on the Delegates website: <a href="https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21APIM7LyUuSPvblw&amp;cid=51A5F465B226ADAE&amp;id=51A5F465B226ADAE%214219&amp;parId=51A5F465B226ADAE%214221&amp;o=OneUp">https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21APIM7LyUuSPvblw&amp;cid=51A5F465B226ADAE&amp;id=51A5F465B226ADAE%214219&amp;parId=51A5F465B226ADAE%214221&amp;o=OneUp</a></p> <p>Questions were then taken and are recorded in the above recording. Breakout rooms were not utilised.</p>
16.20-16.30	<p><b>Wrap up &amp; Meeting closed</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked all those who had attended the AGM, and thanked David Apps for taking the Minutes due to the Business Secretary position still being vacant on the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair passed on a request from Liz Day for ideas on activity and discussions for the forthcoming Chair's Lunch meeting (6<sup>th</sup> Feb, at LIFT, Islington) and asked for these to be sent to Liz.</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting the 2023 national u3a week would be the 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September.</p> <p>Next Delegates meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023, online.</p>

### DETAILED NOTES FROM THE TWO PRESENTATIONS:

#### GUEST SPEAKERS, FOLLOWING LONDON REGION AGM

##### SUSANNAH HODGE – u3a Training and Regional Support Officer, u3a office

Susannah opened her presentation by saying she had been in the post for 5 months, and she then proceeded to give a slide show highlighting the Strategic Vision, the Team at u3a Headquarters and Members Services looking at the 5 main areas.

Following the presentation questions were invited from the meeting.

- a) Chris Bulford (Islington) asked for a flavour of what Susannah does. She responded by saying that her work included developing workshops by working with the development committee, organising training materials and other resources, and how she can offer support to regional teams.
- b) Maria Guest-Naharowicz (Welling) commented on the lack of Beacon training available. Susannah replied that the Beacon team were focusing on providing training in the near future.
- c) Rosemary Mayes (Barnet) stated that she would like to see an increase in the number of workshops for members. She also stated there was a need for information on speakers who didn't charge high fees. Susannah referred her to the Speakers Network that Rosemary can access. John Bent reminded those present that groups could not pay members if they gave a lecture or speech on a particular subject. John added that there had been initial discussions with the London Age Friendly Forum (LAFF) which exists to develop the voluntary and community sector's contribution to an Age Friendly London. Membership of the wider forum is extended to all organisations that work in the age sector and have an interest in age issues.
- d) Due to time constraints the planned breakout activities were cancelled.
- e) The Chair thanked Susannah for her presentation.

#### **Allan Walmsley – Vice-Chairman of the Trust**

Allan gave a presentation on the Strategic Aims of the Trust

Allan first highlighted the current pressures

- Membership numbers have fallen during Covid but are now recovering
- Levels of technical ability and willingness from members are low
- Age profile of u3a is slowly getting older
- Pandemic has resulted in some hibernation of a few u3as

Allan then focused on the positives

- u3as are operationally independent
- Members prefer face to face activities
- Learning within u3a is still the focus
- The organisation remains volunteer led
- We still learn peer to peer.
- Members want more fun, more opportunities and more sharing.
- Online Trust Groups is successful

As part of the Strategy development, the governance of the Trust is being looked at. There is a draft proposal to split the current Board into a smaller Board and a Council. The Regional Trustees (& others) would be on the Council. Further details on this split is being developed and will be shared with the membership during next year.

Allan admitted that there are many challenges facing u3a movement.

Following the presentation questions were invited from the meeting.

- a) John Bent (Barnet) stated that he had seen a lot of Trustees come and go. Many come up through the ranks, but then struggle with the decision making on complicated areas of u3a work. He added that there are vacancies for Trustees at regional level this year.

- b) Chris Bulford (Islington) highlighted the problem of getting members to volunteer generally. This was agreed with by many at the meeting
- c) Rosemary Mayes (Barnet) asked if the Trust had a campaigning role for u3a. Allan responded that it did have this role and the most effective way forward was to work with partners who also have an age focus.
- d) Allan stated that the Strategy was not about imposing something on the membership. He informed the meeting that the route he would like to see be taken would be that the u3a Council would focus on u3a work and the u3a Board be more pro-active in involvement with Government thinking. So two separate areas of activity.
- e) Michael Johns (North London) said that most people joined u3a to attend a particular interest group. He asked what were the priorities for u3a groups. He observed that he could see the case for the two headed system (Board & Council). Allan responded by saying that the Council would be responsible for delivery to the membership. He stated that he would love to get more u3a members involved in the running of the organisation.
- f) Due to time constraints this item of the agenda was brought to an end.
- g) The Chair thanked Allan for his presentation.