

MINUTES

Meeting Title: **DELEGATES MEETING**
 Date/ Time: **20th July 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	Reports from LRU3A Trustees & Peer Support Groups: No questions arising from submitted reports (as in Appendix 1 below).
	<p>News from the Trust & Networks: Stella Morris, the new London Regional Trustee was introduced. Stella reported that she is still in listening and learning mode. Most of her time to date has been at the Board level but she hoped to get more time for the London u3as & network. She appreciated 'seeing' all today through Zoom but hoped to meet people face to face soon. Stella highlighted how the u3a Movement had been getting some good publicity nationally, helping to raise its profile. The Guardian newspaper had recently run an article (around Walking Cricket) and that had been picked up by the BBC One Show with Angela Rippon trying her hand at a Barnsley u3a game. Stella also advised the meeting that the u3a Office, the Communications department, were looking for ideas for this year's u3a Week. Any u3a coming up with their good or unusual ideas should forward them to Stella at stella.morris@u3a.org.uk No particular questions arising.</p>
Topic 1 - News (chaired by Liz Day)	
2.30–3.15	<p>News from London u3as: A number of u3as expressed their recent ideas or new ventures. Partnerships with other local organisations featured with tie ups with Bowling clubs, walking groups, Sports GB, etc. Waltham Forest had started up a Walking Cricket group following its success nationally. Palmers Green were doing more one-off social type events & these had proven very popular. This included trying 'bite size' groups, ie running a group on a new subject for a short time to see if it's popular & then growing it potentially into a longer term fully fledged Interest Group. Bromley were using the new Elizabeth Line to explore other areas on now easily accessible London. Barking & Dagenham were interested in 'Geo-caching' (& explained it) but no u3a present had tried it as an Interest Group. There are a few other events that u3as can latch on to eg 'Sculpture in the City', Canary Wharf lightshow (DGIF), etc.</p>
Topic 2 – Environmental Crisis (chaired by Jenny Wilson)	

<p>3.15-3.50</p>	<p>Jenny introduced John Baxter (Barnet) who is now the new national Subject Adviser for Climate Change. John explained he was still new in the role but felt it needed a refresh, a re-invigoration. Currently there is 260 subscribers to the subject Newsletter (out of 1035 u3as) which he felt was disappointing.</p> <p>Jenny highlighted the critically of the subject and yet only 109 u3as have some form of ‘eco’ Interest Group. Why not 1035? There are 12 in the LR out of 42 u3as If u3as felt that this topic was ‘political’ and hence the u3a Movement should not be getting involved, Jenny highlighted that our charity object clause allowed for campaigning and influencing. Eric Midwinter (a founder) has said he is disappointed that the way the movement has grown is good in size but it’s failed to command a strong influencing position.</p> <p>A few joined in the debate – how to engage with u3a members on the topic without turning them off.</p> <p>John had produced a list of good tips on what each member can do to make a contribution to the crisis.</p> <p>The national website has plenty of information on climate matters / toolkit & resources / advice on Influencing whilst remaining compliant. https://u3asites.org.uk/climate-change/home Croydon u3a has a useful section on their website : https://u3acroydon.weebly.com/</p>
<p>4.00-4.15</p>	<p>Breakout Rooms</p>
<p>4.15-4.25</p>	<p>Breakout Rooms feedback:</p> <p>Room 1: we mustn’t preach, need to increase awareness and be mindful that members may be involved in other organisations & charities concerned with climate / sustainability issues.</p> <p>Room 2: yes, generally agreed with the presentation. Amongst the 4 in the room, one had an ‘eco’ group currently, the others didn’t. More education is the key; people don’t want to be poorer as a result of ‘eco’ policies & changes in life style, older people probably have a low carbon footprint</p> <p>Room 3: suggested the subject should be widened from Climate Change to Sustainability as this was often more popular (eg capturing the bio-diversity collapse) The idea of a Climate Assembly was raised for further consideration</p> <p>Room 4: there needs to be encouragement not preaching / members shouldn’t feel got at Room 5: need to look at the process not the content for widening the scope with the u3a.</p>
<p>4.25-4.30</p>	<p>AOB & Wrap Up (Jenny Wilson)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. Volunteers for the LRU3A Executive Committee still required. Current vacancies include: Chair, Business Secretary and Public Affairs Coordinator. 3. Dates for next meetings: Dates for next meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th October (& AGM) 4. It was suggested that maybe another day of the week should be considered. One person said a different day would be good / another said Friday afternoons were best as few Interest Groups / talks going on then. <p>Thanks were expressed to the co-chairs for today, and all for attending.</p>

APPENDIX 1 – REPORTS (as published with the Agenda):

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHAIR: vacant position so no report

VICE CHAIRS (Jenny Wilson & Derek Harwood):

Not too much to report since our last meeting in April. Preparations for our Summer School and sales has progressed well thanks to Catherine and Rikki (more details below). Some of our Peer Support Groups have had meetings in the period as described below and we held a useful follow up meeting for Chairs in May. Our members benefitted from the two free Film Screenings we were offered in May with several in attendance at each. We've now created two more Shared Practice Guides based on issues that are common to our members (Use of Alias email Addresses and Recruiting Committee Members)

TREASURER (John Bent):

The bookings for our Summer School have been good this year, with numbers above target (325 vs 315). However we expect to incur a slight deficit on the event. The Summer School is normally our only source of revenue to fund anything else we want to provide in the year. Conducting meetings (eg for Delegates) online rather than physically (& hence needing to hire venues) has helped keep our annual costs down. However we did incur costs for the annual physical Chairs networking event and for a few other minor expenses. Our bank balance at the end of our last financial year was £8,474 and our forecast for end of this year is that our bank balance will be in the region of £7,400.

Mailchimp (the software we use to issue all our LRU3A mailings) has changed their terms meaning, to keep within the free account level, we have to restrict our quantity. Any further change by them may mean we have to start paying for the software which would erode our finances further.

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR (Vivek Nanda):

In the second quarter of 2023, almost 1500 emails were sent by the Communications Team. This significant reduction of over 70% was achieved by combining multiple emails into one (for Chairs and Delegates) and because the peak of emails for publicising the London Region Summer School happens in the first quarter of the year. This is allowing us to continue using the Mailchimp free plan with its limits of 500 contacts and 1000 emails per month. However, the continued tightening of security measures by Mailchimp is also making the free accounts less accessible. The London Region Comms Team is continuing the search for alternative email systems, as Beacon is not suitable for the requirements of the London Region Talks Programme and the Summer School. Please email Vivek on communications.lru3a@gmail.com if you are using another email platform, apart from MailChimp or Beacon.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP COORDINATOR (Liz Day):

CHAIRS: To follow up from the February Chairs meeting an online Chairs meeting was held on the 24th May. The Chairs attending discussed what they had instigated since the February meeting or shared what they were hoping to roll out shortly.

The Chairs WhatsApp group has now been set up allowing a quick method for sharing issues or request for help.

GROUP COORDINATORS:

Nothing to report. No PSG meeting since October's Delegates meeting. Hoping to re-start if there is an offer from a member to lead on organising the group.

WEBMASTERS PSG (Derek Harwood):

There was an online meeting held on 1st May meeting where the following items were on the agenda: Status Sitebuilder replacement (SiteWorks); Draft SPG – Alias email accounts: Digital Strategy update: Use of Website Analytics. As always there was good sharing and the presentation provided on the progress of the SiteWorks roll out of particular interest for many.

TREASURERS PSG (Derek Harwood)

A meeting was held on 2nd May which largely discussed items raised by members (including tax status & public liability insurance of speakers/tutors; handling payments and income from outings; level of reserves to hold) but also discussed the initiative to develop a sample Excel accounts template.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PSG

In abeyance as no Coordinator since Rodney Fox left the Region. **Any volunteer to re-start this PSG?** Could be that a volunteer from Tower Hamlets has been found (from October 2023)

OTHER LRU3A GENERAL NEWS:

SUMMER SCHOOL -- our 10th Anniversary (Catherine Ware)

Bookings for this year's Summer School on 25th/26th July have gone well. Most sessions are now fully booked. At the planning meeting on 10th July the Events Team discussed potential risks posed by Tube strikes on both days of our event. While no definitive announcements had been made by TfL about which Tube services would be affected each day, it was stated that mainline services would not be affected. The Summer School Programme gives directions and information about nearby mainline stations and bus services, and there are many options in London.

No expressions of concern had been received from applicants or contributors. As stated in the Programme since the beginning, no refunds could be made after 26th June -- the deadline for us to pay in full for the venue and some other expenses. It was therefore decided to take a positive view and send an email to all contributors confirming that the event would go ahead as planned.

LONDON PARKS & GARDENS (Catherine Ware)

Regarding the possible collaboration with London Parks & Gardens Trust - some of our members volunteered at the Open Gardens weekend 10th/11th June. Possibilities for collaboration in research not hopeful as LPG seem more interested in recruiting individual members from LRU3A rather than a jointly managed project, but discussions to continue in the autumn. Their LPG Chair has agreed to replace a Summer School speaker, who had cancelled for health reasons, with a talk about Protecting London's Historic Landscapes.

NATIONAL GENERAL NEWS (Report from London's Regional Trustee, Stella Morris):

News from the Third Age Trust: verbal report given.

NETWORK LINK

The last national Network Link meeting was on 13th June. This covered two topics:

- Beacon for Networks – a presentation by John Alexander (Beacon team volunteer)
- SiteWorks – a presentation by Alan Russel (SiteWorks Team lead volunteer)

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With over 150 members attending representing Networks and individual u3a, both topics were of great interest and raised many questions.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12 October. A link to their latest Newsletter is: [here](#).

APPENDIX 2 - Register

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*	
	Guest:	John Baxter (new Subject Adviser for Environment / Climate)			
	Third Age Trust				
	London Region Trustee	Stella Morris			
	London Region Local Networks:				
	BOB	No rep			
	SW London	No rep			
	London U3A Representatives (Chair, Delegate, Other)	No text means no response			
1	Abbeywood & Thamesmead		0		
2	Barnet	John Bent	1	Joanna Tambouridou Rosemary Mayes	1
3	Beckenham		0		
4	Bexley		0	Wendy Scott (C)	1
5	Brent		0		
6	Bromley	Angela Dowling	1		
7	Crouch End		0		
8	Croydon	Jenny Wilson* David Apps	1		
9	Dagenham	Melody Cohen (C)	1		
10	Dulwich & District	Liz Day* Tim Pagan	1		
11	Ealing	Derek Atkinson	1		
12	Enfield	Michael Witter (C)	1		
13	Hackney	Liz Southcombe	1		
14	Hammersmith & Fulham	Sue Adams	0		
15	Hampstead Garden Suburbs		0	Margaret Harris	1
16	Harrow	Anne Gerrard	1		
17	Havering		0		
18	Hillingdon	George Prybyla	1	Ann Lines	
19	Hounslow		0		

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20	Islington	Chris Bulford Derek Harwood* Vivek Nanda*	1	Paula Kahn	
21	Kenton & District	Diana O'Reardon	1		
22	Kingston		0	Jane Hoyland (C)	
23	London South East	Chris Melville (C) Timothy Crossley	1		
24	Merton	John Roberts	1	David Drummond Catherine Ware*	
25	Mill Hill	Melyvn Sandler (VC)	1		
26	North London	Michael Johns	1	Ruth Silver	
27	Northwood & District	Rob Thomasson	1		
28	Norwood	Judith Foskett	1		
29	Orpington		0		
30	Palmers Green & Southgate	Robin Charnley (VC)	1	Val Golding Coral Datta	
31	Redbridge & District		0	Loretta Mather	1
32	Richmond	Christopher Barclay	1		
33	Sidcup & District	Sandra Applegate	1		
34	Stanmore & District		0		
35	Sutton Area		0	Lin Harris	1
36	Tower Hamlets		0	Colin Pluckrose	1
37	U3A in London		0		
38	Upminster		0		
39	Waltham Forest	Barbara Humm	1	Christine Farnes	
40	Wandsworth	Andy Crane	1		
41	Wanstead & Woodford		0		
42	Welling		0	Marlene Harmer Pat Perry (C)	1
			23		6
TOTALS		Participants online at peak: 29 People registered : 34 (so 5 no shows) u3as represented on the day: 23 out of 42 (56%) u3as not represented on the day: 19 (42-23) Apologies received from members: 17 u3as covered by apologies: 6 u3as active: 30 (24+6) u3as inactive (no response): 12			

*Duplicates not counted in totals