

LRU3A – TREASURERS’ PEER SUPPORT GROUP

MEETING – 25th JULY 2023, 16.30, on Zoom

Zoom link details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89414835574?pwd=cGo5S3pReXNqSkdBeVBzVU1lWGJkQT09>

Meeting ID: 894 1483 5574.....Passcode: 214985

ATTENDEES:

No	u3a NAME	REP NAME	Att	Apol
1	Abbeywood & Thamesmead	Pat Stratful		
2	Barnet	Brian Lipman Sarah Beamont	1	
3	Beckenham	Lynn Edwards		
4	Bexley	Keith Scott		
5	Bromley	Jon Pearce		
6	Crouch End & District	Peter Stachniewski		
7	Croydon	Paul Smith Jenny Wilson	1	
8	Dagenham	Jan Mortimer	1	
9	Dulwich & District	Ruth Colvin		
10	Ealing	Liz Major	1	
11	Enfield	Stephanie Milverton		
12	Hackney	Barbara Patilla		
13	Hammersmith and Fulham	Graham Tigg Derek Hodd	1	
14	Hamstead Garden Suburb	Arjun Matthai Simon Freeman	1	
15	Harrow	Krutsna Buddhdev	1	
16	Havering	Graham Lyons		
17	Hillingdon	Richard Fremantle	1	
18	Hounslow	Rob Woods		
19	Islington	Mary White Derek Harwood (DH)	1	
20	Kenton & District	John Bishop		
21	Kingston	Joy Garvey Jane Hoyland Fiona Tolmie	1	
22	London SE	Tim Crossley	1	
23	Merton	David Drummond	1	
24	Mill Hill	Warren Starr		
25	North London	Roy Seger	1	
26	Northwood & District	Keith Cains		
27	Norwood	Lindi Kibbey Nick Trotman	1	1
28	Orpington	Bob Browne	1	
29	Palmers Green & District	Howard Strudwick		
30	Redbridge	Maurice Neiberg Stuart Wallman	1 1	
31	Richmond upon Thames	John Cardwell Carole Fletcher		1
32	Sidcup	Georgina Self		
33	Stanmore District	Martin Carr		1
34	Sutton & District	Chris McCarthy		
35	Tower Hamlets	Dymphna Dale		
36	u3a in London	Anthony Sober		
37	Upminster	Malcolm Henderson-Begg		
38	Waltham Forest	Trevor Farnes		
39	Wandsworth	Lynne Jones	1	
40	Wanstead & Woodford	Diane Conway		
41	Welling	Irene Michell		

AGENDA:

1. Beacon & Paypal default
2. SPG on Banking
3. For "All Inclusive" u3as that do not have single "tied" venue, what if anything, do they do to keep a control over the costs of those venues?
4. Gift Aid update
5. National End of Year report issued
6. Anything else / open discussion / AOB
7. Next meeting date.

SUBJECTS:

1. **Beacon & PayPal Default:** this was an action from last the meeting – ‘could Beacon be modified to allow online renewals but without going through PayPal?’ The question had been put to the Beacon volunteer team (through Roy Bailey) but the answer was ‘No’. They felt this would make the coding too difficult. However if there is more demand nationally then they might add it to their long list of requested Beacon modifications.
2. **SPG on Banking:** also following on from the last meeting, there is now a Shared Practice Guide on this topic. This had been circulated and comments welcomed. All shared their issues with the Banks. Some said one bank was great, no problems, others then had problems with the same bank chain. Mixed stories for all of them. All agreed the guide was interesting regarding issues but no easy solutions.
3. **Venue Costs:** North London asked how other u3as ‘controlled venue costs’? General discussions some had Agreements/Contracts with venue providers – but this didn’t necessary control costs for long & could tie you in when you want to change venue. Others had moved venues when another has increased their costs. No easy solution. A competitive market. Dependent on the area – some have more availability/ choices compared to others.

There was discussion about the cost of venues. There will be regional variations, size of venue space and services provided. Seemed to be anything from £10/hr through to £25/hr. Or eg £135 for a morning (for 140 people). For small groups a charge of £5/person/hour was used (by Pay As You Go type u3as).

4. **Gift Aid:** DH gave an update on the issue. The issue is a new HMRC Inspector is not sticking to the previous national agreement (as reflected on the Finance Matters-Guidance document on the national website) which is: expenditures associated with general (overall) membership activities are valid for a Gift Aid claim. Costs for groups was being classed as ‘personal benefit’ and needed to be excluded from the claim. But the Inspector was now challenging what was classed as a general cost vs personal benefits, he was stating that eg costs for monthly meetings should be excluded. This is a dangerous slippery slip – as other cost areas could be then classed as personal benefit, ie anything where the full membership is not involved (eg AGM attendance?). Therefore the u3a Office are looking to enter a ‘Dispute Process’ with HMRC to challenge the Inspectors views, but also potentially to argue that all costs were to support the Charities Object clause and hence should be claimable (similar to many other charities, eg Scouts, National Trust, etc). Is there a current list available from this HMRC’s Inspector’s view of what can be included vs what has to be excluded? DH to check.

This process could take time and in the meantime each charity, each u3a needs, to make it’s

one decision and calculations. The website guidance is still the official national position.

5. **End of Year Report:** this was just for information, this national report has now been issued (in advance of the finalise audited annual accounts which is issued as part of the AGM papers. It was issued from the u3a Office to all registered Treasurers. If Treasurers hadn't received a copy they should contact Derek or correct their registered central details through: portal@u3a.org.uk
6. **Anything Else / AOB:**
There was discussion about 'was there guidance on the level of Subscriptions'. There isn't. Pay as you could be £5, £10, £15 (single per year). All inclusive could be £20, £25, £30, £35. u3a in London used to charge £70 but has lowered this to £40 now.
7. **Topics for next Meeting:** forgot to ask. Let me know if you want anything put on the agenda for next meeting.

Actions arising:

- a. Establish if there is a listing from HMRC Inspector re valid gift aid claim submission basis

Next Meeting(s): meetings will be, every 3 months at 4.30pm. Request to try to vary the day (a different day of the week for each meeting). Therefore specific date for next meeting: **Thursday 26th October.**