

LRU3A – TREASURERS’ PEER SUPPORT GROUP
MEETING – 23rd January 2024, 16.00, on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 862 1607 7926

Passcode: 986082

ATTENDEES:

No	u3a NAME	REP NAME	Att	Apol
1	Abbeywood & Thamesmead			
2	Barnet	Brian Lipman Sarah Beamont	1	
3	Beckenham	Lynne Edwards (LE)		
4	Bexley	Keith Scott		1
5	Bromley	Jon Pearce		
6	Crouch End & District	Peter Stachniewski		
7	Croydon	Paul Smith Jenny Wilson		
8	Dagenham	Jan Mortimer	1	
9	Dulwich & District	Ruth Colvin		
10	Ealing	Liz Major	1	
11	Enfield	Joan Williams Jean Poyser		
12	Hackney	Barbara Patilla	1	
13	Hammersmith and Fulham	Graham Tigg Derek Hodd		
14	HGS	Simon Freeman (SF)	1	
15	Harrow	Krutsna Buddhdev		
16	Havering	Graham Lyons		
17	Hillingdon	Richard Fremantle		
18	Hounslow	Rob Woods		
19	Islington	Mary White Derek Harwood (DH)	1 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		
26	Northwood & District	Keith Cains		
27	Norwood	Judith Foskett Lindi Kibbey (LK)	1	1
28	Orpington	Bob Browne (BB)		
29	Palmers Green & District	Howard Strudwick		
30	Redbridge	Maurice Neiberg Stuart Wallman (SW)		
31	Richmond upon Thames	John Cardwell Carole Fletcher		
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	Christine Sherret	1	
39	Wandsworth	Lynne Jones (L J)		1
40	Wanstead & Woodford	Diane Conway		1
41	Welling	Irene Michell	1	

AGENDA:

1. Actions Arising
2. Gift Aid update
3. Anything else / open discussion / AOB
4. Next meeting date

There hadn't been any agenda items submitted prior to the meeting.

SUBJECTS:

1. **Actions Arising:** From the last meeting there was a request if there is a listing from HMRC Inspector re valid items that be included in a gift aid claim. DH responded that the nature of the previous guidance from HMRC had not included a listing of specific items.
2. **Gift Aid Dispute (Trust vs HMRC):** Not much progress from last meetings report. As a reminder: The Third Age Trust has now placed a contract with Haysmacintyre (previous auditors) to represent them in this dispute process. It seemed a particular HMRC Officer was not following the previous (2021) HMRC guidance & was challenging the basis that some u3as were using in their submissions. Haysmacintyre is assessing the data the Trust has provided to reflect the spread of u3as and their income/ expenditure profiles. Some are 'Fully Inclusive', some are 'Pay As You Go'. With many being within this spectrum. 5 u3as are supporting and providing this data. It is expected this 'dispute' will take some time and in the meantime, u3as should carry on doing what they've been doing, being aware of the national guidance: [Gift Aid Guidance](#)
3. **Open Discussion, Holidays /Outings:** HGS asked about money management for a u3a organised holiday. Some use a 'Tour Operator' or 'Holiday Company' to simplify this. This is the general guidance also (Section 5.3 in [Finance Matters-Guidance](#)). Others did collect the money themselves. Some had a dedicated bank account. This led to talk about Outings. Again some u3as had a dedicated separate bank account. It was felt not recommended to allow money to go through personal bank accounts. Generally Treasurers just should the (Outings) income matched with the equivalent expenditure). Any surplus possibly best avoided, but belongs to the u3a (not the Outing Coordinator).
4. **Open Discussion, Dual Authorisation:** mixed practice here. For those that had a process in place, some used an email as the 2nd form of authorisation (if their bank didn't offer this service). Some felt (where their bank did provide this online service) that it was easy and authorisation could be done from anywhere over the internet (or even through their smartphone's Bank App). Others didn't have dual authorisation in place. The national guidance, to avoid risk of fraud, that dual authorisation is in place (in some form). PayPal only offers a single authorisation system.
5. **Open Discussions, Banks:** above item led to discussions on banks and bank accounts. Each had their views on good or bad bank chains (often regarding the same bank chain). No one bank chain seemed to be 'best' (providing free charity banking, with no charges). Hence the Trust didn't feel it could provide a recommendation of which bank to use. Often it came down to the individual you were dealing with (service levels differs per person). There is now a national guidance document on this topic: [Banking Guidance](#). But it doesn't provide a magic solution....
6. **Open Discussion, Event Management:** it was mentioned that an alternative to Eventbrite is 'Ticket Tailor'. They charge no fees (for charities).

7. **'Finance News Extra'**: if you are not receiving this directly check your contact details (rather than a previous Treasurer) is registered with the u3a Office. You need to update your own details and you can do that here: [Portal](#). If there any topics that you want to be shared in this national mailing let DH know.

8. **Treasurers PSG Note**: there was a query on where previous 'notes' for these meetings could be found. DH advised they are on the LRU3A website, under [Peer Groups](#). There will also be a link to the notes for this meeting in the next LRU3A mailing.

9. **Topics for next Meeting**: DH asked that ideas be submitted, but also advised that if there are any problems arising, or any queries in the interim, these be sent in to DH at any time.

Actions arising:

- a. none

Next Meeting(s): meetings will be, every 3 months generally on Tuesdays at 4.00pm. The next meeting is **Tuesday 23rd April, 4.00**.