

LRU3A – TREASURERS’ PEER SUPPORT GROUP

MEETING – 24th April 2024, 16.00, on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting (recurring invite):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85941949778?pwd=ZytYSmw4T3llenp2UWtpYzFEWWFHUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 4194 9778

Passcode: 319680

ATTENDEES:

No	u3a NAME	REP NAME	Att	Apol
1	Abbeywood & Thamesmead	Pat Stratful		
2	Barnet	Brian Lipman Sarah Beamont		
3	Beckenham	Lynne Edwards (LE)		
4	Bexley	Keith Scott		
5	Bromley	Jon Pearce		1
6	Crouch End & District	Peter Stachniewski		
7	Croydon	Paul Smith		
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		
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	1	
18	Hounslow	Rob Woods		
19	Islington	Mary White Derek Harwood (DH)	1	1
20	Kenton & District	John Bishop		
21	Kingston	Joy Garvey Helen Brett		1
22	London SE	Tim Crossley		
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
28	Orpington	Bob Browne (BB)		1
29	Palmers Green & District	Howard Strudwick		
30	Redbridge	Maurice Neiberg Stuart Wallman (SW)		1
31	Richmond upon Thames	John Cardwell Carole Fletcher		
32	Sidcup	Georgina Self	1	
33	Stanmore District	Martin Carr		
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		
41	Welling	Irene Michell		1

AGENDA:

1. Previous Actions
2. Excel vs Beacon
3. Gift Aid update
4. Anything else / open discussion / AOB
5. Next meeting date

SUBJECTS:

1. **Previous Actions:** No previous outstanding actions.
2. **Excel vs Beacon:** Out of the 8 u3as represented, 2 used Beacon (for their accounts) the other 6 used Excel. Out of the 6 not using Beacon for their accounts, 2 did use Beacon for Membership etc. Wandsworth had fairly recently moved from manual records to Beacon for their accounts and had found the process easy (supported by the Beacon volunteer team) and had found using Beacon (Finance) very easy. They also now feel it's secure and easy for any successor to pick up.

The previous LRU3A initiative of trying to create a standard Excel template (for those not wanting to use/ pay for Beacon) had resulted in a standard workbook being available. But some felt it was too simple, others too complex. But it is available for any new u3as, or new Treasurers (possibly moving from manual records). The standard Excel template, when compared at the time, was actually very similar to the Beacon formats.

The Beacon module has recently been enhanced by more functionality added now by the Volunteers for cash management for 'Pay As You Go' Group Coordinators/Leaders. The next Network Lin meeting will include a presentation from the Beacon Volunteer Team on recent enhancements. Registration link details will be issued when available, by the next LRU3A mailing.

3. **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](#). While some u3as nationally are having their Gift Aid submissions rejected or challenged, attending u3as advised they had made their Gift Aid submissions and had been paid in full.
4. **Open Discussion, Recruiting a Treasurer:** the present u3as didn't have a 'silver bullet' answer. Finding volunteers for all Executive Committee positions was difficult. The membership needs to believe there is a problem, eg their u3a might need to close if 'Officers' were not found. For some the incumbent had to resign to show the threat was real – otherwise they just expected things to continue for ever. Some had tried a global email to their full membership to appeal for a volunteer(s). Others felt in need to be a quiet word in the ear type approach.

5. **Open Discussions, Banks:** discussed at our last meeting and raised again this time. 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. **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.
7. **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 the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 4.00pm. The next meeting is **Tuesday 23rd July, 4.00.**