

LRU3A – TREASURERS’ PEER SUPPORT GROUP

MEETING – 23rd July 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)		
15	Harrow	Krutsna Buddhdev		
16	Havering	Graham Lyons		
17	Hillingdon	Richard Fremantle (RF)	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 (HB)	1	
22	London SE	Tim Crossley		
23	Merton	David Drummond		
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)		
29	Palmers Green & District	Howard Strudwick		
30	Redbridge	Maurice Neiberg Stuart Wallman (SW)		
31	Richmond upon Thames	John Cardwell Carole Fletcher	1	
32	Sidcup	Georgina Self		
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. Gift Aid update
3. Anything else / open discussion / AOB
4. Next meeting date

SUBJECTS:

1. **Previous Actions:** No previous outstanding actions.
2. **Gift Aid Dispute (Trust vs HMRC):** Background - 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 to the Trust. Some u3as have had their submission rejected. The 'appeal' letter has now been submitted to HMRC. We await their response. In the meantime u3as should carry on as they have been doing. The national guidance is: [Gift Aid Guidance](#) .
RF has not had their u3as GA submission approved or otherwise (over 2 years now). Suggested that he calls them as they are usually prompt to process submissions.
3. **Open Discussion, Term of Office for a Treasurer:** the general common position reflected in Constitutions is for the Treasure it's 6 years (whereas other Officer roles are limited to 3 years). This is inline with the national 'model' Constitution which is based on the Charity Commission's guidance.
4. **Open Discussions, Treasurer Contact details:** discussions about updating the national contact details for all u3as. For GDPR / Privacy reasons, u3as must update their own details – through the national 'Portal' which has a link from any of the national web pages or here: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/committee-details-portal> Often it's the u3a's Secretary that has the responsibility for maintaining (ie updating) a u3as' contacts. There had been recent issues re Wandsworth receiving there Annual Subscription's invoice possibly because of the contact details being wrong in Portal
5. **Open Discussions, Charity Commission:** discussions about the change that the CC brought in about a year ago now. Each person (eg Treasurer) needs to have a personal CC Account. Then the u3a's CC 'Administrator', can invite the Treasurer. Once that's sorted the Treasurer can do eg the submission of the Annual Accounts. While this is extra hassle first time/ yar, then easier for future years.
6. **Open Discussions, Treasurer Role Descriptions:** a reminder that there are role description templates for all committee positions and more, on the LRU3A website (bottom of the 'Sharing' page): <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/page/99993>
7. **Open Discussions, Record Keeping:** there was a query re how long u3a paperwork needed to be kept. The safest advice is: 6 years. Some sorts of records could be less but easiest just to keep what you have for 6 years.
8. **Open Discussions, Beacon:** above lead to 'going digital'. LJ sang the praise of their move to Beacon (Finance Module). Geneally made life easier but particularly around Renewal time. Bacon Finance module has recently been upgraded/ expanded to provide more functionality for Group Coordinators (for Pay As You Go cash management). Some Accountants still felt that

Beacon is too simple. Many still using Excel. The Beacon Users Manual shows what the Finance module can do: <https://u3abeacon.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb> LJ (Wandsworth) offered to help HB (Kingston).

9. **Open Discussions, SiteWorks:** discussion re national programme to migrate all u3as from Sitebuilder to SiteWorks. SiteWorks is a more modern web platform (based on WordPress). So far about 200 out of circa 700 are in the process of migration (over 100 are now live). Schedule is all are off Sitebuilder by the end of the year (so it can be shut down). SiteWorks has a lot of flexibility – which does allow each u3a to use it differently. There are many that look good but others not so good. For London u3as, about half that used Sitebuilder are in the process of migration. The rest have yet to start. Status of this initiative can be followed on their website: <https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/>
10. **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 22nd Oct, 4.00.**

All of these meeting Notes are posted on the LRU3A website, on the Peer Group webpage: <https://u3asites.org.uk/london-region/page/117835>