



April Newsletter 2021

It is with regret that **John Pheby** has decided to step down from his role of SUN treasurer. Like many u3a members, he is exhausted by the turmoil of this past year. We would like to thank him for his efforts in managing the network's funds. Consequently, we are in urgent need of a treasurer plus other u3a members willing to act as trustees (**we are down to 4 people now**) to help us plan and run the network as we all attempt to get back to normal by next year.

The SUN AGM is on 21st May, morning. Thanks for responses to the constitution clause vote, we still need more to achieve a quorum. We hope to have the new SE Trustee Susie Berry, join us online. The agenda and link will be sent out at the end of this month.

Our SUN day Zoom talk on Sunday 25th April at 11am, Death Valley and Canyonlands, can now be booked by a request email to sunbookings548@gmail.com

Hybrid meetings are being considered by some u3as with a spaced meeting in a hall with online links to other members. There are many different meeting styles and functions across u3as and experiences over the past 12 months has more than likely changed perspectives on how we think about meetings. Some members may be reluctant to meet in person while others are looking forward to the social interaction, while others enjoy what Zoom has given us.

There is 'old tech' – including telephone, pen and paper, which still has its place, particularly in sending letters and communicating with people who do not have access to technology.

Then there is 'new tech' – including computers, smart 'phones etc brings its own complexities as different devices and different technologies are not always compatible with expectations.

However, a basic set of 'new tech' can be used to manage small, medium, large meetings whether indoors or outdoors with links to participants at home or in another place. In particular, using Zoom via a Smart Phone to enable participation in a 'hybrid' meeting where some are in a meeting room and others are elsewhere. Linking to participants outside the meeting room via Facebook also enables those who do not have Zoom access to participate in the meeting or event. Improving sound quality can be achieved by purchasing an external microphone for as little as £10. This technology enables those in the meeting room to see and hear what is being presented / discussed while ensuring that those outside the room can share the same experience.

The only question is how to share the social interaction in such a hybrid meeting? A smart phone, or a dongle, can also be used to create a wifi hot spot to improve connectivity and avoid the need to purchase additional expensive equipment.

Exmouth u3a can provide a wealth of information on their website at:
<https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/videocalls#h.rc1l465vn31f>

TAT Zoom Talks are still being listed on the SUN Events webpage with the booking links.

Please reassure your treasurers that this year's SUN subs have been suspended for this year, 2021, only. as previously reported



April Newsletter 2021

Board update Susie Berry (SE Trustee)

The full **Recruitment and Retention Toolkit** is now available to be downloaded from the 'Sources' section on the Trust website.

- The **Brand Centre** is being stocked up, items can only be purchased by a nominated u3a rep. Blue and Yellow u3a polo shirts look as though they will be in demand for u3a Day.
- The **Click and Save scheme** should be available in May, savings via this scheme should enable members to recoup their membership fee via discounts available on purchases.
- A **SE Region PR team** is being set up to spread the load of this increasingly important role. Margaret Fiddes is setting up this team and anyone interested in working as part of this team should contact Margaret or Susie. Please encourage any possible candidates to come forward.
- The **Trust AGM is on the 26th August**, it will be a virtual event and it is hoped that the Board will be screened live on the day. The Trust Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are due to retire at this AGM as their term in office ends, replacements are required for these positions and proposals / suggestions for replacements would be welcome.
- The **SE Region's Spring Gathering on 28th April** has around 100 people signed up to date. Please send a reminder to your members.
- **u3a Day** is being handled at a local level and nothing is planned at Network levels. Activities are curtailed by the current uncertainties on the timing of restrictions. Using local media like magazines, especially the freebies, local radio, social media etc are popular proposals.
- **U3as that are seriously struggling** are asked to contact Susie either direct or through the network. Susie can be contacted via an email link on the SUN Members page.

Louisa Sewell SUN Secretary sussexareau3a@gmail.com