

Notes of Meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022 2pm-4pm on Zoom

Present

Ann Beeching	Joint Network Coordinator	Eastleigh
Joy Lyon	Joint Network Coordinator	Totton South
Susie Berry	SE Region Trustee	Ridgeway
Hilvary Robinson	SE Region Support Team	SE Lymington
Susan Southwell	Region Support Team	

Representatives from the following u3as: -

Milford-on-Sea	Southampton	Fordingbridge	Romsey and District
New Milton	Fordingbridge	Totton South	Chandlers Ford
Totton South	Monks Brook		

Apologies

Winchester, Hythe & Dibden, Eastleigh & District

1. Introduction

Joy welcomed everyone and asked if there were objections to the meeting being recorded.

2. Notes of previous meeting and matters arising

Corrections to the notes:

Crosfield Hall has only one S Wendy Nichols is from New Milton

There was a request for clarification of the email addresses to be used by the network. It was agreed that personal addresses would not be used.

3. Update by the SE Region Trustee

The trust board met last week.

Details of the SE autumn gathering in three days time have been circulated. The meeting is to discuss the way forward, 'Fit for the future'. There will be a reprise of presentations at the AGM and the rest of the day will be an open discussion. Everything is open for discussion including the suggestion that the responsibilities of the trustees might be split between governance and membership and whether to reinstate national conferences.

Trust u3a, which was set up during Covid to assist those u3as affected by the pandemic, is now known as Interest Groups On Line to comply with Charity Commission regulations.

The monthly newsletter is seen as a useful tool but some have said that it now contains so much information and important things can be overlooked, such as the updating of risk assessment forms. Some u3a's have asked that changes of this sort be notified by a short email. It was felt that information that was only of interest to committees should be sent direct to those committees.

4. Website and Beacon Update

Joy has put in a request for SW Hampshire Network to have a Beacon account but this will take a while.

Kay asked about forwarding documents through Beacon. Joy said it automatically BCC'd and to forward requires selecting addresses

Joan was thanked for setting up the new website. She said it is in an early stage at present. The Events page has been set up. The notes of the last meeting are in documents.

Joy thought that Isle of Wight had moved to South Central.

Ann asked that the pictures should not all be of The New Forest.

Contacts are missing and Joan would like these sent to her. Christine asked that the contacts be checked to ensure they are current. u3a's should advise on current contact after each u3a's AGM.

ACTION: all members

Barbara queried that names were shown and it was agreed that generic emails be used and then no updating would be required. Not all groups have generic emails but then it would go to the contact given by clicking on the u3a.

ACTION: JM

Website is live.

5. Peer Group Sessions

How do we take this forward? How often and who takes responsibility? Last year's was successful.

Ann asked for suggestions of what to start with, perhaps chairman and secretary.

Kay said that the fact that AGMs are at different times of the year does cause a problem but Joy thought that it could be a rolling programme.

Joan asked that Webmasters be added because of the new website, WordPress. Ann suggested that the individual U3as be asked.

Joy said we need someone to coordinate.

Ann offered to set up and hopes that groups of officers would decide to meet once a year. Joy and Ann will take forward.

ACTION: AB and JL

6. Joint network activities

The purpose is to help those groups with low numbers.

Joan had suggested because it helps to get to know people from other groups.

Joy suggested that group coordinators should be put in touch with each other and see what comes out. Start with bridge, walking, quiz, canasta and table tennis.

Ann will send a note to everyone.

ACTION: AB

7. Potential workshop in 2023 and future meetings

Workshop: following wide ranging discussion of what was required, it was agreed to postpone this at the present time as it would need a lot of time and workshops are currently being offered by TAT.

It had been previously agreed to hold meetings on Mondays, but to vary the week of the month.

Next year dates proposed are:

Date	(week)	Host u3a	Method
30 January	(5)	Monks Brook	
27 March	(4)	Romsey Archway	Face to face
15 May	(3)	Lymington?	
10 July	(2)	Eastleigh	Face to face
4 September	(1)	Chandler Ford?	

Several u3as offered to host; some potential offers will need confirming with committees. Meetings are every two months; there are twenty u3as in the Network, making the opportunity to host rare. For subsequent meetings two u3as will be allocated dates aiming for equity.

8. Network Finances

Ann said that Hamble Valley had donated its funds of £4,080.14 to the Network, before this the balance was about £100.

It was suggested that the new u3a, Botley, should be given a grant. Botley is changing a joining fee of £5 and annual subscription of £25. It is trying to borrow £200 for a sound system. The Trust grant of £300 for set up costs, which is meant to cover TAT and trustee expenses, has not been received yet.

Ann said that we do not need all this money as the Trust now pays for all training.

It was agreed that Botley would be given £300, and that this would not set a precedent.

9. Succession Planning

Ann and Joy will be staying in post for a further year. After that someone needs to step up. They would be happy with shadowing.

10. Your Spot

Monks Brook had a query about the cost of starting groups.

Hilvary said it is up to the u3a's committee to decide if assistance will be given. Whichever it is, it should be part of the u3a's financial policy.

If members of new group agree to provide equipment, that equipment is the property of the u3a not the individuals.

Christine said that Southampton provide up to £50 to a new group but it is only reimbursed against vouched expenditure.

11. Any Other Business

Nothing was raised.

12. Next Meeting

30th January 2023, Monks Brook to host on Zoom.