

South West Hampshire u3a Network
Notes of Meeting 27th November 2023
Zoom

Present

Christine Rowland - Southampton CR - Meeting Chair	
Ann Beeching - Joint Network Co-ordinator - Eastleigh AB	
Joy Lyon - Joint Network Co-ordinator - Totton South JL	
Sue Derrick - Botley & Hedge End SD	Helen Creighton - Totton South HC
Anne Warden - Botley & Hedge End AW	Jill Haistead - Lymington JL
Tony Evans - Monks Brook TE	Barbara Walder-Davis - New Milton BWD
David Gregory - New Milton DG	Sue Aburrow - Eastleigh SA
Susie Berry - SE Trustee SB	Grania Egan - New Milton GE
Hilvary Robinson - Lymington HR	Vernon Tottle - Winchester VT
Bridget Hignett - Chandlers Ford BH	Joan Miller - Fordingbridge JM

1. **Introduction** - CR welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** - none
3. The notes from the previous meeting were accepted as accurate.

Matters Arising:

- * Railway Group - CR reported that Southampton now had a Railway Group. She thanked Winchester for their help.
- * Google Meet Progress - VR was thanked for his input but it was decided that now everyone was used to Zoom and all require a licence, we should continue to use Zoom.
- * SE Forum Summer School, Chichester 2024 - AB said volunteers should contact David Ashton if they can help. SB said new blood was needed particularly for organising the committee. Two volunteers from the SW were needed for the Committee which at present consists of the Chair, Treasurer, two from Surrey, two from Kent and two from South Central.

4. **Any Questions from Circulated Reports - SB**

- i) AGM 18th October - all information and slides are on the link:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/agm-2023>
- ii) Network Link Meeting, 12th October - podcasts are available which are broadcast on the 17th of every month on the u3a Podcast site.
- iii) u3a Festival, 18-20 July 2024 in York - registration is on the u3a website
- iv) JL reminded that all information sent out by the Trust to Chairs should be cascaded to all members.
- v) JL said workshops are to be made available on the website by PR and Media Advisers.

vi) JL - SERN Meeting, 14th November 2023 - the Board have circulated a report on the progress of Board and Pilot Council developments - **“Save the Date” - 4th March 2024** when they will hold an open meeting for all SE Region u3a members who wish to take part. The intention is to enhance communication between individual u3as, Networks and Trust.

vii) SB reported on the AGM - Challenges of the Third Age Trust:

- * how to be relevant to today’s members
- * the wide range of digital skills that some members have
- * how to recruit members for Committee roles

5. **SE Region Autumn Gathering, 16th November** - HR said 30 people had attended plus three Subject Advisers - Creative Writing, Climate Change & the Environment and French. She reminded members that there are 77 subject advisers available if anyone wishes to set up a group. The u3a Trust Online is available to join for £12 per annum.

6. **Joint Network Activities:**

Network Quiz, Wednesday 29th November, Crosfield Hall, Romsey - CR reported that around 75 members were expected, making 11-12 teams. More were welcome. Prizes would be provided.

7. **Peer Group Sessions** - AB apologised that she had not got around to organising the Secretaries’ session planned for October. AB to organise this and one for Group Co-ordinators in the new year. **ACTION: AB**
She reminded members that there were separate Facebook chat groups for Business Secretaries, Chairs and Treasurers with answers available.
SB to check that all Facebook groups are monitored by the Trust and any questions answered. **ACTION: SB**

8. **Meeting Dates and Host u3as 2024 2.00pm starts (Appendix 1)** - the numbers beside each month indicate which Monday of the month the meeting will be held. AB suggested something topical could be discussed like the new website.

Monday 29th January - Milford-on-Sea are unable to host. JL/AB to check that Romsey can host. BH offered to host and provide Zoom link. **ACTION: JL/AB**

Crosfield Hall to be booked for March, May & September. **ACTION: AB**

March 2024 - Hosts - Lyndhurst and Fordingbridge. JL to investigate if Lyndhurst would be attending. **ACTION: JL**

9. **SW Hants Website Development - Change to SiteWorks** - to be kept on the Agenda as an ongoing topic. SB to send a video to JL which could be distributed to u3as. **ACTION: SB**

10. **Succession Planning** - AB and JL have yet to find any volunteers to help them and learn their roles. If no one comes forward it could mean the end of the SW Network. DG volunteered to help and to get together with them to discuss this. GE suggested rotating roles within the SW network, possibly for three months at a time. To be an Agenda item for the January meeting.

ACTION: JL, AB, DG & GE TO HAVE A FACE TO FACE OR ZOOM MEETING

11. **“Your Spot”**

- * VT raised the subject of GDPR and how it affects the network. Deferred to the next meeting in January.
- * HR reminded members of the Solent Mind “Let’s Get Digital” weekly course, free of charge for u3as running for eight weeks, two hours per week. Fourteen people were on the course and doing well. The cost of the venue to be shared by the course participants.
- * HR wondered if there was a way on Beacon to ensure people read their emails. SB to endeavour to find out but she thought not. **ACTION: SB**
- * BH asked how long hard copies of reports, minutes etc needed to be kept. SB felt it was not compulsory to keep these for a specific time and they could always be put on a memory stick. AGM minutes should be kept. Gift Aid records have a limit of six years.
- * SB said the Board was trying to sort out the possible transition from the governance system. It was producing draft Terms of Reference for many things to go to the Council Meeting on 13th December on Zoom for first comment, to be followed by a face to face meeting on 28th February. The Board was putting together a Roadshow - a short presentation to be delivered to the Trustees, also to be available online. It needed 75% in favour to go through. A decision was needed to be made by the AGM in October. SB felt it should end up with a very skilled Board.
- * SB reported that the Board was working on permissible changes to the Model Constitution regarding the tenure of Trustees. At present there are four officers - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Charity law says there only needs to be two Trustees. A paper to be published to u3as before Christmas. This could help u3as who were struggling to recruit committee members. This has been cleared with the Charity Commission and a list of things that can be changed will be forthcoming.
- * u3a Festival 2024 in York - details are on the website.

12. **AOB**

- * CR reported that the Treasurer of Southampton was finding it impossible to obtain a grant for their Showcase Event. SB said the Trust was considering changes to the way grants were given. It may mean means testing u3as.
ACTION: SB
- * AB now has a banner for the network which will be taken to the quiz on 29th November. It can be borrowed by branches for events.

13. **Next Meeting** - Monday 29th January on Zoom, 2.00-4.00pm

CR closed the meeting at 3.25pm

Potential Meeting Hosts and Scribes
Red indicates not yet confirmed

Date 2023		Potential u3a pairs	
Jan 30 th (5)	Zoom	Monks Brook	
March 27 th (4)	F2F	Romsey Archway	
May 15 th (3)	F2F	Lymington	
July 10 th (2)	Z	Eastleigh	
September 25 th (4)	F2F	New Milton	Winchester
November 27 th (4)	Z	Botley, Hedge End	Southampton
<p>Timings of meetings will be an Agenda item on January 29th Please note change of date for March/April</p>			
2024		Potential u3a pairs	
Jan 29 th (5)	Z	Chandlers Ford	Romsey District
March 25th (4) April 15 th (3)	F2F	Lyndhurst	Fordingbridge
May 20 th (3)	F2F	Totton	Totton South
July 29 th (5)	Z	Ringwood	Anton
Sept 30 th (5)	F2F	Test Villages	Eastleigh
Nov 11 th (2)	Z	Hythe & Dibden	Fawley & Holbury