

**Notes from the Inaugural Meeting of the South West Hampshire u3a Network  
Held Monday 26th September 2022 10am at Crossfield Hall, Romsey**

**1. Attendance**

**u3as**

Chandlersford, Eastleigh, Fordingbridge, Lymington, Monks Brook, New Milton,  
Romsey Archway, Totton, Totton South, Winchester

Susie Berry                South East (SE) Region Trustee  
Hilvary Robinson      SE Region Support Team (SERST)  
Sally Ingledew         SERST & S E Region Network (SERN)

**2. Apologies**

Anton, Hythe & Dibden, Lyndhurst, Milford-on-Sea, Romsey & District,  
Southampton, Test Villages, Sue Southwell (SE Region Support Team)

**3. Notes from Previous meetings and Matters Arising**

**a) Notes of Joint Network Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

No comments or matters arising.

**b) Notes of Southampton & District Network Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

No comments or matters arising.

**c) Notes of New Forest Network Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

The need to keep the notes of meetings of Southampton & District and New Forest Networks was questioned. Susie suggested that, as they were both informal Networks, with notes, rather than minutes, they should be kept as long as they were considered useful. Sally added that they could be kept digitally.

**4. Network Amalgamation**

**a) Affiliation Agreement**

It was agreed, with no dissensions, that the Affiliation Agreement which previously had been agreed by both the Southampton & District and New Forest Networks should be signed, on behalf of the South West Hampshire u3a Network, by Ann Beeching and that her address should be used as the registered office.

A question was raised as to whether there would be a need for a constitution. It was explained that this would not be necessary as the Network would be informal. Formal Networks need Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as well as a constitution.

**b) Timings of Meetings – Zoom and Face to Face (F2F)**

It had been agreed at the joint meeting in May that the meetings of the new network would be on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, bimonthly.

However, some u3a that had not attended that meeting had pointed out that they already had commitments that would make them unable to attend. Joy explained that it was now suggested that the meetings should be on a Monday, but which Monday and whether morning or afternoon would vary. She suggested that the first three meetings could be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

No objections were raised to these dates, although it was asked whether the meetings could be quarterly rather than bimonthly. Ann and Joy felt that it should be bimonthly at first, but could be reviewed.

### **c) Chair and Scribes**

It was suggested that the member u3as of the Network should each take a turn in hosting the meetings. The host u3a will provide a chair and scribe for the meeting. If it is a Zoom meeting, they will either use their own Zoom licence or arrange to use another u3a licence, such as Susie's Regional licence, if it is available. If it is a F2F meeting, the host u3a will book a suitable venue and provide refreshments.

This was agreed and u3as present were encouraged to offer to run the three meetings for which dates had been set. The following offers were made: -

Totton South u3a Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November in the afternoon on Zoom  
Monks Brook u3a Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January in the afternoon on Zoom  
Romsey Archway u3a Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March in the morning F2F

### **d) Succession Planning**

Ann and Joy have been co-ordinating the Southampton and District and New Forest Networks respectively and are willing to jointly co-ordinate the new Network at present. However, they want two volunteers to shadow them, with a view to taking over in the future.

A member of of Eastleigh u3a offered, but she is moving and needs to join another u3a. There were no other offers. All member u3as are encouraged to seek volunteers from any u3a member, not just committee members.

### **e) Funding and Hamble Valley u3a generosity**

Hamble Valley u3a has recently closed. Joy has met with the outgoing chair of Hamble Valley u3a to discuss the future of that u3a's assets. They wish to give both the physical assets and the funds to the Network. If this is does happen, the funds will be held in the same Southampton u3a, ringfenced, u3a account as the

funds of the Southampton and District Network had been kept. The funds could be in the region of £4,000.

Thanks were expressed to the outgoing committee of Hamble Valley u3a.

A list of the physical assets had been circulated. The items can be requested by any member u3a that can make use of them. All the items need to be housed somewhere where they are accessible to u3as. The largest item is an A3 printer which is about the size of a medium suitcases.

It was suggested that the two banners that are part of the Hamble Valley u3a assets could be reprinted as generic u3a banners for a cost of £20 to £30.

A question was raised about the possibility of the funds from Hamble Valley u3a going instead to the soon to be launched Botley u3a, which is nearby. It was explained that the trustees of Hamble Valley wished the funds to go to the Network and that Botley was eligible for a start up grant from the Third Age Trust.

#### **f) New email address and overall communication**

Joy said that Sue Southwell had suggested that the Network should apply for Beacon membership, as accounts are free for Networks. Whilst this would be useful in many ways, it can limit opportunities for discussion, due to using automatic bcc. Those u3a representatives present at the meeting were asked to tick a box on the register for the meeting, to indicate that they were willing to share their email address.

An email has already been set up for the Network: -

[swhantsu3anetwork@gmail.com](mailto:swhantsu3anetwork@gmail.com)

The meeting agreed to Joy pursuing Beacon membership. IT support would be needed. A member offered to start a website, or find someone to do that.

Sally said that, when Site Builder websites move to Word Press, generic emails may be unavailable.

#### **5. What is required from Network Meetings?**

Before the refreshment break, Joy had asked those present to write their short, mid and long term hopes for network meetings on post-it notes, or add to the flip chart, during the break.

After the break these were collated as follows: -

##### **Short**

1. Peer group sessions – Secretaries; Membership secretaries; Treasurers' Groups Coordinator; Beacon; Speaker secretaries; Publicity; Webmasters
2. Recommended speakers; subject advisors;

3. Website with links to each u3a in SW Hants network contact person; possibly add to SE Region site

### **Medium**

1. Support across SW Hants network for individual u3as in relation to – Finance; IT; Committee succession planning
2. Network Workshop
  - a. Running your u3a – Susie Berry and Hilvary Robinson
  - b. Bigger and Better committees
3. Speakers from TAT or subject advisors

### **Long**

1. Conference
2. Summer School
3. Joint publicity

As a result of discussion, it was decided that the following should become regular agenda items: –

Variable slot – any issue to share relevant to your u3a  
Regional Trustee update  
Peer group session  
SW Hants Network Website development  
Workshop 2023 possibly June  
Network activities – quiz/bridge competition/walking group

## **6. Any Other Business**

Hilvary said that the SE Region summer school in Chichester would start on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Running from Monday to Thursday. The cost, including food and accommodation, would be about £300 per person.

Susie announced that the topic for the SE Gathering on 17<sup>th</sup> November would be the Future of the u3a Movement. There will be a presentation by trustees on the reorganisation of the movement.

Ann reminded those present of the importance of reporting back to their u3a's.

Thanks were given to those who had provided refreshments and Joan for taking the notes. Also, to Susie, Sally and Hilvary. Joy and Ann were thanked for their work behind the scenes and in organising and chairing the meeting.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 14th November in the afternoon on Zoom. (Totton South u3a to arrange)