



Notes of Network Meeting 10 July 2023

1. Introductions:

The group did a round table introduction to each other.

2. Attendees and Apologies:

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

u3as Attending

Romsey Archway, Southampton, Monks Brook, Chandler's Ford, Fordingbridge & District, New Milton, Winchester, Lyndhurst, Lymington, Botley & Hedge End

Apologies:

Monks Brook, Totton South, Romsey Archway

3. Notes from 15th May: actions and matters arising not on agenda

- a) Liz Thackray – SE Region visit update
- b) September venue

A correction was requested for item 5 – The New Milton quiz group is not competitive.

Item 7 – a list should be provided of what is required to host a meeting.

Item 10 – first aiders – Southampton have added this requirement to their policy and is now in place.

The face-to-face meeting to be held on 18 September has been booked in the Church Hall of St Boniface church. The post code for the venue is SO53 2FS.

4. Any questions from circulated report:

Liz Thackray, Chair of the u3a Trust, will visit the region, this will be a face-to-face meeting with Botley and Hedge End u3a.

It was confirmed that there will be no membership fee increase to the Trust for this year.

U3a week will commence on 20th September. Ideas were invited of things to do. Any ideas can be sent to MargaretFiddis@u3a.org.uk

There will be a u3a Festival from 17 – 19th July 2024 based at York University. Accommodation will be available. Booking details to follow.

There is a new draft policy document covering Health and Safety.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy: From the autumn a new workshop is being trialled. This is an on-line workshop, but face-to-face meetings can be arranged, although this may incur a charge.

Digital strategy: There is an issue that systems in Beacon and email don't all interrelate. While the Trust is not imposing any action, u3as may need to consider a strategy to manage this.

Pilot Counsel: The Board is looking at ways to engage with the process and would like to invite ideas on subjects for discussion. Currently they are requesting technical advice from Dementia UK on dealing with members suffering dementia issues. The next meeting will be held on 20th September. Our Trustee is not aware of any feedback or of any amendments to resolutions.

Currently there are six main committees of the Trust – EDI is staying as it is, Finance and Governance will report directly to the Board.

Beacon Network link meeting: Work is being done to remove duplication of work on Beacon and Sitebuilder. Some u3a's are not using email on Beacon, preferring to use WhatsApp. Awareness of GDPR needs to be considered if using this method of communication.

Action: Network coordinators to make communication across the network an agenda item for the September meeting.

Siteworks: Pioneer sites are available to view.

There is a test website to look at. U3a IT teams can start to prepare to move to this platform. The change over is expected to be the end of 2024. Each u3a will need a mentor for the changes.

5. Joint Network activities Christine Rowland

An inter-network quiz has been suggested on Wednesday 29th November between 2 – 4 pm. One team for each u3a with a maximum of six people. This will be face-to-face with tea and cake and the suggested venue is Romsey or St James, Southampton. Charges to be confirmed. Please confirm if your u3a wishes to participate. A volunteer Quiz Master is sought.

Action: AB to book the hall at Romsey, (Post meeting note: Crosfield Hall, Romsey booked)

Action: Christine to coordinate the event. Email address crowland9@yahoo.com

Action: AB/JL to add to the agenda for the next network meeting to discuss format and ideas for prizes

6. Peer group session – Ann Beeching

Plans are in place for a session for network Treasurers and we need names of representatives.

Action: All to chase up names of those wishing to attend.

A peer group meeting for secretaries is in planning for late September.

7. Beacon update Joy Lyon

Covered in the above notes.

8. Updating email contacts Joy Lyon

Please update all email contacts.

9. Meeting dates and host u3a(s)

A face-to-face meeting is planned for 18th September from 2–4 pm.

Also a Zoom meeting is planned for November 27th – Botley and Hedge End to Chair

10. Succession Planning all

Replacements are being sought for the network coordinators. The positions do not require a committee member – any u3a member can apply.

Action: All to communicate the positions to their u3a's

Workshops on running your u3a are in place. Please see the u3a website for joining information

Susie Berry and Hilvary Robinson are trainers.

Action: All to discuss with their committees

11. Your spot – Any topic you would like to raise for discussion/clarification

Bank accounts and National Office financial information were discussed. The accounting information link was felt to be unhelpful.

A request was made for a complete list of all groups available in the region. It is possible to get a full list via Sitebuilder. Speak to Joy Lyon for more information.

Discussion centred around why Southampton was looking after network money. As an informal Network it is Affiliated to the Third Age Trust and can use the brand and logo etc. However, it has no Constitution and no formal Committee so cannot hold a bank account as a charity. Therefore, funds are currently ring-fenced within Southampton's account. currently £3864. This is a historic situation and another branch would need to take over if Southampton were unable to accommodate.

Annual audits were also discussed and the group agreed that if the u3a's level of income does not need a full audit of their accounts, then it was best to ask a member from another u3a to volunteer to check the accounts.

Constitutional changes were raised, with the Trust Board members now able to serve three consecutive period of three years (therefore 9 years without a break in service).

12. AOB

Volunteers are being sought to join the S.E Forum meeting as Joy and Ann are unable to attend.

Action: List as an agenda item for the next meeting

Action: SB to provide a paragraph of what this is.

Summer School: Spaces are available for French, Mahjong and Physics for fun.

Action: All please make all u3a members aware

Beacon application: It was suggested that SW Hants needs to apply for Beacon, predominantly for use for communication. The Network has subscribed to Beacon but not completely sure of the benefit of Beacon due to Beacon's inability to be used for communication between members. Currently using a gmail account for Members contact details.

Action: AB & JL to provide an answer

13. Next Meeting Monday 18th September 2023 2 – 4 pm – Face to Face

Hosts: New Milton and Winchester

Venue: Salisbury Room, St. Boniface Church Centre, Hursley Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2FT. Car Park is past the Centre on left of Hursley Road.

The meeting closed at 3.37 pm.