



## South West Hampshire u3a Network

Notes of Meeting held on Monday 30 January 2023

2 pm to 4 pm on Zoom

### Present:

|                                                                                                                                      |                           |                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 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          |
| Chair & Notetaker                                                                                                                    |                           | Monks Brook        |
| Chandler's Ford, Milford-on-Sea, Southampton, Fordingbridge and District, New Milton, Winchester, Romsey Archway, Eastleigh District |                           |                    |

### Apologies:

|                                               |                        |             |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Sue Southwell                                 | SE Region Support Team | Monks Brook |
| Lymington, Test Villages, Totton South, Anton |                        |             |

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Joy welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any objections to the meeting being recorded. There were no objections.
- 1.2 Joy asked each person present to introduce themselves as we are a relatively new group and some people at the meeting are present for the first time.

## 2 Notes of previous meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 No 4 - Website and Beacon Update – There was a query with regard to personal names being shown on emails. It was suggested that generic emails should be used eg an email address for the Secretary at a specified u3a or Treasurer or Chairman etc so that these emails are used rather than to a specific person. An advantage is that these email addresses can continue to be used when people stand down.
- 2.2 It was also confirmed that Beacon automatically uses BCC in emails and it is possible to attach documents.

- 2.3 No 7 – future meetings 2024 – Joy has prepared a list of dates for next year’s meetings. There was a suggestion that u3a’s could be pairing as this is now a large group. Joy will circulate a list of next year’s meetings with the notes of the meeting. ACTION: Joy Lyon
- 2.4 Celia Richardson has resigned from Chandler’s Ford u3a and the Network records have been updated to reflect this.
- 2.5 No 8 – Network Finances – Vic Foote asked if Botley had accepted the offer of £300 suggested at the last Network meeting. Ann Beeching said they have accepted the offer but at present Botley do not have a bank account. The money will be kept in the Network account until Botley require it and they have a bank account. Natwest will be setting up the bank account.

### **3 Regional Trustee Update**

- 3.1 Susie Berry read the Summary Report of The Third Age Trust Board Meeting held on 26 January 2023. (See Appendix 1)
- 3.2 In future, following a SERN Trustee Board Meeting a summary of the meeting will be circulated to Committee members and Network chairs. Everyone will receive the information at the same time. Each Network can choose how they circulate the information. At this Network it is intended that the information will be circulated to everyone in the Network. The Regional Trustee Update item would then be a question-and-answer session for Susie as the report would have been circulated prior to the meeting.

### **4 Peer Group Sessions**

- 4.1 Peer Group sessions are useful for Group members of individual u3a’s to meet to share and learn from each other. They give an opportunity for people with similar roles to meet and have peer to peer discussion and share ideas, successes and problem solving which are encountered along the way.
- 4.2 Ann has agreed to instigate the setting up of Peer Group sessions. The next Peer Group session will be held on Tuesday 28 February at 10.30 am by Zoom.
- 4.3 Ann suggested the next session could be held in March and could be for Chairs and Vice Chairs. Ann will send out some dates. If the session is run by Zoom there would need to be someone who could set up and use Zoom. It is also possible to have face to face meetings if they are preferred.
- 4.4 Everyone agreed that Peer Group sessions are very useful and should be encouraged.
- 4.5 Ann and Joy can set up further training with the Trust following Peer Group sessions if required.

## **5 Website**

<https://u3asites.org.uk/swhampshirenetwork/home>

- 5.1 Joan is working on the website.
- 5.2 At the last meeting there were various queries about pictures on the website and Joan has asked to be informed of any changes which are required and for photos to be sent to her. There was a lot of discussion about pictures, which ones, how many and other related queries. Joan will follow this up and report to the next meeting.
- 5.3 It was suggested we use generic emails which can be included on the website for each u3a. The email addresses should not include any personal names but the email address should be for, say, the Treasurer, Chairman or Secretary. The emails are then able to be used on a permanent basis even when there is a change in the officer for a particular role.
- 5.4 The website is for the Network's own use. As and when there are events these could be added to the website.
- 5.5 Joy thanked Joan for all the work she has completed on the website and said it looks really good.
- 5.6 Joy also said that Ann and herself are working on a contact list for the South West Hampshire Network and it is coming together.
- 5.7 Hilvary said it would be nice to have pictures on the Welcome page and Vernon suggested we could have a picture of the participants at this Zoom meeting.

## **6 Joint Network Activities**

- 6.1 Ann is interested in setting up Joint Network Activities. Ann put forward a couple of suggestions. We could set up a group which included all the u3a's in the Network and any u3a member in the Network could join that group. It could be this would lead to many members in one group if there was a lot of interest and this would have to be carefully managed.
- 6.2 Another suggestion was that any u3a within the Network could join with another u3a for a particular activity, such as, a walking group, table tennis, Canasta or Bridge. Ann has recently sent an email to the Network Group inviting anyone to join her walking group.
- 6.3 It was thought that activities such as table tennis, Canasta or Bridge would be ideal for running tournaments between u3a's.

- 6.4 Phil Waterton said that Monks Brook u3a welcome members from other u3a's to join group activities where it is viable e.g., spaces in the group and if there is enough room where the group activity is being held. If you are hiring a hall there will be plenty of room but if in a person's home it would be restricted.
- 6.5 Considerations when running joint groups would be to be aware of whether all members are actually members and which group would be responsible for insurance. There would need to be a register of all people within the joint group.
- 6.6 Joy posed the question of how do we take this forward.
- 6.7 Christine said their members would like to join a Joint Network Activities group for competition purposes.
- 6.8 Christine said this would require a completely new network group and leagues could be set up for, say, table tennis, Canasta and other activities to be worked out. It would be an idea to start with one league for one activity and gradually add to it.
- 6.9 Joy said it would be worth asking u3a members if they had any ideas.
- 6.10 Joan said we would require someone to network and Christine said she will do it.
- 6.11 Christine asked everyone to bring ideas to the next meeting.
- 6.12 Susie said there is an event re Hadrian's Wall on Wednesday 10 May and the details can be found in the u3a National Newsletter for January.
- 6.13 Susie also said Thames Valley run a quiz for 80 people using Zoom. They use breakout rooms and between rounds people can have a chat and network between themselves. It is easy to run.
- 6.14 Hilvary mentioned that Chris Ryde who is the subject adviser for quizzes has 5 quizzes ready for use. Each quiz has 5 rounds of 10 questions. The quizzes are available on Zoom.

## **7 Succession Planning**

- 7.1 Joy said that by September we must have another coordinator or coordinators for this group. Ann and Joy will be in post until September.
- 7.2 Ann suggested that people from the Network could be more involved in seeing what coordinators do and are very welcome to attend SERN and National network meetings.
- 7.3 All Committee members from u3a's are welcome to Network meetings and everyone at this meeting tries to encourage members to attend.

- 7.4 It could be that more emphasis needs to put to new members that the success of the u3a is very dependent on member participation in running the u3a.
- 7.5 In u3a's where membership is growing there are more groups within each u3a and more group leaders are needed. Some groups require more than one leader and this may have an effect on members being available outside their own u3a.
- 7.6 Everyone agreed they will try and pursue more participation in Network meetings and activities association with the Network.
- 7.7 This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

## **8 Your Spot (Any topic to be raised for discussion/clarification)**

- 8.1 Summer School. <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events>

Hilvary let us know that the Summer School will be held at Chichester University from Monday 4 September to Thursday 7 September. It is being organised by the SE Forum and the website is shown above. NOTE: This is mostly about 2022 Summer School but will give an idea.

The Summer School 2023 is in the early stages of planning and the courses are not yet advertised. A meeting is being held in February and details will be added to the website when known.

There is accommodation and the cost is about £300. There is entertainment, speakers, courses etc. Hilvary will be teaching Mahjong as she is the subject adviser for Mahjong.

Bridget mentioned that we have a Network meeting on 4 September which may have to be changed due to the Summer School being on the same date. Joy will look into this.

**ACTION: Joy Lyon**

- 8.2 Vernon raised the question as to whether u3a members from another u3a can join a group with another u3a without having to pay to join that u3a. There is no definitive answer to this as each u3a is operationally independent. Mostly, it is accepted that members from another u3a are welcome so long as there is space in the group they would like to join. They would have to pay whatever the group charges for the meeting eg towards the hire of a hall, refreshments etc.

Susie said that there will be an agenda item at the next SERN meeting on this matter.

## **9 AOB**

There were no items for AOB.

## 10 Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 27 March held at Crosfield Hall, Romsey hosted by Romsey Archway.

## Appendix 1

### Third Age Trust Board Meeting

**26 January 2023 Summary Report** to be used when sharing with members Main focus areas of the meeting was:

- **Chair's Report.** Unusually heavy workload on all Regional and National Trustees, Officers and staff. A number of key areas requiring focus and attention by the Board in 2023 such as the strategic aims of the movement, implementation of a digital strategy, the new governance ideas, and moves to improve transparency and communication post AGM.

Treasurer's Report. Following the resignation of the Group's auditors, Hays Macintyre, after the 2022 AGM, Goodman Jones were approved as the new auditors.

- **2023/24 Budget and Forecast.** A number of uncertainties remain unresolved in an early draft, and Q3 figures not yet available. Final budget for approval at the February Board when the longer term position will be reviewed. Options discussed for widely circulating further financial and statistical information to illustrate the use of funds and current activity levels.
- **CEO Report.** The Report included options for diversifying income sources through developing a fundraising code of practice, fundraising events, generating legacies and seeking donations. Discussions had taken place with the RSA (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce) to identify options for jointly seeking funding. The Newsletter now has a circulation of over 42,000, and apparently last September and October had seen over 850 u3a mentions in local, regional and national media.
- **Volunteering.** The Board approved a new policy for the recruitment and support of the current 300 Trust Volunteers, and noted a proposal to develop and apply for accreditation as Investor in Volunteering.
- **Festival 2024.** Initial development work to scope out a possible Festival in 2024 noted. Held at a suitable location over three days in the summer, the Festival could operate on a self help and self funding arrangement, showcasing the range of activities and talents of u3a members. A project plan will be developed for approval and trailed with u3as.
- **Conference 2023.** Proposals and costings being developed for approval for a two day conference in August 2023 at possibly Aston University, Birmingham.
- **Archiving.** Further costings and options for funding before any decision is taken.

- **40th Anniversary Quilt.** To remain exhibited at the Blanket Museum for the foreseeable future.
- **Influencing and Social Change.** Following the completion of training for the initial group, further pilot sessions are planned along with promotion of initiatives to build member awareness. A pilot campaign will be used to gain feedback and member consultations will be required to set up a process for identifying and evaluating campaign issues. A 5 year vision will then be brought to the Board for approval.
- **2022 AGM Minutes.** Draft approved and to be available on the website.
- **EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Committee.** Step change from member awareness on an individual basis to a more strategic approach noted. Committee to seek additional membership from u3a members with lived experience of disability.
- **Social Prescribing.** Current group needs expanding to add breadth of knowledge and experience. To advertise/canvass for additional u3a members.
- **Digital Strategy.** Digital strategy being transitioned from TATTL to Trust by end of March. Revised project plan and implementation phase noted.
- **Ambassador For Ageing.** U3a to join with other similar organisations calling on the UK Government to appoint an Older People and Ageing Commissioner.
- **New u3a:** Botley, Hedge End and District u3a (South East Region) approved. Please note that official minutes are the true record of discussions and decisions taken at Board meetings.

**This is a summary of the main discussions and should not be taken as an authoritative statement. If you require any further detail about any item, please contact your Trustee.**