



# London Region of U3As

## AGENDA

Meeting Title:	<b>DELEGATES MEETING</b>
Date/ Time:	<b>17<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 2.00 to 4.30pm (log in from 1.30pm)</b>
Venue:	<b>On line with Zoom:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84379974348?pwd=SqYqF6adKV34iZX2VYMAAtBoLaPgNXA.1">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84379974348?pwd=SqYqF6adKV34iZX2VYMAAtBoLaPgNXA.1</a> Meeting ID: 84379974348      Passcode: 350463

1.30- 2.00	Login /Registration
2.00- 2.10 10mins	<b><u>Welcome</u></b> Comments on previous <a href="#">Minutes</a> (17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025):
<b>1. Reports</b>	
2.10– 2.30 20mins	<b>Reports</b> (See Appendix 1) Highlights from written reports will be read out and questions taken: Chair- Val Girling - written Treasurer – John Bent- written Peer Support Groups - Liz Day- written Events - Rikki Wallman- written Communications – Vivek Nanda - written Web Manager - Derek Harwood - written- Council Representative - Jenny Wilson- written
<b>2. News</b>	
	<b>News from the Trust &amp; Networks</b> (see Reports, Appendix 1):
<b>3. Guest Speaker, Liz Drury - ‘Resolution 500k’</b>	
3.20-3.50 30mins	Liz Drury will present on the status of the member raised AGM Resolution – to raise the overall membership of the u3a movement to 500,000 by end of 2028. Currently we are at 405,000.

3.50–4.30 40mins	We will be moving into 6 break out rooms for 10 minutes. Opportunity to discuss with other delegates any issues raised by the talk and what your u3a is doing to grow it's membership. <b>Breakout Rooms Feedback/Plenary</b> Room 1: Room 2: Room 3: Room 4: Room 5: Room 6:
<b>4. AOB and Wrap Up</b> (Val Girling)	
4.30-4.35 5 mins	<b>AOB:</b> Anything raised by the Delegates?
4.35– 4.40 5mins	<b>Wrap Up:</b> Dates for next meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>• Friday 17th October + AGM (this is currently planned to be a face to face meeting)</li> </ul>

#### **APPENDIX 1 - REPORTS:**

##### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMEBER REPORTS:**

##### **CHAIR** (Val Girling):

It's been another busy period for LRU3A since our last Delegates meeting. Full details are given below but picking out some highlights: I would like to say thank you to the LR Executive Committee for supporting the Chairs Networking Day, and many thanks to those u3as that attended. It was, we hope, a successful and enjoyable day for all, despite the fact that not all u3as were represented. The aim of the 'Chairs' day is to have ALL 43 u3as represented in order to facilitate a sharing of expertise and experience, where each u3a can share its problems and celebrate its successes. The u3a is a COLLABORATIVE organisation and I would encourage those u3as who are successful to be prepared to share this with those who are going through a tough time.

We are being urged to raise our profile and attract more members so that more people can share in what we have – a great organisation that allows members to enjoy life to the full. As Chair of the London Region network I aim to visit as many u3as as I can, so please take this message back with you, invite me to visit, please! Our Speaker today will help with this agenda.

Our other two operating Peer Support Groups (for Web Managers and Treasurers) have also been active. But the other two - for Group Coordinators and Public Relations Advisors – remain dormant due to no volunteer coming forward to help coordinator these unfortunately. Our Winter Talks and Walks programme was varied and all events sold out almost immediately they were opened for booking. Our spring programme of events is now open for booking. These successful events have helped ensure our accounts remain balanced.

**TREASURER** (John Bent):

## London Region of u3as Accounts at 31.03.2025

Our Walks and Events programs have been very popular with members and had healthy level of bookings; these generated an acceptable level of surplus. We had 3 “grants” amounting to almost £2,000 in the period: A £750 donation from Dagenham u3a, who closed in the 2024; a Grant from CAF bank that we applied for; and contribution towards our Zoom licence from our Regional Trustee. We have received £2,080 for bookings to attend the A.I. Day which takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> April, I’ve treated these as “prepayments” and removed them from these results which are as at 31<sup>st</sup> March. I’ve likewise removed the deposit for the A.I. premises hire that we’ve already paid. Bank balances remain healthy, around £12k, roughly the same as last year.

	London Region of u3as Income and Expenditure 01.09.24 to 31.03.25	London Region of u3as Income and Expenditure 01.09.23 to 31.08.24
Income		
Events Net of Paypal fees	£14,342.06	£5,045.00
Wellness Day	£1,312.00	
CAF Grant	£500.00	
Grant Dagenham u3a	£750.00	
Zoom Licence LRT TAT Bgt	£719.88	
Bank Interest	£40.59	£26.00
AI Prepd attendees	<b>-£2,080.00</b>	
Income Total	<u>£15,584.53</u>	<u>£5,071.00</u>
Less		
Expenditure		
Walks & Visits	£11,295.8	£3,876.00
Wellness Day	£1,053.65	
AGM	£469.20	
Delegates & chairs Meetings	£1,370.90	£1,309.00
AI Prepyts	-£622.80	
Zoom Licence & Wufoo	£1,007.38	£720.00
Bank Charges	£35.00	£60.00
Misc (Equipt)	£0.00	£10.00
	<u>14609.13</u>	<u>£5,975.00</u>
Surplus/-Deficit 23/24	£975.4	-£904.00
Surplus B/fwd	<u>£9,848.17</u>	<u>£10,752.00</u>
Net Surplus / -Deficit	<u>£10,823.57</u>	<u>£9,848.00</u>
	London Region of u3as Balance Sheet at 31.03.25	London Region of u3as Balance Sheet at 31.08.24

Assets

Bank		£10,968.33	£10,853.00
Paypal		£1,312.54	£300.00
Debtors	Wellness	£0.00	£496.00
Receipts in advance+	AI Day	-£2,080.00	
Prepaid Cost	AI Day	£622.80	
Creditors (prepaid Autumn Walks)		£0.00	-£1,800.00
Net Assets		<u>£10,823.67</u>	<u>£9,848.00</u>

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Rikki Wallman):

While we have recently lost Dagenham u3a we have gained Newham as our newest London u3a. So we still stand at 43 London u3as.

Shortly after each u3a's AGM, I will contact the chair and secretary to get an Up To Date committee list. The reason is to ensure that the London Region database is correct and that emails are going to the correct person in a timely manner. I do appreciate that each secretary uses the "portal" for this information, but this cannot be shared with London Region due to GDPR, as the databases are not the same. If there are any changes throughout the year, please let me know, Rikki Wallman email address is [mailchimpadvisor.lru3a@gmail.com](mailto:mailchimpadvisor.lru3a@gmail.com)

### EVENTS TEAM (Rikki Wallman)

Gilbert and Sullivan Day was launched on 7<sup>th</sup> March and all 80 places were booked by 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Series of 9 walks and gallery visits with the focus on Women's History Month were all booked within a few days. We asked on the booking form "how they heard about the event"

- 19.7% was a previous 2024 event participant
- 5.6% from online talks
- 42.7% from a direct email from LR
- 26.8% from their own u3a and
- 5.2% from another u3a member

The u3as that supported the Women's History Month: Croydon 22, Dulwich 19, Bromley 11, Merton and Redbridge 10

No registrations from Abbeywood, Beckenham, Brent, Crouch End, Enfield, Hammersmith, Havering, Hillingdon South, Kenton, Mill Hill, Newham, Orpington, Sidcup, Stanmore, Tower Hamlets, Upminster, Wanstead and Woodford. (17).

Hammersmith and Kenton were represented at the G&D Day but not the walks/visits.

AI Study Day: Launched on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb and all 80 places taken by 11<sup>th</sup> March.

There are 5 walks/gallery visits in May, launch date 6th April.

10 in June launch date 22nd April

7 in July Launch date 15th May

Registered Charity Number 1186441

<https://lru3a.u3asite.uk/>

In planning stage 6 walks/visits for September and a few for Black History Month in October.

Also in the planning stage- another Wellness/Mind Body and Soul event in the autumn, Sue Leigh is in talks with Natural History Museum again, Philippa Bassett is talking to Brandenburg again for a pre Christmas concert and the Wallace Collection for a Study Day there in March 26 for Women's History Month

**Communications Coordinator (Vivek Nanda):**

Mailshots have been going out to Chairs and Delegates of London Region usually twice a month. These mostly contain information to be cascaded to the membership of each LR u3a. Therefore, as mentioned under the Membership Secretary's report, it is important that we are always updated with u3as contact details.

London Region currently has a 500 capacity zoom license but no event has exceeded 300 attendees since covid. As a result, we are thinking of moving to the much cheaper business account, which has a capacity of 300 attendees.

Mailchimp is our communications platform and we are planning to upgrade our free account to a paid Mailchimp account. Please let us know if your u3a uses a paid for Mailchimp account, as London Region would like to know who could be approached for information and advice.

The ticketing of large number of paid events like walks and visits is generating unexpectedly large number of support issues with our existing platform called Wufoo. Please let me know if your u3a uses a ticketing system for paid events.

**WEB MANAGER (Derek Harwood):**

LRU3A website now operational on SiteWorks. Ongoing updates of content added as required. The 'Latest Notices' feature now added to the Welcome page. Another programme of IT training is being organised for all members in May.

**PEER SUPPORT GROUP (PSG) COORDINATOR (Liz Day):**

**CHAIRS:**

The Chairs Network Event took place again this year in March at LIFT.

It was ably led for the first time by Jenny Wilson and Val Girling, both serving Chairs for London Region u3as. Maria wrote a detailed report of the event, available on LR website.

There were 32 attendees, representing just over half the LR u3as. The event was free and included a sandwich lunch for Chairs, or their representatives, paid for by the London Region Network.

It was focused on the u3as declared ambition to expand its membership, discussing u3a's vision and USP (unique selling point), pre-requisites of good management, a health check and promotion materials.

Iain Cassidy, our new CEO, came to meet the Chairs, discuss his vision for expanding the u3a and increasing its influence, and to listen to ideas from experience Chairs.

Hopefully Chairs who attended will build on ideas discussed, sharing them with their committees and others will read the detailed report and come to the next Chair's event next year.

The Chairs WhatsApp group is receiving minimal traffic.

### **GROUP COORDINATORS PSG (vacant):**

In abeyance as no Coordinator. **Any volunteer to re-start this PSG?**

### **WEBMASTERS PSG (Derek Harwood):**

This PSG continues with regular meetings, the last one being held in February with reps from 8 London u3as attending. The main agenda items for that meeting included:

- Status SiteWorks / WMUGs / Monday's Drop In sessions
- Use of QR codes
- Use of AI
- Open discussion

All the 22 London u3as have now migrated from Sitebuilder to the new SiteWorks website software, including the LRU3A regional network site. This PSG continues to offer support on SiteWorks to the London web managers.

LRU3A are arranging a further IT training programme (our 3<sup>rd</sup>) in conjunction with AbilityNet to be held in May. Details will be published on the LRU3A website.

### **TREASURERS PSG (Derek Harwood):**

This PSG continues with regular meetings, the last one being held in January with reps from 12 London u3as attending. The main agenda items for that meeting included:

- Gift Aid update
- Open discussion

While none of the London u3a's had had their gift aid claim rejected by HMRC (yet), over 12 have had problems nationally. The national Trust is trying to progress this issue with HMRC but with slow response from them. A face-to-face meeting has been requested following the exchange of letters.

Other specific issues were also raised and shared at this PSG.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS PSG (vacant):**

In abeyance as no Coordinator. **Any volunteer to re-start this PSG?**

### **NATIONAL GENERAL NEWS (Derek Harwood and John Bent):**

The national voting process for the new Board members, the regional Council Representatives and the Council Chair have now been concluded. The new governance structure will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April. London u3as elected Jenny Wilson (Croydon) and Chris Bulford (Islington) to be our Council Representatives (see below for their reports).

The new Trust's CEO, Ian Cassidy, visited our Chairs forum event.

### **NETWORK LINK (Derek Harwood):**

This forum offers a common discussion and support platform for all u3a networks, such as LRU3A. The last NL Zoom meeting was held in February with over a hundred attending. The main topic presented was John Butler on the 'Let's Talk Tech' forum. This continues to grow with regular presentations on a range of technology subjects. They all have a vibrant Facebook account with regular posts from members.

The Network Link chair, Sue Russell has now been elected as the Chair of the new Council. This means there is a vacancy for the Chair of Network Link.

**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES** (Jenny Wilson):

On 1<sup>st</sup> April trustees became members of the new national Council so I, with Chris Bulford will be your representatives for London. The first F2F Council Meeting is in London 08/04/25 10-4pm and we will report on that afterwards.

Council representatives have a number of important responsibilities which include:-

- Being a conduit between the Trust and the u3a movement i.e. you-and consulting u3as
- Identifying needs & trends including nationwide priorities and impact assessment
- Reporting back to the region
- Sharing good practice
- Supporting & promoting; encouraging participation
- Contributing to Council Reports to the Board and to Council discussions
- Acting as a spokesperson to outside agencies
- Being a key contact within the region.

Chris and I have already had a couple of meetings together, phone calls & emails to share ideas of how we will fulfil our roles. We have both taken part in training sessions and after the initial meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April we will be able to tell you more.

It is planned to have 4 meetings a year with all council representatives – 2 F2F and 2 on-line. These meetings will be for the CR from the whole of the UK along with the Board representative John Bent, Allan Walmsley (Chair of Third Age Trust) and Iain Cassidy CEO)

The future development of the movement will be determined through planning discussions between the Council and the Board, which the CEO will then put into operation with the team of employees and Trust Volunteers, Networks and u3as.

At your service, Jenny Wilson (Croydon) and Chris Bulford (Islington)