

LRU3A – IT/WEB PEER GROUP

MEETING – 10th February 2024, 16.30, on Zoom

Zoom link details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88392263297?pwd=VmVHNEdzYnZVb3cxd1NzSFZCcVVOdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 9226 3297 Passcode: 760142

These meeting notes are not minutes – they don't try to capture all details discussed. But they do try to record key discussion points or actions arising.

ATTENDEES:

No	u3a NAME	REP NAME	Att	Apol.
1	Abbeywood & Thamesmead	???		
2	Barnet	Mick O'Reilly		
3	Beckenham	Liz Tarrant	1	
4	Bexley	Paul Wilkins		
5	Bromley	David Moody		
6	Crouch End & District	Julian Osley		
7	Croydon	Mary Randell Jenny Wilson (RT)		
8	Dagenham & District	Felicity Hawksley		
9	Dulwich	David Beamish	1	
10	Ealing	Phil Broomsgrove (PB) Jurek Narozanski	1	
11	Enfield	Gaye Illsley		
12	Hackney	Angie Daly, Tony Hollingworth		
13	Hammersmith and Fulham	Graham Tigg (GT)		
14	Harrow	Kathy Westhead		
15	Havering	Brian Hudson		
16	HGS	David Powers		
17	Hillingdon	Tony Kemp		
18	Hounslow	Sally Eggett		1
19	Islington	Derek Harwood (DH) Vivek Nanda (VN)	1	
20	Kenton	Dick Nathan		
21	Merton	David Lusty		
22	Mill Hill	Richard Driscoll		
23	Northwood	Malcolm Bentote		
24	North London	Mike Christie (MC)		
25	Norwood	Rob Thomasson		1
26	Orpington	Roger Howe Maurice Childs	1	
27	Palmers Green	Frances Halliday /Pat Bleach / Yvonne Marr / Sheena Thorne		
28	Redbridge & District	Lennart Christensen		
29	Richmond upon Thames	David Wood		
30	SE London	Mark Serebriakoff Martha Fox	1 1	

31	Stanmore District	Martin Carr	1	
32	Sidcup	Trevor Ford		
33	Sutton	Phil Thomas		
34	Tower Hamlets	Peter Sellars		
35	u3a in London	Shafeeq Siffiqui Mari-Ange King		
36	Upminster	Richard Strauss		
37	Waltham Forest	Jane Harrington		
38	Wandsworth	Andy Carr		
39	Welling	Maria Guest-Naharnowicz		1
40	Surrey Network	Ian Funnell		

AGENDA:

1. Status SiteWorks / WMUGs / Monday's
2. Use of QR codes
3. Use of AI
4. Open discussion
5. Review of Actions Arising
6. AOB

DISCUSSIONS

1. **SiteWorks (SW):** discussed ongoing support options. The SiteWorks dedicated website has the SW Guides (which are regularly updated) and how to contact their Helpdesk. The 'WebManagersUserGroup' (WMUGs) is currently suspended – considering way forward. But the Monday afternoon drop in sessions are very hands on – will show you 'how to do' things and solve any issues you have. How do you get the Zoom link for these? It's in the regular SW Bulletin but doesn't seem to be on the SW website. DH to check with Graham Tigg.
2. **QR Codes:** some starting to use these on their u3a's leaflets or 'business cards'. The QR code links to their website.. Many organisations will generate and offer free 'static' or 'manual' QR Codes. Eg Google, Canva, Brittly, etc. These static codes are one off's – they only point to the one URL address and offer no other services (generally). Or there are 'dynamic' QR Codes. These offer analytics and can be re-directed. So you can 'point' the same code to eg different pages on your website (eg to support a particular Event). But they are expensive (eg £100 a year). For the free static ones, try here: [QR Code Supplier](#)
3. **AI:** discussed how u3as are using this technology now. The use for minute taking (through Zoom Companion) is quite powerful. It won't be 100% but is a good start and eases the task for the Secretary. Some are using it to create a 'u3a song' eg: [u3a Song](#) This is a generic one but some u3as are crating similar but with direct reference to their u3a. Some u3as have formed a specific AI Interest Group. Also useful for finding (or generating) copyright free images. Can be used for generating book reviews. Have to be careful of what sources AI uses – can use out of date information. There is also now an AI 'Subject Network' offering other support and learning opportunities: [AI Network](#)

4. **Open Discussion, IT Skills Training:** there was a further (2nd) LRU3A IT Training programme run by AbilityNet in August. 180 members from all London members. Currently DH is trying to organise another programme for all London u3a members. Benefit of these is they are face to face, and go at the pace of each/ all members – to make sure they understand and can do ‘it’ on their own devices.

Also the national office does run regular workshops, also by AbilityNet. These are on the national website under the Learning Events tab: [IT Training](#)

5. **Open Discussion, Subject Networks:** In addition to ‘Subject Advisors’ on the national website there are now a number of Subject Networks. As mentioned above there is one on AI and also the Let’s Talk Tech (LTT) forum is now listed there. LTT offers a Facebook account with over 1,000 followers where members can post Tech queries there (but it’s not a full IT support forum) and they hold bi-monthly Zoom presentations on particular tech topics. Last one was re ‘Buying a New PC’. [LTT Subject Network](#)
6. **Review of actions:** one remaining: DH to organise a physical meeting in due course (Spring?). One new action arising: DH to check with GT re Zoom link for Monday SW drop in sessions.
7. **AOB:** nothing raised.

Send any future suggestions for agenda items for future meetings to Derek.

Next Meeting:

Generally all meetings to be: 2nd Monday, every 3 months (ie next meeting: 12th May) at 16.30.