

LRU3A – IT/WEB PEER GROUP

MEETING – 11th August 2025, 16.30, on Zoom

Zoom link details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81624610055?pwd=0hUb2yLCtUQ6tcjOO1mTH0OPjk4Zwy.1>

Meeting ID 816 2461 0055

Passcode 110193

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	Marisa Nicholls		
3	Beckenham	Liz Tarrant		1
4	Bexley	Paul Wilkins		
5	Brent	???		
6	Bromley	David Moody		
7	Crouch End & District	Julian Osley		
8	Croydon	Steve May Jenny Wilson (RT)		
9	Dulwich & District	David Beamish	1	
10	Ealing	Phil Broomsgrove (PB) Jurek Narozanski	1	
11	Enfield	Gaye Illsley		
12	Hackney	Angie Daly, Tony Hollingworth Hettie Roelofs		1
13	Hammersmith and Fulham	Graham Tigg (GT)	1	
14	Harrow	Kathy Westhead		
15	Havering	Brian Hudson		
16	HGS	David Powers		
17	Hillingdon	Tony Kemp	1	
18	Hillingdon South	??		
19	Hounslow	Sally Eggett		
20	Islington	Derek Harwood (DH) Vivek Nanda (VN)	1	
21	Kenton & District	Dick Nathan		
22	Kingston			
23	Merton	David Lusty		
24	Mill Hill	Richard Driscoll		
25	Newham			
24	Northwood	Malcolm Bentote		
25	North London	Mike Christie (MC)	1	
26	Norwood	Geoff Street		
27	Orpington	Roger Howe Maurice Childs		
28	Palmers Green	Frances Halliday Colin Nesbit	1	

29	Redbridge & District	Lennart Christensen	1	
30	Richmond upon Thames	David Wood		
31	SE London	Mark Serebriakoff Martha Fox	1	
32	Stanmore District	Martin Carr	1	
33	Sidcup	Trevor Ford		
34	Sutton	Phil Thomas		
35	Tower Hamlets	Peter Sellars		
36	u3a in London	Shafeeq Siffiqui Mari-Ange King		
37	Upminster	Richard Strauss		
38	Waltham Forest	Jane Harrington		
39	Wandsworth	Andy Carr		
40	Welling	Maria Guest-Naharnowicz		1
	Surrey Network	Ian Funnell		

AGENDA:

1. News: LRU3A IT Skills Training
2. Fediverse
3. Open discussion
4. Review of Actions Arising
5. AOB

Zoom AI Summary:

The group discussed website management strategies, including updates and exploring WordPress plugins, while sharing personal experiences. They examined various communication methods, with Tony explaining the concept of the "fediverse" and a potential U3A-specific social media system, alongside debates about the effectiveness of websites versus social media platforms like Facebook for reaching members. The conversation ended with technical tips about website maintenance, discussions about using AI tools like ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot for U3A purposes, and scheduling their next meeting for November 10th.

Link to full extract: [Web Managers PSG Notes](#)

DISCUSSIONS

1. **News:** 4th IT Skills Training programme (July) has finished. Not oversubscribed this time. It was a repeat of the May programme. Next programme will probably be some time in the Autumn. Extent of notice of dates is dependent on AbilityNet / BT.
2. **Fediverse:** Tony Kemp had just been to the presentation by Peter Lord of this new technology – an alternative to other forms of social media. This one runs on open source code. It joins other forms of social media together on one platform and allows a lot more interaction. The group discussed if u3a members were ready for this new technology. Still quite a lot of push-back on the Trusts choice of Facebook as main form of social media communications across the movement.
Discussion re Sheila Crawley's various presentations on Facebook, including at LRU3As Delegates meeting. Several had picked up on some of her suggested tips. Copy of her presentation on the

LRU3A website: [Grow Your Membership by Facebook](#)

3. **Open Discussions, SiteWorks:** Discussions re recommended on commonly used Plug Ins. There is a list on the SW Forum in their latest Bulletins. 'Media Organizer' and 'Replace' were mentioned. Also discussion re use of Google Calendar.
4. **Open Discussion, Google Workspace:** no one present was using this (the charity version). Hence couldn't comment on their Ts & Cs. However nationally many u3as are using Google Workspace so must be happy with their Ts & Cs.
5. **Review of actions outstanding:**
 - Add future dates to /LRU3A Peer Group webpage: done now (11/8/25)
6. **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: 10th November) at 16.30.