**U3a Kent Network**

**Winter Meeting to be held**

**10am on Wednesday 16th November 2022 on zoom**

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| **U3a**  | **Representative** | ***Apologies***  |
| Ashford, Wye and District | Barry Andrews |  |
| Bearsted and district  | Jenny Akehurst  |  |
| Canterbury |  | Robin Terry |
| Cranbrook |  |  |
| Dartford |  |  |
| East Medway |  |  |
| Edenbridge  |  |  |
| Faversham and District | Jenny Gurney Babs Stone, Vice Chair |  |
| Goudhurst and District  | Ian Agnew  |  |
| Gravesend |  |  |
| Hawkhurst  | Julia Newman, chair |  |
| Isle of Sheppey | Heather ThomasSally Charnock, Membership  |  |
| Kings Hill and District  | Melanie BlewerJohn Russell | David Murray, Treasurer |
| Knole |  |  |
| Maidstone  |  |  |
| Maidstone Invicta  |  |  |
| Malling District  | Chrys Short, chair  |  |
| Medway | Angela Howe |  |
| Meopham | Carole Dickenson | Mike Chantry, ChairAndrew Morgan  |
| Orpington  |  |  |
| Paddock Wood  | Fred  | Michelle Sinclair, chair  |
| Pembury | Maggie Hall |  |
| Saxon Shore  |  |  |
| Sevenoaks | Ken Brown, Chair Sue Christy |  |
| Shepway and District  |  | Linda Fellows |
| Swanley and District  |  |   |
| Tenterden |  |  |
| Thanet  |  | Adrian Everix |
| Tonbridge | Frani Hoskins |  |
| Tunbridge Wells  | Eryll Fabian, Chair |  |
| Westerham | **Tony Pearson, committee member**  |  |
| White Cliffs Country  | Eleanor Brooks, Treasurer  | Sue Edwards, Chair |
| Regional Trustee | Susie Berry  |  |
| Committee  | Rob White, PR |  |

1. Welcome from Chrys Short, Chair

We had one u3a comment that the times of our meetings have changed. Chrys explained that this is in response to u3as saying they could never come to them as it clashed with their own meetings. We welcome further feedback. The other 2 dates for this year are on Wednesday March 8th (whole day at Aylesford Priory) and the AGM in Detling on Monday 10th July.

1. Update on national AGM from Susie Berry, Regional Trustee
2. Susie explained that the Articles of the Trust have been updated to ensure accurate terminology and to enable up to a further 3 years of service as a National Trustee if this was beneficial. She pointed out that if any u3as want to amend their constitutions in a similar fashion there would be no objection. Susie acknowledged how hard it is to get people to committee to committee roles and thanked everyone present for all they do.
3. Susie said that neither of the motions on subscriptions was passed so they are holding a review of the current year’s spending to see if economies might mean no further action need be taken this year. As members wanted up to date financial information, TAT has decided to send quarterly headline reports to u3as.
4. Liz Thackray’s presentation “Fit for the Future” was shown after the AGM but many people missed it as they were exhausted after a long AGM. It is being shown tomorrow with a chance to ask Liz questions at the SE Gathering. The link has been sent to all chairs in case anyone not already registers wishes to attend. Liz is exploring ways of making the Board more efficient and ways of listening more closely to the membership which could mean we look at 2 groups – trustees being made of the officers and chairs of key committees and a council made of other elected members to communicate / consult closely with the membership.
5. Questions included whether a pie chart could be placed in TAM to explain the finances simply, and whether the trading arm needs to be split out.
6. Main item: Fit for the Future

This is the presentation that was used at the AGM, and will be seen at the South East Region meeting on 17th Nov, the day after this meeting.

There will be the chance for discussion after the presentation.

1. Finance Report

Angela reported that we have just over £3,000 in the bank, which can be used to subsidise the day at Aylesford Priory.

1. Update on peer-to-peer groups

Chairs: meetings have started and expect to be 4 times a year. The next one is on 25th November.

Treasurers: first one is this afternoon!

Secretaries: first meeting has happened and expect to be 4 times a year.

Group coordinators: to be addressed on the March meeting at Aylesford. We should particularly invite groups coordinators and chairs.

PR: have started a network and linked in chairs where there is no-one else identified.

Speaker secretaries: John Russell is forming a network. We were reminded that Lindy wishes to step down from keeping a list of speakers we have used who might be great for other u3as, having down it for 10 years, and we are looking for someone to take this on.

1. Publicity update

Rob reported on the work of the Public Relation Advisors (PRAs), one in each region except the South East (but we have Rob for just Kent). They meet monthly and publicise any major events for u3as and offer advice on PR. They also have a Facebook initiative

1. Summer School

It has been decided that instead of holding a National Summer School, all the regional summer schools will be advertised as they are open to all members. The SE Region one will be held 4-7 September 2023.

1. Interest group online.

Eleanor shared the page on the u3a website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/interest-groups-online?highlight=WyJpbnRlcmVzdCIsImdyb3VwcyIsIm9ubGluZSJd> and explained that this replaced Trust u3a where we could do groups online during lockdown. You can join for £10 by filling out a short online form. It is £5 for anyone who already belongs to a u3a. You pick your groups from the website.

1. Risk assessments are on the u3a website – keep them simple!
2. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th March all day, in person at Aylesford Priory.
3. Frequently asked question. How do we avoid big problems if a member of the committee develops dementia?

Having members who are aging is more relevant to us than to many organisations! We need some method to ensure that no one person has key passwords. Many of us thought having shadow post holders could be good protection. There was so much interest in this topic we may come back to it at a future meeting.

*If you have a question you would like answered at a future meeting, please email* *Eleanor.brooks1661@gmail.com*