



Surrey U3A Network Committee Meeting

Thursday 27th October 2011 at 2pm for 2.30

Christ Church Centre, 91 Coombe Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4RE

AGENDA

1. Welcome by Chairperson of Host U3A Sylvia Oates
2. Opening of meeting by Chairman. Tom Appleton
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Minutes of meeting held on 24th March 2011.
5. Matters Arising.
6. Report by Treasurer
7. Report by Network Education and Development Contact Arthur Browne
8. Report by Chair of the Study Day Sub-Committee. Ian Funnell
9. U3A reports (collation of written reports)
10. AGM Tom Appleton
11. GLR Music Forum Email attached Tom Appleton
12. Arts & Crafts Festival Tom Appleton
13. Sports Festival Tom Appleton
14. Discussion Topic – Members Welfare and Wellbeing Tom Appleton
15. Any other business.
 - a) Representation of U3A's at Conference and Summer Schools
 - b) Banstead Woods Open Day
 - c) Jazz Orchestra (Scott Willcox)
16. Date and Location of next meeting

Circulation List:- Arthur Browne, Education and Development Contact
Ian Funnell
Tom Appleton, Chairman
John Kennedy, Treasurer
Sheila Hill, Booking Secretary and Assistant Treasurer
Chairperson and Secretary of each Member U3A

Surrey U3A Network									31/10/2011
Year ended 30th June 2011									
	September	October	November	February	March	April	May	June	
	Novelists	Music	Geology	WW2 Int	Reformation	Archeology	Jazz	Africa	
Income	496.00	1336.00	1662.00	1680.00	1682.00	690.00	972.00	948.00	9466.00
Expenditure									
Speaker	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	2000.00
Speaker's exp	11.00	184.00		60.00	22.40			28.00	305.40
Venue	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	4200.00
Publicity	34.12	34.12	34.12	34.12	34.12	34.12	34.13	34.13	272.98
Catering	19.32	119.90	148.99	85.86	139.19	13.40	124.98	28.23	679.87
Admin	22.42	22.42	22.42	22.42	22.42	22.42	22.42	22.43	179.37
	861.86	1135.44	980.53	977.40	993.13	844.94	956.53	887.79	7637.62
Surplus/Deficit	-365.86	200.56	681.47	702.60	688.87	-154.94	15.47	60.21	1828.38
Network expenses									116.29
Surplus/Deficit									1712.09
Balance sheet									
					Balance at 1st July 2010	7604.13			
					Surplus/deficit	1712.09			
					Balance at 30th June 2011	9316.22			
Bank Reconciliation									
					Balance at 30th June	9440.22			
					Less outstanding cheques	124.00			
					Balance at 21st July	9316.22			
The above account was prepared by me from the books of Surrey U3A Network									
J.O.Kennedy, Treasurer.									
I have carried out an Independent Examination of the above accounts									
and I am satisfied that they are in accordance with the books of Surrey U3A Network									
G.J.Ross, Independent Examiner									

Network Education & Development Contact's Report

The Summer School at Chichester was successful with very few adverse comments. There were eleven courses and 183 students booked in. Also the interaction with the University went well. The students came from Surrey (40), Kent (26), Sussex (26), Hampshire (14), London (17) and farther afield (29) including two from Wales and one from Yorkshire. The Summer School was started for members in the SE Area but most U3As are represented by only one or no students. The Surrey Network had 36 students from 9 U3As, and 20 of them came from one U3A, Elmbridge. There seems to be low support for events happening outside the U3As, and the support that there is often from the same group of members. Why is this? Is it a lack of interest or need, or is there a weakness in the communication channels? The Elmbridge example suggests there was a publicist at work. It will be interesting to see who attends the Seminar at Tonbridge, yesterday at the time of this meeting.

The 2012 Conference at East Grinstead is on Wednesday, March 21st and the Summer School from July 3rd to 6th. Information on both events should be available before the end of the year, including on the Forum website.

There has been a meeting of representatives from the SE Region, which, besides being a useful opportunity to hear the views of those from more distant parts, covered the ways in which the NEC

representative will operate and his/her interaction with those working on broader areas than individual U3As, e.g. EDCs and Network Chairmen. A copy of a report on this meeting is attached.

The Third Age Trust Conference. This included the AGM of the Trust, it is not the AGM of the U3A. The results of the elections etc. were Chairman – Ian Searle 367 for, Barbara Lewis 245. The vice-chairmen were unopposed but the support was Beth Butler 542, Janet Whitehouse 540. Initially there was no nomination for treasurer, Terry Hardie has completed his 6 years, but after the AGM Joan Harrison volunteered. Our new NEC member is Pam Jones who received 85 votes against Stella Porter's 48, in the pre-AGM postal vote. The motion requesting that Networks, of all types and names, should be recorded on the national website and receive all appropriate mailings was approved by 490 with 44 against and 66 abstentions. The motion concerning the change of name of the Trust to reinforce its link with the U3A system was defeated by 316 against, with 271 for and 67 abstentions.

Notable departures are Mike Long, and next year, Lin Jonas and Elizabeth Gibson (Resource Centre). I expect a detailed report on the Conference will come from elsewhere. My views are as follows. 1st talk – recorded series of members' views on U3A told us what we already know, 2nd – Estelle Morris, good talk on her views on education and how it has developed from the 19th century to the U3A. Comments from the floor criticised the expansion of universities that makes those who do not get there feel failures, removing technical colleges was a mistake, the government etc. see education as for 'back to work'. There were 10 themed discussion groups, each member attended two. Of mine, Study days and summer schools was good but that on communication started at fundraising but never dealt with the problems of communicating with members. There were two talks, both scientific, 'Particles & the Universe' and 'the problems of travelling to Mars'. Both were very well presented in an easily understandable way but I did not see the appropriateness to a U3A conference. A talk on 'Learning & the ageing society' was also well presented and was appropriate. Eric Midwinter's talk was mainly entertainment. As usual, Terry Hardie's presentation of the accounts was good and the information is in the Annual Report. It is probable that some of the material from the Conference will be available on the website.

I look after the list of chairmen and secretaries, please let me know of changes, and the list of speakers, please bring up-dates to these meetings. Also one of my roles is to help U3As with matters such as legislation, increasing size, new U3As and the way U3A operates – but I have to be invited to help.

Arthur Browne

A Report on the SE Regional Development Meeting on 27th July 2011

This is based on the report written by Colin Mitchell, Trustee for the Region.

Thirteen people were present including Colin, Barbara Lewis (TAT Development Sub-committee), the two potential successors to Colin, and Zazia Pratt (EDO). Others were mainly EDCs or representing areas of the Region. The more northerly part of the Region was not represented. Lively and positive meeting.

There was objection to the use of the term 'Regional Volunteers' for those working at a Regional level for the U3A. It was agreed that people should retain their more descriptive job titles while accepting that the TAT would group them together for administrative and expenses reasons. The EDCs and Regional officers are examples.

Going round the table:-

1. Nearly everybody commented that they saw their role as supporting existing U3As as well as starting new ones. Support for existing U3As can occupy much more time than new ones

2. Existing U3As, particularly long-standing ones can be very set in their ways and reluctant to welcome new members.
3. In places U3As are reluctant to work together. This can be because they take fright at the possibility of new ideas being introduced.
4. The importance of U3As working to their constitutions was stressed.
5. Parts of the Region are recognising the need to think laterally about new U3As, e.g. relieving the load on an existing U3A by launching another that shares the same premises, setting up sub-committees to organise meetings in towns or villages away from the main meeting place (the sub-committee might become a U3A in due course). (Canterbury and possibly other U3As achieve this with satellite U3As)
6. There are study days available to U3A members in most of the region – organisers frequently welcome members from outside the network catchment area.
7. When an existing U3A launches a daughter U3A the daughter may attract younger people than the mother. This can leave the mother ageing and fading.
8. There is a danger that well-established study groups become private clubs
9. There are U3As where some members don't attend study groups or U3A meetings. There is a need for the U3As concerned to try to find out why this is.

View from the NEC/Start-ups

Barbara explained the reasoning behind the production of Advice Sheets and Discussion Documents. It was suggested that they should be on the open area of the U3A web site instead of the members' area. Barbara agreed to look into this.

Mention of the website led to some strong views being expressed regarding internet and hard copy for development paperwork and other U3A matters.

Comments on A5 booklets in start-up pack – should be clearly dated; A5 an outdated format, use A4 and post on website; new members more likely to find U3A through website than printed material; the latest version should be on website.

Comments on internet and e-mail – Trust and U3As should make more use of them, using paper copies only when necessary; U3As should encourage use of internet/e-mail, providing training if necessary (but there is also an equipment cost aspect).

Starting U3As.

The trustee now has responsibility to sign off, i.e. agree that the necessary stage has been completed correctly, both before acceptance for temporary and for full membership. The trustee has also to decide who will handle the start up, the EDC or the EDO. This has been introduced because some U3As have started without proper guidance and have found themselves in difficulties, e.g. in constitutional and financial procedures. There is confusion about the information going to potential U3As. Some are getting the full pack with the implication 'get on with it yourself'. Barbara will investigate. There was concern that potential U3As could be confused by the number of different parts of the U3A that are involved in a start up. There is a 'Choices' document, a check list to ensure that all points are covered. It is accepted that contact will need to be maintained by several visits to ensure that all is well. Monitoring will continue to be required even after the acceptance stages.

Colin considered the meeting to be enjoyable and productive. I agree and it was useful to meet others from farther afield in the Region. An aim of the earlier planned meetings, which did not take place, was to look at the possibility of a loose integration of the U3As in the Region and what could

be achieved on a Regional basis. There is little enthusiasm for any significant structure but at least we are getting to know one another and exchange ideas. The views at a Regional level are likely to have more impact with the Trust. Colin has tried to set up another meeting before the AGM but it has not been possible. It will fall to his successor to continue the process.

Arthur Browne, Surrey Network EDC, (a Regional Volunteer!)

25.08.11

Reports from U3As in Surrey Network September 2011

Ashtead:

Ashtead U3A continues to thrive, with nearly 60 active groups and well-supported social activities. Monthly meetings continue to attract around 140 members. Our membership continues to grow slowly but steadily, with on average one new member per week.

The 7-night holiday trip to Sorrento in May was a particular success. Next year the holiday trip is planned to Madeira in late April.

The Committee purchased an inexpensive gazebo for use at summer outdoor events.

A basic laptop computer was acquired for use by our Treasurer for under £300, running BankTree personal finance software for managing Ashtead U3A accounts.

Normal social trips are planned to make a small profit, in case of any late shortage in numbers. Significant profits are refunded (e.g. over £5 per head), but otherwise small surpluses are accumulated and used for larger events like the summer picnic (unfortunately cancelled this year because of heavy rain) and the New Year party.

We re-applied to Awards for All for a laptop computer for use by our groups and for presentations, and we were delighted to hear recently that our application had succeeded

Banstead:

Banstead U3A has enjoyed another successful year with an increasing membership. Sadly, during the year, our membership secretary, Alan Reid, died. His sudden death has meant that it has been difficult to keep an exact tally of membership numbers and it also emphasizes the need for all committee officers to have suitable deputies or cover.

Our visits programme has now become firmly established whilst new groups include 'Pondering the Imponderable', 'Appreciating Art', an evening 'Bridge' group, a further 'Reading' group and the re-establishment of our 'History' group.

We have continued to contribute to the Banstead Arts Festival and this year we sponsored a performance by John Hursey (an old friend of the Surrey Network Study Days). John was extremely well received and his performance was considered to be a most original contribution. We again had a stall at the Banstead Countryside Day in Banstead Woods. This is a very large venture with visitors from all around Surrey and South London and our presence has helped to spread the U3A message throughout the county.

Bookham & District:

Our membership at the moment stands at 463 with over 60 groups, hoping that a third London Walks Group and a third Wine Group will start soon. On the social side Wine Group 2 took a day trip to France tasting wine and enjoying the culinary delights at lunchtime – no doubt you will have gathered 'wine' plays a large part in our U3A. The Table Tennis Group embarked on their annual match with Leatherhead – we believe they take it in turns to win! The Military History Group took a 5 day trip to visit the Normandy Beaches and the Botany and Ornithology Group went on a weekend break to South Wales. Many of the other groups take related visits all over the country which must mean that lots of the Third Age are very active.

Our intrepid holiday organiser and traveller Sheila took Bookham U3A to Venice in September and will be visiting The Floriade next spring.

We have our AGM in October with hopefully three new members joining the Committee- always difficult to get members onto the Committee. At the Christmas Social we will be entertained by the Pilgrim Ringers and then into the New Year.

Caterham:

Caterham U3A continues to grow steadily and we now have 230 members and 22 groups. The AGM is in October when the Chair, Treasurer and 2 committee members retire whose work has helped the growth, however there are nominations for all posts. Summer social events have been well supported and a Hog Roast in a members garden went very well as did all the educational trips and outings. We have 3 new groups on offer, Spanish for beginners, German conversation and Play Reading, If any members of nearby branches would like to participate in any of our activities and/or has places free for any of our members we would be pleased to hear from them. Several of our members belong to other U3A's too. The first edition of our magazine "Extra" was published and circulated to members, it is in full colour and presents a good image of our activities past, present and future. The U3A website continues to attract new members and we find that recently retired people often offer to lead groups in their field of interest, the current economic climate may provide more!

Dorking:

At our May AGM Doreen Raine was elected Chair to the delight of all. We also have a new Membership Secretary and a new Days Out sub-committee. Despite a steadily growing membership – now over 570- it is a huge worry trying to find volunteers willing to fill or 'shadow' committee offices.

We have thirty five study/interest groups among which are ballroom dancing, T.S.Elliot and photography. The committee have agreed to buy a digital projector for use by Groups and by Speakers at Monthly Meetings. . In August we celebrated our twentieth anniversary with a tea party, entertainment and a cake splendidly iced by Pippa of Fetcham. Our Newsletter now has an attractive coloured cover enabling better reproduction of members photos of our activities.

Elmbridge:

Elmbridge membership now stands at 952 with 66 new members joining since the end of last March. However, we continue to strive for new subjects, group leaders and venues.

We currently have 88 Study Groups. Since last March we have started the following: a further group for Bowls (Outdoor); Bowls (Indoor); Café Society; Card Club; Cinema Appreciation; an Explorers group; Music Appreciation; a further Yoga group; and Walks – local villages.

Our Mole Hall monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month continue to attract large audiences from both members and visitors who can browse notice boards displaying photos and information about Study Groups. There is plenty of opportunity for members to enquire about joining groups and pick up details of Study Days. Our website and monthly emailed Bulletins, though not reaching all members, serve as a useful means of communication for reminding members about monthly meetings, and publicising updates on Study Groups and Third Age Trust and Surrey Network events.

This year in July we ran a successful boat trip with fish and chip lunch along the Thames for members. We have also run three trips to the Olympic Village – all well attended.

As part of rolling programmes we held further Open Days, this time in Claygate and Weybridge; and a New Members meeting in May.

The Wallace Collection and Leighton House, Tetbury and Chavenage in the Cotswolds, Royal Albert Hall to see *Strictly Gershwin*, Savill Gardens and River Thames Tour, Adelphi Theatre – to see *Love Never Dies*, Hatfield House - to visit the house and the Henry Moore exhibition, Lord's Cricket Ground and the London Central Mosque, Salisbury – travel by train with the newly formed Explorers Group, The Mill at Sonning – meal and show, Olympic Village site visits (3 visits in total)

Epsom & Ewell:

We have a total membership of 677, Men 187 & Women 490. We have 65 groups with 56 group leaders. Our new group co coordinator is trying very hard to set up new groups, so that we can take as many members that want to be in a group. We have three London Walk groups, which was set up by Linda Hollands early this year, it is working very well. Each person in the group has to lead a walk, and so far each walk has been very different. We have had lots of outings and theatre trips. We also have theatre trips with no transport, these are extra trips, organised by Mags. Summing up I would say that our E & E U3A is working very well,

Fetcham & District:

Our membership now stands just short of 550 with 457 full members and 91 Associate members and several more waiting in the pipeline. We have continued to increase the number of groups we offer to our members and this now stands at over 90 with a few groups waiting for Leaders to materialize. There are also several groups which are organised by Bookham U3A, available to our members and we have some of our groups open to Bookham members. We have just started the next phase of our Art lectures by Leslie Pitcher, the latest covering 18th century, and there are members from 7 local U3A's booked to attend.

Our monthly meetings are well attended averaging round the 120 -130 members each month despite the fact we have brought 100 Associate members to Full membership the numbers are slow to increase.

Our Annual Group Leaders buffet lunch went very well with about 50 of our group leaders attending. Many of our Group leaders run more than 1 group. Our Social events and Outings continue to be well supported and our Manchester Ship canal trip was a great success. We will have had our Barn Dance earlier this month and two trips to Lambeth Palace in September. We look forward to our annual Christmas party in December.

The speakers at our main meetings have been of a high standard. Two which stood out for me were 'The most popular indoor activity'; what was that you might ask, Crosswords was the answer. A great talk. The other was 'Life on a Harp string' where our speaker brought her harp and we all asked her to play. I didn't realize there were so many pedals on a harp.

Horley & District:

The situation at the Horley & District U3A has not changed very much over the last six months: we have the following groups:

2 x Art Appreciation, 2 x Art Tuition, 2 x Book, Computer Studies, Discussion, Family History, French Conversation, Garden, Luncheon, Mahjong, Music Appreciation, Play Reading, Poetry, Science, Scrabble, Trad Jazz. This makes 19 in all.

Our membership now stands at 122, very slightly up on last time.

Our Annual Subscription is £12 and we charge £2 per meeting for non-members.

We have monthly meetings and produce two newsletters per year.

Horsley:

Horsley U3A is into its fourth year. The membership (now up to 450), and the number of active groups (42), continues to rise, though at a slower rate than in the first two years. Groups that have been successfully established in the last year include Films, Improving Fitness, Mahjong, Rummikub and Wild Flowers. The appetite for new groups shows few signs of abating: Concert going, Boating and Sailing, Science and Technology, Singing and Astronomy are all new areas being actively explored.

This dynamism is rubbing off on existing groups. Several are looking further afield: the Wine Appreciation group has organised a trip to France, and the Theatre Group and the Transport and Industrial Archaeology Group regularly travel all over South East England. Stimulated by the Olympic Cycleway which comes through Horsley, the Cycling Group is considering rides as far away as France and the New Forest. Other recent visits for the membership as a whole have been to Dover Castle and Blenheim.

Along with the overall membership, the numbers at monthly meetings is also increasing and now averages around 100. Communication with our members is also improving. Our long standing efforts to expand computer literacy appear to be paying off: only 60 of our members are now without an internet address. We have also recently completed a survey of members who reportedly do not attend any groups. This has helped us identify new interest areas for groups, including some of those mentioned above.

We suspect that our continued growth is related to the steady changes being made to our Committee membership and our close ties to, and support for, the wider Horsley community.

Kingston:

Kingston U3A is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year and celebrations began in May. The first event was launched in great style by the Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor Chrissie Hitchcock at a reception held at the offices of Russell-Cooke, Solicitors. Refreshments were served on the balcony, which overlooks the Thames during which the Mayor spoke with our members. Then the Mayor accompanied us to the riverside and waved off 35 members on our Bridge to Bridge walk – Kingston to Kew. In June a hundred members enjoyed a boat trip on the Thames going down stream to Richmond, upstream to Hampton Court and having lunch during the cruise. In September our Anniversary Magazine was published.

On the 5th Sept. we had our Anniversary Meeting and tea. The Speaker was Sam Walters, Artistic Director of the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond. He gave a very informative and entertaining talk on the foundation and development of the Orange Tree Theatre. Photographs which had been entered for the photographic competition were on display at this meeting.

On September 27th we held an Anniversary Dinner when the speaker was Katherine Whitehorn, journalist. On December 13th there will be a Gala Concert at All Saints Parish Church, Kingston. Taking part will be our orchestra, which was formed last year, and is open to other U3A members in the area; our Singing Group, which started with 9 members 20 years ago and now has over 70 members as well as our newly formed Singing for Fun Group. Interest Groups have also organized their own celebrations – a Scrabble Fest was held in May which included the four Kingston Scrabble Groups and groups from Merton and Richmond. One of the Poetry Groups visited Keats' House in Hampstead, the book groups went to Strawberry Hill House and Jane Austen's house, a French Group went to the French Institute for lunch and on to see a French film in the afternoon, etc.

Our General Activities Section has organized over a dozen trips as varied as the Olympic Village, the Brunel Museum and the Garrick Club. There have also been trips abroad to Istanbul in May

and Israel and the Holy Land in September. The Walks Section has offered two walks each month. We held 4 meetings for new members during the year.

Leatherhead & District:

MEMBERSHIP as at 05.09.11: 362 GROUPS: 43

OUTINGS: Tour of Olympic Site, Walking Group Holiday in Ardennes Latchetts Garden in Sussex, Highclere Castle

Merton:

No report available.

Reigate and Redhill:

Reigate and Redhill U3A have had an interesting year celebrating their 25th Anniversary

On July 20th we had a Celebration Lunch and Tea, and throughout the year we have had other events including hiring The Screen in Reigate for the film Julie and Julia, a coffee morning held in the Holbein Hall at Reigate Priory and a holiday in Jersey.

Our outings have been to the Olympic Village for a guided tour by coach and also a cruise on the river, Secret London visiting Holland Park, Covent Garden, and The Wellcome Collection

Our membership is now 623 with over 80 groups

Our website shows what an active U3A we are

We have some new groups starting soon including a Lunch Club, Yoga and Gastronomy

Spelthorne:

Our main focus in the year has been the introduction of Standing Orders for membership subscriptions and Gift Aid. Both of these are progressing and we hope to introduce them for 2012. This has meant the cap on membership of 600 because of the work load involved has been lifted and we currently have 615 members. One New Group since the last meeting is a second Painting group. Our New Members Coffee meetings are proving both popular and effective.

Spelthorne K2:

Our membership as at 31st August is 594 with a waiting list of 63. Our members are currently renewing and once this is completed we should be able to take members from the waiting list. Since the last Network Meeting three new groups have been formed – Birding, Comparative Religion and Tap Dancing. We have also started a second Art Appreciation Group and 2 more Family History groups. All groups have received a lot of interest. We have 48 interest groups which are all very well attended.

Sutton:

No report available.

GLR Music Network

-----Original Message----- From: Don Moore [\[mailto:don.moore@blueyonder.co.uk\]](mailto:don.moore@blueyonder.co.uk)

Sent: 25 September 2011 10:26 To: Susan Fielding Subject: GLR Music Network

Dear Sue: It was a pleasure to meet you last week at our opera group; I am glad you enjoyed it. As you know, the next session will be at Basil Spooner's house, 22 Murray Road (I am away on holiday).

Next - Greater London Music. Disenchanted with national subject networks, we decided to establish "Greater London Music" late last year as a regional initiative. Activities so far have been:

- * Circulation of details to all U3As within the Greater London Region
- * Establishment of a mailing list of individual members within GLR - and any others who may be interested (we have one from Flint, and a couple from Arun Valley). This list has reached over 200. We are anxious to establish contact with other "networks in the SE region (e.g. Sussex, Surrey)
- * Distribution of an occasional Newsletter to all on the mailing list, and to all relevant U3As. This contains news of events and plans, and where possible news of other events such as summer schools and study days in other regions. It may be augmented from time to time by other news of relevant interest to members, to invite correspondence etc.
- * Organising a trip to the Budapest Spring Festival in March this year. This attracted 35 members, and there was a 'waiting list' of 10 disappointed applicants. It was very successful and helped to put us on the map.

* A further trip is planned in May 2012 to the Prague Spring Festival:

I am off to Prague tomorrow to try to set up an attractive programme.

* Establishing contacts with other groups associated with musical events, study days etc e.g. Music Club of London

* Establishing a list of potential speakers for study days and other events.

* Organising a study day on Russian music (an outline of the programme is attached). The initial event, on 19 November, was oversubscribed by something like 100%, and we are planning a repeat event in March 2012. This in turn is nearly 'sold out', so there is clearly a thirst for this type of event. And we would like to publicise study days organised by other regions (see above).

So far, this has been very much a 'seat of the pants' venture. We do not yet have any logo or letterhead (and we are still awaiting the planned change from the Greater London Forum to the Greater London Region in October). Events to date have been self-financing, although

We do have a shoestring budget of £100 allocated by the GLF.

Hopefully this will be continued by the GLR! Our intention is not to duplicate the excellent work done by music appreciation groups within U3As, but to focus on activities which may be beyond their individual remits. We would like to widen our activities to include advice to U3A music groups and the establishment of new groups (in line with the old, now defunct national music network). But we are treading cautiously to avoid stepping on sensitive toes!

I seem to have taken on most of the work associated with Greater London Music, although Stan Freed (U3A in London) is also nominally my co-coordinator.

Hope this provides some food for thought, but apologies for the somewhat confused subject matter; I am juggling too many balls in the air at the moment (talks, courses, study days, overseas trips and an incipient summer school for 2012), so hope you understand!

Greater London Music Study Day on Saturday 3rd March 2012

A registration form is attached for the planned GLM Study Day. Entitled *From the Tsars to Stalin: Adventures in Russian Music*, this will be at the Bechstein Room of the Wigmore Hall on Saturday 3rd March 2012, from 10am until 4pm. The cost per attendee will be £15, to include coffee and tea. Lunch can be taken at any of the several nearby eating houses, or you can bring your own sandwiches.

The day will explore aspects of Russian music in the 19th and 20th centuries, and each presentation

will be copiously illustrated with musical extracts. There will be ample opportunity for questions and discussion, and informality will be the keynote: this will not be a series of “structured” lectures!

The outline programme for the day is:

1000 Registration and coffee

1020 Introduction by our Chairman, Glenys Tuersley MBE

1040 Stan Freed, U3A in London Music Coordinator: *Russian Music is Fun* – a lighthearted look at composers ranging from Glinka to Shostakovich.

1130 Mezzo soprano Carris Jones will give a recital of Russian songs

1215 Break for lunch

1345 Christine Edwards, Ealing U3A Music Coordinator: *Nationalism in Russian Music*.

1430 Tea and biscuits

1445 Don Moore, Merton U3A Music Coordinator: *Russian Music under Stalin*: How Soviet composers (especially Shostakovich and Prokofiev) responded

1535 Glenys Tuersley will lead Discussion and Summing up.

The contributors

Glenys Tuersley, for many years Secretary to the National Executive Committee of U3A, is currently Chairman of Greater London Region, and is an enthusiast for Russian culture and the arts. She will chair the day and lead the summing up discussion

Stan Freed has coordinated music appreciation groups for U3A in London since time immemorial. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of music, and his courses are very popular. His programme will include an illustrated survey of more light-hearted Russian music from Glinka to Shostakovich via a number of others, including Tchaikovsky, Glazunov, Rimsky-Korsakov, Glière et al.

Since graduating in 2008 at the Royal Academy of Music with its highest performance award, **Carris Jones** has appeared as soloist in a wide range of oratorio and has sung a variety of operatic roles. She has a busy schedule of ensemble work, singing with the Gabrielli Consort, the Kings Consort and Tenebrae. She is a founder member of Stilo Antico, whose recordings have won a Classic FM Gramophone award, and with them she has toured Europe, the Far East and Australia.

Christine Edwards studied the flute and piano at the Royal Academy of Music and has worked in all phases of music education. After working as an advisory teacher for the London Borough of Hounslow she finished her career as a lecturer at the School of Education, Brunel University. A member of Ealing U3A she convenes two Music Groups and gives talks for her U3A as well as to National Trust meetings in the London area.

Don Moore leads music groups in both Merton and London U3As. He has recently concluded a major course on Mahler, and is preparing a new course on Shostakovich Symphonies for both U3As. He will have completed a U3A summer school course on Shostakovich in July. With invaluable support from Stan Freed, Don is the network coordinator for the U3A Greater London Music Network.

The Wigmore Hall is conveniently situated near Bond Street tube station, and Freedom Passes rather than driving to the venue is strongly recommended. Parking is limited and expensive. The Bechstein Room is located on the lower ground floor, accessible by lift if required. **Capacity is however limited to 80, so early booking is strongly recommended.**

GREATER LONDON MUSIC STUDY DAY
SATURDAY 3 MARCH 2012, WIGMORE HALL BECHSTEIN ROOM
10 am to 4 pm
FROM THE TSARS TO STALIN: ADVENTURES IN RUSSIAN MUSIC

Registration Form

I/We would very much like to attend the Study Day on Russian Music, and enclose our cheque for (£15 per participant).....**payable to GLF¹**.

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Telephone/Email.....

.....

Name of U3A.....

Please indicate any special requirements (e.g. disabled access, parking if available)

.....

Please return this form to:

Don Moore
31 Lanherne House
9 The Downs
Wimbledon SW20 8JG

(Tel 020 8946 3264, email don.moore@blueyonder.co.uk)

¹ U3A Greater London Forum

Some Thoughts on Members' Welfare and Wellbeing

1. **Members** vary in their needs. Some have strong family support. Some are lonely and have little social contact outside U3A. Some are outgoing and welcome help and advice, while others are shy and wary of commitment of any sort.
2. **Committees** can't be expected to provide a full Social Service back up for their members – but they do have a duty of care. This must include ensuring that we do no harm – following normal safety procedures at meetings and outings. It may include having a care officer on the committee responsible for keeping records of unexplained absences, illnesses and deaths. For taking some action – what action?
3. **Promoting welfare and wellbeing** starts with running the U3A efficiently thereby providing the means of social interaction with appropriate mental and physical activity. The provision of group and other activities within a U3A can be allowed to progress naturally depending on the members volunteering or it can be actively promoted. How should it be promoted? Should committees plan what activities will best promote wellbeing? Should committees try to ensure a balance of mental, social and physical interaction?
4. Remember there is an Accident Reporting Form available on the National Office website that enables U3As to provide the kind of record that might be useful when claims on the third party insurance policy are being considered. [Note added after meeting.]

Tom Appleton