**REPORTS FOR THE THAMES VALLEY NETWORK REPS MEETING,**

**OCTOBER 10TH, 2025**

**NETWORK LINK**

The next Network Link meeting will take place on Zoom on October 9th, the day before our Reps Meeting, and I will report on that during the meeting.

Network Link meetings are open to all u3a members – you don’t have to be a committee member. To date, 133 u3a members have registered to attend.

If you wish to attend the October 9th meeting (on Zoom) please go to the end of this report for details, and information on how to register. Any problems, you can email me at u3anetworklinkmeeting@gmail.com

**SOUTH EAST REGION**

In September, I attended meetings of the South East Region Networks (SERN) and the South East Region Communications Team.

Notes from the SERN meeting on September 17th

* There will be an election for another South East Region representative on the Council, to take up the post in April 2026. There will be information on the national website in due course, and deadline for applications is likely to be the end of December.
* The SE Summer School at Chichester was very successful with over 160 people attending.
* Some SERN members were concerned by the lack of information being shared by the Board and said that they felt removed from the national u3a. This has been accelerated by the changes in governance which were supposed to improve communication. Discussion ensued as to the most appropriate ways forward to address this situation. It was suggested that this matter should be put to the TAT Chair, Allan Walmsley, at the Network Link meeting on October 9th.
* The Kent network is intending to ask the Council to look into the availability (or not) of grants for networks. It seems networks can no longer apply for a grant towards the cost of a network training day. They wonder why this decision has been taken, by whom  and whether such grants could be reinstated?

Notes from the SER Communications Team on September 26th

* A representative from every u3a in the Region has been invited to join the SE Facebook Group. So far there are 61 members, and the intention is to open it up to all members in the Region in due course.
* Work is under way to update and improve the SER website.
* The possibility of a SE Regional Newsletter is being discussed.
* It has been noticed that there are some u3as missing from the Google Map of u3a locations on the national website, which you can find at

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/get-involved/find-your-local-u3a>

It would be helpful if our Reps could take a look at the map and let me know of any errors or omissions (akfurness@aol.com).

* Funding could be available for a Regional Workshop – an application will be made by our Council Representative.
* **A Regional Workshop will be held on Zoom on November 3rd, 2.30 pm. The topic will be** ***Welfare and Safeguarding Issues*.**

**NATIONAL MATTERS – BOARD AND COUNCIL**

* The National AGM is at 11 a.m. on October 17th, 2025. All information, including relevant documentation, the Annual Report, and details of how to register to attend (in person or online) can be found at https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/agm-2025
* Sheila Crawley has been elected as Vice-Chair of the Third Age Trust, following the resignation of Margaret Fiddes – Sheila will take up her post on the Board at the AGM.
* Apart from the usual AGM business no other motions have been submitted.
* Sue Russell, Chair of the Council, is asking Networks to suggest agenda items for the next Council meeting, which will take place on November 11th.
* Following a question raised at the last Reps Meeting about the national magazine “*u3a Matters*”, I made enquiries and have been told that the shortened digital version (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-matters>) is a trial, and that feedback from members would be welcomed.
* The most recent TAT Board meeting was held in September, and notes from that meeting may be found at

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/members-area/trust-and-board-updates/board-reports> (login required).

*Attached: Network Link meeting invitation and Organisation Infographic*

*Avis Furness, 1.10.2025*

**NETWORK LINK MEETING, OCTOBER 9TH, 2025**

**The Network Link Team is inviting you to The Network Link Autumn event, to be held via Zoom, on Thursday, October 9th, 2025, 1000 to 1230.**

**The programme will include:**

·        Liz Drury on progress towards the 500K resolution adopted at the 2023 AGM (*which required TAT to work towards a target of 500,000 u3a members by the end of 2028*)

·        Allan Walmsley on how the work on updating the u3a Movement’s “Strategy” and how the new Council is providing input to that process

·        Margaret Fiddes on the u3a Festival in York in 2026

·        Liz Ervine one of the Council Reps for Scotland and Gail Donaldson chair of the  u3a in Scotland network will talk about the recent successful Jamboree held in Scotland and how the network supported the Council Reps in organising the event.

Attendance is free, and open to all u3a members from all u3as.  If you cannot attend, please do encourage someone else to come along in your place.

Registration is via TicketSource – please click on this link

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/u3a-thames-valley-network/t-xmplqrj>

and follow the instructions to register.  (Network Link is grateful to our colleagues in the Thames Valley Network for their assistance with TicketSource).

**“INFOGRAPHIC” FOR SE REGION WEBSITE**

