



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# LONDON REGION & NETWORKS

26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

# U3A Countries/Regions

- Formal constituencies of Third Age Trust governance
- 12 constituencies in UK: 3 countries; 9 English regions
- Each Country/Region represented on National Executive Committee by a Trustee
- Every U3A belongs to a Country/Region
- Each U3A belongs to just one Country/Region
- Variable sizes geographically/number of U3As

# U3A Regions and Countries

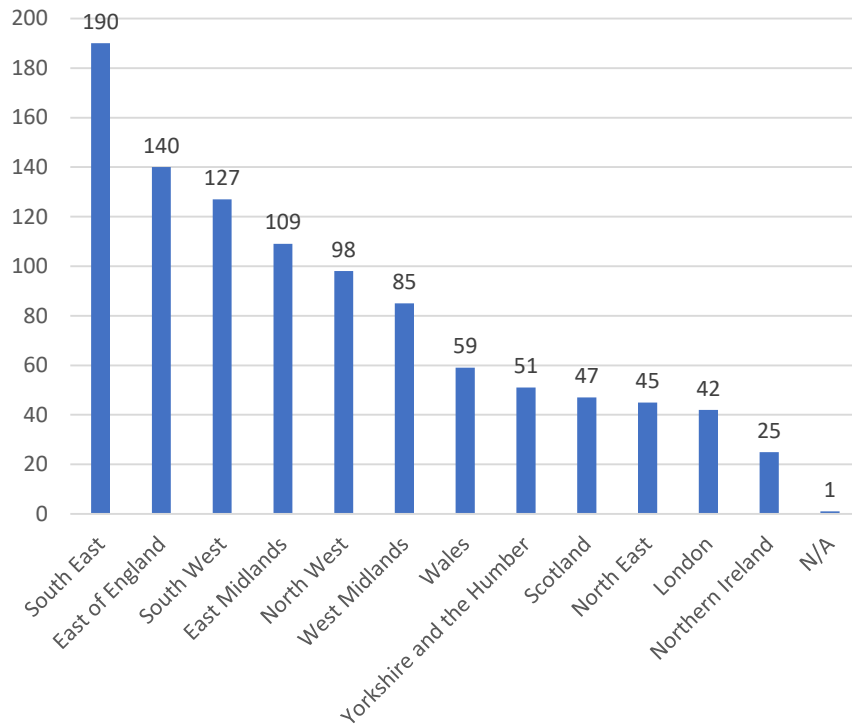


**The Trust's regional  
structure as  
constituted in 2008**

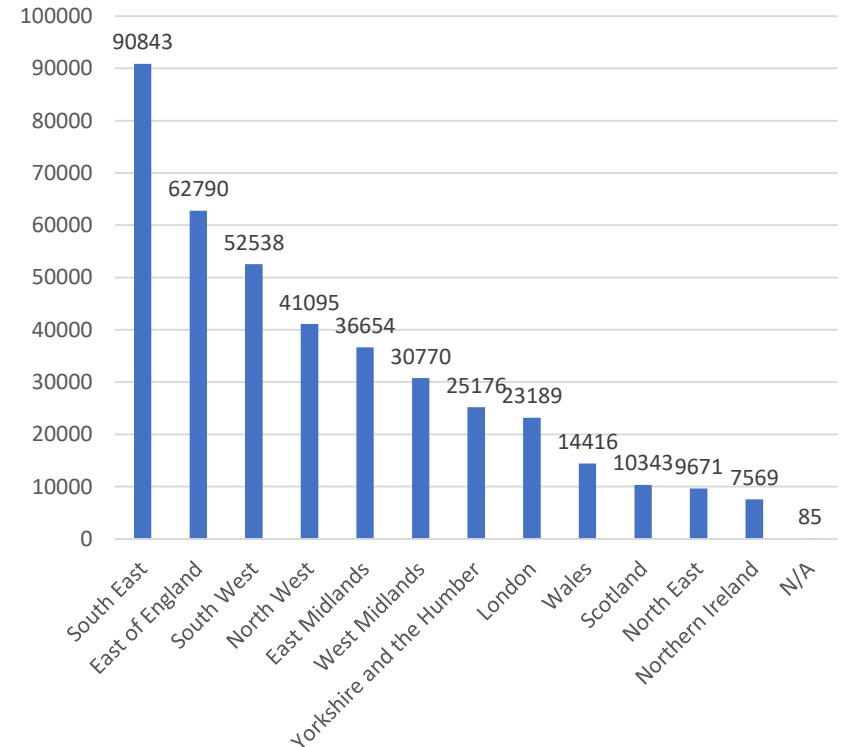
Source: Presentation by Ian McCannah at Network Link meeting 21 November 2017.  
Data as at 16 Nov 2017.

# Size of Countries/Regions

U3As per Region (total 1,019)



U3A Members per Region (total 405,139)



*“N/A” is the Virtual U3A*

Source: Presentation by Ian McCannah at Network Link meeting 21 November 2017.  
Data as at 16 Nov 2017.

# U3A 'networks'

- No part in Third Age Trust governance
- Develop informally/organically for mutual support
- Names vary e.g. Network/Forum/Consortium/Cluster
- Membership voluntary
- About two thirds of U3As belong to a 'network'
- Estimate 70 such groupings in UK
- Usually small areas but boundaries very varied (may overlap each other/straddle region boundaries)
- Most Countries/Regions have several 'networks'  
**3 regional networks (London/N.Ireland/Scotland)**
- U3As can belong to more than one network

# U3A 'networks' cont'd

- Structures vary (about 50% formal/50% informal)
  - Formal: may have a Constitution, Elected Committee, bank account, may be a registered charity)
- Activities very varied according to shared needs
- Self-funding, but can apply to Trustee for discretionary Trust funding (e.g. network workshops/study days)
- Members can participate in Trust-funded events
- Can work with Regional Trustee/National Office e.g.
  - Take a role in setting up/supporting new U3As
  - Take a role in assisting failing U3As
  - Assist with communication

# U3A London Region



# London Region U3As

43 U3As

Over 23,000 members

Abbeywood & Thamesmead	Harrow	Palmers Green & Southgate
Barnet	Havering	Redbridge & District
Beckenham	Hillingdon	Richmond-Upon-Thames
Bexley	Hillingdon South	Sidcup & District
Brent	Hounslow	Stanmore & District
Bromley	Islington	Sutton Area
Crouch End*	Kenton & District	Tower Hamlets
Croydon	Kingston	U3A in London
Dulwich & District	London South East	Upminster
Ealing	Merton	Waltham Forest
Enfield	Mill Hill	Wandsworth
Hackney	North London	Wanstead & Woodford
Hammersmith & Fulham	Northwood & District	Welling
Hampstead Garden Suburb	Norwood	
Haringey	Orpington	

\* inaugurated June 2017



# London Region 'network' Structure

- Same geographical area as U3A London Region
- Not a Trust constituency; no part in Trust governance
- “a grouping of U3As...successor body to the Greater London Forum of U3As”
- Members: All U3As in the U3A London Region
- Delegates:
  - Two Delegates per member U3A/One vote per U3A
- Executive Committee:
  - Elected by Delegates
  - Regional Trustee ex-officio (elected by Delegates)
- Constitution 2011(available on web-site)
- Charitable objectives but not a registered charity
- Bank account

# London Region 'network': Key benefits for U3As

- All U3As in London Region included
- No membership fee
- Regional Trustee a member of Executive Committee (ex-officio)
- Regional channel for representation/voting
- Regional channel for communication with Trustee/Trust/National Office
- Regional funding and support from Trust via Trustee
- Regional communications e.g. website/news/information/discussions
- Regional publicity/influence/outreach
- Regional collaboration with relevant organisations

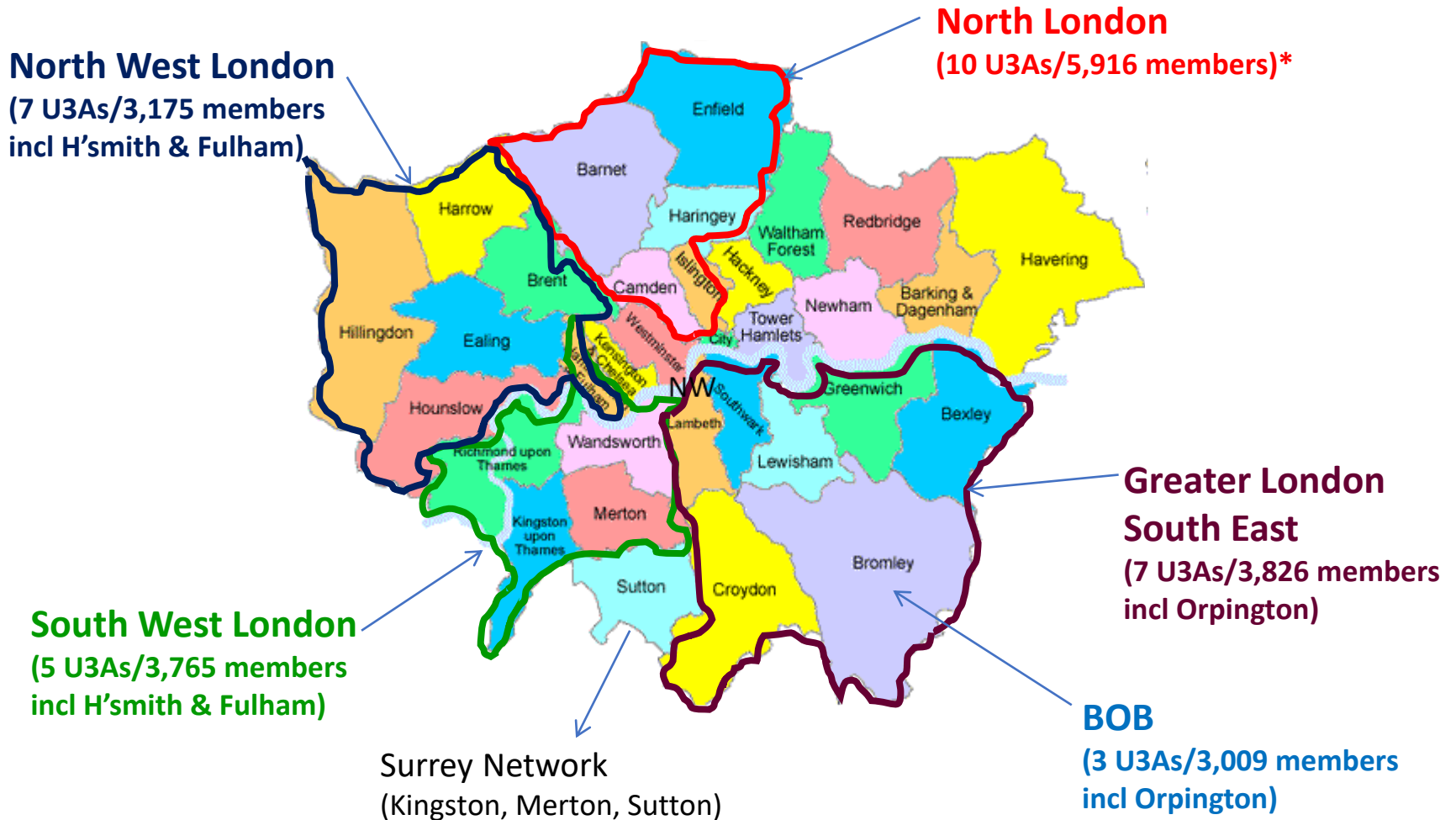
# London Region 'network': Key benefits for U3As cont'd

- Regional advice & best practice/support
- Regional programme of events & activities
  - Quarterly meetings of Committee & Delegates
  - Other networking events for specific committee roles e.g. Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications
  - Study Days/workshops
  - Summer School (July 31<sup>st</sup> - Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018)
  - Shared Learning Projects + other research
  - Speakers/speakers lists
- Central London venues/good public transport access

# London Region 'network' Delegate Meetings

- Two named delegates per U3A; one vote per U3A
- Regional meetings at least 4 times per year
  - Agenda to include suggestions and presentations from Delegates
  - Opportunity to meet the Committee, Trust officers and staff, and delegates of other member U3As
  - Opportunity to catch up on news, listen to guest speakers, discuss problems, exchange ideas, and vote on issues to promote mutual benefit
  - Other members may attend as observers/guests at discretion of Executive Committee

# London Region & local 'networks'



\*Crouch End member of North London Network but no membership data available April 2017

# Local 'networks'

## ➤ **London North Network**

North London, Barnet, U3A in London, Islington, Mill Hill, Palmer's Green & Southgate, Haringey, Crouch End and Hampstead Garden Suburb

- Initiated spring 2016; Meetings 3 times per year to discuss common issues; shared resources. Delegates are generally committee members.

## ➤ **North West London**

Under formation. Expected to comprise Harrow, Hounslow, Hillingdon, Hammersmith & Fulham, Brent, Ealing, and Stanmore & District.

# Local 'networks' cont'd

## ➤ **BOB**

Bromley, Orpington and Beckenham.

- Informal. Monthly meetings (no minutes). AGM in January. Share information about speakers. Some shared interest/study groups where there would otherwise be a shortage of members (e.g. hand bells).

## ➤ **Greater London SE Network**

Bexley, Croydon, Dulwich & District, Norwood, Orpington, Sidcup & District, S.E. London

- Steering group (one delegate per U3A). Draft constitution. Member U3As pay £30 p.a. toward core costs; events and learning activities; Newsletter; email alerts.

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/glondonsenetwork/home>

# Local 'networks' cont'd

## ➤ **SW London Consortium**

Wandsworth, Merton, Kingston, Richmond, Hammersmith & Fulham

- Informal, no constitution; no website; Shared activities e.g. Study Days; Shared Learning Projects; Roehampton University link; Visits

## ➤ **Surrey Network**

Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton plus U3As in NE Surrey

Website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/home>

- Part of South East Region/SE Forum; Formal network; constitution; 6-monthly network meetings; Study Days; international exchanges



# Advantages of local 'networks'

- Smaller geographical area: Shorter distances to travel, easier to participate and share organisational workload
- Interest groups: easier to make up groups where subjects are less 'mainstream'/small numbers
- SLPs/Study days/Talks/Research
- Events/Outings: vacant spaces can be filled more easily to cover costs
- Social events with neighbouring U3As: e.g. friendly competitions (games/matches)
- Local interests, knowledge, contacts
- Shared venues, equipment, funding and other resources
- Mutual support: sharing ideas, expertise, communications
- Shared publicity/outreach with relevant organisations