

GETTING STARTED : A Guide to Proposing and setting up a new AYR U3A Interest Group.

Ayr U3A is committed to encouraging new groups so that members can come together to share interests in common in a structured way. A core principle of the U3A is that interest groups are autonomous: that is, they are self managed and self financed by group members. U3A groups must be compatible with the ethos of the Third Age Trust and the constitutional purpose of Ayr U3A: therefore it's members of the groups who decide –“ What interest are we going to pursue and how can we manage and share the learning?” That is, the learners teach and the teachers learn.

GETTING STARTED :

New groups are established through the initiative of one or more members with a particular interest who would like to share their learning with others. Although Ayr is a relatively new U3A, experience has shown us that successful groups have given consideration to the following before getting started:

- What is the purpose of our group?
- How are we going to pursue and share our learning?
- Where will we meet? (Note: if an external venue is used- you need to agree how costs are shared- and same for next point)
- What resources do we require (eg books, DVDs, material and equipment?)
- Who is going to facilitate the activities of the group (and who is going to support him/her?)
- How are members going to communicate with each other?
- Do we have any members who have some knowledge of what we want to pursue, if not, how are we going to overcome this?
- How are we going to promote our group?
- Who will update the group's webpage on the Ayr U3A website?

THE NEXT STEPS:

- 1) Contact the Groups' Co-ordinator with your initial proposal who can provide help and contacts, for example: finding a venue, designing your webpage, marketing your group, how to manage and share the workload.
- 2) Your proposal will be submitted to the committee for verification and we'll respond.

Getting in touch:

Contact Linda Matheson, Groups' Co-ordinator on groupsayru3a@gmail.com who will advise on the next steps. If you would like to have an informal chat in the first instance, please provide a telephone number.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW AYR U3A INTEREST GROUP

Name of Group:

Purpose of Group : *(Briefly describe and include a statement of the expected learning outcomes.*

Proposed Facilitator: (please include your preferred contact details)

Management and organisation of the group :

(in a few words, describe how you expect the group to be organised, how and where you may meet and whether you think you may need to obtain resources to assist with the learning)

Further assistance: *(please state what initial and ongoing support you'd expect from the committee)*

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