

General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR)

The GDPR comes into force on 25th May 2018 and will replace the existing Data Protection Regulations. It implements a European wide Directive and the GDPR is not expected to be changed significantly following Brexit. There are new rights for people to access information held by organisations about them; obligations for better data management; and a new regime of fining organisations for non compliance.

U3A Canterbury & District already has a strict policy concerning confidentiality about members' personal data held in our computer based database, and the Beacon system will further improve the security and confidentiality of such data. Members who have access to the internet will be able to see their own personal data at any time via the Beacon link on our website, but not that of any other member. Other members who do not have such access will be able to make a written request to the U3A office for a copy of their personal record that we hold. This will be provided free of charge.

Our U3A will not be able to provide the benefits of membership to an individual member if the member concerned does not agree to provide all the personal details required for us to hold and use them securely via our database. The database contains members' names, contact information, choices regarding receipt of Newsletters and distribution of Third Age Matters. Data is also used to operate our Main Course allocation process. Therefore it is a specific condition of membership that you agree to provision of this data and for us to hold it on the database. In return the U3A Canterbury & District undertake to hold and use it strictly in accordance with the requirements of GDPR.

I very much hope that you will be content with the above arrangements but if you do not agree for us to hold and use your personal data in accordance with the GDPR, as described above, please advise the Membership Secretary accordingly. The Membership Secretary will remove your details from the database, advise you accordingly, and will not progress your membership renewal for 2018 and subsequent years. Any payment taken for renewal of Subs will be refunded.

BEACON - a few Q & As

- 1. What is Beacon?** Beacon is an online facility which is used by many U3As in the UK to help manage membership, finance and group matters.
- 2. Why are we adopting it?** As our membership continues to grow Beacon will be of great assistance. It will simplify procedures, save time and empower members who will, for example, be able to renew online.
- 3. How are we adopting it?** We are starting with membership and finance matters but hope to gradually expand the range of services and make them available to all our members.
- 4. Why are our membership numbers being changed?** Over the years different sets of membership numbers have been given out; the new numbers generated by Beacon will streamline this process.
- 5. What happens if I do not have a computer?** There is no need for concern at present as you will still receive information by post.