

Our compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR)

The GDPR came into force on 25th May 2018 and replaced the previous General Data Protection Regulation. It implemented 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 a computer-based database, maintained as part of the Beacon system that has been developed by the Third Age Trust to ensure 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 after logging in 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 Membership Secretary 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 the Beacon 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 in the database. In return, the U3A Canterbury & District undertakes 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 2021 and subsequent years. Any payment taken for renewal of Subs will be refunded.

Chair March 2021

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 have we adopted 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 have we adopted it?** We began with membership and finance matters, but as Beacon is further developed under the sponsorship of the Third Age Trust, we will review the changes with the hope of gradually expanding the range of our services and make them available to all our members.
4. **What happens if I do not have a computer or access to the internet?** There is no need for concern as when you have informed us that this is the case, alternative arrangements will be made. To minimise postage and printing costs however we ask that if you can make arrangements to access the internet that you do so.