

Exeter U3A Membership policy and meeting attendance guidance

The U3A movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

- Membership of a U3A is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a U3A.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a U3A can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all U3A members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

- Each U3A is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the U3A movement.
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any U3A.
- Each U3A is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the U3A movement.

Membership of Exeter U3A entitles individuals to:

- attend any of the groups – a list of these is available on our website (address below)
- indemnity insurance cover (but not individual accident cover);
- receive the quarterly magazine Third Age Matters sent out from the national office;
- receive the bi-monthly Newsletter;
- attend the monthly general meeting.

Sometimes members of one U3A wish to attend a group in another area. Exeter U3A welcomes this but requires associate membership. Depending on the time of year the cost will either be the full annual membership fee less the national capitation fee (or from October 1st half the annual fee less the capitation fee). This fee includes insurance cover but not a further copy of the magazine.

There are sometimes enquiries about trying out a group before a commitment is made to becoming a fully paid up member. You are allowed two 'taster' group sessions before joining if you wish to attend a group as a visitor. This could be attendance at two groups, once or one group, twice.

If people are interested in attending a monthly open meeting the visitor charge of £2 will apply (refundable if membership is taken out at the meeting).

Many of Exeter U3A's activities take place in The Mint or other venues which need to be paid for. The following rules apply:

- members attending a group activity in a paid for venue are expected to pay a contribution of £1 for each session they attend. These contributions are called PFV fees and are payable to the Treasurer or direct to the Exeter U3A bank account quarterly in arrears. (There is no charge for non-members on each of their trial sessions before joining)
- members attending a group activity in some free venues eg Wetherspoons will be expected to buy a drink by the venue operator.
- members attending a group activity in a member's home are expected to make a contribution towards refreshments provided by the host.

All enquiries for membership should be referred to the Membership Secretary via the Exeter U3A website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/exeter>)