





# About the Isle of Wight u3a

[www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk)

# Introduction



*“u3a shows the value of communities of interest and learning which are not defined by age, or by past experience but instead are defined by experiences still*



Each **u3a** is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust (TAT). There are thousands of independent u3as around the country. Being a member of an umbrella organisation brings many benefits. We have access to a wide range of learning support through subject advisors, online learning, summer schools and conventions combined with the benefit of a local organisation that responds to the wishes, needs and resources of the local community.

The Third Age Trust also acts as a force for change at a National level, working with other bodies representing those of older years, promoting policies that support access and consideration for older people and tackling ageism.

The Isle of Wight **u3a** is a new group and we aim to use and research our local resources, the beautiful Island with interesting local history, and offer individuals the opportunity to develop their own interests, make new friends and have fun.

We have a monthly coffee morning in Newport. Please feel free to drop in for a chat and to find out more about us.



**Coffee Morning**

**Bargeman's Rest, Newport**

1st Wednesday of the Month 10:30 – 11:30

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### WELLSPRING OF DESIRE

There is a well in my brain,  
That leaks like a drain.  
Repair is done with friends.  
u3a is a scheme to build our esteem,  
With words, foreign language and walks,  
Social issues and chess with much  
more besides.  
Come to a group, lead one in this loop  
Of bricks to reach the fantastic well of  
your brain.

Helena Hewston  
Isle of Wight **u3a** Writing Group

Join our members facebook group at  
[www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a](http://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a)

## Interest Groups & Events

Interest groups are the life-blood of the u3a. Run by members for members, groups meet in people's houses or suitable venues to share learning. Groups are not necessarily run by experts, rather by enthusiasts – although there are some groups, like languages, where some knowledge is essential. Group administration can be shared.

Our Diary and News in Brief gives full details of the groups that we have and the events that are planned for the current month. Our website [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk) is also a good place to look for news. New groups are forming all the time.

Some groups have a fairly fixed membership and some activities are run as one-off events, like Beach Walks, Garden Visits, Climate Crisis Talks and Walk & Lunch. The entire membership is invited to participate in each event and members receive regular emails reminders.

If your interest is not represented then let us know and we will help you set up a group. There are bound to be other members who share your interest, whatever it is.

Contact Sally, Groups Coordinator, for more information by email to [groups@u3awight.uk](mailto:groups@u3awight.uk) or by phone 740 511.

## Events Open to the whole membership

Beach Activities  
Climate Crisis Talks & Discussions  
Discovery Days  
Eat-out & Review  
Monthly Speaker Meeting  
Let's Go  
Photography Competitions  
Walks & Lunches

# Benefits of Membership

## Speaker Meetings

We hold monthly Speaker Meetings on the second Thursday of the month, during the winter, sometimes on Zoom.

Although we miss the tea & cake and the freedom to circulate and chat to new people, Zoom has had its advantages. We are planning a face-to-face meeting for September and October, although it is highly likely that Zoom is here to stay for some things. We have a technology group and one-to-one support to join Zoom if you are still finding the technical aspects daunting.

The subjects for our monthly Speaker Meetings vary – from understanding intelligence, to archaeological finds on the Isle of Wight and Symbolic Weaving. Speaker meetings are free to attend.

Groups are free to belong to, except where there is a small materials or venue charge; you can belong to as many groups as you like.

## Monthly Newsletters

All members of the Isle of Wight **u3a** receive a monthly Diary and a bi-monthly Newsletter with reports on group activities, future Speaker Meetings and Dates for your Diary.

Members also receive 5 issues of the Third Age Trust magazine Third Age Matters and can sign up to receive a monthly email newsletter from the Third Age Trust as well.

## Third Age Trust

The Third Age Trust provides a large collection of learning resources online as well as Specialist Subject Advisors to support local groups setting up new interest groups.

Membership of TAT also brings with it the benefit of support in managing the group database and website as well as public liability insurance.

# History

## 1981

beginning of the movement

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## 2010

membership reaches the quarter million mark

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Our founders envisaged a collaborative approach with peers learning from each other. The **u3a** movement was to be self-funded, with members not working towards qualifications but learning purely for pleasure. There would be no distinction between the learners and the teachers – everyone could take a turn at being both if they wished.

From its beginnings in 1981, the movement grew very quickly and by the early 1990s a **u3a** was opening every fortnight. **u3as** grew in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and in 2008 membership was increasing by 11% every year. 2010 saw our membership hitting the quarter million mark.

At the end of 2016 the **u3a** movement reached the milestone of 1,000 **u3as**, celebrated by a conference with speakers including Eric Midwinter – one of the founders of the **u3a** movement. Today, our movement includes over 400,000 **u3a** members in more than 1,000 **u3as** and is continuing to grow every day.



# Ethos and Principles

## The Principles of the u3a Movement

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The **u3a** movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

### Lifelong Learning

- Membership of a **u3a** is open to all people who are no longer in full time work.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a **u3a**.

### Self Help

- 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 through its membership.

# How to Join

Membership costs £20 for the year – **40th Anniversary Special** – join now and your membership will last until **March 31st 2024**.

**To Join online:** Visit our website at [www.u3awight.uk](http://www.u3awight.uk)

At the bottom of the page click the **Join**. This will take you to a form to fill in and the chance to pay online by Paypal or by credit card. You do not need a Paypal account.

**To Join By Post:** fill in in the form below and send it by post (u3a Membership, Yafford Mill, Mill Lane, PO30 73LH) or email to [membership@u3awight.uk](mailto:membership@u3awight.uk).

Please send a cheque for £20 payable to IOWU3A or pay by BACS to IOWU3A,

Title, Name, Last Name

Address & Post Code

Telephone number & email address

My Interests & Skills

The fee of £20 includes a membership fee paid to our central u3a organisation, The Third Age Trust which provides a wide range of services and benefits including liability insurance cover. It also covers postage paid to the Trust for five issues of Third Age Matters.

[ ] I agree that my data can be used for the administration of the Isle of Wight u3a only

Signed:

Dated: