

Kenilworth U3A: Some Key FAQs!

What is the “U3A”?

U3A stands for “University of the Third Age”.

Why “University”?

The word is used in its original meaning as a group of people who share a learning activity: “learners” in the broadest sense.

Why “Third Age”?

This indicates “a period in life in which full-time employment has ceased”; it is not defined by a specific age.

What is the U3A’s main purpose?

To promote lifelong learning in a collaborative way: by the members, for the members. U3A learning is for its own sake, for enjoyment, not for qualifications or awards.

How do local U3As achieve this?

Members of local U3As organize a wide range of activities – practical, social, cultural, intellectual, physical – and other members are invited to participate in those activities that interest them.

So how is the U3A organized?

The Third Age Trust, a registered charity, is the national, umbrella body for all local U3As such as Kenilworth U3A.

Can anyone join their local U3A?

Yes, as long as they are not in full-time employment. There are no other ‘qualifications’ for membership, just a small annual membership fee (currently £15).

Are there any other key principles of the U3A?

The U3A is non-religious and non-political. The Third Age Trust represents all UK U3As at national and international level and is run by a National Executive Committee that is democratically elected from the general membership.