

KINGSWINFORD AND DISTRICT U3A

CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGSWINFORD AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A), A MEMBER OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST AS AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION, FORMALLY ADOPTED ON FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2008.

1. NAME

The name of the charity is "Kingswinford and district U3A" hereafter referred to as 'The U3A'.

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below the U3A and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the elected Trustees Committee, herein referred to as The Trustees, constituted by clause 6 of this constitution.

3. OBJECTS

The advancement of education and in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Kingswinford and its surrounding locality.

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise, The Trustees may exercise the following powers to :

- (i) raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds The Trustees shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any requirements of the law. (ii) receive donations, endowments, sponsorship, grants legacies and subscriptions from persons desiring to promote all or any of the Objects of The U3A and to hold funds in trust for the same. (iii) buy, take on lease or exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the Objects and to maintain and equip it for use. (iv) sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the U3A, subject to any consents required by law. (v) co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them. (vi) support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects. (vii) appoint and constitute such advisory committees as The Trustees may think fit. (viii) organise and run conferences, lectures, seminars and courses. (ix) publish books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals and instructional matter and to produce films and videos. (x) participate in and assist in the development of area and regional groupings of U3As. (xi) do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP

(i) Membership of the U3A shall be open to individuals interested in furthering the work of 'The U3A', provided that they agree to abide by this constitution and any conditions properly imposed by The Trustees and to pay the annual subscription as determined by The Trustees and confirmed by

the membership at an Annual General Meeting. (ii) Every individual member shall have one vote. (iv) The Trustees may and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual if annual membership or other fees are unpaid after the due date or if the member acts in a way which is prejudicial to The U3A or to the running of The U3A or brings it into disrepute, provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by The Trustees accompanied by a friend who may also speak, or make written representation before a final decision is made.

6. THE TRUSTEES

The management of The U3A shall be vested in the Trustees, consisting of members whose duty it shall be to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of The U3A.

(i) Honorary Officers

At the Annual General Meeting of The U3A the members shall elect from amongst themselves a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary and a treasurer who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting. Any honorary officers (chair, vicechair, secretary, treasurer) will be appointed by the elected Trustees at their first meeting following the AGM. (ii) The Trustees shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 16 members being: (a) the honorary officers specified in the preceding sub-clause (b) not less than 1 and not more than 16 members elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting. (iii) The Trustees may in addition appoint not more than 2 co-opted members who shall have full voting rights and have tenure until the next Annual General Meeting. (iv) Persons who need not be members may be invited by The Trustees to serve because of their special expertise. They shall have no voting rights and their term of service shall expire at the next Annual General Meeting. (v) Vacancies among the Trustees which arise through resignation or termination during the year can be filled from the membership and such an appointee shall complete the term of service of the member he or she is replacing and shall be eligible for re-election in the prescribed manner at the next Annual General Meeting. (vi) The proceedings of The Trustees shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment, election or co-option of a member. (vii) A member of The Trustees shall cease to hold office if he or she: (a) is disqualified from acting as a member of The Trustees by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision). (b) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs. (c) is absent without the permission of The Trustees from 3 consecutive meetings and The Trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated. (d) is subject to a vote of no confidence from The Trustees as a result of actions which bring The U3A into disrepute or conduct prejudicial to The U3A or failure to abide by the terms of this constitution or decisions of The Trustees.

(e) notifies in writing to The Trustees a wish to resign (but only if at least four members of The Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect which shall be at least 21 days from the receipt of the notification).

7. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

(i) The election of Trustees shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the U3A. (ii) The newly elected Trustees shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting. (iii) Officers shall serve for a period of 3 years and Trustee members for a period of 3 years. Retiring Officers may stand for re-election provided that no-one may hold the office of Chair or Vice-Chair for more than 3 consecutive years without an intervening period of at least one year except that a retiring Vice-Chair may stand immediately for the post of Chair. (iv) If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies for Officers and/or Trustee members, The Trustees may as a last resort, appeal to the assembled members at the Annual General Meeting for permission to ask whether anyone present is willing to reconsider and put themselves forward as a candidate for one of the vacancies. A vote must be taken on this motion and must be carried by not less than two thirds of the members present for the request to be made. (v) In the event of no nominations being received for one or more of the Honorary Officer posts or no member of the newly elected Trustees being willing to take on one or more of the Officer positions a majority decision can be taken by The Trustees to ask the retiring officer to stay until the next AGM.

8. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRUSTEES

(i) The Trustees shall hold at least 4 ordinary meetings each year. (ii) A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chair or by any two members of The Trustees upon not less than seven days' notice being given to other members of The Trustees of the matters to be discussed unless it concerns the appointment of a co-opted member in which case not less than twenty one days notice must be given. (iii) The Chair shall chair the meetings and in his or her absence the Vice-Chair shall take over or if he or she is also absent The Trustees shall choose one of their number to be chair of the meeting before any business is transacted. (iv) There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the number of members of The Trustees for the time being or five members of The Trustees whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting. (v) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of The Trustees present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. (vi) The Trustees shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its meetings which should incorporate reports of any sub-committees and these minutes shall be available for inspection should a member request it. (vii) The Trustees may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution. (viii) The Trustees may appoint sub-committees consisting of at least one of its members for the purpose of performing any function or duty which in the opinion of The Trustees would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to The Trustees. (ix) No Trustee shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by any act done or omitted to be done by him/her or by any other Trustee or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Trustee or by reason of any other matter other than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of The Trustee in question.

9. FINANCE

(i) The funds of The U3A, including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account/accounts operated by The Trustees in the name of The U3A at such bank as The Trustees shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least 2 Trustees. (ii) The funds belonging to The U3A shall be applied only in furthering the objects. (iii) No funds shall be transferred in any way to Trustees, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of U3A work. (iv) All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of The U3A and membership of the Third Age Trust may be defrayed from the funds of The U3A.

10. PROPERTY

(i) All property of The U3A shall be applied solely towards the objects of The U3A. Ownership of property is vested in the U3A and items may with the agreement of The Trustees be transferred on a temporary basis to a nominated member's home in pursuance of the his/her designated role until such time as the member's tenure of office ceases or The Trustees request its return.

11. ACCOUNTS

The Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to: (i) the keeping of accounting records for The U3A; (ii) the preparation of annual statements of account for The U3A; (iii) the independent examination of the statements of account of The U3A; and (iv) the transmission of the statements of account of The U3A to the Charity Commission (see note 7).

12. ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that act) with regard to the preparation of an annual return and its transmission to the Commission.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(i) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the U3A which shall be held in the month of April in each year or as soon as practicable thereafter but not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting. In the event of exceptional circumstances which preclude members attending in person within the stated timescale, the Trustees may convene an AGM by Virtual means e.g. Zoom with due notice, at its earliest convenience.

(ii) Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by The Trustees. The Secretary shall give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to all the members of The U3A. All the members of The U3A shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. (iii) Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of the General Meeting. (iv) The Trustees shall present to each Annual General Meeting the report and accounts of The U3A for the preceding year for approval. (v) The Trustees shall seek approval for the appointment of the examiner for the accounts. (vi) Nominations for election to The Trustees must be made by members in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary of The Trustees at least 14 days before the Annual General

Meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot. Any proposals to amend the constitution subject to clause 16 shall be considered at the Annual General Meeting and any other business published in the agenda.

14. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

(vii) The Trustees may call a Special General Meeting of the charity at any time and if at least 15% of the members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered, the Secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days notice shall be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed. There shall be a quorum when 15% of the members are present. Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.

15. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

(i) The Secretary or other person specially appointed by The Trustees shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General Meeting of The U3A. (ii) There shall be a quorum when at least 15% of the number of members of The U3A, are present at any General Meeting. (iii) If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened at the request of the members shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall be adjourned to another day and time as The Trustees may direct provided 21 day's notice is given to all members. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall be a quorum. (iv) The Chair of The U3A shall be the Chair of the General Meeting at which he/she is present. In the absence of the proposed Chair, The Trustees shall have the power to elect a chair for the meeting. (v) If there is a tied vote the Chair of the meeting should have a single casting vote.

16. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

(i) Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed. (ii) No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity) clause 3 (the Objects clause) clause 17 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Commissioners. (iii) No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law. The Committee shall promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

17. DISSOLUTION

If The Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the U3A it shall call a Special General Meeting of all members of The U3A, of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a three quarters majority of those present and voting The Trustees shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to other such local charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Objects of The U3A as the members of The U3A may determine or to the Third Age Trust Registered Charity No. 288007. A copy of the statement of accounts or account and statement, for the final accounting period of The U3A must be sent to the Charity Commission.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Amendments agreed by members' unanimous vote at a General Meeting on 16th January 2009

1. Rule 6, the maximum number of committee members is increased from 10 to 12
2. Rules 14 and 15, a quorum is changed from 20% to 15% of membership

Amendment agreed by members' unanimous vote at a General Meeting on 25th April 2014

1. Rule 6, the maximum number of committee members is increased from 12 to 14

Amendment agreed by members' unanimous vote at a General Meeting on 28th April 2017

1. Rule 6, the maximum number of Committee Members is increased from 14 to 16.

Amendment agreed by members' unanimous vote at a General Meeting on 27th April 2018-0

1. Rule 3, Objects shall be amended as follows

The advancement of education and in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Kingswinford and its surrounding locality.

Amendment agreed by members vote at a General Meeting on 29th January 2021

1. Rule 13(i) added to previous wording to allow for exceptional circumstances as follows

In the event of exceptional circumstances which preclude members from attending in person within the stated timescale, the Trustees may convene an AGM by virtual means e.g. Zoom, with due notice, at its earliest convenience.