

PRESENTATION by Val Girling. PalmersGreen and Southgate u3a.

Developing new models of learning

- **Prompted by an influx of new members wanting to join interest groups, most which consider themselves full. To get new members started in new groups straight away is so much better than being put on a waiting list**

I needed to think creatively about what we offered. Resulting in:

- **Taster groups of 4 sessions called BiteSize courses.** This is proving very successful.
- **I invite new members** to a Welcome Tea event where I introduce the new interest groups. There has been enormous enthusiasm and 16 out of the 24 groups offered have been filled and started straight away.
- **As Groups Coordinator** I have created and started 16 new interest groups in the last 6 months.
- **I monitor progress** of these groups and at the end of 4 sessions it is decided – by the group – if they wish to continue to meet.
- **If they do, then the choice is between** another 4 sessions OR turning it into a regular group which is then put on the table on the website.

Advantages:

- **Everyone seems to feel good about “trying things out” without feeling they are committing themselves long term, especially Conveners.**
- **New members feel very positive about our u3a because they really enjoy the Welcome Tea event and that the groups have been created especially for them, which they have! If they don't fill up from new members I offer them to the rest of the Membership.**
- **More members now attending the Monthly Meeting because we have created New Members area.**