**Our Vision**

Our Vision is to make lifelong learning, through the experience of u3a, a reality for all third agers.

**Our Mission**

Our Mission declares our purpose as an organisation and serves as the standard against which we weigh our actions and decisions. It is to:

* Facilitate the growth of the u3a movement.
* Provide support for management and learning in u3as.
* Raise the profile of the u3a movement.
* Promote the benefits of learning in later life through self-help learning.

**The Principles of the u3a Movement**

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 u3amembers.

**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.