



## **Guide for new members of Melbourne Area Derby u3a**

Thank you for joining Melbourne Area Derby u3a (MAD u3a). By now you should have received your membership card and membership number. You will need your membership number to attend group and monthly meetings.

### **What are our aims and objectives?**

MAD u3a is run entirely by members for members. We believe that age need be no barrier to learning new things, expanding horizons, sharing skills and experiences, making new friends, helping others to learn, accepting new challenges and of course enjoying ourselves.

### **How do I get started?**

The quickest way of finding out what is going on is to look at our website.

[www.u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area/home)

The website is one of the ways you will be informed of current activities, taster sessions, information about our groups, the newsletter and our monthly meetings. So have a look, you will find it easy to use.

### **How do I join a Group?**

Our current list of groups is attached together with the local venues where they take place.

To join one of our groups either contact the group leader by clicking the link on the relevant group web page or you can email the Groups' Co-ordinator by the "contact us" page. Alternatively you can attend one of our monthly meetings, where you can speak to a committee member about how to join a group.

The group leader will be able to tell you whether there are spaces in the group, where and when it meets and answer any other questions you may have. All groups aim to be inclusive. There is often a small cost to group members for each group session to pay for room hire and refreshments.

Each group is co-ordinated by a member with a special interest or expertise in the subject, but it is the group as a whole that decides the general direction, suggesting topics and ideas.

Any member can set up a new group if there is sufficient interest in the subject or activity by contacting the Groups Co-ordinator.

## **How do I find out what is happening?**

You will often receive information about current activities from our Chair by email, so please let us know if you change your email address.

You can also look at our website and at our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/MelbourneU3A](http://www.facebook.com/MelbourneU3A)

You can also read our most recent MAD u3a newsletter which is available by clicking the date on the list of newsletters on our website.

## **Monthly meeting**

Our members' monthly get together is on the first Thursday afternoon of every month at 2pm, usually at Melbourne Assembly Rooms, High Street, Melbourne DE73 8GF. To attend the meeting you will need to bring your membership card or number and pay £1.00. This gives you the opportunity to meet other u3a members, talk to committee members, listen to the invited speaker and enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits.

## **Who are the members of our committee?**

MAD u3a is organised by a management committee of volunteers who are elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting which is held in the spring. Any u3a member can put their name forward to be a committee member. The list of current committee members is attached.

## **How old is MAD u3a?**

MAD u3a was founded in 2017 and is affiliated to the Third Age Trust (the UK national organisation). We currently have members from far and wide including Aston, Barrow-on-Trent, Breedon, Calke, Castle Donington, Hartshorne, Melbourne, Kings Newton, Stanton-by-Bridge, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Weston and Wilson.

## **National u3a Matters**

If you want to know more about u3a national activities, groups and events, you can go to [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

You can also find out more about national events in the "Third Age Matters" magazine which you will receive by post four times a year, but only if you asked for this on your membership application form.

Thank you again for joining MAD u3a. I am looking forward to meeting you at one of the monthly meetings.

Membership Secretary

Website: [www.u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area)  
Tel: 07843 746217

Email: [madu3amem@gmail.com](mailto:madu3amem@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Melbourne Area Derby u3a

## MAD u3a Committee Members 2023-24

Committee members can be contacted through the MADu3a website or using the gmail addresses shown below.

<b>Chair</b>	Margaret Whitehead	madu3achair@gmail.com
<b>Vice chair</b>	Marjorie Tunnicliffe	madu3avicechair@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Anderson	madu3amoney@gmail.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Jackie Lane	madu3abussec@gmail.com
<b>Membership</b>	Margaret Whitehead	madu3amem@gmail.com
<b>Groups co-ordinator</b>	Sue Kerr	madu3agroup@gmail.com
<b>Speakers</b>	Diana Wilkins	
<b>Beacon/GDPR (data protection)</b>	Geoff Dowell	madu3adata@gmail.com
<b>Support</b>	Dominic Clarke	
	Lyn Hackett	
	Alison Keay	
	Allan Randall	

<b>MADu3a CURRENT GROUPS (as at January 2024)</b> subject to change, see website for up-to-date details and availability (please note that some groups are full)	
<b>Art Appreciation.</b> Currently focussing on women artists.	Monthly, <b>Wednesday</b> (pm), Melbourne Assembly Rooms (MARS)
<b>TV Art via Zoom.</b> An informal group discussing recent art-themed TV programmes.	Ad-hoc, usually <b>Thursday</b> evening in winter months via ZOOM
<b>Book groups.</b> Currently three book groups; numbers are kept small.	Monthly. <b>Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.</b> Various times and venues.
<b>Bowls.</b> Seasonal Crown Green Bowling (usually March-September).	Monthly, last <b>Wednesday</b> (am) Kings Norton Bowling Club
<b>Bridge.</b> A friendly group for players of all abilities.	Weekly, <b>Monday</b> (pm) Melbourne Sports Park (MSP)
<b>Crafting.</b> Numbers limited.	Monthly, second <b>Thursday</b> (pm), Melbourne
<b>Current Affairs.</b> Discussions on topical issues, held at various local pubs.	Monthly, third <b>Friday</b> (pm) Various venues
<b>Family History.</b> Supported research with access to Ancestry and Find My Past websites.	Monthly, second <b>Wednesday</b> (pm), Melbourne British Legion
<b>French Dancing</b> to live music. Beginners welcome.	Monthly, last <b>Thursday</b> (pm) Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne
<b>Garden Visits.</b> Spring/summer within 30 - 40 minutes' drive of Melbourne.	Various days, times, places
<b>German Conversation.</b> For people who speak some German and wish to practice and improve.	Weekly, <b>Wednesday</b> (am) Online via Zoom or in members homes
<b>History.</b> The current topic is the Romans in Britain.	Monthly, second <b>Friday</b> (pm). Melbourne Assembly Rooms
<b>Photography.</b> All abilities welcome. The group visits locations and learns from each other.	Monthly, first <b>Wednesday</b> (pm). Various locations
<b>Pickleball.</b> Played in pairs on a badminton court, with a tennis net and paddle bats. A new group.	Monthly, second <b>Thursday</b> (pm)
<b>Poetry Appreciation.</b> Reading poetry and learning about poets. Two groups. Numbers kept small.	Monthly, first <b>Monday or Wednesday</b> (pm). Members' homes
<b>Road Cycling.</b> For experienced road cyclists. 2 hours @ 12mph, including a break.	Weekly <b>Tuesday</b> (am), Starting at Melbourne or Breedon
<b>Scrabble.</b> All abilities welcome to this friendly group.	Monthly, fourth <b>Tuesday</b> (pm) Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne
<b>Short Breaks.</b> Coordinates day trips and at least one holiday each year to Europe or within the UK.	Various dates & places
<b>Walking Groups.</b> Members arrange walks of varying length and difficulty to suit all needs.	Ad hoc, 2/3 times a month Various starting points
<b>Walking Netball.</b> Beginners welcome. No running allowed. Played outside.	Second and fourth <b>Monday</b> (am) Melbourne Sports Park (MSP)
<b>Whist.</b> All abilities. Beginners welcome.	Monthly, third <b>Tuesday</b> , 7-9pm, Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne
<b>Wine Appreciation.</b> Learning and comparing wines from around the world. New Group	Occasional meetings.