

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 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 value 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 u3a members.

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 member 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.

u3a is a UK wide, cooperative movement of people no longer in full time work who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests in a friendly and informal environment.

Founded in 1981, the u3a movement encompasses 430,000+ members and 1000+ local groups from across the whole of the UK.

Across the UK, u3a members draw upon their knowledge and experience to teach and learn from each other for pleasure; learning is its own reward.

It's all voluntary; a typical u3a will be home to many activity groups covering hundreds of different subjects - from art to zoology and everything in between.

It's local, social, friendly, low-cost and open to all. Now you have joined a u3a, start learning together and make the most out of life.