

u3a

Perth

Information for New Members



Welcome to Perth u3a ...

As a new member, finding your way in an organisation is sometimes not easy. This leaflet will help you find out how Perth u3a is organised and what it has to offer.

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Sessions

Our u3a year runs from August to July each year. No matter when you join us, you will be invited to renew your membership for the next session every July. Meetings are generally held from September to April, though some groups, such as the walking groups, continue to meet over the summer months.

Programme

We publish our programme for each session in August. All members receive a copy printed or via email when they join or rejoin. It contains:

- the dates of open meetings and interest group meetings
- details of our guest speakers and topics
- a list of our interest groups, when and where they meet, and contact details for the group leaders' and committee members names and contact details



Open Meetings

You're welcome to attend any open meeting (see the programme.) This is a great opportunity to meet other members. Before the meeting you can buy hot drinks and snacks in the foyer area then take a seat in the warm and welcoming space set out with tables and groups of chairs (no hard pews or cold winter mornings here!) Meetings begin with the secretary's updates on forthcoming events and other news. We then have a guest speaker presentation on a fascinating topic – you can find out what it is, and who is delivering it from your programme.

Open meetings are held every four weeks on a Monday with a break for Christmas. We meet at St Matthews Church, Tay Street. The final meeting, usually in early May is our AGM, but we still have a guest speaker. Meetings start at 10.30 with tea and coffee available from 10 am. Most speakers allow us to broadcast their talk live via YouTube if you're unable to attend in person, and the recording remains available online for a week or so afterwards.

Social Activities

We are relaunching our social activities programme such as Christmas Lunch and visits to local events and attractions. These are open to all members. Full details are usually announced at open meetings and circulated afterwards in the regular News Roundup. Interest Group meetings often include an opportunity for chat with coffee or tea.

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Committee

Perth U3A has a committee of trustees consisting of office bearers and executive members. We hold monthly committee meetings, usually on a Tuesday morning in the week prior to each open meeting. If you wish to bring an item to the attention of the committee, please contact the Secretary. Committee members are listed in the programme, together with their role and contact details. Our Annual General Meeting is your opportunity to comment on the running of the organisation and to elect members of the committee and is usually held in late April or early May.

New Member Liaison

All committee members are happy to answer your questions. However, one committee role has special responsibility for liaising with new members. Please get in touch if you are puzzled by anything or need further information.

A new members' meeting is usually organised near the start of each session and you will receive an invitation once a date has been set. This will allow you find out what you need to know and to meet other members. We hope that you will be able to attend.

Sharing Information

If you can't come to open meetings, there are other ways to keep up-to-date. Information about our meetings and groups is added regularly to our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/perth/home> You can contact committee members and group leaders from the website using the pigeon icon, which opens a message window.



Click me to send a message!

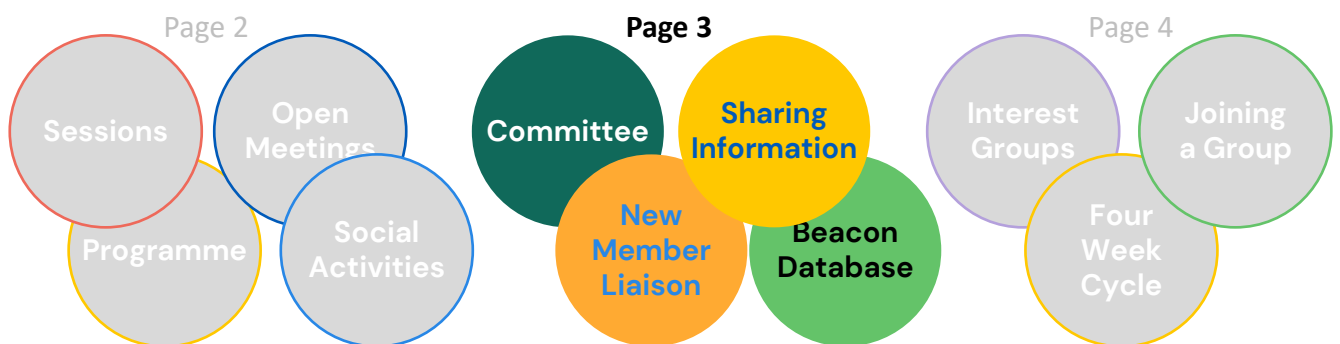
Our News Roundup is based on the information given by the Secretary at open meetings. Group leaders will share the contents of News Roundup with any members who don't have internet access.

You can receive the u3a's free magazine *Third Age Matters* by post. TAM is published nationally five times a year and contains information of interest to u3a members. You can opt in or out of receiving it at any time by contacting the Membership Secretary.



Beacon Database

We store members' contact details in an online database called Beacon. This system is made available nationally and over 500 local u3a groups use it. Access to our information is controlled and restricted to members of Perth U3A dependent on their role (e.g. our Secretary can access more information than a group leader.) We also store information about groups and group membership on Beacon.



Interest Groups

Our groups vary in size from around 5 to over 50 members and one member may belong to anywhere between 1 and 10 (or more!) groups. Interest Groups meet in venues across Perth as well as in members' homes. Many groups meet in our "home base" Unit 7, in the NCOC Annexe in Glasgow Road (red sandstone building opposite Lidl.)

For some groups, the size of the venue sets a limit on the number who can attend. Some activities are suitable for only a limited number of participants, for example, Book Groups (so we have 5 Book Groups!).

A Group Leader usually keeps a waiting list if more members want to join than there are spaces. Sometimes this leads to a second or even third group starting for the same interest area. The Groups Coordinator maintains a list of groups that are currently "full".

Sometimes a new group starts during the session and is announced at open meetings and in our News Roundup. The programme contains a list of Groups - we hope you'll find many of interest!



Four Week Cycle

Group meetings are organised on a 4-week cycle (Week 1, Week 2 etc.) not monthly. This means that some groups may have two meetings in the same calendar month. A few groups meet more than once in the four week cycle, for example, Tai Chi and ceilidh dancing.

The programme tells you when a group meets, for example, Monday in week 2 at 2.30 pm. The separate sheet sent with the programme shows the specific dates, for example, 12th September, 3rd October, 28th November and so on.

Joining a Group

All group leaders (or their representatives) attend our registration day so you can get information about a group that might interest you from them. You can also sign up for any group that has spaces for new members. Existing members of a group can rejoin a group before registration day providing they tell the group leader in advance. If you can't attend registration day, you can ask another member to sign up on your behalf. Otherwise, it's first come, first served!

Registration Day is held on a Monday in late August or early September at St Matthews Church, Tay Street. The date is in the programme. Tea and coffee is served from 10.00 am. Registration starts at 10.30 am.

During the session - You can join any group with spaces at any time during the session - just contact the group leader. If the group is full, just make sure your name is added to the waiting list.

