



## NEW MEMBERS

### u3a Organisation Overview

u3a is a UK-wide movement of locally-run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun, by exploring new ideas, skills and activities together. Members are usually over 50 years old and have ceased full time employment. There are over 1,000 u3a's within the UK and around 380,000 members across the movement. u3a members draw upon their knowledge and experience to share and learn from each other.

Members form community groups of interest – learning together and forming strong bonds of friendship is part of the u3a ethos. Local u3as are run by members who volunteer their time and are typically home to many u3a activity groups, covering hundreds of different subjects - from art to zoology and everything in between.

### Plymstock & District u3a

Your local u3a covers the general Plymstock area and reaches as far as Heybrook Bay and Wembury. **We have around 400 members and our u3a is run by a Committee of about 12 volunteers. It is run by members for its members and behoves all members to become involved. It is not a service charity or educational service for old folk, where a tiny few officials provide the programme for elderly people. Some will do more than others, but everyone should strive to help and keep the organisation vibrant.**

Monthly General Meetings are arranged at The Staddy which are open to all members and cover a wide variety of topics with excellent speakers. Our u3a also has over 30 different groups run by voluntary Group Leaders and members can join as many groups as they wish, subject to availability, or create a group on a topic they wish to pursue.

A Plymstock & District u3a Members' Handbook is available which provides details of all the groups, meetings and useful contact information. There is also a Plymstock & District u3a website at [www.plymstocku3a.org.uk](http://www.plymstocku3a.org.uk) which provides helpful and useful information about our u3a organisation. A regular monthly email Newsletter is also circulated with current information about groups and members.

### Joining Plymstock & District u3a

The Plymstock & District u3a Membership Fee is currently £15 per annum, due in April. A small charge is usually made at each group meeting, to cover the cost of the venue and refreshments. New members receive a copy of the Handbook, a Membership Card which is used to access all meetings and groups, and a quarterly Third Age magazine from National u3a. A monthly Newsletter is emailed to all members, as is the monthly National Newsletter.

Contact the Membership Secretary, Shirley Wheeler on 01752 248926 or email her at [membership@plymstocku3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@plymstocku3a.org.uk) and she will explain how to join our exciting u3a. Or, complete a new member form and return to Shirley.