

Roding Valley – Group Convenors Handbook

1 u3a Principles

The u3a ethos is based on three principles. These should be kept in mind when establishing and running a Group.

1.1 The Third Age Principle:

Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age.

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.

1.2 The Self-Help Learning Principle:

Members form interest Groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire.

Learning is 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.

1.3 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 u3a movement.

No payments are made to members for services to any u3a.

Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions kept as low as possible.

Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a.