



South East U3A Forum

(Kent, Surrey & Sussex U3A Networks)

South East U3A Forum History

A brief history of the South East U3A Forum and South East U3A Region is given below, with some prominent events and dates in the development of the world-wide U3A Movement also given.

1968 After the major civil unrest in France of "Les Evenements" legislation was passed requiring French Universities to take wider responsibilities for education of the population.

1972 Pierre Vellas, a professor of economics at the ancient University of Toulouse, founded in 1229, ran a summer school for retired people with a team of university academics who provided early evening talks. These proved very popular, and a more permanent arrangement was developed by Professor Vellas which he called a "Université du Troisième Age".

1973 Toulouse U3A was founded by Professor Pierre Vellas and he has given a full account in an article from 1997 which is shown in Appendix 1. The article was on Ulm University website, but the link used no longer works.

1975 U3As became popular and spread quickly to Francophone countries and more widely. The Association Internationale des Universités du Troisième Age (AIUTA) was founded by Professor Pierre Vellas and he was president for its first year. Brian Groombridge describes fact-finding trips to France in Appendix 2, which covers U3A developments in Britain in the 1970s and 1980s.

1981 On Monday 20th July a meeting was arranged at the Guildhall in Cambridge at which Michael Young, Eric Midwinter and Michel Philibert (1921-1991) from the Inter-Ages University of the Dauphiné spoke about the idea of bringing the University of the Third Age to Britain. There was a full and appreciative audience and the next day Eric Midwinter was interviewed on the Radio 4 programme "You and Yours" about the previous evening's happenings. This drew an excellent response with almost four hundred listeners writing in. On 16th September Peter Laslett, before any University of the Third Age had got underway, produced a document on the Objects, Principles and Institutional Form of such an organisation. It contained eight Objects and twenty Principles, although the last of the principles related to organisational form and was soon irrelevant. An extensive account is given in Peter's book, "A Fresh Map of Life – The emergence of the Third Age" (1989).

1982 As Brian Groombridge reported in his account of early U3A developments in Appendix 2, "On March 3rd U3A in London [held] its first Steering Committee meeting chaired by Brian Groombridge." Later in March an experimental Easter School was run in St John's College, Cambridge by Peter Laslett and a strong support team. Seventy-five people registered, mainly from Cambridge but with twenty-five from further afield. It was deemed a great success and the organisers decide to set up Cambridge U3A and run the first study groups. As described in Eric Midwinter's book, "500 Beacons – The U3A Story", a National Committee was set up in Michael Young's car as they drove home from the Easter School; with Michael Young as Chairman, Eric

Midwinter as General Secretary and Peter Laslett as philosopher-in-chief and with Dianne Norton as Executive Secretary.

1983 A national conference was attended by thirty of the forty groups in the planning stage or just starting. London and six other U3As (Barnstaple, Nottingham, Oxford Wakefield, West Midlands and Yeovil) joined the new national body. The Third Age Trust was founded by Michael Young, Peter Laslett and Eric Midwinter. Registered Charity 288007 was incorporated on 6th October. The prize for first affiliation went to Yeovil U3A with a credited affiliation date of 1st October. It was many years before Yeovil changed its original name noted in the 1985 AGM minutes to Yeovil U3A.

1983 In what is now the South East Region, the earliest U3As to be affiliated to the Third Age Trust were Oxford in November 1983, followed by Banstead, Crawley and Guildford in March 1985 and Abingdon in May 1985.

1983 In China the first University for the Aged (U3A) was created following changes in retirement policy. The numbers expanded rapidly and figures of 49000 U3As with seven million members in Formosa (2019) will rapidly become outdated. An objective of Universities for the Aged achieving a membership of 20% of the retired population has been mentioned at AIUTA meetings.

1984 Melbourne U3A was founded - first in Australia

1988 The Third Age Trust made a proposal that a per capita membership fee ought to be paid by U3As to the Trust with a figure of £1 pa being suggested. The idea was very controversial among the larger U3As and reflected the earlier debates at the 1985 and 1986 AGMs. Appendix 3 has the transcribed the minutes of the first three AGMs of the Third Age Trust. Eric Midwinter describes the various aspects of this difficult debate with a heavy heart in "500 Beacons". In the end four U3As disaffiliated, Cambridge, Dewsbury, Halifax and Huddersfield, while one hundred and two remained with the Trust.

1989 Auckland U3A was founded - first in New Zealand. Peter Laslett published his book on "A Fresh Map of Life – The emergence of the Third age"

1999 At the AGM Third Age Trust trustees were elected for six geographic Areas in England, and for Scotland and Wales. The six Areas were South East, Southern, South Western, Eastern, Western and Northern. In total eight trustees were elected from these geographic locations, while others completed their terms of office based on previous national elections.

2000 At the AGM Third Age Trust trustees were elected for ten geographic Areas in England and for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The ten Areas were London, South East, Thames Valley, Wessex, South West, Eastern, East Midlands, Mercia, North East and North West. In total thirteen trustees were elected from these geographic locations, while others completed their terms of office based on previous national elections.

2001 After the formation of the South East Area a committee was formed to organise local events rather than expecting members to travel to national events. The committee formed the South East U3A Forum which ran annual conferences from 2001, usually at the Meridian Hall, East Grinstead. A bank account was opened with Barclays on 8th February 2001 with £1 and a savings account was opened on 1st October 2007 with £200. The Treasurers were Bob Gunnell (2001-2003), Shirley Meakins (2003-2010), Arther Brown (2010-2017) and Ian Funnell (2017-2021). The first summer

school organised by the Forum ran at the University of Chichester in 2005. The summer schools ran successfully through to 2019 when the COVID-19 stopped events for two years. The summer school is planned to re-start in June 2022. Over many years the Forum ran workshops for group leaders and others interested, often with the support of the Open University, South East Region. They were run on a variety of topics and usually twice a year in Spring and Autumn. A website for the Forum was created using Site Builder and was first registered in November 2012.

2001 – Constitutions – The South East Forum adopted its first constitution on 12th November **2001** which was a simple document enabling an informal committee representing Kent, Surrey and Sussex Networks to cooperate in organising events; see Appendix 4. After the national constitutional changes in 2008 it was thought appropriate to reflect the name changes; Areas became Regions and Regions [Local groupings of U3As] became Networks. In addition, the new constitution was modelled on the pro-forma constitution of U3As to keep the responsibilities aligned. The second constitution was adopted on 30th November **2009**; see Appendix 5. In 2021 the Forum moved to a newly available model constitution for Networks Produced by the Third Age Trust that will be acceptable to the Charity Commission so that the Forum will become a Registered Charity. The latest constitution was adopted at a Special General Meeting on 24th April **2021**.

2008 At the AGM Third Age Trust trustees were elected for the nine Government Regions in England and for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The nine Regions are London, South East, South West, Eastern, East Midlands, West Midlands, North East, North West, and Yorkshire and the Humber. Adopting the Government Regions for electing trustees had some logic but it did create a larger disparity between the Regions as compared with the Areas with the South East Region being the largest and several times the size of the smaller ones. Over time through changes to the constitution of the Trust and following successful motions at the AGM the election process was improved and became more open and democratic.

2009 – After the change to Government Regions for the election of Trustees to the Third Age Trust it was felt that the Forum could not easily be expanded to include the whole Region because members would not readily choose to attend committee meetings in East Grinstead from the extremities of the Region in Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Instead, different parts of the Region organised events, while the Forum opened all its events to members from across the Region and also from London. The summer school at the University of Chichester has always been open to members across the UK and significant numbers have travelled from distant parts to take part in this annual event. Prior to the 2020 summer school that was cancelled we had been approached by a potential group of U3A members from Italy who were considering attending. We established that the Third Age Trust third party insurance would be available to foreign U3A members. There was concern that we might get a sudden influx of distant applications but that seemed rather unlikely. The benefit to everyone of the mixing of U3A members from different countries would be significant, if they had reasonable English-language skills.

2014 At the AIUTA conference in Toulouse when the Fortieth Anniversary was celebrated the Governing Board ratified a charter for U3As which is shown in Appendix 6. The charter was proposed by Professor Livio Zerbini from the University of Ferrara and Ferra U3A. It is interesting

to compare its structure and aims both with the original objectives set out by Pierre Vellas for the founding of Toulouse U3A shown in Appendix 1 and the Objects and Principles set out by Peter Laslett in 1981 for British U3As. The charter was presented to the Asia Pacific Alliance conference in Melbourne in 2013 but the wording at that stage was not broad enough to cover the co-operative education model, often called the British Model. The wording presented in the charter in Appendix 6 covers all the wider aspects of the world U3A Movement and the U3A Charter was welcomed by all those present at the conference as well as the Governing Board.

2014 The success of the U3A Movement has drawn the attention of the academic community and the whole field of senior education, sociology and gerontology has developed with research, conferences and literature that is not aimed at an audience in the older generation. Professor Marvin Formosa, Malta University is a noted commentator on the world-wide U3A Movement and is involved with Malta U3A. He wrote a long article about “Four decades of Universities of the Third Age; Past, present and future” that gave a good overview of the developments around the world in 2014.

2019 More recently Marvin Formosa contributed to and edited a book length study of “The University of the Third Age and Active Ageing – European and Asian-Pacific Perspectives” which makes it clear how much has been achieved and how much is still expected by outside observers.

References

Peter Laslett, 1989, A Fresh Map of Life – The Emergence of the Third Age, George Weidenfeld & Nicholson Limited.

Eric Midwinter, 2004, 500 Beacons – The U3A Story, Third Age Press.

Marvin Formosa, 2014, Four decades of Universities of the Third Age; Past, present and future, Ageing & Society. 34(1),42-66.

Marvin Formosa, Editor, 2019, The University of the Third Age and Active Ageing – European and Asian-Pacific Perspectives, Springer.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Genesis and Aims of the "Universities of the Third Age", Pierre Vellas

Appendix 2 – The U3A Story – Origins and First Years – Some Key Dates, Brian Groombridge

Appendix 3 - Minutes of the 1984, 1985 & 1986 AGMs of the Third Age Trust

Appendix 4 - Constitution of the South East U3A Forum – November 2001

Appendix 5 - Constitution of the South East U3A Forum – November 2009

Appendix 6 - The U3A Charter – AIUTA Fortieth Anniversary Meeting in Toulouse – June 2014

Ian Funnell

8th October 2021

Appendix 1

Genesis and Aims of the "Universities of the Third Age"

[Leader from European Network Bulletin 1/97 Online-Edition – Link to Ulm University website lost]

1st Part - Genesis and Aims of the "University of the Third Age" in Toulouse

The creation of the University of the Third Age of Toulouse was proposed in February 1973 to the Administrative Council of the Teaching and Research Unit "International Studies and Development" (equivalent to a Faculty), which was formed by representatives of the professors, the students, the administrative personnel and three external members with important international responsibilities: the directors-general of the World Health Organisation, the International Labour Organization and UNESCO.

This goal of this proposition was to investigate, through experience and without any preconceived notions, what the University could do to improve the quality of life of the elderly who would be more and more numerous in the future whose socio-economical condition and state of health were often very deplorable, along with the level of the care being brought to them.

This program, called "University of the Third Age", had a very unusual character. It was nevertheless adopted unanimously, although without any specific budgetary means, by the members of the Council. Its goal was, tentatively, to research in conjunction with older people the methods by which the University could reach the goals which it proposed for itself.

After preparatory work, which was consultative and experimental in nature, four major objectives were retained.

1) **Contribute to raise the level of physical, mental, social health and the quality of life of older people**, by the following means:

- prevention of pathologies and handicaps which accelerate the ageing process,
- physical training, notably power-walking, relaxation and swimming to prevent balance problems, the risk of falls and to maintain the essential motor functions,
- nutritional information to improve eating habits,
- mental activation and training to prevent or slow the reduction of cognitive skills,
- opening to today's society, its techniques, its ways of life, and knowledge of cultural actuality in order to prevent a rupture between self and the society in which one lives,
- development of social relationships to avoid the process of social rupture and the risk of loneliness,
- knowledge of one's roots (history, ethnology, art) to preserve and enrich one's identity,
- artistic creativity and personal enrichment to improve one's emotional life,
- helping out others to remain generous and keep one's self-esteem.

2) **Realize a permanent educational program for older people** in close relation with the other age groups (the active, the young) by means of activities open all such as:

- music: organisation of concerts, recitals, with "Les Jeunesses Musicales Universitaires"
- art in the city and in the streets: folklore, poetry, concerts, theatre,
- conferences/debates on various subjects: science, art, literature, economy, law, society.

The goal is to be in correspondence with the society in which one lives.

3) Realize gerontological research programs.

The University of the Third Age plays a role here:

- either as a co-ordinator of programmes whose initiative and responsibility it has, for example in Toulouse the long-term programme on successful ageing carried out in co-operation with the University of New Mexico (USA).
- or through co-operation with programmes run by external, regional, national or international services: research programmes in geriatrics, neurology, psychiatry, cardiology, neurobiology, etc.; in the different domains of the social sciences: law, public and private administration, economy, demography, social services, psychology, sociology, history, and social geography.

Numerous examples can be given of these programmes, some of which have been presented elsewhere. The goal is to contribute through gerontological research to the development of the knowledge which contributes to the solution of the multiple problems presented by the ageing of humans and of the population.

4) Realize initial and permanent education programmes in gerontology.

In the universities where a University of the Third Age has been created and is developing its activities, it contributes to make aware, among others, of what should be undertaken to ensure that the gerontological knowledge is transmitted to the largest number of actual or future decision-makers, at whatever level they may be, in the numerous professional domains concerned with the ageing of humans and of the population.

- Initial Education Programs for students in medicine, nursing science, social services, private and public administration, psychology, sociology, economy, architecture, urbanism, law, etc.
- Continuous Education Programs for Professionals who didn't acquire any gerontological knowledge in their initial education and (or) who need to bring themselves up-to-date periodically, in order to integrate into their professional work the most recent gerontological facts.
- Community Information Programs. This is about favouring the awareness of each person in our society so that the most appropriate solutions are brought to people as they advance in age and to the population in which the large number of older people, as compared with the young and the active, presents problems which are as numerous and badly understood as they are considerable.

The "University of the Third Age" programmes have had a great deal of success around the world. More than 3000 Universities of the Third Age have been reported through a 1996 census of Europe, America, Asia and the Pacific, notably in China, Australia and New Zealand. In many countries, national federations of Universities of the Third Age have been created, for example in Germany, Belgium, Australia, Canada, China, Spain, France, Italy and Great Britain.

Beside this numerous associations are inspired by the programs that the first Universities of the Third Age initiated.

This shows, quite simply, that they correspond to a deeply felt need in a society which for the first time in the history of humanity is an ageing society through the important and always growing number of older people, especially the most elderly.

Pierre Vellas - Professor Emeritus at the University of Toulouse & Director of the Toulouse U3A
Honorary President of the International Association of Universities of the Third Age

Editorial board for the first issue:

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All contributions may be copied under the condition of quoting its source.

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Appendix 2

The U3A Story – Origins and First Years – Some Key Dates

The following synopsis was created by Brian Groombridge in July 2003 - with a WARNING & THANKS:

[It was obtained from Milford U3A website but is no longer available there.]

'The University of the Third Age in Britain has been launched more times than a rubber boat in a high wind" - Dianne Norton, 1984.

The U3A has been such a success that there are inevitably many colourful stories about its origins. I have tried in the following to be as accurate and fair as possible. The broad outlines are reasonably clear. I have used documents from the time and benefited from the help of Audrey Cloet, Hilary Greenwood, Sidney Jones, Eric Midwinter, Dianne Norton, Anthony Tomei, Mary Wane and Cynthia Wyld.

Pre-History: Thinking the Possible

1960 The National Institute of Adult Education and the Nuffield Foundation initiate a pioneering enquiry. *NIAE publishes Education and Retirement: an Enquiry into the Relevance of Education to the Enjoyment of Leisure in Later Life, by Brian Groombridge.*

1975 Education for the Elderly, Sidney Jones, (North London Polytechnic), *The Technical Journal (June and July issues).*

1976 *Liberation of the Elders*, Sidney Jones, Beth Johnson Foundation and Department of Adult Education, University of Keele, Stoke-on-Trent.

1976 and after: An informal group explores ways to open up educational opportunities for older people. They include Aleda Erskine (Adult Education Officer, Help the Aged), Dr Frank Glendenning (Keele University Department of Adult Education and Beth Johnson), Sally Greengross (Deputy Director, Age Concern England), Brian Groombridge (Professor of Adult Education, London University), Edward Hutchinson (Director, National Institute of Adult Education), Prof David James (Surrey University Department of Adult Education), Sidney Jones, (North London Polytechnic), Dr Peter Laslett (Director, Cambridge University Historical Demography Group) Dianne Norton (Age Concern England), William Tyler (Principal, Manchester College of Adult Education), and Ian Walker (Norfolk Adult Education Service).

1978 Sidney Jones visits Elderhostel events in the USA, returns with increased conviction that the UK needs something of the kind.

Meanwhile in France

1972 Prof Pierre Vellas, University of Toulouse, organises experimental summer school for retired citizens of Toulouse. It is a great success.

1973 University of Toulouse formally decides to set up the first *Universite du Troisieme Age*.

Bringing the Good News back from France

1978 Two exploratory missions to France

Peter Laslett (supported by Elmgrant) to L'Universite du Troisieme Age, Caen; Brian Groombridge (as guest of Mary Wane at the British Council in Paris) to UTAs at Paris X Nanterre, Grenoble and Lyon, accompanied by Cynthia Wyld (Administrator, Beth Johnson Foundation).

All three return enthusiastic and convinced that this is the model to build on and adapt for this country. Their news is welcomed by the informal group of colleagues exploring possibilities of expanding opportunities for learning in later life.

1980 *Educating our Elders'*, Peter Laslett, provocative article in *New Society*; 13 March.

Building Support for the Idea

1978 - 1982 Support for the idea developed in Keele and the University of Surrey as well as in Cambridge and London. Those involved include Dr Mark Abrams (Age Concern). Prof David James (Surrey University), Dr Frank Glendenning (Keele and Beth Johnson), Dr Chris Phillipson (Keele University Department of Adult Education). Peter Shea (senior lecturer, Department of Extra Mural Studies, London University), Mannes Tidmarsh (Sheffield Polytechnic), and Cynthia Wyld (Beth Johnson) London-Keele-Lyon-Grenoble Summer Schools organised with UTA colleagues in France and the UK for UTA members and retired UK adult education students.

1979 - 81 French links reinforced by Patncia Floriet (UTA, Grenoble), Helene Reboul (UTA. Lyon), Maximilienne Gautrat (UTA, Paris X Nanterre), Brian Groombridge, and others. Co-operation between the two countries benefits from the work and ideas of Prof. Michel Philibert (University of Grenoble and Grenoble UTA) internationally well-connected cc-director of the Centre Pluridisciplinaire De Gerontologie, Peter Laslett's philosophical opposite number.

1980 Michael Young, Director of the Institute of Community Studies, Bethnal Green, shows interest in the U3A idea, consults Peter Laslett and Brian Groombridge. They encourage him to become actively involved.

1980 Autumn Anglo-French conference at Wye College, 'Learning, Education and Later Life', supported by UNESCO, the British Council and the Department of Education and Science. Publishes the Wye Declaration a statement of principles and policy by Brian Groombridge. Published in Adult Education, National Institute of Adult Education, London, and in a French translation in Gerontologie by Michel Philibert.

1981 January: The informal group gets properly established as FREE - the Forum for the Right of Elders to Education, co-ordinated by Dianne Norton, Age Concern. First FREE meeting hosted by Sidney Jones at the North London Polytechnic. Advocates opportunities for older people in the state system and through broadcasting as well as through self-help.

1981 April: Sidney Jones with Help the Aged support starts Learning In Later Life course at North London Polytechnic. Stella Rosenak starts something similar at Middlesex Polytechnic.

Getting Started

1981 February Peter Laslett convenes meeting in Cambridge at which eminent social scientists, including Michael Young and Eric Midwinter, Director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing, support proposal to start a U3A in the UK.

1981 Meeting of the enthusiasts (members of FREE and others) organised by the Nuffield Foundation and the Centre for Policy on Ageing (Director, Eric Midwinter) favours formation of a University of the Third Age in Britain. Bid for grant aid undertaken by Eric Midwinter.

1981 July 20: Follow-up exploratory Cambridge meeting to discuss the proposed UK U3A. Addressed by Michel Philibert.

1981 October Bid to the Nuffield Foundation succeeds. A grant (£9000) is credited to the Centre for Policy on Ageing.

1981 Christian and Voluntary Service makes a similar grant to the proposed U3A in London, credited to the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, London University.

1981 July 21 Eric Midwinter broadcasts about the U3A in Radio 4's 'You and Yours'. Four hundred interested listeners write in. Letters from London and the South East are forwarded to Brian Groombridge, as Director of London University's Extra Mural Department; the rest are handled by Dianne Norton. Several retired men and women now join in as equal partners in planning the new enterprise. Increasing agreement leads to decision that the U3A in the UK should be a self-help study circle organisation, not based in the university system as in France.

'R show that would run and run' (Eric Midwinter)

1981 August Peter Laslett drafts the U3A's foundation document: Objects, Principles and Institutional Forms followed by a shorter version, All our Futures. Michael Young drafts the Articles of Association through the Institute of Community Studies.

1982 March 3: U3A in London holds its first Steering Committee meeting, with Peter Shea, London University Extra-Mural Department, Sidney Jones, Dr Tony Warnes (King's College, London), and retired people (including Pat Kisch and Jean Tait) chaired by Brian Groombridge.

1982 Experimental Easter School in Cambridge a success. Organisers decide to set up Cambridge U3A and run first study groups. Embryonic national committee formed, Chairman, Michael Young; General Secretary, Eric Midwinter Peter Laslett, philosopher-in-chief; and Dianne Norton, Executive Secretary. The Nuffield Foundation's grant divided: £3200 to start the Cambridge U3A, the rest to support the formation of a national movement.

1982 September 24: U3A in London formally constituted at preliminary public meeting. Participants include students from Sidney Jones's North London Poly Learning in Later Life course. Members' Committee, chaired by Hill Slavid announces and launches first trial study groups.

1982 September national relaunch of the U3A by the National Committee published DIY manual for setting up new U3As. Thirteen U3As, geographically quite widespread, at different stages of development, including those started in Harpenden, Stevenage, Sutton Coldfield, and Yeovil.

1983 January. First U3A in London 'Learning/Teaching' Study Groups start at North London Poly, in English Literature, French, History and History of Art. In April, the programme expands to include psychology, music, and politics and current affairs

1983 June 27: Formal relaunch U3A in London at a packed meeting, Polytechnic of Central London, Regent Street. Recruits 887 members by the end of the year.

1983 National conference attended by thirty of forty groups in planning stage or just starting. London and 6 other U3As (Barnstaple, Nottingham, Oxford Wakefield, West Midlands and Yeovil) join the new national body.

1989 Farnborough & District U3A

Research, Advocacy and Lobbying Continue

1982 Sidney Jones completes *Learning and Meta-Learning with Special Reference to Education for the Elders*. Awarded doctorate by London University.

1982 *Age is Opportunity: education and older people*, Eric Midwinter, Centre for Policy on Ageing, London.

1983 '*FREE MANIFESTO*', advocates equal access to the public education system as well as self-help study organisations, drafted by Peter Laslett, signed by Joanna Bornat, Frank Glendenning, Sally Greengross, Brian Groombridge, Sidney Jones, Peter Laslett, Eric Midwinter, Dianne Norton 'William Tyler, and Ian Walker.

1984 *Mutual Aid Universities*, Eric Midwinter (ed), Croom Helm, Beckenham.

1989 *A Fresh Map of Life*, Peter Laslett, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London.

Appendix 3

Minutes of the 1984, 1985 & 1986 AGMs of the Third Age Trust

Transcribed from photocopies for clarity

Minutes of the First AGM of the Third Age Trust

Keele University – 11th/12th September 1984

Chairman: Michael Young

Prior to the opening of the AGM a number of representatives had expressed the view that they had not had sufficient time to consider possible committee members. The AGM therefore started unconventionally with a proposition that:-

The Executive Committee of the Third Age Trust will continue to be made up of Chairman, Lord Young of Dartington, General Secretary, Eric Midwinter, Angela Black, Sidney Jones and Peter Laslett.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

The Committee will have a duty to co-opt other members at its first meeting. For the next AGM, each affiliated Local Branch will be invited to make nominations to the Committee, well in advance. Profiles of the nominees will be circulated in the Spring/Summer edition of The Third Age so that local committees will have a chance to discuss their choices.

The Statement of Accounts was presented by the Executive Secretary and these were accepted.

A motion was presented by Huddersfield U3A and seconded by Bradford U3A asking that a lower age limit of 50 be set for U3A members with the exceptions of younger spouses and disabled people.

A counter motion was presented by Yeovil Shared Interest Society proposing that there should be no age limits for U3A. The meeting was reminded that the U3A Guiding Principles state that “there shall be no barriers of age” and “no judgement made... between applicants.”

The Huddersfield motion was defeated (3 for and 12 against) and the Yeovil motion was withdrawn.

TALC Nottingham submitted a motion to “emphasise the particular responsibilities of U3A to look outwards and, as appropriate, collaborate with other organisations of and for the Third Age.” The motion was carried unanimously.

The final motion, from Stan Vyner of Edinburgh, was withdrawn with the suggestion that it be re-presented in another form next year. It was proposed that U3As should, from within their own ranks, devise a voluntary, medical service. It also criticised the insufficient time given to geriatrics during medical training although this point was disputed. The suggestion was put forward that The Third Age should carry a column on health matters.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

[Signed by Eric Midwinter]

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust 1985

In the absence of the Chairman, Michael Young, the Chair was taken by Eric Midwinter, the General Secretary.

1. Apologies were received from Michael Young, Angela Black and Dr and Mrs Blair.
2. The Minutes of the last AGM were accepted and signed by the acting Chairman.
3. Matters arising: Peter Miller (Tynedale) asked what was the status of resolutions if, as in the case of the 1984 AGM a motion asking for an age limit to be placed on U3A membership could be defeated yet some groups were imposing age limits on their own initiative.

The Chairman replied that the National organisation was not proscriptive and acted in an advisory capacity to local groups. The qualifications for membership of the Trust are minimal but if the Committee felt a branch did not meet those conditions affiliation would be refused.

- [4.] Frank Dawson (Keighley) asked for clarification of the function of the General Secretary.

The General Secretary replied that his brief was the overall organisation of the work of the National Office.

5. The Financial Report was presented. The Chairman gave some background information on the funding of the work of the Trust. Since 1981 a total of £19000 has been received in grants (excluding the £10500 covering two years of work by the National Organisers). Of that approximately £6500 had gone towards the first experimental activities in Cambridge and to establish that branch as a prototype. He also commented that it is easy to get some money to start a project but more difficult to procure funds to continue the work. Therefore, the usual charitable foundations were not realistic sources of funds at the moment. About £3500 per annum is needed to maintain the National Office, produce and distribute The Third Age newspaper and other publications. At the moment we have no definite source of such funding.

Peter Laslett (Cambridge) pointed out that to get 80 viable local units for the sum already received was money well spent.

The Financial Report was accepted.

6. The Annual Report was presented by the Executive Secretary and accepted.

7. Motions for discussion:

1. Proposed by the Yeovil Shared Interests Scheme. Two amendments, suggesting an affiliation fee of 25 or 50 pence per capita were not seconded and therefore dropped. On a point of information it was established that any decision would not come into effect until after the 1986 AGM. Other suggestions (a) that the levy be based on membership numbers instead of income (b) that members should pay for their newspapers (c) that factors other than income should be taken into consideration – were noted for consideration by the Committee.

The motion was passed by 23 votes to 1 with 1 abstention.

2. Proposed by Edinburgh. Seconded by Guildford. The motion was defeated by 18 votes to 3 with 3 abstentions.

3. Proposed by North Devon and seconded by Gosport. Motion was defeated by 17 votes to 6 with 1 abstention.
4. Proposed by North Devon but not seconded.
5. Proposed by North Devon. Seconded by South East Sussex. Motion defeated by 13 to 7 with 6 abstentions.
8. The Election of the National Committee. The Chairman ruled that in the event of a tie members would be chosen on an alphabetic basis and a reverse-alphabetic basis in alternate years.

The following Committee was declared elected:

Edith Bentley (Huddersfield)

Margot Clegg (Guildford)

Peter Laslett (Cambridge)

Eric Midwinter (Harpenden)

Mabel McGowan (Wakefield)

Michael Young (Devon)

9. Any Other Business:

A resolution was accepted by the Chair from a group set up within the Research Workshop (Copy attached). The resolution was accepted with 24 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. Its implications will be discussed by the National Committee at its first meeting.

The Chairman extended the thanks of the Trust to the Executive Secretary for her work.

10. The next AGM was set for Tuesday/Wednesday September 9/10 1986, possibly in Yorkshire.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

[Signed by Eric Midwinter on 10 September 1986]

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust 1986

In the absence of the Chairman, Michael Young, the Chair was taken by the General Secretary, Eric Midwinter.

1. Apologies: Michael Young & David Wood.
2. The minutes of the last AGM were accepted and signed by the acting Chairman.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The Annual Report was presented by the Executive Secretary and adopted.
5. The Financial Report was presented by the Executive Secretary (who also acts as the treasurer). An explanation was given of the fact that neither the 1985 or 1986 Annual Accounts had been audited owing to the death of our accountant. A new auditor is being sought.

It was noted that the AGM felt that the loss on the Third Age Newspaper was worth bearing because of its value to everyone. A greater effort will be made to solicit advertising for the paper.

The Financial Report was accepted.

6. Motions for discussion: It was agreed to take discussion on motions 1, 2 & 3 together as they all dealt with the question of an annual national affiliation fee.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the 1985 AGM had charged the Committee with preparing and proposing a fee structure to be ratified by the 1986 meeting. It had been decided in 1985 that a per capita fee was NOT acceptable. The Committee, after much discussion and consideration of the comments of various U3As, had settled on the structure outlined in motion 1 – that is a two-tier structure with U3As or more members paying £50 per annum and all other paying £25. It was pointed out that as things stand, this would bring in around £1800 in the first year whereas the National Office needs a minimum of £6000 just to stand still. In presenting Motion 2, the Lewes U3A pointed out that they felt it difficult for very small groups to raise £25 and therefore proposed a levy of £15 on U3As if 50 or fewer members.

Motion 3 was explained by Abingdon. It was basically a proposal to calculate the total needs of the National Office, divide by the estimated number of members and levy a fee which would be the equivalent of a per capita fee (approximately 30 pence per member).

Motion 1 was passed by 20 to 11.

Motion 2 was passed by 25 to 3

Motion 3 was defeated by 19 to 10

There will therefore be a three-tier scale of annual affiliation fee to take effect from January 1st 1987.

Motion 4 proposed the introduction of an Individual Membership. For £5 per annum, individuals would receive the Third Age by post, be eligible for any discounts open to members of U3A groups but would not have any voting privileges.

Motion 4 was passed by 26 votes to 2.

Motion 5, changing the financial year end (for the National Office only) to June 31st was passed nem con.

Motion 6, proposed by London, was carried unanimously. The National Committee will therefore make every effort to send a representative to the annual conference of the International Association of Universities of the Third Age. A volunteer who is fluent in French will be sought, if it is felt financially possible to send a representative.

7. The Election of the National Committee. The following persons were elected to the National Committee:

Edith Bentley (Huddersfield)

Eric Dyke (Oxford)

Peter Laslett (Cambridge)

Eric Midwinter (Harpenden)

Frank Pedley (Keighley)

Elizabeth Roche (Tynedale)

8. The Executive Secretary thanked members of the Sheffield U3A for their help in running the conference. The 1987 Open Conference and SGM will be held at the University of Bath on September 8/9 1987. Suggestions are now welcome for a venue for the 1988 Conference.

9. Any Other Business:

The Conference wished to register its thanks to the Executive Secretary for her work during the year and in organising the Conference, and to the General Secretary for his good-humoured chairmanship.

Wirral U3A wished to put on record the suggestion that the National Committee should reflect a wider range of backgrounds, bringing in members with experience in industry and commerce as well as those with academic backgrounds. The Chairman reminded delegates that the remedy lay with them.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

[Dated 10th October 1986]

Appendix 4

Constitution of the South East U3A Forum – November 2001

Constitution of the South East U3A Forum

1. NAME

The name shall be the South East U3A Forum [in this constitution called "the Forum"].

2. OBJECTS AND POWERS

2.1 OBJECTS

[i] to enable effective co-operation to take place, where appropriate, between the participatory organisations which link together the U3As in the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex, including any unitary authorities within those counties. [in this constitution called "the Counties"]

[ii] to strengthen the flow of information, advice and knowledge, in both directions, between the National Executive Committee of the Third Age Trust and the Counties and through them to the individual autonomous U3As.

[iii] to select a candidate for election at the Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust to serve on the National Executive Committee in the name of the South East grouping. [see addendum 1]

[iv] to organise such activities that might be appropriate to the larger forum.

2.2 POWERS

[i] Issue books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, films, videos and instructional matter.

[ii] Organise training courses and run lectures, seminars, conferences and courses.

[iii] Exchange experiences, expertise and resources.

[iv] To do such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above Objects or any of them.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is voluntary and is open to all U3A groupings which link together the U3As in the Counties.

4. MANAGEMENT

[i] The Management of the Forum shall be vested in a Committee whose duties it shall be to carry out the administration, management and control of the affairs of the Forum.

[ii] The committee shall be made up of a maximum of three [3] nominations from each of the Counties. Nominees shall serve for a period of three [3] years, retiring in rotation. A nominee can be reappointed once only so that his/her period of service shall be limited to a maximum of six [6] consecutive years.

[iii] A Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Committee each year from amongst their number. The roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman shall rotate across the Counties on a yearly basis.

[iv] The representative elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust in the name of the South East shall ex officio be a member of the Committee with full voting powers.

- [v] At Committee meetings matters shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of the Committee members present. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- [vi] Not more than 2 persons may be co-opted to the Committee. They shall not have voting rights and their term of office shall expire at the following Annual General meeting.
- [vii] There shall be at least two meetings of the Committee each year, one of which shall be the Annual General Meeting.
- [viii] A quorum for any Committee meeting shall be four [4] one of who shall be a principal officer.
- [ix] The Chairman in consultation with the committee shall have power to set up working parties to pursue such matters as are appropriate to the Forum. Such working parties shall have clear terms of reference and shall be responsible to the Committee.
- [x] Minutes shall be kept of all Committee and working party meetings. A copy of the Committee minutes shall be sent to the Counties.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in September of each year. At least twenty one [21] days notice shall be given to all Committee members and Counties. At the meeting a report of the annual activities of the Forum shall be submitted by the Chairman a copy of which shall be sent to the Counties. The positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the coming year shall be filled and the Annual Accounts approved. A copy shall be sent to the Counties. Nominees from the Counties who are retiring will attend the meeting and vote. Incoming nominees may attend but not vote. A quorum shall be attained when representatives from all of the three Counties are present.

6. FINANCE

- [i] The expenditure of the Forum shall be kept as low as possible consistent with the attainment of its Objects. The income shall come from the Counties and any other source approved by the Committee. As far as possible any activities should be self-funding.
- [ii] All income of the Forum shall be applied solely towards the Objects of the Forum and none shall be paid or transferred to any Committee members providing that nothing herein shall prevent the repayment of reasonable out of pocket expenses to Committee members incurred in the work of the Forum.
- [iii] The Forum shall have power to collect and accept donations and grants.
- [iv] The Treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and payments.
- [v] All funds shall be kept in a bank or building society decided by the Committee. Withdrawals shall be made on the signature of two [2] Committee members one of whom shall be a principal officer. A total of three [3] Committee members may be appointed authorised signatories.
- [vi] The financial year shall end on 30 June each year and a report shall be prepared by the Treasurer for the Annual General Meeting.
- [vii] In the event of any activity promoted by the Forum realising funds in excess of expenditure such funds will become part of the Forum funds.

7. POWERS OF THE FORUM

All matters not provided for in this Constitution relating to the Forum and not requiring an amendment to this Constitution shall be dealt with by the Forum.

8. ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION

To amend the provisions of this Constitution the amendment must be referred to the Counties and can only be agreed with their unanimous approval.

9. DISSOLUTION

The proposed dissolution of the Forum must be referred to the Counties and can only be undertaken with their joint approval. After payment of all costs, debts and liabilities the remaining assets shall be equally divided between the Counties as determined by the Committee.

ADDENDUM 1

PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTIONS OF A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST

1. Elections to the NEC of the Third Age Trust will occur on a three year cycle.
2. The Committee shall ask the Counties to seek from the autonomous U3As which are their members nominations of candidates. The closing date, where possible will be at least six weeks from the issue of the document to allow for committees to meet, etc. The nomination form shall contain the name of the U3A, and a section showing the willingness of the candidate to serve. The form must be signed by the Chairman of the U3A. The issue document shall contain a job description of the post. Each candidate must return to their county a manifesto of their experience, aims and enthusiasms which must not exceed one side of a sheet of A4
3. The Counties, using procedures which are as democratic as practicable, must select from the nominees one candidate for further consideration.
4. The maximum of three possible candidates will address a meeting organised by the Forum at which copies of the manifestos will be available. Those attending the meeting will be able to vote on the basis of the best candidate before them.
5. Two U3As shall be asked by the Committee to nominate and second the selected candidate for election to the National Executive Committee of the Third Age Trust at the next Annual General Meeting of the Trust.

Constitution as amended in draft on 12 November 2001

Appendix 5

Constitution of the South East U3A Forum – November 2009

1. NAME

The name of the charity is the South East U3A Forum, hereafter referred to as the Forum.

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below the Forum and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the elected Executive Committee, herein referred to as the Committee, constituted by clause 6 of this constitution.

3. OBJECTS

The Objects of the Forum are:-

- I. to enable effective co-operation, where appropriate, between the Networks who are members of the Forum.
- II. to strengthen the two-way flow of information between the National Executive Committee of the Third Age Trust and the Networks and through them to the individual U3As.
- III. to organise such activities as might be appropriate to this larger forum of U3As.

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise, the Committee may exercise the following powers to:

- I. issue books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, films, videos and instructional matter.
- II. organise and run lectures, seminars, conferences and courses.
- III. exchange experiences, expertise and resources.
- IV. do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is voluntary and is open to all U3A Networks in the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

6. THE COMMITTEE

The management of the Forum shall be vested in a Committee, consisting of members whose duty it shall be to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the Forum.

- I. The Committee shall include a maximum of three elected members from each Network. Nominees shall serve for a period of three years and may be re-elected by their Network.
- II. The Education and Development Contacts appointed by the Third Age Trust for the Networks who are members of the Forum shall be ex-officio members of the Committee with full voting rights.
- III. The Regional Representative, elected by the U3As in the South East Region to the National Executive Committee of the Third Age Trust shall be ex-officio a member of the Committee with full voting rights.
- IV. A Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Committee as Officers each year from among their number. The roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman shall rotate across the Networks on a yearly basis.
- V. Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- VI. The Committee may in addition appoint not more than two co-opted members who shall have full voting rights and have tenure until the next Annual General Meeting.

- VII. The Committee shall hold at least two meetings each year, one of which shall be the Annual General Meeting.
- VIII. There shall be a quorum when at least four members of the Committee including an Officer are present at the meeting.
- IX. The Committee may appoint sub-committees consisting of at least one of its members for the purpose of performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Committee.
- X. Minutes shall be kept of all Committee and sub-committee meetings.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in October each year. At least twenty-one days' notice shall be given to all Committee members and Networks. At the meeting a report of the activities of the Forum over the preceding twelve months shall be submitted by the Chairman, a copy of which shall be sent to the Networks. The positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the coming year shall be filled and the Annual Accounts approved. The Treasurer shall nominate an examiner of the accounts for the approval of the Committee. Nominees from the Networks who are retiring will attend the meeting and vote. Incoming members may attend but not vote. A quorum shall be attained when representatives from all Networks and at least four members of the Committee including an Officer are present.

8. FINANCE

- I. The expenditure of the Forum shall be kept as low as possible consistent with the attainment of its Objects. The income shall come from any source approved by the Committee. As far as possible any activities should be self-funding.
- II. The funds belonging to the Forum shall be applied only in furthering the Objects.
- III. No funds shall be transferred in any way to Committee members, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of work for the Network.
- IV. All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of the Forum may be defrayed from the funds of the Forum.
- V. The Forum shall have the power to apply for, collect and accept donations and grants.
- VI. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all receipts and payments.
- VII. All funds shall be kept in a bank or building society account in the name of the Forum decided by the Committee. Withdrawals shall be made on the signature of two Committee members, one of whom shall be an Officer. A total of three Committee members may be appointed as authorised signatories.
- VIII. The financial year shall end on 30th September each year and a report shall be prepared by the Treasurer for the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer shall arrange for the accounts to be examined.

IX. In the event of any activity promoted by the Forum realising funds in excess of expenditure such funds will become part of the Forum funds.

9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

To amend the provisions of this Constitution the amendment must be referred to the Networks and can only be agreed with their unanimous approval.

10. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

This constitution was agreed by the Committee at a meeting on 30th November 2009 and will be adopted after approval by all the Networks comprising the Forum.

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix 6

The U3A Charter – AIUTA Fortieth Anniversary Meeting in Toulouse – June 2014

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES UNIVERSITES DU TROISIEME AGE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE
ASSOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE LAS UNIVERSIDADES DE LA TERCERA EDAD
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER SENIOREN UNIVERSITÄTEN
ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DELLE UNIVERSITA DELLA TERZA ETA



The U3A Charter

- 1. Objective** - The objective of U3As is to impart knowledge and culture in an academic and social context.
- 2. Mission** - U3As focus on the cultural and social advancement of seniors and on their wellbeing.
- 3. Public** - U3As are accessible to all seniors irrespective of age, qualifications or means.
- 4. Status** - Many U3As guarantee the academic status of their activities by integrating or linking them with higher education establishments, while other U3As have independent educational status.
- 5. Education** - U3As offer courses, conferences and workshops covering the range of academic subjects taught at universities plus many other topics of local interest.
- 6. Health** - U3As aim to promote the health of seniors by innovative forms of social, intellectual and physical activities.
- 7. Culture** - U3As provide seniors with the tools for a better understanding of our changing society.
- 8. Ethics** - U3As focus on reducing all forms of discrimination particularly linked to age, sex, ethnicity and religion and actively campaign against exclusion.
- 9. International** - U3As are vehicles for international academic cooperation between seniors in different parts of the world, including the encouragement of visits and reciprocal exchanges.
- 10. Future** - U3As contribute to lengthening life expectancy by providing the intellectual and physical conditions for active ageing.

As agreed by the AIUTA Governing Board Meeting in Toulouse.

June 2014