

Stratford-upon-Avon U3A Committee

The committee meets every couple of months for an hour or two to go through correspondence, look at membership issues (fee, numbers etc), check that the budget is on track (including *what* we might need to spend, *why* and *how*) and discuss anything that members may have raised with us. We also turn up early at monthly meetings to help put out chairs and tables.

Chairman/woman

This is the person who leads the monthly meetings and chairs committee meetings - which means keeping us in order and making sure we don't go on too long! There is also a major liaison role with the Third Age Trust and other bodies.

Secretary

The secretary also liaises with the Third Age Trust, Charity Commission and local organisations, bringing any information booklets/leaflets received from them to the monthly meetings. He/she distributes the papers and agenda for committee meetings, as well as booking the church hall for all our meetings and dealing with publicity.

Treasurer

The treasurer receives and banks all incoming money, pays expenses and bills and keeps detailed and accurate accounts and records. He/she reports on the budget at committee meetings and prepares the annual statement for the AGM.

Minutes Secretary

The minutes secretary writes minutes for our committee meetings and maintains committee records.

Interest Groups Co-ordinator

This role involves keeping in touch with group leaders and persuading them to contribute to the newsletter, as well as encouraging new groups.

Membership Secretary

The membership secretary takes email and telephone requests during the year from potential new members and deals with subscription renewals, maintaining the members' database and notifying the Third Age Trust of all changes in membership. He/she sees to the printing and distribution of membership cards and emails out our members' newsletter.

Speaker Secretary

The speaker secretary discusses likely speakers with the committee, contacts them (re fees and dates etc), writes to confirm, then draws up the annual programme. He/she writes notes on speakers for the newsletter, phones them again prior to meetings to check that all is well, and looks after them on the day.

Catering Officer

Our catering officer, with the assistance of group members, sees to refreshments at our monthly meetings,

And...

A former secretary still maintains our website, helped by a committee member who also writes our regular newsletter.

Other volunteers set up the speaker system, clear chairs away and so on.

Thank you to all of them!

A Warm Welcome to Stratford-upon-Avon U3A

Monthly meetings held in the Methodist Church Hall



Who we are... What we do... When we meet...
What we offer... Who we are... What we do...
When we meet... What we offer... Who we are...
What we do... When we meet... What we offer...

Information for potential or new members

What is the u3a?

The University of the Third Age, known as the u3a, is an amazing voluntary organisation.

Founded in France in the 1970s and running in the UK since 1982, it is an international self-help association offering people no longer in full-time employment the opportunity for learning, fellowship and fun.

Why 'University'?

In the u3a the word 'university' is used in its original sense of people coming together to learn. You need no qualifications to join, and we don't award any. And while learning is very important, interest groups, visits and meetings also provide great social opportunities.

Stratford-upon-Avon u3a

Our u3a is a friendly organisation. It was set up in 2000, the first of five South Warwickshire U3As, the others being Heart of England, Shottery, Dene Valley (Wellesbourne) and Alcester.

We have to limit our membership to 200 because of the size of the hall in which we hold meetings.

You are encouraged to join only **one** u3a, but may go to meetings of the others as a visitor, paying a nominal sum each time.

Who can join?

Anyone no longer in full-time work and living within easy reach of Stratford may join. The modest subscription is currently £14, renewable in March each year. A reduced rate is offered to those who join in the autumn. Your membership card doubles as our annual programme.

Your name, address and telephone number are held on our membership database, used only by the u3a.

What does membership include?

Membership entitles you to attend all our monthly meetings and to join any interest groups not already full. You can also take part in excursions, and theatre and concert visits.

You will receive a copy of our own regular newsletter, plus the national magazine, *Third Age Matters*, which is published every two months, and also a monthly email newsletter.



When do we meet?

We hold regular meetings open to all members on the last Wednesday of every month from 2pm - 3.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, opposite Holy Trinity Church in Old Town.

What happens at meetings?

These monthly meetings provide a good opportunity to listen to an interesting speaker and meet other members afterwards for a chat over refreshments.

What interest groups are there?

There are lots! There is a current list and details on our website: [google Stratford-upon-Avon u3a](#). Most groups meet in members' homes or at other venues in and around Stratford.

Most cost nothing to join. In some cases there is a small charge to cover the cost of the venue or an external tutor (eg Keep Fit) shared by group members.

Interest groups are normally led by our own members, with everyone encouraged to share their skills and experiences. For more information, please contact the interest groups co-ordinator or relevant group leader.

If you join a group, you will be assured of a great welcome and all the support you need to get the most out of it.

Once you have joined, please let your group leader know if you are unable to attend a particular meeting.

What if a group is full?

For many reasons some groups have to be limited in size, and there may be a waiting list. If you feel you could lead a second/overflow group, we'd be delighted. You don't need to be an expert! Just have a word with the interest groups co-ordinator.

And if there's no group for my special interest?

Ideas for new groups are always very welcome, especially if you are prepared to lead one! In this case, do get in touch with the co-ordinator.

So, what do I do now?

If you are interested or would like more information, try us out! Come along to one of our meetings. Alternatively contact our membership secretary, Sheila Gullick on 01789601572.

How are we organised?

We have a committee of up to ten people who meet half a dozen times a year: see overleaf.

New committee members start after the AGM in March - could you be one of them? The only requirement is enthusiasm.