



INFORMATION PACK

For further information please contact:

Membership Secretary:

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WHAT IS A UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A)?

It is a learning co-operative of older people, which enables members to share many educational, creative and leisure activities, and to socialise with others. Activities are organised mainly in small groups, which meet regularly, often in each other's homes. Members, through sharing knowledge, skills and experience, learn from each other.

Swanley and District U3A is affiliated to the national organisation, the Third Age Trust. This is an umbrella body, a registered charity, which offers advice, resources and other help to the local U3As.

Membership of the U3A is not related to a specific age but to a period in one's life (the third age) after the 'second age' of full-time employment and parental responsibility. Membership of the U3A is open to anybody in their third age who is retired or working part-time. There is no lower or upper limit on age for membership.

The Swanley and District U3A was established in 2013. It is run by an elected committee which meets regularly to manage the 'business' of the U3A, to plan events and activities, and to ensure that everything runs smoothly for members. Everyone is a volunteer and it is important to note that committee members and group leaders put a lot of unpaid time into running the U3A.

WHAT DOES SWANLEY AND DISTRICT U3A OFFER?

MONTHLY MEETINGS - We hold a programme of Monthly Meetings to which everyone is invited. At most meetings we have a talk by a guest speaker on an interesting topic. The meeting is also an opportunity to hear more about group activities and to sign up for future outings or events. You can have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, and participate in the monthly raffle if you wish.

INTEREST GROUPS - We have developed a wide variety of interest groups that meet during the day, or sometimes in the evening, usually in members' homes. Interest

and study groups cover a range of subjects and activities – academic, social, and sporting. The emphasis is on fun and learning together.

In this pack you will find a list of these groups and activities. Please refer to the latest monthly Newsletter for details. We always welcome the development of new groups, so if there is something that you would be interested in setting up, please talk to a member of the committee.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES - We organise social activities such as visits to places of interest – details of these can be found in the monthly newsletters.

REGULAR NEWSLETTERS containing details of all our activities will be sent prior to each monthly meeting to members by email. They will be available to those members without email at the monthly meeting. U3A members also receive quarterly copies of the 'Third Age Matters' by post from the Third Age Trust. This shares news from other U3As around the country.

HOW DO I JOIN?

By filling in a Membership Application Form and sending it with your cheque, made payable to Swanley and District U3A, to our Membership Secretary. Or you can complete the forms and pay at one of the Monthly Meetings, by cash or cheque. You can also pay by bank transfer – see the application form for details.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The individual membership fee is £20 per year, and the membership year is from 1st April to the end of March the following year. Anyone joining between October and March can pay a reduced fee of £10.

Outings are an extra cost.

If you attend a meeting in a member's home, you should pay the host 30p each time to cover the cost of tea/coffee/biscuits. If a group incurs other costs, such as photocopying or hire of a meeting space, the group will agree to share those costs.

NEW U3A MEMBERS ANNUAL FEE AND RENEWALS FOR EXISTING MEMBERS –

OPTION FOR PAYMENT BY BANK TRANSFER

The bank details are:

Bank: NatWest
Account number: 51170027
Sort code: 60 21 10
Account name: Swanley & District U3A

IMPORTANT - When your bank asks you to insert a **reference**, please put your **surname and membership** number (for Renewals) so we know who made the payment (For example - **BAKER117**)

PLUS, Please confirm that you have made this payment by emailing Gill Baker at gillbaker@talktalk.net

If you are paying for a spouse or partner in addition to yourself, please provide both names and membership numbers (if known) in the email.

Please let me know if any of your contact details change - address, email, phone number etc.

Your new membership card will be available at the monthly meeting.
If you prefer to receive it by post, please send a stamped addressed envelope to **Gill Baker at 24 St Davids Road, Hextable, BR8 7RJ**