

Accessibility for disabled members (includes unseen disabilities)

Tewkesbury & District University of the Third Age (TU3A) aims to be as accessible and inclusive as possible both to existing members and to third agers in their local communities who may wish to join. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that people with disabilities can attend the interest groups of their choice and TU3A will do everything reasonably possible to support them.

Members who cannot manage to participate in their chosen TU3A activities without help, will be given the opportunity to bring a companion/carer with them, who for the time that they are in attendance, will be covered by the liability insurance provided by The Third Age Trust. The only exception to this is a professionally employed carer who would have to be covered by an individual liability policy.

The committee recognise the need for ongoing training for committee members, Group Leaders and members, and will facilitate this when appropriate.

Venue – General meetings

As far as possible the venue fulfils the following criteria:

- Served by public transport.
- Adequate car parking facilities on site
- Ramp for building access.
- Ground floor accommodation.
- Accessible and usable disabled toilet facilities.
- A sound system and loop.
- Spacious enough to cope with wheelchairs/mobility scooters.
- Good lighting.
- Adequate signage.
- Access to heating/air conditioning controls.
- A designated person at general meetings who is easily identifiable, to ensure disabled members are provided with appropriate seating e.g. at the front for those who have vision or hearing loss and at the end of a row for those with mobility problems etc.
- Timing and length of meetings – e.g not too early, not too late and not too long without a break.

Venues – Activity / Interest Groups

TU3A aims to have a balance between groups in members' homes which tend to be inaccessible and public accommodation which ideally will be suitable for all. A member's home may be accessible because it has a level entrance or a wide doorway or a ground floor toilet or no internal stairs. If a disabled member wants to attend a group held in a house which is inaccessible for any reason, other options will be investigated, for example, the group may be hosted by that member. Transport for outings, etc will be accessible whenever possible.

Communication

A member of the committee will be available to disabled members to establish whether anything can reasonably be done to facilitate participation in TU3A activities. If members cannot participate in their chosen activities without help they may bring a companion or carer with them for support, who must remain for the extent of the activity. This should allow all members with a disability to continue to be able to participate and enjoy TU3A and at the same time avoid other members getting involved in providing assistance which they are not insured to do.