



**To Tewkesbury and
District U3A**



This booklet is designed to welcome you to Tewkesbury U3A and provide you with basic information on our structure.



Anyone who stops
learning is old,
whether at twenty
or eighty. Anyone
who keeps learning
STAYS YOUNG.
— Henry Ford

Welcome to Tewkesbury U3A

Tewkesbury U3A has been providing a 'Life-Long Learning Experience' for the past 25 years and it is hoped that you will enjoy learning with us. The U3A movement is non-religious and non-political with three main principles:

- ◆ Membership of the U3A is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by the period in life when full-time employment has ceased.
- ◆ Members promote the values of life-long learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a U3A.
- ◆ Members should do all they can to ensure that anyone wishing to join the U3A can do so.

The U3A is a learning co-operative, which enables members to share educational, creative and leisure activities. No academic qualifications are required to join, nor are any awarded.

Equal Opportunities

Tewkesbury U3A endorses the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Third Age Trust issued in January 2012.

All affiliated U3As pursue an Equal Opportunities Policy and as far as it is within their powers to do so, provide equal treatment to any person in their group regardless of:

- ◆ Educational background
- ◆ Marital status (including civil partnership status)
- ◆ Sex or sexual orientation (including gender reassignment)

- ◆ Race or racial group (including colour, ethnic or national groups)
- ◆ Religious belief
- ◆ Disability
- ◆ Social status

U3As are committed to the furtherance of fair treatment and the absence of discrimination in all their activities and strive to achieve a membership which reflects the composition of the community they serve.

National Resources

The U3A has a Resource Centre in its National Office in Bromley, Kent.

There are slides, videos, cassettes, DVDs and CDs available, in a wide range of subjects. Individual subject lists are available from the Resource Centre on request.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/home.html>

Third Age Matters

'*Third Age Matters*' is the national magazine of the U3A. It is posted directly to members who wish to receive it. The magazine cost is indicated on our membership form, and is currently an extra £2.50 per year.

Sources

'*Sources*' is the educational journal of the U3A and is distributed with '*Third Age Matters*'. It aims to be of general interest, but can be of particular interest to study group leaders, aspiring group leaders and committee members.

We have a reciprocal arrangement with neighbouring U3As so that each member can regularly attend one extra interest group within the local area.

Tewkesbury and District U3A

Our U3A currently has over 670 members from Tewkesbury and the surrounding areas. It is a Registered Charity (Number 1029447).

We meet at Tewkesbury Baptist Church (entrance in Station Road) on the second Monday of each month at 10.00 for 10.30 am. These meetings have a speaker, and tea and coffee are available. Attendance at the meeting is 50p, and tea or coffee is 30p.

Group activities take place in a range of venues around the area. We currently have 37 groups in operation. See '**TUTA News**' and/or the web-site under '**Communication**' for the list of Groups and contact numbers.

Membership

Members pay the membership fee every year. There are concessions for members over the age of 82 years who have been members for the last 5 years. While most of our members renew their membership in October/November, we do operate a rolling programme of membership renewal. Where appropriate, members are encouraged to complete a Gift Aid form.

Group Membership

To join a group, the group leader should be contacted to ensure there are vacancies in the group. The group leader will give information about times, cost, venue and parking. Group members are encouraged to actively participate in groups, joining in with presentations, talks and general support for the group leader, where appropriate.

Non-U3A members may have an introductory visit to a chosen group before joining the U3A.

Communication

<https://u3asites.org.uk/tewkesbury/welcome>

Information is posted on our website, which is regularly updated by our webmaster. This includes lists of our groups, meetings, times, membership information and important events, such as our AGM.

email

To save on postage members are encouraged to receive communications by email. It is important to remember to provide the membership secretary with **any** changes to your email address.

TUTA News

TUTA News is produced four times a year by our editor, sub-editor and a group of proof readers. Individuals and groups submit articles and information that are of interest to our members. Details of the monthly meetings are advertised and who will be speaking; as are forthcoming events and outings. The contact details for group leaders and committee members are also included. The most recent edition of '**TUTA News**' is always available on our website.

Administration

Group leaders organise and run the groups within our U3A. They meet twice a year with our group liaison coordinators for discussion and support. Our AGM is held every December, details of time and place are issued to all members and put on the website. Members are invited to submit questions and nominations for committee members.

Setting up a group

If you have a particular interest or skills base that is not covered by our existing groups, the committee will give support and finance to set up a new group. We do have a pack to support setting up new interest groups and the role of a new group leader.

Trips

Tewkesbury U3A have regular outings to various places of interest. These trips are open to all Tewkesbury U3A members. Recent visits have included to the House of Commons and SS Great Britain. Notification for these visits is included in our magazine '**TUTA News**' and on the website '**Events**' page. Groups also organise their own visits to places relating to their area of interest.

Public Risk Insurance

Tewkesbury U3A operates under the National U3A Public and Products Liability, provided currently by Aviva Insurance Ltd and ACE European Group. Charity Indemnity Insurance is also held for the protection of Trustees' Liabilities. Tour Operators' Liability is held which covers trips organised by Tewkesbury U3A for its members.

Members who wish to take a friend or relative, who is not a member, on a U3A trip may do so on an occasional basis subject to the committee's prior approval, but the non-member travels at his/her own risk and should consider their own travel insurance arrangements.

Personal accident insurance is not provided by the U3A for members or non-members.

The Committee

Committee meetings are held every two months and all members of our U3A are encouraged to attend a committee meeting with a view to taking a 'shadow' role and to consider supporting the running of our U3A.

Committee posts and members are displayed in TUTA News and on the website on the 'Contacts' page.

It is hoped that you will have a very good experience within the Tewkesbury U3A

Fran valentine

Chair of Tewkesbury U3A