

Ethos and Principles of the u3a

The movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main types of principle:

Lifelong Learning

Membership is open to all people who have retired from full time work.

Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.

Self Help

Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; *by the members, for the members.*

No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.

There is no distinction between learners and teachers; they are all u3a members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation - operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the movement.

No payments are made to members for services rendered to the u3a.



Welcome
to

The Three Brethren u3a

u3asites.org.uk/three-brethren



Thank you for joining us. The Three Brethren u3a gives you opportunities to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun.

All about us

We have over 250 members from the central Scottish Borders. Our u3a is run by a Committee elected by the members.

We charge a modest annual membership fee.

All members are welcome to attend our monthly meetings which take place on the third Monday of each month at 2 pm in Galashiels Rugby Club. This is a sociable event with information about upcoming events, an interesting speaker and refreshments. There is an opportunity at the monthly meeting to sign up for any of our interest groups.

Interest Groups

We draw on the enthusiasm, knowledge and skills of our own members to organise and provide a wide range of interest groups and activities. There are about 25 interest groups. These groups of members with a common interest meet to explore their subject with one member acting as Facilitator. If members have an interest which is not represented they can start a new group if there is sufficient support. Members can join as many groups as they wish.

For more information about what we offer go to our website:

u3asites.org.uk/three-brethren

Benefits of membership

By getting involved in our u3a we hope that you will benefit from new social connections, additional experiences gained in group events, development of your knowledge and skills and from the satisfaction of using your experiences to help others.

As a member you will receive The Three Brethren twice yearly newsletter, the national Third Age Trust TAM magazine and get access to the national online newsletter.

History of the u3a movement

The u3a movement was started in France in 1973. The UK u3a movement was founded in 1981.

Our founders envisaged a collaborative approach with peers learning from each other. The u3a movement was to be self-funded, with members not working towards qualifications but learning purely for pleasure. There would be no distinction between the learners and the teachers - everyone could take a turn at being both if they wished.

From its beginnings in 1981, the movement grew very quickly and by the early 1990s a u3a was opening every fortnight. u3as grew in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and in 2008 membership was increasing by 11% every year. 2010 saw our membership hitting the quarter million mark and by the end of 2016 the milestone of 1000 u3as was reached.

Today our movement is a UK-wide organisation made up of independent local u3as run on a voluntary basis by their members. There are over 400,000 members in more than 1000 u3as and the movement continues to grow. Many u3as are registered as a charity and all are affiliated to the Third Age Trust.