

Wonersh U3A - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I join Wonersh U3A

You can download an application form via the link shown on the Welcome page.

How much does it cost to join

Subscriptions are renewable on 01 January each year and the annual fee, as determined by the committee, is notified to all members the previous November with our general mailing. You can join at any time during the year (there is no part year subscription). There is no attendance charge made to members for general meetings. Occasional visitors are charged £2 at each meeting, whatever the venue. Visitors are encouraged to join after attending twice as a visitor.

Where does our subscription go

An annual capitation fee is paid to the Third Age Trust for each member in respect of our affiliation to them. This currently amounts to one-third of membership subscriptions. The remainder of subscriptions received is used to cover the cost of printing & postage for the three mailings sent out annually, rent, equipment, refreshments and administration costs.

Is there an age limit

There is no upper or lower age limit to join Wonersh U3A. However, meetings are held during the daytime and on weekdays so most members are retired or semi-retired.

When is the AGM

This is held in February/early March each year.

Can I just turn up to any meeting

If you are a member, yes. Your membership entitles you to attend any activity or indoor meeting. We also welcome visitors. However, in the case of Gardening, Pilates and T'ai Chi, you are asked to contact the Group Organiser in the first instance to ascertain whether a place is available. With Pilates and T'ai Chi an additional charge is made as we have to pay a qualified instructor.

I am hearing impaired; is there a sound loop system

Lawnsmead Hall has a working hearing loop. We also have a PA system that group organisers can use.

I have mobility problems; is there parking and easy access to the venue

It is advisable to check with the organisers of any particular group.

What is a group organiser

It is important that activities should normally have at least two organisers with an interest in promoting that activity: they arrange the meetings, making sure all members and visitors attending are welcomed, especially any newcomers. They open up the hall and set up the room, arrange for refreshments; collect any equipment needed and set it up. Once a year they are asked to supply the Program Co-Ordinator with details about their group's future activity for inclusion in the printed program.

How can I help

All group organisers need the active support of their members, in preparing for meetings or clearing up afterwards, making tea or generally being part of the team. If you are willing to help with the running of any group, talk to the relevant group organisers and they will welcome you. You will find helping fun and rewarding.

I am interested in a subject not covered in the program, could a new group be formed

All U3As function on the principle that their programs consist of activities organised by members who take on the role of group organisers. If you are willing to contribute to a new activity, do speak with the Program Co-Ordinator or any member of the Committee. Their first step will be to enquire whether there would be adequate support for the activity and, if necessary, to seek a co-organiser. You will then be helped to establish a group within the overall program.

Do you have any special meetings for ALL members

Yes: Early January - Members New Year Lunch; February/March - AGM; July - Summer BBQ; and other special guest speaker meetings arranged during the year which are publicised in advance.

Do you pay speakers

Not normally. If the speaker is a U3A member, they give their time free in accordance with the U3A ethos, though we may pay travelling expenses if they come from a distance. If a proposed speaker is not a U3A member, the organiser should contact the Treasurer BEFORE booking to obtain agreement on cost.

How do I find out if there are any changes to the program

A weekly email bulletin is circulated giving full details for the coming week. Give us your email address on joining and you will be added to the distribution list. We also have our monthly schedules available to view/download on the website and any changes are noted on these schedules as and when they are advised.

Grievances

If any member is concerned or has any complaint about any matter directly related to the running of our groups, they should always in the first instance discuss the matter with their Group Organiser who will help to resolve any such issue. If the Group Organiser is unable to satisfy any grievance, the matter will be referred to the Committee for resolution.