

WATERLOOVILLE

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Learn, laugh, live

Registered Charity No. 1116807

Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning



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Membership Information

September 2019

Welcome

As the Chairman of Waterlooville University of the Third Age (U3A) I would like to welcome you as a member. I do hope I will soon have the pleasure of meeting you before too long.

We are a very friendly non-political, non-religious group which started in 2006 and now has about 800 members. A registered charity in our own right we are a part of the international University of the Third Age movement, which originated in France in 1972 and has now spread across many countries of the world. In the UK, there are now over 1,000 U3As with a total membership of over 385,000 with this number rapidly growing. Although U3As are autonomous in their operation they are affiliated to The Third Age Trust whose National Office is situated in London.

U3A membership 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. We are devoted to the concept of encouraging people, who are usually retired from full-time employment, to pursue their interest in a wide range of academic and leisure activities. Don't be misled by the word "University". This word is used in its original sense of a group of people with a desire to learn. No qualifications are required or given; it simply involves learning for pleasure. We do not offer formal courses of study. Many of our groups and activities are of a social nature.

Anybody that is retired or semi-retired can join the U3A. Although group activities may involve learning they are not necessarily academic, with no qualifications required or given. The emphasis is on self-development and enjoyment.

The key aims of Waterlooville U3A are:

1. To encourage and enable retired people no longer in full-time paid employment to help each other to share their knowledge, skills, interests and experience.
2. To explore the pleasure of learning and socialising throughout life.
3. To celebrate the capabilities and potential of retired people and their value to society

Mark Dancey - Chairman

What does Waterlooville U3A offer?

- **Over 90 Interest Groups.** Our groups vary in size and they determine their own course of study or pleasure. Co-ordinators are just members with a passion for a subject which they are prepared to share who give their services without payment. However, at some meetings a small charge may be made to cover hire or rental charges, etc., as they arise. While there are no formal lectures and members are encouraged to share in a joint process of learning and discovery, groups are able to bring in professional expertise should it be required which they fund themselves. The smaller groups use members' homes to host Group meetings and this adds to the friendly informal atmosphere. Some of the larger groups use a variety of venues in the Waterlooville area. The emphasis is very much on the participation of group members, learning together but there are over 40 national subject advisers offering support to group leaders.
- **Monthly Meetings.** Held on the fourth Wednesday of the month (except Aug and Dec) from 2 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Centre, London Road, Waterlooville PO7 7SR. We invite guest speakers to talk on a variety of subjects. Welcoming and friendly, the meetings close with a cup of tea and biscuits giving the chance to socialise and meet new friends.

- **Coffee mornings** (at The Sacred Heart Parish Centre) are held once a month. Committee members are always available to answer questions and they give new members an opportunity to find out about Waterlooville U3A.
- **A monthly Waterlooville U3A News Bulletin** keeps members in touch with immediate information on national and local U3A events, and updates on our Interest Groups.
- **'Third Age Matters'** is a national magazine, issued five times a year, containing news of the U3A's nationwide activities.
- **Summer Schools** to study a variety of topics which can be residential or non-residential (fees involved). Recently these have been held at Chichester, Cirencester and Newport, although there are other venues around the country.
- **U3A On-line tutored and untutored courses** cover a variety of subjects from creative writing to art history. A small fee is charged.
- **Access to U3A Resource Centre** that has slides, videos, cassettes, DVDs & CD ROMs available in a wide range of subjects that can be borrowed for free except for the cost of return postage.

How are we organised?

The management of Waterlooville U3A is vested in a Committee, elected by the general membership at the Annual General Meeting, whose duty and responsibility is to carry out the general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the U3A. All committee members are also charity trustees.

Interest Groups - who chooses them and how are they run?

For general enquiries about groups please contact our Group Liaison Officer.

Tel: 023 9217 9298 Email: groups@waterloovilleu3a.org.uk

Group activities are chosen by members. In keeping with the U3A principle of "self help and co-operation", all group activities are led by a member of the Group acting as a Group Co-ordinator.

The timetable for group activities is planned to avoid, as much as possible, duplication of different group meetings on similar dates and times to give members more choice and availability of group.

You can attend two "taster" sessions of any of our Interest Groups to decide if you would like to join.

Who is eligible to join Waterlooville U3A?

Membership is open to all men and women who have ceased full-time employment. The sole criteria is a desire to learn for its own sake, whether academic subjects, physical activities, exploring social activities; no qualifications are required. New members are always welcome.

How do I join?

You can join at any of our monthly meetings, or download a membership form from our website, print and complete. Please send a cheque together with the form. If you are a taxpayer please complete the Gift Aid form, which allows us to reclaim tax.

Annual membership of Waterloo U3A is £11 (single) or £20 (joint - two at same address) and includes attendance at monthly meetings and groups. However, some groups make a small charge to cover expenses such as hire of a room, entrance charges, tutor expenses etc.

The membership year starts in April. For those joining after 1st January membership will be valid until 31st March of the following year.

If you are a paid-up member of another U3A we may be able to deduct the membership fee payable to the National Office. Please enquire.

Membership Enquiries

If you would like any further information, please contact our membership secretary:

Telephone: 023 9237 3653

Email: members@waterloouvilleu3a.org.uk

Equal Opportunities

Waterlooville U3A is committed to the treatment of everyone equally and without discrimination or prejudice on the grounds of age, race, ethnic origin, nationality, cultural or educational background, gender, sexual orientation, disability, social standing or religion.

Waterlooville U3A aims to be an inclusive organisation. We will try to accommodate everyone, but we cannot be perfect: we will make reasonable adjustments wherever we can, to enable as many as possible of our members to enjoy their time with us. However, if you have a disability or severe health issue, restrictions may apply at some group activities: these will depend on the nature of the activity and the venue at which it takes place. If you think this may be an issue, please raise your concerns with the group co-ordinator to clarify the position. Thank you for your understanding: your safety is extremely important to us.

Privacy Statement

Waterlooville U3A requires members to provide their personal information so that you can be kept informed about events and activities that are offered as part of your membership. In collecting your information Waterloo U3A will:

- Store it securely
- Use it to communicate with you as a U3A member
- Share your information with group co-ordinators for those groups that you are a member of
- Send you general information about the Third Age Trust*

*The Third Age Trust are the national office to which all U3As are affiliated.

Useful Web links:

www.u3a.org.uk (national website)

www.waterloouvilleu3a.org.uk (this provides lots of additional info about U3A & our group's programme and activities. Access to our members' only area will be provided on joining.