

## **u3a Principles**

The u3a ethos is based on three principles:

**The Third Age Principle:**

- **Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life when full-time employment has ceased.**
- **Members of a u3a promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.**
- **Members of a u3a should do all they can to ensure that everyone who wishes to join a u3a can do so.**

**The Self-Help Learning principle:**

- **Members of a u3a form interest groups, covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire, by the membership for the membership.**
- **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 the learners and the teachers; they are all members of a u3a.**

**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 u3a movement.**
- **No payments are made to individual members for services rendered to any u3a.**
- **Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.**
- **Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a.**