

YATE & SODBURY DISTRICT u3a - INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS



1. Welcome!

Congratulations for joining the Yate & Sodbury District u3a! You can learn, laugh and live while exploring a whole range of activities - maybe take up interests you hadn't time for while working - an opportunity to try something new!

The u3a is an international movement, and in the UK there are over 1000 branches in towns and cities with some 430,000 members nationally. Our own u3a is an independent charity affiliated to the national organisation - we have over 1,900 members

We are a shared-learning organisation - so let us make use of your talents – you can have fun learning from others and helping others learn from you.

Check out the 'Welcome' tab on the Y&S u3a website:
<https://yate-sodbury.u3asite.uk/>



2. Groups

You get the best out of the u3a by trying new things. So, what sort of things are there available? We have some 120 activity groups for you to explore. Have a look at the list of groups on the u3a website: <https://yate-sodbury.u3asite.uk/groups/>

There is a group there for everyone, so find one, contact the group leader and join in. Most groups allow you to try a 'taster' session before deciding if you want to join the u3a.

If you don't find what you are looking for, then why don't you start a new group? Ask a Group Coordinator how to do this - see the 'Executive' tab on the website.



The u3a is a voluntary organisation and for our continuing success we depend on as many members as possible getting involved by helping to lead, organise or set up new groups.



3. News

- ✓ Come to our monthly Town Hall meetings which are usually held on the first Friday of each month 2-4pm at the Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury to hear talks by visiting speakers - check details on the 'Events' tab.
- Recent editions of our quarterly newsletter are on the 'News' tab of the u3a website. Could you make a contribution to the newsletter?

4. Events

See the calendar of group meetings and social events listed on the 'events' tab of the website.

<https://yate-sodbury.u3asite.uk/events/>



5. Executive Committee

The u3a is run entirely by volunteers. The Committee keep things running smoothly. It organises the monthly talks, the monthly bulletin, quarterly newsletter, annual open day, co-ordination of activity groups, website, Facebook and local press releases. Come and join our team!

6. Policies

To ensure that we run everything properly and legally, we have developed lots of guiding policies - on finance, conduct, grievance, safeguarding, equality, inclusion, diversity, accessibility and privacy.

7. Third Age Trust

The Third Age Trust is the national umbrella body for u3a branches throughout the UK. The Trust sets the overall vision of the u3a and advises us on policies and regulations.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice>



8. Buddy scheme

If you do not have on-line access, we suggest that you make an agreement with another u3a member who is willing to share online information.

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Change Record

Issue	Date	Section(s) Affected	Description of Change / Change Request Reference / Remarks
01	16 Dec 2020		Original
02	4 Sep 2021	All	Merged with Membership Secretary's welcome doc
03	5 Oct 2022	All	Updated Trust and our u3a member/group volumes
04	10 Aug 2025	All	Revise format, content and website refs
05	2 Sep 2026	All	Updated to replace the file on website