

The Principles of the u3a Movement.

The u3a movement is non-religious, non-political and has three main principles:

1. 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 in which full-time employment has ceased.
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

2. The Self-help Learning Principle ·

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

3. 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 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