



Pershore and District U3A Membership Benefits

Introduction

Pershore and District U3A is a thriving and vigorous U3A with over 500 members and around 70 specialist Interest Groups. U3A membership is open to retired and semi-retired people who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests in a friendly and informal environment. With no fixed geographical boundaries our members are drawn from Pershore and its surrounding villages, usually between Worcester to Evesham and Inkberrow to Tewksbury. Our introductory flyer provides background information about Pershore U3A and is an excellent introduction to the U3A movements' history and principles.

New research by the Third Age Trust ¹ has shown that membership of the U3A has a positive, and sustainable impact on the wellbeing of retired people in the UK.

Membership Fees

Our current subscription is £11 per person; £20 joint membership for 2 members at the same address; £7.50 associate membership if you are already a member of another U3A – we will need evidence that you are a paid-up member at that U3A. Our fees are reduced for that year if you join part way through the year. Please see the application form for the details.

Monthly Meetings

These are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at Number 8 in the High Street, Pershore starting at 2.00 pm. Open to all members of Pershore U3A and non-members free of charge, it is an ideal opportunity to meet old and new friends. Speakers are invited each month and present on wide range of subjects. Tea/coffee and biscuits are available at minimal charge afterwards.

Interest Groups

There are around 70 different interest groups, the list is available on request or can be found on our web site (<http://www.pershoreu3a.org.uk/home>).

Our objective is “by the members for the members” so all of these groups are run by our own members who want to pass on their knowledge/experience to help other enjoy the subject. Meetings are held in a variety of locations – many in members' homes, some in various village halls/schools/external locations e.g. visits/trips out.

Costs for each Interest Group are covered by the members and depend on what costs are incurred e.g. if a hall is rented there will be contributions towards that; if tea/biscuits are offered, members split these costs and obviously, trips out must be paid for. You can attend any of these groups once, to see if you would like to join.

Please contact the Group Co-ordinator if you would like to know more about an Interest Group.

If you have an interest that we do not cover then please let the Group Co-ordinator or any of the committee know – we will try to gather sufficient other members to start a new group. Similarly, when Interest Groups are at capacity, we make every effort to start an additional group when we can find new group leaders.

Full details of all events can be found on our website (www.pershoreu3a.org.uk).

Also, please see below for our special Cotswold Link reciprocal interest group arrangements.

Magazines/Newsletters

Currently we are without an editor for our local printed magazine/newsletter, which used to be issued quarterly, so this is on hold at present. There is however, a monthly electronic Newsletter which goes to all members with emails and is available at the monthly meetings. This has meeting details and group updates.

¹ U3A Publication Learning Not Lonely

Pershore and District U3A Membership Benefits

Five times a year (February, April, June, September, November) you will receive Third Age Matters magazine which is published by the Third Age Trust and cover national events and issues.

Web Site

Pershore and District U3A runs its own web site (<http://www.pershoreu3a.org.uk/home>) where more information about all our activities can be found.

Cotswold Link Network

This is a group of 20+ local U3As (from Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire) who meet twice a year to network/discuss any issues where help or advice is needed and share our experiences both good and bad.

These half yearly meetings (usually March and September) are hosted by one U3A and have a short business session and “Airing and Sharing” in the mornings, a lovely lunch and a guest speaker, usually from Third Age Trust National Office in the afternoon.

In addition, each year the Cotswold Link organises a Special Interest or Study Day, usually in July, hosted by one U3A (Pershore hosted the 2014 meeting – “The answer lies in the soil” – various horticultural subjects which was interesting and informative).

A member from any of the U3As may attend the meetings or Special Interest days and these are advertised by the committee in advance and appear on our website, newsletters and announced at monthly meetings. A small charge is made to cover the lunch and cost of any guest speakers.

Joining Other U3A Interest Groups

Members of any of the Cotswold Link U3A's may attend one Interest Group at another U3A (providing there is sufficient capacity within that group), so if Pershore does not have the appropriate group for your interests please ask or check the Cotswold Link U3A website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/cotswold-link/home>), Link Members and click 'Link group Summary' for details. Search for 'Cotswold Link, or follow the link from our 'about us' web page - <http://www.pershoreu3a.org.uk/about>.

Third Age Trust

The Third Age Trust is the umbrella organisation for all U3As around the country. It provides advice and support for over 1000 U3As nationwide with over 400,000 members. In addition, it organises events, workshops and summer schools to which members of any U3A can attend. Please see the Third Age Trust web site for more information <https://www.u3a.org.uk>.

West Midlands Region

The Third Age Trust has divided the country into 12 regions (based on the Governments regional partitioning of the country). Each region has its own regional representative on the board of the Third Age Trust (the governing body of the U3A movement in the UK), voted into office by the members of their region. We are pleased that one of our own Pershore members is the Regional Trustee for the West Midlands. The trustee role is to provide help and support for the U3As in their region. In addition, the West Midlands team host a number of workshops and events throughout the year. More details can be found at their web site - <https://u3asites.org.uk/west-midlands/home>.