

THANK YOU FOR VISITING MERTON u3a

A silent revolution is sweeping across developed nations. People are living longer and longer. What is more, the term of active life is also extending. Typically u3a members are over 55, are no longer in full time employment or having childcare responsibilities and so have some time on their hands. This is the opportunity to stretch the mind, extend one's social life and have fun!

We are one of more than 1,000 local u3a groups throughout the UK with a combined membership in excess of 400,000. Collectively we are represented by the [Third Age Trust](#).

About Us

Merton U3A is a locally run organisation of volunteers providing recreational & social activities and study groups at minimal cost. There is a mix of activities, interest groups, talks, visits, seminars, coffee mornings, lunches and courses. Established over 35 years ago, we have over 800 members in and around Merton participating in nearly 100 groups – these are shown on the website. We set up new groups or activities where there is a demand. We value and share everyone's viewpoint, skills and experience and learn from each other.

Our activities are only open to members, although some groups might run taster sessions for would-be members. Prospective members are welcome to attend one talk. No qualifications are required to join. We don't issue qualifications; learning is its own reward.

Benefits of Joining

The major advantage is the ability to enjoy new interests and make great friends in a relaxed environment. In recent research, u3a members reported learning or developing skills, feeling valued, enjoying life more and feeling supported in new communities when they moved house.

Specific benefits mentioned included learning new skills (84%), building confidence (59%), feeling healthier (55%) and becoming engaged with the community (50%).

How much does it cost?

The current annual fee for Merton u3a is £16 or £27 for a couple at the same address. Some groups make a small additional charge, typically £1-£2 per meeting, to cover the cost of venue hire, refreshments and any other expenses. The cost for visits varies. However many groups meet in member's houses, so the only extra cost is bringing the biscuits when it is your turn!

How do I keep up to date?

Check the website for the latest information and news about talks, events or other activities. There is a monthly news update – currently by e-mail – and a regular newsletter. There are also links to events and talks run by London and Surrey Regions which we can attend. Contact details for our Events, Membership and Groups Co-ordinators are on the home page.

I'd like to join – What do I do?

We look forward to welcoming you! Please complete the membership form on the next two pages. **Either**

- complete the form on your computer or tablet, and then save and attach it to an email to membership@mertonu3a.org.uk **or**
- print the form (2 pages) complete it and post it to The Membership Secretary, Merton U3A, 75 Clonmore Street, London SW18 5ET

You can pay your subscription via BACS, using the details on the form, (including the reference requested) or if you are posting a paper form, you may choose to enclose a cheque.

You can also use our **Gift Membership scheme** to sign up a friend, neighbour or relative. Email membership@mertonu3a.org.uk to ask our membership secretary about this or for any further information.



MERTON U3A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2021-22

You can complete this form on your computer. Please then attach the completed form to an email to membership@mertonu3a.org.uk and make payment via BACS. Alternatively, print the form (2 pages), complete and return it to the address below.

Applicant One

Title.....Name.....

Address Line 1.....

Address Line 2.....

Town.....County.....

Postcode.....

Landline Number.....

Mobile Phone.....

Email.....

Contact in case of Emergency: Name.....

Phone Number.....Relationship to you.....

Applicant Two (if applying as a couple)

Title.....Name.....

Landline Number.....

Mobile Phone.....

Email.....

Please ensure you have asked the person for permission to store their information

Subscription Details

Merton U3A's year runs from the 1st of September to 31st of August. The annual subscription rate is £16 for a single person or £27 for a couple. If you join on or after the 1st of June your membership will run through to the end of August the following year.

You can pay by **BACS** using the following details: Account: Merton U3A,
Sort Code: 40-07-30, A/C no. 42314673, Reference: your surname & postcode
Or by **enclosing a cheque** payable to Merton U3A.

Gift Aid Declaration

You can boost by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 of your membership fee. Gift Aid is reclaimed by Merton U3A from the tax you pay for the tax year. Please tick the box:

I want my membership fee to be a Gift Aid donation to Merton U3A including any I make in the future. I am a UK taxpayer. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the total amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in a tax year it is my responsibility to cancel the Gift Aid or pay any difference.

Signature.....Date.....

Would you like to receive the Merton u3a newsletter by email or post

Would you like to receive the Third Age Trust's quarterly magazine, Third Age Matters by post ? (this is not available by email)

Privacy Statement

By joining the U3A, you give us permission to use the information you have supplied in the following ways:

- to store it securely for membership purposes.
- to communicate with you as a U3A member.
- to share with group leaders for those groups that you are a member of.
- to send you general information about the Third Age Trust (the national organisation to which U3As are affiliated).

If you have agreed to subscribe to Third Age Matters, you consent to your address being shared with the company who oversee the distribution of the magazine.

Please be advised that you can request your data not to be used for any of these purposes at any time by contacting the Membership Secretary.

Do you want to help with the running of Merton U3A?

Once you have joined Merton U3A, and have had time to think, please consider volunteering with us. We are entirely run by volunteers and have some interesting and fulfilling activities for members to participate in.

We need simple jobs done like helping to set up rooms with chairs for the monthly talks. There are organisational, catering, admin and other areas where help is needed. Please let us know if you would like to discuss this with the Volunteer Co-ordinator or one of the Committee Members to see where we can best use your help.

Please tick the box if you would like to help. We will contact you to discuss this.

Where did you get your form? To ensure an adequate supply of forms it is useful to know where each application form come from, if there isn't already a tick please tick the relevant box.

Membership Secretary Downloaded from website

Library Which library?

Colliers Wood Community Centre

Other: please state

Please return both pages of this form to: **The Membership Secretary, Merton U3A, 75 Clonmore Street, London SW18 5ET.**