

STARTING A U3A GROUP

Perhaps you'd like to join up with a few like-minded people to do something that is not on offer, but you feel apprehensive at the thought of suggesting a new group in case you 'get lumbered' with a lot of work and responsibility?

If so, then read on . . .

Firstly, the key principle of the U3A movement is self-help – so basically, we do things together for ourselves and our members. No-one else is going to step in and offer to do things – it's up to us, and if we don't do it, then it won't happen!

Secondly, you don't need to have any experience of 'running things' as there are enough people to provide guidance and support, especially when setting up a new group. The committee can help with information or start-up funds (if you need to buy some equipment, for instance).

With the help of the Groups Co-ordinator information about your new group can be pulled together and presented in the standard format (which keeps things simple for our members)

Getting 'the news' out is simple! Your activities can go in the monthly What's On, and on the three-times per year Activity Groups List, with additional information and promotion in the bi-monthly Newsletter and on the website. You, or someone else, can also stand up after the speaker at the monthly general meetings to tell everyone about the new offering.

There are advice sheets on how to organise finances (if applicable), or how to organise trips (again, if applicable). But the key thing to remember is – this is fun – not an onerous burden!

So, if you have the beginnings of an idea, talk to the Groups Co-ordinator or go to the Contact Us page on the website. A quick chat will let you see what is involved in relation to your specific suggestion, and get the ball rolling!