

**Basic Information**

**1.** U3As are self-help learning organisations, run entirely by volunteers. Our annual subscription covers administration costs, but no charges are made for joining interest groups. Where fees are charged for using room accommodation and refreshments, the amount is divided by the number of people present on that day to cover the cost. Members attending group sessions in other members' homes are asked to make a small nominal contribution to cover the cost of refreshments.

**2.** All members are encouraged to volunteer their help in some way. This could be simply putting away their chairs at the end of a session; helping with the washing up; joining the rotas for Refreshment or the Meeters and Greeters at the Open Meetings, to name but a few ways in which members join in the spirit of the U3A. Volunteering to help is a great way of making new friends, and after all, the more people who offer their help, the fewer times they are called upon to provide it.

If you have a particular skill or interest you think might be worth sharing with our other members, or even something you would like to know more about, please do speak to our New- Groups Co-ordinator who will be delighted to talk about the possibility of setting up a new group and provide help in getting started.

**3.** The Open Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month at the Baptist Church, Melton Road, West Bridgford. Doors open at 1.45pm and refreshments are available until 2.15pm. The Speaker for that day starts at 2.30pm and the Open Meeting closes at 4pm. We don't hold an Open Meeting in August, and the December meeting is usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, to avoid clashing with Christmas.

Open Meetings give members the opportunity to catch up with new groups being advertised, booking and paying for trips organised by our Social Committee or just meeting up with friends over a cup of tea and coffee, before going to listen to the Speaker for that day.

As a new member, if you feel a little out of your depth coming to our Open Meeting for the first time, particularly if you come alone, then please do find our Newcomers' Table and join us for a friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

**4.** If you have access to the internet, please do visit our website. It also contains lots of information regarding our groups.

You don't have to commit indefinitely to joining a Group; you can dip in to see if it is for you. Phone the Group Leader first – details are in the Newsletter.

**5.** As soon as your membership subscription is paid in we will send you a membership card. It's a good idea to have it with you when attending a Group Session as you will be asked to produce it on occasions.

**6.** The monthly Open Meeting and our monthly E-Newsletter are our two most important sources of information but do ask a member of the Committee if you are not sure about anything. Their details can be found at the back of the Newsletter.