

**NOTES FOR u3a MEMBERS HELPING
WITH RECRUITMENT**



The QR code – hover an i-phone camera over the pattern to go straight to our website.

THIS IS NOT A SCRIPT. PLEASE DO NOT READ IT TO PEOPLE.

IT IS TO SUPPORT YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

A. DO SAY / DON'T SAY

- Please **DO NOT** use the following terms – retired, retirement, aging, older adults or any similar. These massively put people off.
- Say = **the u3a is an organisation for people who are no longer working full-time.**
- **Don't ask** 'Have you heard of the u3a?' This invites a negative response right at the start of the conversation.
- **Say 'Can I tell you about our organisation the u3a?'**
- **Don't say University** of the Third Age. This puts people off. We are the u3a – that doesn't need explaining just like we don't explain BMW or IBM. Say what we do – people who come together to pursue our interests, learn new things and make friends.

THE ADVANTAGES OF BELONGING TO CROYDON u3a (why should I join?)

- A good line is – We are interested in living life to the full. The u3a helps to make this happen.
- Friendship, social learning, support, challenges, being useful, being a member of a team, having space to be yourself.
- Ask people about what they are interested in/ what they would like to know more about / interests and activities they didn't have time for when working full time or raising a family, and take it from there. Introduce them to the fact that we have 60+ Interest groups and can expand this at members' instigation.

FAQ ABOUT u3a MEMBERSHIP

- There are no upper or lower age limits and no qualification requirements.
- People don't have to be a Croydon resident to belong – we have members in different parts of the country who became members so they could join specific on-line groups (Zoom Chair Yoga, the Monthly Quiz, Environment Group).
- Since the first Lockdown we have been spectacularly active – keeping in touch with members who are isolated, delivering free IT training to help people up-skill.
- We promote learning for its own sake in social situations – there are no tests or exams. We learn because we love knowing more stuff; we share our knowledge, skills & experiences.
- We offer a mixture of different types of activities – some are practical and physical, others are based in discovering more about a topic and yet others offer the chance to learn or perfect a skill.
- Our website – www.u3asites.org.uk/croydon holds a huge amount of information
- Our Face Book page - Croydon u3a – showcases what is happening.

- We are flexible – we have some groups that only meet on Zoom (e.g. Environment & Climate Change, Quiz Night,); some groups meet in person only (e.g. Table Tennis); some groups have a mixture of Zoom & in-person meetings (e.g. Writing for Pleasure, Share a Good Read).
- The National u3a holds regular on-line talks on a great variety of subjects – all included in the membership fee
- Interest Groups On-Line, of which there are about 80+ can be joined for an inclusive fee of £12 pa

VALUE FOR MONEY?

- Membership is flexible - Single Email £22 pa (there is a reduction for joint membership)
Single Postal £35 pa
(subsidised cost of printing & posting)
Associate m'ship with another u3a - £5 reduction
- Currently it is possible to pay on-line (or by cheque or cash) but a paper version of the Membership form has to be completed.
- The cost includes – all talks whether live or on Zoom, the Bulletins (6pa); the Croydon Magazine (3pa) and the posted national glossy magazine (5 pa); access to the Interest groups where there is space, to special events like lunches, coach outings & short breaks
- Key selling points of the u3a (in comparison with on-line organisations like Restless, Goldster and others) –
 - We are run by the members for the members
 - We can start any groups we want if there is interest – there is no prescribed list
 - The interest groups are our main feature
 - We have talks, outings & holidays
 - We are great value for money
 - We offer friendship and support
 - We are a community / an extended family for many members

**IT IS HELPFUL IF YOU FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE WEBSITE →
WHAT IS ON THE HOME PAGE? WHERE DO YOU FIND THE MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FORM?**

**YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT ARE VERY
MUCH APPRECIATED**

Our UNIQUE SELLING FEATURES

Croydon u3a is a **VOLUNTEER LED** organisation which offers very **REASONABLY PRICED SOCIAL & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES** for people who are **NO LONGER WORKING FULL TIME**, who favour **FACE TO FACE** meetings and use a range of **DIGITAL SOLUTIONS** to extend their learning experience and promote wellbeing.

Join in the fun; focus on the positive; live life to the full – be part of Croydon u3a.