

Swindon U3A

CONSTITUTION OF THE SWINDON UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE [U3A] A MEMBER OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST AS AN UNINCORPORATED U3A

1. NAME

The name shall be The Swindon U3A [in this constitution called 'the U3A']

2. OBJECTIVES & POWERS

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of the U3A are:

- [i] to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of middle aged and older people who are not in full time gainful employment in Swindon and its surrounding locality.
- [ii] The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

2.2 POWERS

In furtherance of the above, the U3A may:

- [i] Purchase, take on lease or in exchange hire and otherwise acquire and sell or dispose of real or personal property and any rights and privileges which the U3A may think necessary for the promotion of the objectives, subject to such consents as may be required by law.
- [ii] Publish books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, films, videos and instructional matter.
- [iii] Fund and carry on schools and training courses and run lectures, seminars, conferences and courses.
- [iv] Encourage and assist in the formation and operation of area and regional groupings of other U3As.
- [v] Receive donations, endowments, sponsorship fees, subscriptions and legacies from persons desiring to promote the objectives of the U3A or any of them and to hold funds in trust for the same.
- [vi] Do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above Objectives or any of them.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 GRANTING of MEMBERSHIP

All persons interested in supporting the Objectives of the Third Age Trust shall be admitted to membership at the approval of the Committee and upon payment of the annual subscription as determined by the Committee provided that they agree to abide by this constitution and any conditions properly imposed by the Committee.

3.2 TERMINATION of MEMBERSHIP

The Committee may terminate membership of any member if:

- [i] There is any money owed to the U3A in respect of membership or other fees after the time lapse approved by the Committee; this time lapse to be 2 months following the due date.

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- [ii] That member acts in a way which is prejudicial to the U3A or brings it into disrepute; PROVIDED THAT the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee before a final decision is made.

4. MANAGEMENT

The management of the U3A shall be vested in a Committee consisting of members whose duty it shall be to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of the U3A.

4.1 COMPOSITION of the COMMITTEE

- [i] The Committee shall consist of at least five and not more than twelve members [excluding those who are co-opted] including the principal officers [Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer]. The principal officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, and provision shall be made for a Postal Vote.
- [ii] Not more than two ordinary members may be co-opted to the Committee: they shall have full voting rights and their term of service shall expire at the next following Annual General Meeting.
- [iii] Persons, who need not be members, may be invited by the Committee to serve because of their special expertise: they shall not have voting rights and their term of service shall expire at the next following Annual General Meeting.

4.2 ELECTION and OPERATION of the COMMITTEE

The election of members of the Committee shall be held at the Annual General Meeting, and provision shall be made for a Postal Vote.

- [i] Nominations to the Committee, duly agreed by the nominee, shall be proposed and seconded and delivered in writing to the Secretary at a date specified by the Committee.
- [ii] The newly elected Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.
- [iii] There shall be no less than four Committee meetings a year.
- [iv] Committee members may resign office by giving not less than twenty one days' notice in writing to the Secretary or the Chairman. The Committee has power to fill casual vacancies from the membership. Such an appointee shall complete the term of service of the member he or she is replacing and shall be eligible for re-election.
- [v] At Committee meetings, matters shall be decided by a simple majority of votes of Committee members present. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- [vi] The quorum for any Committee meeting shall be three or one third of the Committee rounded up to next whole number, whichever is the greater.

4.3 SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Special Committee meetings may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two members of the Committee upon seven clear days' notice being given to all the Committee members of all the matters to be discussed.

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4.4 SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee may appoint sub-committees, to which it may from time to time, and for such time as it determines, delegate the transaction of such matters and the performance of such acts as it thinks fit and the Committee shall exercise supervision over the proceedings and acts of such sub-committees. Sub-committees shall report back to the Committee as soon as possible on actions taken under delegated powers.

4.5 VALIDITY of COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any defect in the appointment, election or co-option of any member of any committee or sub-committee.

4.6 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Secretary shall ensure that minutes are kept of all sub-committee, Committee and General Meetings.

5. ANNUAL and SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

5.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held once in each year and not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting. At least 21 days' notice shall be given in writing to all members. A quorum shall be the lesser of 75 paid up members, or 5%. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include:-

- [i]** Receiving and approving the Annual Report
- [ii]** Receiving and approving the examined accounts
- [iii]** Electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the members of the Committee.
- [iv]** Appointing an examiner for the accounts
- [v]** Considering proposals to alter the constitution subject to the requirements of Clause 9
- [vi]** Considering any other business which has been published in the Agenda.

5.2 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special General Meeting of the U3A may be convened at any time by a resolution of the Committee or upon a requisition signed by one fifth or more of the members stating the object of the meeting. A meeting held on such a requisition shall be called by the Secretary of the U3A giving the other members 14 days' notice of such a meeting. A quorum shall be the lesser of 75 paid up members, or 5%.

5.3 CHAIRING of MEETINGS

The Chairman of the U3A shall be the Chairman of any committee or general meeting at which he/she is present. In his/her absence the members shall elect a Chairman for the meeting. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

5.4 VALIDITY of GENERAL MEETINGS

Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any General Meeting.

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6. FINANCE

6.1 *USE of INCOME and PROPERTY*

All the income and property of the U3A shall be applied solely towards the Objectives of the said U3A and none of it shall be paid or transferred in any way to its Committee members provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or servant of the said U3A [other than a Committee member] and repayment of reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses to members or Committee members incurred in the course of the work of the U3A. A bank or building society account shall be opened in the name of the U3A and withdrawals shall be made on the signature of two Committee members, one of whom is a principal officer.

6.2 *RAISING of MONEY*

The U3A shall have power to collect and accept donations and to issue appeals for donations and to raise money by bequest and otherwise. Any money raised and received may be retained by the U3A and be used at the discretion of the Committee. No form of permanent trading shall be undertaken in the raising of funds.

6.3 *FINANCIAL YEAR*

The financial year of the U3A shall end on 31 July each year, and not more than three months later the AGM shall be convened for the purpose of receiving the Annual report and Examined Accounts.

6.4 *APPOINTMENT of EMPLOYEES*

The Committee may appoint employees either permanently or on a fixed contract, who are not members of the Committee, as may from time to time be necessary for carrying out the work of the U3A and may fix their terms and conditions of employment. For purposes of employment law the Committee shall be the employer.

6.5 *COSTS and CHARGES*

All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of the U3A and membership of the Third Age Trust may be defrayed from the funds of the U3A.

6.6 *ACCOUNTS*

The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all the monies received and expended on behalf of the U3A and shall prepare and publish such accounts duly examined at the Annual General Meeting. All monetary transactions shall be made through properly authorised accounts in accordance with the directives of the Committee.

6.7 *LIABILITY of COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

No committee member shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by any thing or act done, or omitted to be done, by him/her or any agent employed by him/her or by any other Committee member, provided reasonable supervision be exercised over any such agent, or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Committee member or by reason of any other matter or thing other than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the Committee member who is sought to be made liable.

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7. PROPERTY

Any property of the Swindon U3A shall be vested in Trustees appointed for this purpose or where the appointment of Trustees is not appropriate shall be deemed to be held jointly by all members of the Committee.

8. POWERS of the COMMITTEE

All matters not provided for in this constitution relating to the Swindon U3A and not involving an amendment to this constitution will be dealt with by the Committee.

9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The provisions of this constitution other than Clauses 2 & 10 and this clause may be amended with the assent of not less than two-thirds of the members of the U3A present and voting at a General Meeting of the U3A. 14 clear days' notice shall be given to the members stating the intention to put forward such a resolution. [No amendment shall be made which would cause the U3A to cease to be a charity].

10. DISSOLUTION

The U3A may at any time be dissolved by a resolution passed by a three-quarters majority of those present and voting at any meeting of the said U3A of which at least twenty-one clear days' notice, stating the intention to put forward such a resolution, shall have been sent to all members of the U3A. If any assets remain after the satisfaction of all debts and other liabilities, such assets held by or in the name of the U3A shall be transferred to such charitable institution or institutions having objectives similar to the U3A as the U3A shall decide.