



It's never too late to Live, Laugh and Learn



www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/u3a

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Orkney U3A





Welcome to the Orkney U3A

...and thank you for joining us!

This leaflet is to explain to you what the U3A is and how it works in Orkney. U3A stands for “University of the Third Age”. It is a nationwide organisation based on local groups providing opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come together and develop their interests.

Currently, the Orkney membership fee is £10.00 per person per year.

We are not a university in the traditional sense. We don't study for qualifications or diplomas. We just enjoy coming together, taking part and meeting people. Members share their knowledge and experience with others in “Interest Groups” running informal activity sessions covering a wide range of activities and subjects. It's all voluntary and you can take part as much as you wish. There are learning opportunities, outdoor pursuits, and social events too.

Once a month we come together for a General Meeting with a wide variety of different speakers. These meetings are usually on the third Thursday of the month at 2:30pm in the St Magnus Centre. All the members are invited to these meetings, and they are notified by email and by adverts on Radio Orkney. A leaflet with the next few months of speakers and dates should be given to you when you join. Occasionally, extra meetings may be called, or the meetings might be on a different day of the week. Please make sure the Secretary or Treasurer has your email address or home address so that you can be notified promptly of any variations in the planned programme. If you are not receiving notifications, please let the Secretary know.

We have a variety of Interest Groups. Some have a maximum number of members, e.g. if they meet in people's homes. If you are interested in a group, the Secretary will provide you with the contact details of the Group's leader. Contact the leader and ask if you can join or, perhaps go on a waiting list, since people come and go in the groups and vacancies become available. Some groups are actively looking for members and will be only too happy to have you join in. The leader will then let you know more about the Group, when, how often and where it meets and what usually happens at it. Usually, there is a social element involved while having tea or coffee at some point in the proceedings and at the General Meeting there are refreshments available after the talk. To cover this, and room hire costs, there is a £2.00 charge per member per meeting.



The U3A in Orkney is run by a Committee with a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and four ordinary members from the Orkney membership. All Group leaders attend the Committee meetings to put forward their Group's views but do not have a vote. Committee Meetings are held every 3-4 months. Items to go on the agenda must be with the Secretary at least one week before the meeting with a written back up on the item so that it can go out with the agenda.

Currently the groups and leaders are:

Art – Plein Air	Gill Cooke
Book Group - Fiction	Ellie Wiltshire
Book Group - Non-fiction	Bill Stout
Botany	Merryn Dineley
Cinema Group	Keith Ramsay
Craft Group	Pam Woodcock
Music Appreciation (1)	Glenys Alsop
Music Appreciation (2)	Valerie Pomfret
Photography	Tim Wright
Play Reading	Jeanne Marie Graham
Recorder Playing	Valerie Pomfret
Scrabble	Pat Retson
Social History	Patricia Long
Straw Work	Peter Drummond
Walking Group	Ellie Wiltshire

If you are interested in joining or starting a new group or reviving one that is needing a new coordinator, please let the Secretary know as we will be delighted to advise and help.

We hope you enjoy your time with Orkney U3A. It should be fun, social, and hopefully you will learn something too!

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Visit our website for further information:

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Chairman: Keith Ramsay chairman@orkneyu3a.org

Secretary: Bill Stout secretary@orkneyu3a.org

Treasurer/Membership: Gill Lewis treasurer@orkneyu3a.org