

DEVIZES & DISTRICT

U3A

CONSTITUTION & CHARITY SUMMARY

**Constitution of the Devizes & District U3A.
University of the Third Age (U3A) A Member of the Third Age Trust as an
Unincorporated Association.**

1. NAME

The name shall be Devizes & District U3A known as "the U3A".

2. OBJECTS AND POWERS

2.1 The objects 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 within the area of Devizes and the surrounding district.
- (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

- (i) In furtherance of the above the U3A may purchase, take on lease or 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 objects, subject to such consents as may be required by law.
- (ii) Publish books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, films, videos and instructional matter.
- (iii) Found 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 objects 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 Objects or any of them.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 All persons interested in supporting the Objects of the Third Age Trust shall be admitted to membership at the approval of the Committee and upon payment of the annual or reduced subscription (due on application for membership and thereafter on 1 April each year) provided that they agree to abide by this constitution and any conditions properly imposed by the Committee.

3.2 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 two (2) calendar months;

- (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 the 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
 - (i) The Committee shall consist of at least five members including the principal officers: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The principal officers shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) Co-opted members shall have full voting rights and their term of office shall expire at the next following Annual General Meeting.
- 4.2 The election of members of the Committee shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the U3A.
 - (i) Nominations to the Committee duly agreed by the nominee shall be proposed and seconded and delivered in writing to the Honorary Secretary at a date specified by the Committee.
 - (ii) The newly elected members of the Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.
 - (iii) There shall be no less than four (4) Committee meetings a year.
 - (iv) Principal Officers shall serve for a period of one (1) year and Committee members for a period of three (3) years. One third of the Committee members shall retire each year and be eligible for re-election. If there is any doubt about which members of the Committee shall retire the Committee shall determine who shall retire. Retiring principal officers may stand for re-election provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairman or Vice Chairman for more than three (3) years without an intervening period of at least one (1) year, except that a retiring Vice Chairman may stand immediately for the post of Chairman.
 - (v) Committee members may resign office by giving not less than twenty one (21) days notice in writing to the Honorary 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.
 - (vi) 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.
 - (vii) The quorum for any Committee meeting shall be three (3) or one third of the Committee whichever is the greater.

4.3 Special Committee meetings may be called at any time by the Chairman or by two (2) members of the Committee upon seven (7) clear days notice being given to all the Committee members of all the matters to be discussed.

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4.5 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.

4.6 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.

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

5. ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

5.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held once in each year. At least twenty one (21) days notice shall be given in writing to all members. A quorum shall be 10% of the paid-up members. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include:

- (i) Receiving and approving the Annual Report.
- (ii) Receiving and approving the audited accounts.
- (iii) Electing a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the members of the Committee.
- (iv) Appointing an auditor 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.
- (vii) The Committee shall determine the form of any General Meeting and whether it shall be held in person or online or by postal email or other vote or any combination thereof.

5.2 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 Honorary Secretary of the U3A giving the other members fourteen (14) days notice of such a meeting. A quorum shall be 10% of the paid-up members.

5.3 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 vice-chairman shall take over or, if the vice-chairman is not present, the Committee shall choose one of their number to be chairman. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. The Committee may designate any one of their number to fill any vacant Principal Office until the next AGM.

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

6. FINANCE

6.1 All the income and property of the U3A shall be applied solely towards the Objects 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 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 either on the signatures of two (2) Committee members, one of whom is a principal officer or by internet transfer. So far as practicable there should at all times be a minimum of two persons with access to the internet banking facilities.

6.2 The U3A shall have the 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 The financial year of the U3A shall end on the thirty first day of March in each year and as soon as reasonably possible thereafter the Annual General Meeting shall be convened for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and audited accounts.

6.4 The Committee may appoint employees either permanently or on a fixed term 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 the purpose of employment law the Committee shall be the employer.

6.5 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 The Honorary Treasurer shall keep accounts of all the monies received and expended on behalf of the U3A and shall prepare and publish such accounts duly audited 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 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 that 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.

7. PROPERTY

Any property of Devizes & District 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

The determination of the appropriate membership fee to be paid each year and all matters not provided for in this constitution relating to the U3A and not involving an amendment to this constitution shall be decided by the Committee.

9. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The provisions of the constitution other than clauses 2 and 10 may be amended with the assent of not less than two thirds of the members of the U3A voting at a General Meeting of the U3A. Twenty one (21) 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 (21) 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 objects similar to the U3A, as the U3A shall decide.