

## Humber Accord

Several years ago the U3As of Beverley, Caves, Cottingham, Hessle and Swanland formed the Accord network in order to share information, experience and ideas for their mutual benefit. Subsequently AWAKE (Anlaby, Willerby & Kirk Ella), Howden and District, Hornsea and District, Wolds, and Hull have been welcomed into the group.

Meetings are held at approximately 3 monthly intervals and are attended by 2 Committee members (usually the Chairperson or Secretary and one other) from each U3A.

There are some rules/guidelines to ensure the system operates fairly and is not abused. Individual U3As may vary the detail but are asked to honour the principles.

**1** A member of one U3A may belong to an interest group of another U3A if a place is available, and the convenor agrees, providing their own U3A does not have a similar interest group or meets at an inconvenient time. Members of the 'home' U3A will always have priority for places but 'visitor' members should not be asked to leave in order to accommodate 'home' members.

No charge is made for this, other than the same charge that may be paid by all members of that group to cover expenses, i.e. for room hire or tea.

(It is not anticipated that the same person would wish to join more than two groups of another U3A but if so they would be expected to also join that U3A as a full member at the agreed reduced rate)

**2** A member of any U3A is allowed to attend the general meetings of another U3A (paying any normal meeting fee). Similarly they may be present at their AGM but should not speak except by permission of the Chairman. They are not allowed to vote. In all cases names should be recorded in the register as guests.

**3** Guests may be brought to a general meeting for a small fee to be decided by the host U3A, **but not more than two visit without joining as a full member.** This applies to 'taster' visits by someone sampling a meeting before deciding whether to become a member of that U3A. They may also attend up to two meetings of an interest group if the convenor agrees.

### **Interest groups – U3A insurance cover.**

Any new interest group starting up must have the prior approval of the local U3A Committee and have an identified convenor named in order to be covered for liabilities under the national U3A insurance. Names of all those attending each group should be recorded and any fees paid be recorded for accounting purposes.

### **Charity Law**

Each U3A operates as a separate charity, all Committee Members act as Trustees and are required by law to complete and submit the Charity Commission Declaration of Eligibility CSD-1382 form. (A copy can be found in the Trustee section of the Committee Reference File but be sure not to use the Scotland or Northern Ireland versions)

This should be a priority business matter at the first Committee Meeting after each AGM. (The last two paragraphs are covered in the Reference File but need to be highlighted.)