Carmarthen u3a

New(ish) Members Meeting

4TH NOVEMBER 2026

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Meeting Purpose (why we're here)
- What is the u3a
- How is it organised
- What part do members play
- Groups & Playing Away
- Beacon – u3a's admin system
- Over to You (Q&A)

Meeting Purpose (why we're here)

- We're here to explain what the u3a is.
- How it's organised
- The roles of people involved
- We'll end with a Q&A session

What is the u3a

- University of the Third Age
- It is not an academic institution
- Started in France in 1973, is now worldwide
- UK in 1981, >1000, affiliated to the u3a Trust
- All are individual charities, >½m members
- Open to everyone retired from full-time work
- Run by members for members, no paid staff
- Charity Name/Number: Carmarthen u3a; 1100107
- Started 1995, current membership 165

u3a's Constitutional Objective

"The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Carmarthen and surrounding areas."

How is it organised

- The Committee - up to 10 trustees
- 4 ‘Officers’ – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer
- Ensure that the u3a pursues its stated charitable objectives as defined in the constitution
- Newsletter Editor, Speaker Secretary, Membership Secretary, Web & FB Editor, Network Representative
- Comms: Newsletter, Email, Beacon & WhatsApp
- Groups, Group Leaders, Group Coordinator

Groups



One of the main benefits of joining the u3a is the opportunity to participate in our special Interest Groups. We are always looking for new leaders and indeed new groups. We are hoping that some of our new members will be interested in sharing their knowledge and skills and starting a new group!

You must be a u3a member in order to take part in our interest group activities. This is essential to ensure that your participation in our activities is covered by the u3a's insurance. Members can join as many groups as they wish. In some instances there may be small charge to cover expenses eg refreshments

If you would like to join an Interest Group please contact the relevant Group Leader whose details you will find on each group's page.

If you have an idea for a new group, please contact the Interest Groups Co-ordinator, Ann Kitchen , at ann@carmarthenu3a.org.uk. Or you can check out the u3a national subject advisers for ideas.

There are many **more opportunities for u3a members** through Regional and National u3a programmes and projects.

Read more ...

Art	Backgammon	Book Club
Bridge (Contract Bridge)	Charabanc Group	Coffee Morning
Coffi a Chlonc	Digital	Discussion
Exploring World Faiths	Garden Visits	History
Knit and Natter	Music Appreciation	Literature
Park Walkers	Philosophy	Poetry
Scrabble	Short Mat Bowls	Spice Up Your Life
Sunday Lunch	Ten Pin Bowling	Walking

Playing Away
(one off activities)

National Museum of Wales

The National Wool Museum

Castell Howell Depot

Bottle decorating

Christmas wreaths

Food bank

Llanelly House

Skanda Vale

Recycling Centre

Bread making

Escape room

BBC

Local Options

- Women's Institute
- Probus
- 60+
- Rotary Club
- Carmarthen Arts
- Antiquarian Society
- Merched y Wawr
- ?

What part do members play?

- A crucial part!
- Join interest groups
- Have ideas for new interest groups
- Have ideas for one off activities/events
- Volunteer to help out in any way
- Abide by the Members Code of Conduct
- **New members are the future of the u3a**

What is ‘Beacon’? (1)

- Beacon is an on line management system designed by u3as, for u3as. It provides a simple interface for managing members, groups and finances. Beacon is available to all u3as in the UK.
- It is used by over 675 individual u3as and 17 Networks/Regions with a secure, efficient and effective means of managing their day-to-day business functions.

What is ‘Beacon’? (2)

- All members details are stored in it
- As are groups and their respective memberships
- It meets the u3a’s GDPR requirements
- Financial details are recorded
- Picture worth a thousand words

Over to you

Q&A

Round up and Conclusion

but before that….

Relevant Websites

u3a Administration

u3a Administration

u3a - Welcome to u3a

CARMARTHEN U3A – 1100107

Carmarthen u3a – The site for Carmarthen u3a

Beacon Demo

Beacon Actual

u3a Trust

Commission