



Guide for new members of Melbourne Area Derby u3a

Thank you for joining Melbourne Area Derby u3a (MAD u3a). By now you should have received your membership number and an electronic version of your membership card. You will need your membership number to attend group and monthly meetings.

What are our aims and objectives?

MAD u3a is run entirely by members for members. We believe that age need be no barrier to learning new things, expanding horizons, sharing skills and experiences, making new friends, helping others to learn, accepting new challenges and of course enjoying ourselves.

How do I get started?

The quickest way of finding out what is going on is to look at our website.

<https://melbourne-area.u3asite.uk/welcome/>

The website is regularly updated with details of current activities, taster sessions, information about our groups, the newsletter and our monthly meetings. So have a look, you will find it easy to use.

How do I join a Group?

Our current list of groups is attached; most groups meet in Melbourne but please check the website for up-to-date information or contact the Groups' Coordinator.

To join one of our groups either contact the group leader by clicking the link on the relevant group web page or you can email the Groups' Co-ordinator by the "contact us" page or directly at madu3agroup@gmail.com . Many groups also allow you to join directly via your Beacon Members' on-line Portal. Alternatively attend one of our monthly meetings, where you can speak to a committee member about how to join a group.

The group leader will be able to tell you whether there are spaces in the group, where and when it meets and answer any other questions you may have. All groups aim to be inclusive. There is often a small cost to group members for each group session to pay for room hire and refreshments.

Each group is co-ordinated by a member with a special interest or expertise in the subject, but it is the group as a whole that decides the general direction, suggesting topics and ideas.

Any member can set up a new group if there is sufficient interest in the subject or activity by contacting the Groups' Co-ordinator.

How do I find out what is happening?

You will often receive information about current activities from our Chair or Vice Chair by email, so please let us know if you change your email address. You will also receive information from any groups you have joined.

You can also look at our website and at our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MelbourneU3A

Additionally, the most recent MAD u3a newsletter is available on our website by clicking the relevant date on the list of newsletters.

Monthly meeting

Our members' monthly get together is usually on the first Thursday afternoon of every month at 2pm, at a venue in Melbourne. To attend the meeting you will need to bring your membership number and usually pay £1. The meeting gives you the opportunity to meet other u3a members, talk to committee members, listen to the invited speaker and enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits.

Who are the members of our committee?

MAD u3a is organised by a management committee of volunteers who are elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Any u3a member is very welcome to put their name forward to be a committee member. The list of current committee members is attached.

When was MAD u3a established?

MAD u3a was founded in 2017 and is affiliated to the Third Age Trust (the UK national organisation). We currently have members from far and wide including Aston, Barrow-on-Trent, Breedon, Calke, Castle Donington, Hartshorne, Melbourne, Kings Newton, Stanton-by-Bridge, Swarkestone, Ticknall, Weston and Wilson.

National u3a Matters

If you want to know more about u3a national activities, groups and events, you can go to www.u3a.org.uk where there is a wealth of information, including access to on-line learning events.

You can also find out more about national events in the "Third Age Matters" magazine which you will receive by post four times a year, but only if you asked for this on your membership application form.

Joining other u3as

There are more than 1000 u3a nationwide and most operate a reduced membership rate for members of other u3as. MADu3a members wishing to experience other u3a groups and events may approach Derby, Ashby and Burton u3as, usually via their website, to request access to their services, initially as "Guests" or to join as "Associate" members. Each u3a will have its own terms and conditions.

Thank you again for joining MAD u3a. I look forward to meeting you at one of the monthly meetings.

Membership Secretary

MAD u3a Committee Members 2025-26

Committee members can be contacted through the MADu3a website or using the gmail addresses shown below.

Chair	Geoff Dowell	madu3achair@gmail.com
Vice chair	Diana Wilkins	madu3avicechair@gmail.com
Treasurer	Robert Anderson	madu3amoney@gmail.com
Secretary	David Hyde	madu3abussec@gmail.com
Membership	Margaret Whitehead	madu3amem@gmail.com
Groups co-ordinator	Sue Kerr	madu3agroup@gmail.com
Support	Dominic Clarke	
	Lyn Hackett	
	Jackie Lane	
	Ian Philliskirk (co-opted)	
	Angela Fields (co-opted)	

MADu3a CURRENT GROUPS (at March 2026)

subject to change (NB some groups may be full); full details on the website at
<https://melbourne-area.u3asite.uk> or email the Groups' Coordinator at madu3agroup@gmail.com

Art Appreciation. Various topics; currently focussing on UK art schools.	Monthly, Wednesday (1.30pm)
Book groups. Currently three book groups; numbers are kept small. Scope to set up more groups.	Monthly. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Bowls. Seasonal Crown Green Bowling (April -September).	Monthly, last Wednesday (1.30pm)
Bridge. A friendly group for players of all abilities.	Weekly, Monday (2pm)
Crafting. Numbers limited.	Monthly, second Thursday (1.30pm)
Current Affairs. Discussions on topical issues in a local pub.	Monthly, third Friday (2.15pm)
Family History. Supported research and sharing family history stories.	Monthly, second Wednesday (2pm)
French Dancing to live music. Beginners welcome.	Monthly, last Thursday (2pm)
Garden Visits. Spring/summer	Various days, times, places
Golf. New group. Some experience required.	Various days, times, places
Grow your Own. A collaborative gardening group growing fruit and veg on the MADu3a allotment.	As weather and enthusiasm permits
History. Various topics in British history.	Monthly, second Friday (3pm)
MOTO. Members on their own organise activities eg cinema, lunch etc. via WhatsApp.	Various
Photography. All abilities welcome. Members visit locations and learn from each other.	Monthly, first Wednesday (2 pm)
Pickleball. Played in pairs on a badminton court, with a tennis net and paddle bats. Beginners and Improvers.	Weekly Monday (1pm) and most Thursdays (4.45pm).
Poetry Appreciation. Two groups. Reading poetry and learning about poets. Numbers kept small.	Monthly, first Monday or fourth Wednesday (afternoon)
Quizzing. MADu3a quiz evenings and local pub quizzes.	Various incl. Thursday evenings.
Reflections of Our Time. Looking back at what has happened in our lifetime.	Monthly, first Monday (1.30pm)
Road Cycling. For experienced road cyclers. 2 hours @ 12mph, including a break.	Weekly Tuesday (10am)
Scrabble. All abilities welcome.	Monthly, fourth Tuesday (1.30pm)
Singing for Fun. Sing along to well known tunes including pop, jazz and soul. All abilities welcome.	Monthly, fourth Wednesday (4.45pm)
Talking Technology. New group meeting until June 2026.	Monthly, second Tuesday
Walking Groups. Members arrange walks of varying length and difficulty to suit all needs.	2/3 times a month
Whist. All abilities. Beginners welcome.	Monthly, third Tuesday (7-9pm)
Wine Appreciation. Learning about and tasting wines from around the world.	Occasional meetings (8pm)