

# **Code of Conduct for Members**

The Code of Conduct for Members clarifies the standard of behaviour expected as a member of Chess Valley u3a. Members must:

- follow and promote the Principles of the u3a movement (see below)
- act in the best interests of Chess Valley u3a and the u3a movement, strive to uphold its reputation and not do anything which could bring Chess Valley u3a or the u3a movement into disrepute or expose it to undue risk
- abide by the terms and conditions of Chess Valley u3a's Constitution
- use Chess Valley u3a's resources responsibly and only to further its stated charitable objects/purposes
- comply with and support the decisions of Chess Valley u3a's democratically-elected Committee
- treat each other with dignity and respect at all times and act inclusively towards other Members
- keep their personal details up-to-date on the membership database or, if they are unable to do so, advise the Secretary of changes to their details.

## **Principles of the u3a movement**

### ***The Third Age Principle***

- Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased
- Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a
- Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

### ***The Self-help Learning Principle***

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

### ***The Mutual Aid Principle***

- Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement
- No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.
- Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible
- Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement.