

**CONSTITUTION OF THE BURTON-ON-TRENT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (u3a), A
MEMBER OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST AS AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION, AS OF
1 June 2023**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1146122

1. NAME The name of the charity is Burton-on-Trent u3a hereafter referred to as The u3a

2. ADMINISTRATION Subject to the matters set out below the u3a and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the elected Executive Committee, herein referred to as the Committee, constituted by clause 6 of this constitution.

3. OBJECTS The charitable purposes of the u3a are:

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, residing in Burton-on-Trent and its surrounding locality

4. POWERS In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise, the Committee may exercise the following powers to:

- (i) raise funds and to invite and receive contributions for The u3a by any lawful means, provided that in doing so any applicable requirements of the law shall be met;
- (ii) receive donations, gifts, endowments, sponsorship, grants legacies and subscriptions from persons desiring to support The u3a and its charitable purposes and to hold and apply any funds so acquired for the charitable purposes (subject to any restricted funds being applied to the relevant restricted purposes).
- (iii) buy, take on lease or exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the Objects and to maintain and equip it for use.
- (iv) sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the u3a, subject to any consents required by law.
- (v) co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
- (vi) support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects.
- (vii) appoint and constitute such advisory committees as The Committee may think fit.
- (viii) organise, promote and participate in conferences, lectures, seminars, courses and educational events
- (ix) publish, supply and make available books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, instructional matter, educational materials and aids of all kinds, whether in printed, electronic or any other forms
- (x) associate and collaborate with other u3as and groupings of u3as (such as regional associations and networks) and The Third Age Trust in any way
- (xi) do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- (i) Membership of The u3a shall be open to individuals who are in their Third Age and are interested in participating in and furthering the work of The u3a, provided that they agree to abide by this constitution and any membership conditions properly imposed by the Executive Committee and to pay the annual subscription as determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership at an Annual or Special General Meeting. No individual may be admitted to membership if the Executive Committee considers that they do not meet these conditions.
- (ii) Every individual member shall have one vote.
- (iii) Members are bound by and shall observe any membership conditions and any disciplinary code of The u3a.

Altered by Committee July 24 see action plan for details

(iv) The Executive Committee may terminate the membership of any individual:

- (a) if annual membership or other fees are unpaid 30 days after the due date;
- or
- (b) by way of expulsion at the end of a disciplinary procedure for breach of any membership condition or for breach of any disciplinary code of The u3a;

Provided that in the case of proposed expulsion at the end of a disciplinary procedure, the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee, accompanied by a friend acting in their personal capacity, who may also speak, or make written representation before a final decision is made.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

(i) The management of The u3a shall be vested in the Executive Committee, which shall be the governing body of The u3a and its board of trustees for the purposes of charity law. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the strategy and policies of The u3a, may exercise all the powers of The u3a and shall deal with the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of The u3a.

(ii) There must be at least 5 and not more than 15 u3a members appointed to the Executive Committee. No person may be proposed for appointment or serve as an Officer or as a non-Officer member of the Executive Committee if they are currently serving as an Officer or non-Officer member of the Executive Committee of any other local u3a.

(iii) *Officers*

The Officers are the Chairman, not more than two Vice Chairmen, Treasurer and Secretary. The Officers shall by virtue of holding their office be members of the Executive Committee. An individual may only serve in one Officer Role at a time.

(iv) *Appointment of Officers*

At every Annual General Meeting when a term of office expires, the Officer members of the Executive Committee due to do so, shall retire.

(v) *Appointment of other members of the Executive Committee*

At every Annual General Meeting when a term of office expires, the non-Officer members of the Executive Committee due to do so, shall retire.

(vi) *Terms of office and limits on periods of service*

A non-Officer member of the Executive Committee has a fixed three year term of office and may not be re-appointed at the end of that term.

The Treasurer has a fixed three year term of office and may be re-appointed to one further term (to give a maximum period of six years service in the office of Treasurer). The individual may not stand for appointment to an alternative office at the end of that maximum six year period. For the avoidance of doubt, if a Treasurer only serves one three year term, he could then stand for appointment as Chairman.

Any other Officer has a fixed three year term of office and may not be re-appointed to that office at the end of that term. The individual may not stand for appointment to an alternative office at the end of that term, other than the office of Chairman.

Subject to the provisions regarding the Treasurer above, no individual may serve more than a maximum of six years in any combination of Officer roles or any combination of non-Officer member and Officer roles.

Nomination and election of candidates

Altered by Committee July 24 see action plan for details

Prior written nomination of any candidate for appointment as a member of the Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting shall normally be required, made by a proposer and seconder from amongst the membership of The u3a (not being themselves Officers or non-Officer members of the Executive Committee), to be in the hands of the Secretary of The u3a at least 28 days before the meeting.

Should nominations exceed vacancies, the decision about appointments shall be taken by ballot. Otherwise, nominations of candidates and the conduct of voting for appointments shall be dealt with in accordance with the Standing Orders of The u3a or, if there are no Standing Orders, as determined by the Executive Committee.

However if there are insufficient candidates standing for the vacancies the Chairman of the meeting may, as a last resort, appeal for any willing member present to agree to stand.

A vote must be taken and carried by a simple majority for such an appeal for volunteers at the meeting to be permitted. Any willing candidate may then offer himself and be proposed to the meeting for appointment in accordance with the Constitution.

Casual vacancies – Officers and Executive Committee

The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy arising amongst the Officers or the non-Officer Executive Committee members, until the following Annual General Meeting. Any such appointee must be a member of The u3a. A person so appointed, who shall have full voting rights, may stand for appointment to a first full term at that meeting.

Co-options to Executive Committee

The Executive Committee may in addition appoint not more than two co-opted u3a members to the Executive Committee, who shall have full voting rights and hold office until the next Annual General Meeting. At that meeting a retiring co-opted member could be proposed for appointment to a first full term on the Executive Committee in accordance with the relevant provisions of this constitution. Provided always that an individual cannot be co-opted more than three times in succession.

DEFECTS IN APPOINTMENTS

The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment, election or co-option of a member.

CESSATION OF OFFICE – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he:

is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of charity law;

becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his own affairs;

is absent without the permission of the Executive Committee from three consecutive meetings and the Executive Committee resolve that his office be vacated;

is removed by resolution of the Executive Committee for significant misconduct under the Trustee Code of Conduct, which may only be passed after the completion of the disciplinary procedure set out in that Code;

notifies in writing to the Executive Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least five members of the Executive Committee will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect which shall be at least 21 days from the receipt of the notification);

ceases to be a member of The u3a;

becomes an Officer or non-Officer member of the Executive Committee of any other u3a.

9. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall hold at least 4 ordinary meetings each year.

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A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two members of the Committee upon not less than seven days notice being given to other members of the Committee of the matters to be discussed unless it concerns the appointment of a co-opted member in which case not less than twenty one days notice must be given.

The Chairman shall chair the meetings and in his or her absence the Vice-Chairman shall take over or if he or she is also absent the Committee shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting before any business is transacted.

There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the number of members of the Committee for the time being or three members of the Committee whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting.

Every decision shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Committee present and voting on the question, but in the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote in addition to his own vote.

The Committee shall ensure that minutes are taken of all its meetings and those of any sub-committees and are available for inspection should a member request it.

The Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and custody of documents (including, but not limited to, the use of electronic communications). No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution

The Committee may appoint sub-committees consisting of at least one member of the Committee, for the purpose of performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Committee. The Executive Committee shall authorise the terms of reference of sub-committees and may alter them from time to time. Sub-committees may make proposals to the Executive Committee, but may not make decisions and they shall not have any expenditure authority.

No Committee member shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by any act done or omitted to be done by him/her or by any other Committee member or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Committee member or by reason of any other matter other than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of the Committee member in question.

10. FINANCE

The financial year of The u3a shall end on such date as the Executive Committee shall decide, provide always that the financial year must be in accordance with applicable charity law requirements and the annual accounts and trustees' report must be submitted to the Charity Commission (if required by law) within relevant statutory time limits.

The funds of The u3a shall be paid into such accounts as the Committee may open in the name of The u3a. All transactions on such accounts shall be carried out in accordance with the terms of that account as agreed with the account provider and approved and accepted by the Executive Committee from time to time. Only members of the Executive Committee, authorised by the Committee to do so, may arrange and authorise any transaction on any of the u3a's accounts and dual authorisation shall normally be required for all transactions.

The Executive Committee shall determine the financial controls and procedures to be followed by The u3a, including but not limited to, controls and procedures in relation to accounts and transactions on them, and those shall be observed at all times.

The funds belonging to The u3a shall be applied only in furthering the charitable purposes.

No funds shall be transferred in any way to Executive Committee members, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred by a member of the Executive Committee in the discharge of his duties for The u3a.

Altered by Committee July 24 see action plan for details

All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of The u3a and membership subscriptions in respect of the Third Age Trust may be defrayed from the funds of The u3a.

11 PROPERTY

All property of The u3a shall be applied solely towards the objects of The u3a.

Ownership of property is vested in the u3a and items may with the agreement of the Committee be transferred on a temporary basis to a nominated member s home in pursuance of the his/her designated role until such time as the member s tenure of office ceases or The Committee request its return.

12. ACCOUNTS

- (i) The Executive Committee shall comply with its obligations under charity law, and observe applicable time limits in the case of obligations to file items with the Charity Commission, with regard to:
 - (a) the keeping of accounting records for The u3a;
 - (b) the preparation of annual statements of account and a trustee's report for the u3a;
 - (c) The audit or independent examination of the statements of account of The u3a (if required by law)
 - (d) the making of a charity annual return to the Charity Commission;
 - (e) the transmission of the statement of accounts and trustee's report of The u3a to the Charity Commission.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the u3a which shall be held in the month of June in each year or as soon as practicable thereafter but not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting.

Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. This formal notice shall give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to all the members of The u3a. The notice shall specify that the meeting is the Annual General Meeting and shall set out the business of the meeting, including resolutions to be proposed, and shall provide information about proposals for the election of Officers and non-Officer members of the Executive Committee to be made at that meeting. All members of The u3a shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

The Executive Committee shall present to each Annual General Meeting the trustees' report and annual accounts of The u3a for the preceding year.

The Executive Committee shall seek approval for the appointment of any independent examiner or auditor for the accounts from the membership at the Annual General Meeting, if permitted or required to do so by charity law.

Any proposals to amend the constitution subject to Clause 16 shall be considered at the Annual General Meeting as shall any other business as set out in the notice.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee may call a Special General Meeting of the charity at any time and if at least 20% of the members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered, the Secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days notice shall be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed. There shall be a quorum when 40% of the members are present. Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings.

15. NOTICES, COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Notices of meetings, documents and other communications from The u3a to a member may be sent by electronic communication provided The u3a wishes to do so and the relevant member wishes to receive them in this way and provides an appropriate electronic address to The u3a. It is the responsibility of that member to notify The u3a of any change to that address and to comply with any security and other procedures determined by the Executive Committee for such communications. A member may opt to return to hard copy communications at any time.

Accidental omission to give notice to any member of any General Meeting (including the AGM) shall not invalidate the proceedings.

The Secretary or other person specially appointed by The Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General Meeting of The u3a.

There shall be a quorum when at least 5% of the number of members of The u3a, are present at any General Meeting.

If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened at the request of the members shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall be adjourned to another day and time as The Committee may direct provided 21 days notice is given to all members. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall be a quorum.

The Chairman of The u3a shall be the Chairman of the General Meeting at which he/she is present. In the absence of the entitled Chairman, the Committee shall have the power to elect a chairman for the meeting.

If there is a tied vote the Chairman of the meeting should have a single casting vote.

16. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

The prior consent of the Third Age Trust must be requested for any proposed alterations to The u3a's constitution. The u3a may proceed with the proposed changes:

At any time after specific consent has been received from the Third Age Trust; or
When four weeks have passed since the consent request was delivered and the Third Age Trust has not notified The u3a of any objection to the proposals.

If The u3a is a registered charity, no amendment may be made to Clause 3 (the charitable purposes) without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commission.

No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity) clause 3 (the Objects clause) clause 17 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Commissioners.

No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law.

The Committee shall promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

17. DISSOLUTION

Altered by Committee July 24 see action plan for details

If The Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the u3a it shall call a Special General Meeting of all members of The u3a, of which not less than 21 days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting The Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to

other such local charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Objects of The u3a as the members of The u3a may determine, or

to the Third Age Trust Registered Charity No. 288007.

A copy of the statement of accounts or account and statement, for the final accounting period of The u3a must be sent to the Charity Commission.

18. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION This constitution was adopted by the membership at the Annual General Meeting June 1st 2023 and I certify that this is a true copy.