



NORTH DOWN & ARDS (in a Nutshell)

WHO ARE WE?

An educational organisation for those no longer in full-time employment. We are self-funding and each pays a small annual subscription to cover expenses.

We are completely voluntary and do everything (as far as possible) for ourselves. We are keen to contact and work with other similar organisations.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Teach and learn from each other in small groups. Enjoy each other's company and friendship.

HOW DO WE DO THAT?

By belonging to over 40 interest groups run by members for members.

WHAT DO OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE?

Anything which appeals to more than one or two members and for which there is an enthusiastic leader. In North Down and Ards there are, for example, groups interested in and practising Singing, History, Travel, Bridge, Table Tennis, Golf, Walking, Gardening, Art, Nature Study, Visits to Theatres and Museums, Wine-tasting, Languages, Reading, Investment, Pilates, Craft, Floral Art, Yoga – and many more!

HOW MANY MEMBERS DO WE HAVE?

In North Down and Ards U3A there are almost 700 members and we are growing rapidly.

ARE THERE OTHER U3As?

Yes, a large number. In Northern Ireland we have around 2900 members belonging to 14 autonomous U3As. The UK movement as a whole was founded in 1982 and now comprises almost 170,000 members belonging to about 700 U3As. The University of the Third Age is international.

WHO JOINS U3A?

All kinds of people. We have no barriers except that for practical reasons – (everyone should help, even in some small way) – members should not be in full-time employment. Most members, but not all, are over 50.

We appeal increasingly to those who have just retired or have recently arrived in the area and who are looking for new interests with like-minded companions. We also often act as a life-line in many ways to those recently bereaved, bringing comfort and companionship at what can be a devastatingly difficult time.

website: <http://www.northdownandardsu3a.org.uk>