

Ashby u3a. Use of Members' Homes for group meetings

Groups meeting at a Member's home

Many members offer to allow interest groups to meet in their houses. This saves us from having to hire halls or meeting rooms for the groups to meet regularly. There is no monetary charge for the use of a home. Treat their homes like it is a friend's home and respect any conditions they may care to ask of you such as removal of shoes etc.

Accessibility

Ashby u3a has a policy of trying to use venues which give access to all, however not all private homes will have full accessibility in all circumstances. Please see our Accessibility Policy for potential solutions.

Insurance

Accidents happen. This is a fact of life. However the good news is that the home owner's property and contents are covered by a u3a all-risks insurance. If any item is damaged, lost or stolen by a member at a meeting, a claim can be made for its repair or replacement. If a home owner wishes to make a claim for any damage or loss occurring at a group meeting, please contact the Interest Groups Co-ordinator in the first instance to initiate the claim.

Guidelines and rules

There are a few guidelines and rules which we ask members to follow:

Refreshments

If refreshments are provided it is usual for members to make some small payment for them, typically 20 – 50p. The homeowner may specify an amount.

Carers and Companions

Carers or companions of members may attend activities with their charge subject to Committee approval. The carer/companion should not take part in any u3a activities as an individual unless they are themselves members. In the case of a Professional Carer, the Third Age Trust's Public liability cover will not apply.

Children under the age of 18

Children should not attend any u3a activity, even in a member's home, as this will invalidate the Third Age Trust's Public Liability insurance. We would also need to conform to the requirements of the Charities Act with regard to Safeguarding Compliance. Amongst other things, we would have to appoint a Safeguarding Officer and set up safeguarding procedures, even for just one child attending one event.

Dogs and other animals

Guide dogs and other assistance dogs are allowed into any of our venues or homes, subject to the homeowner's agreement, but other dogs or animals should not be brought to u3a activities.

If the home owner has pets, they should be kept in a separate room to that in which the activity is taking place. Not everyone is a pet lover and there may be members who have allergies, phobias or fears about certain pets.

Disputes

Sometimes people just don't get along. Members meet at another member's home at the owner's absolute discretion. If they do not want a particular person to attend, that is their right. However if it comes to this we would suggest that the Group Leader refers to our Complaints Procedure to see if anything can be done to remedy the situation. It is always better to try to sort out disagreements amicably first.

This policy was implemented on 10th January 2023

Next review date January 2025