

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE MALDON CLUSTER GROUP

### List of Present Members November 2024

Maldon and District, Blackwater, Heybridge, Lime Brook, Dengie and District, Burnham on Crouch, Crouch Valley, South Woodham Ferrers!

**Cluster Group representatives shall take on the role of Chair of a meeting on a rotational basis. However, representatives shall choose one individual to act as a permanent contact person in order to facilitate the flow of information.**

1. All members of the cluster group U3A's are free to attend the various interest groups, including theatre trips and outings, within that cluster group subject to the following:
  - 
  - a. Members do not have to join another U3A.
  - b. Members can only join another U3A interest group if there is space available and they are not stopping a home member from joining, members should always confirm with the organising U3A before attending any interest group meeting.
  - c. Once another U3A member has joined a group that member enjoys equal rights with home members and when a group becomes full, and **they will not be** asked to stand down so that a home member may join but that a waiting list for a new group should be started or even split the existing group in two.
  - d. Members must pay any monies due equally with home members (hall fees/expenses etc)
  - e. A member from another cluster group U3A may be the co-ordinator or deputy if no one can be found within the home U3A. This to remain until a member from the home group can be found.
2. **At the discretion of each U3A**, non – home members may only attend one or two monthly meetings before they are asked to join the home U3A. **At the members discretion they should** check with the organising U3A that there is space available for attending.
  - a. Any member joining another U3A would have to pay all dues as appropriate, **including the capitation fee if the U3A so decides.**
3. **No cluster group U3A should actively encourage members from other cluster group U3A's to join them and should point out that members have the advantage of being in one enlarged U3A already.**

4. Members may be asked to join another cluster group U3A as an Associate Member without any fees but for record purposes only. This requirement is not universal within the cluster group.
5. Members must show their current membership card or provide proof of membership when seeking to join another cluster group interest group and should not be offended if and when this is requested.
6. Cluster Group U3A's all have the same insurance cover so members are covered when attending all interest groups.
7. Cluster Group U3A's may run trips and events jointly and in partnership and may advertise these to all cluster group members. Any event costs would be divided equally amongst those U3A's taking part or pro rata if places have not been allocated equally. Cluster Group U3A's do not have to take part in either of these activities; it being their own choice.
8. Cluster Group U3As usually organise and run day trips/holidays as individual U3As, but details can be circulated among the other U3As to allow members to join if space allows.

**Version 1 Correct and confirmed as of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Version 2 Correct and confirmed as of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Version 3 Correct and confirmed as of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Version 4 Correct and confirmed as of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Version 5 Correct and confirmed as of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**

**Reviewed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November by all concerned and agreed with changes as shown in red.**

**To be reviewed when required by the majority and in 1 years' time whichever comes first.**