

Dual Membership - Change in Approach

Higham and Rushden U3A currently offers a reduced subscription for individuals who belong to more than one U3A. Subscriptions are reduced by the amount of the Capitation Fee, the amount that is sent to National Office to cover the overheads of running the office, paying insurance premiums, running the national U3A website etc. However, this means that we have to check to ensure that members have paid the full subscription to another U3A and that this U3A is paying the Capitation Fee to National Office.

Not every U3A offers reduced subscriptions and National Office guidance clearly states that this is a "local" decision that can be taken by each committee, by each U3A.

The Committee have decided to cease offering reduced subscriptions with effect from the 2017 renewal. We have between 5% and 10% of our membership that belong to more than one U3A and do recognise that this will impact adversely on them.

However, the work involved in processing reduced subscriptions for these individuals is considerable. It should be noted that some other U3As in Northamptonshire are adopting the same approach and no longer offering reduced subscriptions. The Committee hopes that members affected by this change will understand our approach and remain – or become – a member of H and R as appropriate.

Phil Grace
Chairman, Higham and Rushden U3A