

**MERTON U3A NEW
MEMBERS' SURVEY
2014 Report**

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1. Introduction: Background to the survey

In the UK, as well as in other countries, U3A aims to be inclusive and to extend membership to both men and women, to people from all ethnic backgrounds and to people of all social classes (Ware, 2013; Wright 2013).

At present, the membership of Merton U3A (MU3A) does not reflect the population of the London Borough of Merton in terms of gender balance or ethnicity. Although men account for 46% of both the 50+ and the 65+ age groups in Merton (Ware 2013), men currently constitute only 22% of MU3A's membership.

Like many other U3As, MU3A has not routinely collected demographic data on its members so has had no basis for analysis of factors such as age, marital status, past and present employment, educational experience, leisure interests and other activities, all of which, as indicated in the literature, are relevant to the take-up of learning and leisure activities in later life (Ware 2013). While there has been a general awareness that MU3A members are predominantly female, white and middle-class, until recently there were no data to confirm this as the only information routinely collected about members was their address.

Not only was there a lack of demographic data on MU3A's membership; there was no information on how members had heard of U3A, their reasons for joining, the activities in which they participated or their preferences for different approaches to learning, different types of venue and different time-scheduling of activities. Information on group membership, based on membership renewal forms, was not comprehensive or reliable (Ware 2013).

To rectify the lack of information, MU3A designed a short survey to be sent to existing members to elicit information that would assist the organisation to make changes to increase its inclusivity. In August 2013, a questionnaire was sent to all existing members (N = 863) which included questions on personal characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity, disability, educational qualifications and employment status), how individuals had heard about U3A, reasons for joining, preferred learning methods, preferred learning venues, days and times when members were available to participate in U3A activities and suggestions for improving Merton U3A. Four hundred and twenty two members returned completed questionnaires (response rate = 49%) and a report on the survey analysis was published in December 2013 (Salvage and Mott 2013). Readers are advised to refer to this report for information on the methods used and the results of the original survey.

In April 2014, 82 members of Merton U3A who had joined within the previous six months were invited to a new members' lunch to be held on 9 May 2014. Thirty-five of these new members attended the lunch and all those attending were invited to complete a questionnaire based on the one used in the earlier survey but very slightly adapted (Question 13 asked "From your impression so far, does Merton U3A meet your expectations? If not, please indicate why and suggest how you think things might be improved.") Thirty one of the 35 new members who attended the lunch completed a questionnaire, representing 38% of those invited. A second new members' lunch was held on 10 October 2014. Sixty-seven new members were invited and 23 attended the lunch. Of these, 19 completed a questionnaire, representing 28% of those invited.

This report presents combined results from the two surveys of new members, comparing them with those of the earlier survey. Where there are apparent differences between the results of the original and new members' surveys, these are highlighted. However, because of the small numbers involved in the new members' survey, it was not considered appropriate to undertake statistical analysis.

2. Analysis

The completed questionnaires were passed to a MU3A member with experience of survey analysis (Ann Salvage) and data entered into an Excel spreadsheet by a MU3A member with expertise in this area (Peter Mott) and manipulated using bespoke formulae to allow cross-tabulation of data. Qualitative data including comments written on the questionnaires in response to Question 13 (asking for comments on MU3A) were subjected to thematic analysis.

3. Results

3.1 Characteristics of respondents

3.1.1 Age and gender

Of those who completed the questionnaire, 10 were male (20%), 39 were female (78%) and one did not give their sex (in the previous survey: 18% were male, 70% female). Most of the new members were in the 60-69 or 70-79 age groups (50% and 40% respectively). One respondent did not give their age. Table 1 shows respondents by gender and age.

As in the original survey, few respondents were in the 50-59 age group but fewer of the new members were 80 or more than in the original survey (4% compared with 24%).

TABLE 1: Respondents by age and gender (where both known)

| Age | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|--------------|------|------|--------|------|-------|------|
| | N | (%) | N | (%) | N | (%) |
| 50-9 | 0 | (0) | 3 | (8) | 3 | (6) |
| 60-9 | 5 | (50) | 19 | (50) | 24 | (50) |
| 70-9 | 5 | (50) | 14 | (37) | 19 | (40) |
| 80-9 | 0 | (0) | 2 | (5) | 2 | (4) |
| Total | 10 | | 38 | | 48 | |

3.1.2 Ethnicity

Forty eight of the new members indicated their ethnic group, and of these, most (37:77%) described themselves as "White British". Seven (15%) indicated that they were "White Other", three (6%) chose "Asian British/Asian" and one said they were of mixed ethnic origin. These results broadly reflect those of the earlier survey, in which 88% of respondents described themselves as "White British". Table 2 shows respondents by ethnicity.

TABLE 2: Ethnicity by gender

| | Male | Female | Not specified | Total | |
|---------------------|------|--------|---------------|-------|------|
| | | | | N | (%) |
| White British | 8 | 29 | 0 | 37 | (77) |
| White other | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 | (15) |
| Asian British/Asian | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | (6) |
| Mixed ethnic group | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | (2) |
| Total | 10 | 37 | 1 | 48 | |

3.1.3 First language

Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not English was their first language. Forty nine respondents answered this question and Table 3 shows responses by gender. The vast majority of respondents (44:90% of those who answered this question) indicated that English was their first language and this very closely reflects the results of the original survey (91%). Other languages stated as 'First language' were: French, German/French, German, Swiss-German and Bengali.

TABLE 3: Is English Your First Language?

| | Male | Female | Not specified | Total | |
|--------------|------|--------|---------------|-------|------|
| | | | | N | (%) |
| Yes | 10 | 33 | 1 | 44 | (90) |
| No | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | (10) |
| Total | 10 | 38 | 1 | 49 | |

3.1.4 Disability

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had a disability that affected their participation in U3A. Table 4 shows disability by gender. Most respondents (42:84%) reported no disability. Of the eight respondents who reported disabilities, four (50%) said that they had mobility problems, three (38%) said they had hearing difficulties and two (25%) indicated that they had sight problems. One respondent (gender not specified) said that they suffered from M.E. Of those reporting disabilities, two were aged 65-9 and the remainder were 70-plus. The percentage of respondents who reported disabilities was lower than in the earlier survey (where just under a quarter of respondents indicated that they had a disability).

TABLE 4: Disability by gender

| | Male | Female | Total * | |
|----------------|------|--------|---------|------|
| | | | N | (%) |
| Mobility | 0 | 4 | 4 | (50) |
| Hearing | 1 | 2 | 3 | (38) |
| Sight | 1 | 1 | 2 | (25) |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 1 | (13) |
| Total * | 2 | 6 | 8 | |

(* NOTE: One respondent gave multiple responses)

3.1.5 Educational qualifications

Respondents were asked to indicate their highest educational qualification. Respondents often gave more than one response to this question and all responses were included in the analysis. All 50 respondents answered this question and Table 5 shows responses by gender. The pattern of qualifications was very similar to that described in the earlier study. Over a third (40%) said they had an undergraduate degree (slightly more than in the earlier survey: 32%), 13 (26%) said they had a college diploma or certificate (23% in the earlier survey) and 10 (20%) had a postgraduate degree (18% in the earlier survey). Other qualifications mentioned were "O levels" (F: 70-4), "GCE English Language and English Literature" (F: 80-4) and "4 GCEs" (F: 70-4).

TABLE 5: Educational qualifications by gender

| | Male | Female | Not specified | Total* | |
|---|------|--------|---------------|--------|------|
| | | | | N | (%) |
| Undergraduate degree | 6 | 14 | 0 | 20 | (40) |
| College certificate or diploma | 1 | 11 | 1 | 13 | (26) |
| Postgraduate degree | 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 | (20) |
| School leaving certificate (15-18) | 1 | 8 | 0 | 9 | (18) |
| Vocational qualification | 1 | 7 | 1 | 9 | (18) |
| Other | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | (6) |
| Total * | 10 | 39 | 1 | 50 | |

(Note: Some respondents gave multiple responses)

3.1.6 Employment status

Respondents were asked to indicate their current employment status. Forty nine respondents answered this question and Table 6 shows employment status by gender. Most (38:78%) said they were retired, but 11 (22%) were working part time. Of those who were still working part time, two were aged between 50 and 59 and eight between 60 and 69 (age was not given by one respondent). Slightly more of the new members said they were still working than was the case in the original survey (22% compared with 13%).

TABLE 6: Employment status by gender

| | Male | Female | Total | |
|--------------------------|------|--------|-------|------|
| | | | N | (%) |
| Retired | 7 | 31 | 38 | (78) |
| Working part-time | 3 | 8 | 11 | (22) |
| Total | 10 | 39 | 49 | |

3.2 Becoming a member

3.2.1 Sources of information about U3A

Respondents were asked how they had heard about U3A. Forty two respondents answered this question and Table 7 shows responses by gender. As in the earlier survey, by far the most frequently-mentioned source of information was friends: 29 respondents (69% of those who answered this question) said they had heard about U3A from friends (63% in original survey). The next most frequently-mentioned information source (as in the earlier survey) was a library, with eight (19%) citing this source (18% in original survey). Four respondents (10%) had obtained information from the Internet (2% in original survey) and one (2%) had heard about U3A from a relative (6% in original survey). Three people mentioned other sources of information: "U3A Kingston" (Male: 75-9); "Currently in North London U3A" (Female: 75-9) and "Colleague at Badminton" (Female: 60-4).

TABLE 7: 'How did you hear about us?' by gender

| | Male | Female | Total * | |
|------------------|------|--------|---------|------|
| | | | N | (%) |
| Friends | 7 | 22 | 29 | (69) |
| Library | 2 | 6 | 8 | (19) |
| Internet | 1 | 3 | 4 | (10) |
| Relatives | 0 | 1 | 1 | (2) |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 3 | (7) |
| Total * | 9 | 33 | 42 | |

(* **NOTE:** Some respondents gave multiple responses)

3.2.2 Reasons for joining U3A

Respondents were asked to give their reasons for joining U3A. Table 8 shows responses to this question by gender. "To gain knowledge" and "Mix with stimulating people" were the most frequently cited reasons for joining U3A (34:68% and 31: 62% respectively). The next most frequently given reason was "To make new friends" (30:60%) followed by "Personal satisfaction" (15:30%), "Curiosity" (13:26%) and "To escape daily routine" (8:16%). Five respondents gave other reasons for joining:

- "Join a Nordic walking group" (Female: 65-9)
- "Play sport" (Male: 70-4)
- "Table tennis" (Female: 65-9).
- "Leisure activity" (Female: 60-4)
- "For French class" (Female: 55-9)

TABLE 8: Reasons for joining U3A by gender

| | Male | Female | Not specified | Total * | |
|------------------------------------|------|--------|---------------|---------|------|
| | | | | N | (%) |
| Gain knowledge | 7 | 26 | 1 | 34 | (68) |
| Mix with stimulating people | 5 | 25 | 1 | 31 | (62) |
| Make new friends | 3 | 26 | 1 | 30 | (60) |
| Personal satisfaction | 4 | 10 | 1 | 15 | (30) |
| Curiosity | 3 | 10 | 0 | 13 | (26) |
| Escape daily routine | 1 | 7 | 0 | 8 | (16) |
| Other | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 | (10) |
| Total * | 10 | 39 | 1 | 50 | |

(* **NOTE:** Many respondents gave multiple responses)

The pattern of results was very similar to that observed in the previous survey, with a relatively high proportion citing "To gain knowledge" as a reason for joining (69% in the earlier survey). In the current survey, "To make new friends" was cited more frequently than was the case in the earlier survey (60% compared with 44%), "Personal satisfaction" less frequently (30% compared with 36%) and "Curiosity" more frequently (26% compared with 16%) but overall, the results were similar.

3.3 Participation in U3A

3.3.1 Preferred methods of learning

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferred methods of learning. Forty nine respondents answered this question, with many giving multiple responses. Table 9 shows responses to this question by gender. The most popular method of learning (37:76%) was "Attending talks", followed by "Attending group visits" and "Learning informally in a regular group (33:67% in each case). Nearly half of respondents (43%) said they would be interested in short courses. Relatively few chose "Online learning alone", or "Online learning with others". (Note: For the October survey, these two options were amended to 'Online learning' and 'Independent self-tuition'.)

Women were more likely than men to choose "Attending talks" (79% compared with 56%), "Learning informally in a regular group" (74% compared with 44%) and "Attending group visits" (72% compared with 44%) and less likely to choose "On-line learning alone" (3% compared with 11%) or "Online learning with others" (3% compared with 11%).

In comparison with the earlier survey, "Attending talks" was chosen more frequently (76% compared with 55%), as was "Attending group visits" (67% compared with 36%). "Short courses" was also chosen more frequently (43% compared with 28%).

TABLE 9: Preferred methods of learning by gender

| | Male | Female | Not specified | Total * | |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|---------------|---------|------|
| | | | | N | (%) |
| Attending talks | 5 | 31 | 1 | 37 | (76) |
| Learning informally in regular group | 4 | 29 | 0 | 33 | (67) |
| Attending group visits | 4 | 28 | 1 | 33 | (67) |
| Short course with formal structure | 4 | 16 | 1 | 21 | (43) |
| Online learning with others** | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | (12) |
| Online learning alone** | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 | (8) |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | (2) |
| Total * | 9 | 39 | 1 | 49 | |

(* **NOTE:** Many respondents gave multiple responses)

(** See note above regarding wording change)

3.3.2 Preferred venues for learning

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferences for learning venues. All respondents answered this question and Table 10 shows responses by gender. Nearly half of the respondents (22:44%) said they had no preference for venue. For those who did have preferences, the most popular venue (chosen by 24:48%) was a "Free public space, e.g. library or park". Just over a third (17:34%) chose 'Cafe/restaurant/pub' and 15 (30%) chose 'Hired space'. Fourteen (28%) opted for "Members' homes".

Women were more likely than men to choose "Cafe/restaurant/pub" (38% compared with 10%) but there were no other major differences.

In comparison with the earlier survey, the new members were less likely to choose "Members' homes" (28% compared with 53%) (note: this was the most popular venue in the original survey but the least popular in the new members' survey) and more likely to choose "Free public space" (50% compared with 23%) or "Cafe/restaurant/pub" (34% compared with 13%).

TABLE 10: Preferred learning venues by gender

| | Male | Female | Not specified | Total * | |
|---|------|--------|---------------|---------|------|
| | | | | N | (%) |
| Free public space (e.g. library/park) | 5 | 18 | 1 | 24 | (48) |
| No preference | 4 | 18 | 0 | 22 | (44) |
| Cafe/restaurant/pub | 1 | 15 | 1 | 17 | (34) |
| Hired space (e.g. hall/room/workshop/sports facility) | 3 | 11 | 1 | 15 | (30) |
| Members' homes | 3 | 10 | 1 | 14 | (28) |
| Total * | 10 | 39 | 1 | 50 | |

(* **NOTE:** Many respondents gave multiple responses)

3.3.3 Availability for participation in U3A activities

Respondents were asked when they were available to participate in U3A activities. Forty three respondents answered this question and responses are shown in Table 11. As was the case in the earlier survey, the most popular time was Monday-Friday daytime. Forty one (95%) of those who answered this question said they were available during weekdays. Just under half (47%) said they were available at weekends and Monday-Friday evenings were least popular, with just over a third of respondents choosing this option.

These results were very similar to those of the original survey except that more of the new members said they would be available to attend meetings at weekends (47% compared with 35%).

TABLE 11: Availability to participate in U3A activities by gender

| | Male | Female | Not specified | Total * N | (%) |
|-------------------------|------|--------|---------------|--------------|------|
| Mon- Fri Daytime | 10 | 31 | 0 | 41 | (95) |
| Mon- Fri Evening | 3 | 11 | 1 | 15 | (35) |
| Weekend | 4 | 15 | 1 | 20 | (47) |
| Total * | 10 | 32 | 1 | 43 | |

(* NOTE: Many respondents gave multiple responses)

3.4 Comments on Merton U3A

A final question asked members "From your impressions so far, does Merton U3A meet your expectations? If not, please indicate why and if possible suggest how you think things might be improved." Twenty three people made comments (19 females, three males and one who did not give their gender).

Positive comments

Eleven people made positive comments:

- "Very good" (Male: 75-9)
- "Short courses a brill (sic) idea" (Female, 60-4)
- "Yes it does (meet my expectations). Plenty of interesting possibilities" (Female: 80-4)
- "Excellent organisation and programme" (Female: 65-9)
- "Does meet my expectations. Communication is very good." (Female: 65-9)
- "Yes" (Does meet my expectations) (Female: 75-9)

- "My first direct contact and I have found those I have talked to very friendly. I look forward to attending events and getting involved with groups" (Female: 65-9)
- "U3A currently meets my expectations" (Male: 65-9)
- "Yes" (Does meet my expectations) (Female: 65-9)
- "Yes" (Does meet my expectations) (Female:65-9)
- "Very impressed" (Female: 60-4)

Too early to say

Six respondents felt that it was too early to give comments:

- "Early days" (Female: Age unspecified)
- "Too early to tell" (Female: 65-9)
- "Not enough time to consider this" (Female: 60-4)
- "Have only just joined" (Female: 75-9)
- "I cannot possibly comment yet having only just joined" (Female: 65-9)
- "Too early to know" (Female: 75-9)

Other comments

Seven respondents made other comments:

- "I live in Morden. It would be appreciated if some U3A courses could take place in the Morden Council building" (Female: 85-9)
- "It would be helpful to have more frequent initial meetings (when you get enough new members) to inform us by word of mouth what's available etc. (Female: 70-4)
- "Excellent organisation and programme, but no spaces in activities I am currently interested in. Will need to think under (sic)" (Female: 65-9)
- "Contacts for handyman" (Gender unspecified: 60-4)
- "I am looking for more active courses - especially dancing and exercise" (Female: 55-9)
- "Elderly people being at a loose end of being entertained" (sic) (Female: 70-4)
- "At introductory lunch have hot drinks and possibly charge a small fee i.e. £2 for lunch" (Female: 60-4)

4. Discussion

Readers are recommended to refer to the report on the survey of all existing members (Salvage and Mott, 2013) for more information on the background to and rationale for the original survey. The new members' survey discussed in this report was undertaken in order to identify changes in demographic profile, views and preferences and the focus in this section will be on comparisons between the results of the original survey and the new members' survey.

4.1 Characteristics of respondents

4.1.1 Age and gender

As in the original survey, the vast majority of respondents in the new members' survey were women (78% in the new members survey: 70% in original survey). The fact that fewer of the new members were aged 80 or more (4% of new members compared with 24%) is perhaps to be expected, given that the original survey probably included some individuals who had been members for a long period.

4.1.2 Ethnicity

Slightly fewer (77% compared with 88%) of the new members said they were 'White British'. This suggests that there could be a move towards the recruitment of more people from ethnic minority groups, but it will be necessary to monitor trends to establish whether or not MU3A is managing to continue to attract people from all ethnic groups represented in the London Borough of Merton.

4.1.3 Disability

The fact that a lower proportion of the new members reported disabilities in comparison with the proportion of members in the original survey may be explained partly by the different age-profiles of the two groups. However, Merton U3A will need to continue to ensure that its activities are accessible to all.

4.1.4 Educational qualifications

Previous research has suggested that U3A members are relatively well-educated compared with the general population (Midwinter 1986; Hebestreit 2006) and both the original MU3A survey and the survey of new members support this.

4.1.5 Employment

Although slightly more of the respondents in the new members' survey said they were still working part-time than was the case in the original survey (22% compared with 13%) the majority (78%) were retired. Since U3A aims to serve those no longer in full-time employment, this profile is as one might expect.

4.2 Becoming a member

4.2.1 Sources of information

The new members' survey provides further confirmation that the most common source of information on U3A is word of mouth. Slightly more of the new members reported having obtained information on the Internet (10% compared with 2% in the original survey) and while it seems likely that this will be a continuing trend, monitoring will be necessary to confirm this. Several sources of information mentioned in the original survey (Wimbledon Fair, newspapers, magazines, retirement courses and advertisements) were not mentioned by the new members and again, monitoring should help to establish whether there is an ongoing change in the ways in which people obtain information.

4.2.2 Reasons for joining

'To gain knowledge' remained the most frequently cited reason for joining U3A, confirming perceptions of U3A as a 'learning' organisation. There are a few differences between the new members' and the original survey (notably, an increase in the proportion who joined 'To make new friends' and who cited 'Curiosity' and a decrease in the proportion seeking 'Personal satisfaction') but again, monitoring will be necessary to establish whether there are any trends here.

4.2.3 Preferred learning methods

There were differences in preferences for learning methods between the original survey and the new members' survey, with 'Attending talks', 'Attending group visits' and 'Short courses' being chosen more frequently by new members. Merton U3A is actively developing a number of short courses and it is encouraging to note that new members appear to be interested in this form of learning. It is not known how much experience respondents had of the different learning methods offered by MU3A and it is possible that experience of different learning types could change the preferences expressed in the survey.

4.2.4 Preferred venues for learning

There were some interesting differences in preferences for learning venues between the original and the new members' surveys, with the new members being less likely to choose 'Members' homes' and more likely to choose 'Free public space' or 'Cafe/restaurant/pub'. There is food for thought here and Merton U3A will need to bear these preferences in mind in planning future activities. However, it may be that the preferences expressed here will change as a result of experiencing activities at different venues.

4.2.5 Availability to participate in U3A activities

In both the original and the new members' surveys, the most popular time for attending MU3A activities was Monday-Friday daytime. However, a slightly higher proportion of the new members said they would be available to attend meetings at weekends, and this should be borne in mind in planning activities.

4.3 Comments on MU3A

It is pleasing to observe the large number of positive comments concerning MU3A. Some new members did not feel able to comment as they had not been members for very long, but there are some useful suggestions here which can be borne in mind in forward planning.

5. Limitations of the survey

Of the 149 new members invited to attend the two new members' lunches, only 58 attended (39%) and of these, 50 completed a questionnaire. This means that 34% of those invited to the lunches completed a questionnaire. Caution needs to be exercised in acting on the results of the survey, since the (almost) two-thirds of invitees who did not attend could be significantly different in some way from those who did attend. One could speculate on the likely nature of these differences, but MU3A can only work with the information it has and ensure that the lines of communication between the Committee and the membership remain open.

6. Concluding comments

Although the number of respondents in the new members' survey was relatively low in comparison with that in the survey of the full MU3A membership, it suggested that there may be some differences in preferences between new members and the previously existing membership. MU3A is committed to ensuring that the activities it offers meet the needs and preferences of members and that everything possible is done to ensure that its membership is demographically representative of the geographical area it covers. Continuing to monitor MU3A's membership will greatly assist its Committee in ensuring that the organisation offers the most appropriate activities to its membership.

7. References

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8. Appendix: Merton U3A Questionnaire

The 2014 new members' survey questionnaire is shown overleaf.



MERTON U3A

Registered Charity No 291074

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2014

Participation in this survey is totally voluntary. Any information you choose to provide will be treated in strictest confidence and analysed anonymously. Information about the membership is useful in planning activities and resources according to the varied requirements of members. Your response to this survey would be much appreciated.

1. How did you hear about us? Friends/ Internet/ Library/ Other (please specify)

.....

2. Reason(s) for joining:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curiosity | <input type="checkbox"/> To mix with stimulating people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To gain knowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> To escape daily routine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> To make new friends/ |

Other (specify):

.....

3. Highest educational qualification (please tick)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No formal education | <input type="checkbox"/> College diploma or certificate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School leaving certificate (15-18) | <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational qualification | <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): | |

4. Preferred method of learning:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending talks | <input type="checkbox"/> Online learning course, with others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending group visits | <input type="checkbox"/> Online learning course, alone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short course with formal structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning informally with a group that meets regularly | |

5. Preferred venues for learning: Different activities require different types of venue, but we're trying to establish whether there's a preference for continuing to meet in private homes or other places (while keeping costs as low as possible)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In members' homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Free public place e.g. Library/Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Café/restaurant/pub | <input type="checkbox"/> No preference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hired space e.g. hall/room / workshop/sports facility | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

6. Employment status: Retired/Working full-time/Working part-time

(please circle)

7. Availability to participate in U3A activities: Mon-Fri daytime/evening; Weekend
(Please circle)

8. Gender: (please circle) Male/Female

9. Age (please circle)

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Under 50 | 50- 54 | 55- 59 | 60- 64 | 65- 69 | 70- 74 | 75- 79 | 80- 84 | 85- 89 | 90- 94 | 95- 99 | Over 100 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|

10. Do you have a disability affecting participation in U3A? Please tick:

Mobility

Sight

Hearing

Speaking

Other

11. Ethnicity: Tick the option that best describes your ethnic group or background

White British

White other

Asian British/ Asian

Black British/ Black African/ Black Caribbean or other Black background)

Other ethnic group

Mixed ethnic group

12. Is English your first spoken language? Yes/No

If no, please give your first spoken language(s):.....

13. Suggestions for improving Merton U3A:

From your impressions so far, does Merton U3A meet your expectations? If not, please indicate why and suggest how you think things might be improved.

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RETURNING THIS FORM:

To save postage, you may choose to return this survey with your Application/Application Renewal form. You may also choose to return it separately to guarantee anonymity.

Please send to: Susan Gregory, Merton U3A Membership Secretary,
130 Carshalton Park Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3SG
If you have any queries, please contact Sue on: 020 8395 8615