

Videos For Our Website

Purpose

Our committee would like our website to appeal more to prospective members, i.e. people who have recently retired or are about to retire. One way we hope to achieve this is to have some interesting videos that show the u3a in a good way, with our friendly members enjoying interesting activities. These videos will be available in a Video Gallery, which can be accessed directly from our website's home page.

Respecting Privacy

Appearing in videos is voluntary, and anyone planning to make a video should first talk to the prospective participants, explaining the purpose of the video and that it will be added to our website's video gallery which is in the public domain so anyone can see it on the internet. It is not acceptable to film anyone without their prior permission, with the possible exception of speakers/musicians who are on a stage performing to an audience.

Content

With physical activities, such as folk dancing, table tennis, petanque, walking football & cricket, music performance, etc, it will be good to show the members actively involved in these activities. Whereas when members have gone somewhere to look at something interesting, the video may start by briefly showing the group of members before turning the camera round to see whatever it is that the members are looking at. Maybe interview a committee member or group leader, asking them questions that invite them to talk about the positive aspects of u3a membership.

When emailing a video to our webmaster, please provide some helpful information that can be used to give the video a title and possibly a caption.

Standards

Any videos that we feel do not meet the above criteria may be restricted to appearing only in the archived photographs area, instead of being included in the video gallery.

Technical

Videos can be made using digital cameras, tablets or smartphones, and it is up to you to find out how to operate your particular camera/tablet/smartphone. You can either ask a friend who knows how to do it, or you can search for instructions on the internet.

Try to avoid camera shake while you are making the video. If you can't mount your camera/tablet/smartphone onto a tripod or monopod, try to find a convenient wall or gatepost etc that you can use to support your arms or hands.

Videos should not be too long or too short, about 1 to 3 minutes may be about right.

However, please ensure that the file size is not too large, because larger files take longer to transfer across the internet. File sizes of less than 10 Mb may be OK, but we have one video with a file size of 292 MB, which takes ages to start playing the video and it immediately pauses to wait for more of the file to be transferred. To see how bad this is, [click this link](#). The other problem with this video is that the camera is obviously hand-held without any other support, so there is noticeable camera shake. This video is excluded from our video gallery as it would not make a good impression.

The preferred video file format is mp4. Some websites provide a file format conversion service, which may be free for videos that are relatively small. So if your video is in a different file format, please try to get it converted to mp4 before emailing it to our webmaster.

