

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **I'd like to join the group but can't make it. Why does it always have to be on the same days?** It's important to ensure consistency of days to enable planning. We walk on two different days each month to enable more people to join us even if they can only make one of the days. When the group leadership changed late in 2025 we thought long and hard about whether or not to change the days but decided to keep it as it was, i.e. Wednesdays and Fridays. Unfortunately there will never be a day that suits everybody.
2. **What does it mean when you say members walk at their own risk?** U3A insurance covers members for public liability claims made against them but does not cover personal accident. Whilst walk leaders are responsible for planning and leading a safe route and are highly aware of health and safety, they cannot be held responsible if for example you fell en route. Leaders provide as much information as possible beforehand to enable you to make an informed decision as to whether the walk is suitable for you.
3. **I don't drive. Can you arrange a lift for me?** Group/walk leaders do not currently arrange lifts. Members need to make their own arrangements. There are a number of reasons for this, including the fact that many people are understandably wary of sharing a car with someone they don't know.
4. **I regularly car share. How much should I contribute towards fuel?** This is a matter between you and the driver. It is a private arrangement to be settled between the two of you.
5. **Can I bring my dog?** Dogs are not permitted on our walks and this is clearly stated in our Terms and Conditions.
6. **I'm not a member of U3A. Can I walk with you?** Non-members may join one taster session but after that must become a U3A member. Failure to comply would invalidate our insurance.
7. **Why do I have to reply to the walk leader and can't just hit 'reply' to the email communicating the walk details?** There are a number of reasons for this. Whilst group leaders carry out much of the admin work, including issuing the email because walk leaders don't have access to Beacon, fine detail of the walk is down to the walk leader. Walk leaders write the walk description, book lunch and know who to expect from the replies they have received. On occasion it may be necessary for them to limit numbers. There is no obligation for a group leader to be in attendance.
8. **Why are walks only around 5-6 miles and not longer?** In general, walks start at 10.00am and take around 2.5 -3 hours, finishing with lunch for those who want it. This is enough for most people in the group and enables us to be home mid afternoon. There are many other walking groups across the Fylde offering longer or more challenging walks for those who want.
9. **Why do you only offer one walk and not a choice of different levels or lengths?** With so few walk leaders it would not be possible to offer this choice, nor would it be practical in terms of numbers or organisation. There are already two other groups within Lytham St Anne's U3A who offer shorter, very local walks. Several members of our Walking Group also walk with one or both of these groups.