

Chester U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Information for new members

Registered Charity No 1048416

Who are U3A?

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE is a worldwide association of men and women who believe that keeping a lively mind is essential to mental and physical well being. The U3A started in France in 1972. The first British U3A was established in Cambridge in 1982, and Chester U3A was founded in 1993. There are now over 900 U3As throughout Britain.

'UNIVERSITY' - The word is meant in its original sense of people coming together for the pleasure of learning and sharing activities of their choice. No qualifications are required and none are given.

THIRD AGE - In our first age, we acquire our education. Our second age is concerned with a career and family obligations. Our third age brings more freedom of choice and the opportunity to follow favourite activities and interests. The U3A accepts that there is no age limit to learning and creative activity.

THIRD AGE MATTERS is our national magazine produced 5 times a year together with 3 issues of the educational supplement **Sources**. It is delivered direct to your registered address.

WHAT ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE IN CHESTER U3A?

1. CHESTER U3A - has two meetings a month. The Tuesday meeting (held on the first Tuesday of the month) usually has a guest speaker. The Thursday meeting (second Thursday of the month) is more informal and has a varied programme. Both meetings are held at 10.30 am at St. Columba's Church Hall, Newhall Road, off Plas Newton Lane, Chester. (No 51 Bus service departs approximately every 10 minutes from Chester Town Hall and stops by St Columba's Church.) Free tea/coffee and biscuits are provided at these meetings. Numbers are limited to 250 in St Columba's Hall.

2. GROUPS - Members of U3As form groups that centre round a particular interest. These groups offer a variety of opportunities for members to share their knowledge, skills and experience in an informal, friendly atmosphere. A list of these groups can be found on page 4 of this booklet.

Groups meet periodically in members' homes or in hired venues. Each group has a co-ordinator who acts as a convenor. Anyone wishing to join a group must initially contact the group co-ordinator directly. You will be given a detailed list of groups with contact telephone numbers when your application is accepted. All members of groups must be paid up members of Chester U3A.

3. SOCIAL - Chester U3A has a regular programme of outings to theatres and places of local interest. Longer trips are sometimes arranged to visit places both at home and abroad. On the Sunday following the monthly meeting we have a social event, which is known as S.A.S. - SUNDAY AT SEVEN. A number of U3A members and their friends meet at a local pub or restaurant for a meal.

COMMUNICATION

1. NEWS SHEET - Chester U3A has a monthly News Sheet. It contains details of events and outings plus other items of interest. The News Sheet can be obtained:

- From the Web - www.chesteru3a.org.uk.
- By post on receipt of six S.A.E. (C5 size) - the size of this page.
- By collecting it from Age UK, Queen Street, Chester.
- At the Tuesday and Thursday monthly meetings

2. WEBSITE - Chester U3A has its own website - www.chesteru3a.org.uk where you can keep up to date with all Chester U3A activities, group news and download the News Sheet.

3. U3A Nationally – You can find out more about the U3A philosophy and see what is happening across the country on the national website www.u3a.org.uk.

HOW DO I JOIN?

MEMBERSHIP FEE - Changes to membership subscriptions are agreed at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP - The membership year starts on 1st September. Existing members can renew their membership between 1st August and 30th September. At the end of September, membership is opened to new members and those who are renewing their membership are no longer given priority. After September 30th all applications for membership are dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis until it is declared by the committee that membership is suspended. Your name can then be added to a waiting list for application the following September.

GIFT AID - If you are an income tax payer you may complete the 'Gift Aid' declaration form when you join Chester U3A, see enclosed form. Your declaration allows Chester U3A to claim tax from the Inland Revenue. When your application is accepted you will receive a Welcome Pack containing the names and contact details of groups, a Welcome Booklet and your membership card.

If you wish to join please complete the Application and Gift Aid forms (if applicable) and return them to the membership secretary:

Post: The Membership Secretary, PO Box 167, Chester, CH2 1 WL

Study/Interest Groups

Groups offer a variety of opportunities for members to use their knowledge, skills and experiences, and to acquire new ones, in an informal friendly atmosphere. Chester U3A has about 90 groups offering the following subjects: Current lists on Chester U3a website.

Ancient Wisdom	Line Dancing
Art Appreciation (2 groups)	Literary Appreciation (2 groups)
Bird Watching (2 groups)	Local History
Bridge (2 groups)	Meditation
Collecting	Mosaic Making
Computer Users Group	Music (3 groups)
Crafts	Needlecraft (2 groups)
Cycling (2 groups)	The Old Grumpies
Current Affairs (2 groups)	Opera Appreciation
Digital Photography	Painting (2 groups)
Environmental Issues	Photography
Family History	Play Reading
Film Appreciation (2 groups)	Popular Science
Film History, French Film	Psychology (2 groups)
Flower Arranging	Racketball
French (4 groups)	Reading (3 groups)
Gardening	Regional Heritage
Geology	Scrabble
German (2 groups)	Science
Heraldry (occasional)	Social Justice
History	Spanish (4 groups)
Holistic Therapy	Story Telling
Industrial Heritage (2 groups)	Sunday at 7 (Dining Group)
Italian Improvers	Table Tennis
Jazz Appreciation	Walking (7 Groups different levels)
Knitting (2 groups)	Writing (2 groups)

For latest listing see the website: www.chesteru3a.org.uk/groups/listing.htm

DISABILITIES

The venue for the main monthly meetings is fully accessible and has a hearing loop. Most public venues used by groups (eg village halls) are fully accessible and some have hearing loops. Groups in private houses may be accessible, please check first. Our website displays Chester U3A's disability policy.

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