



Registered Charity 1048416

## **Information for new members**

## **WHO ARE U3A?**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE** is a world wide 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 600 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 University of the Third Age accepts that there is no age limit to learning and creative activity

**THIRD AGE NEWS** is a national magazine produced quarterly. It deals with news of U3As across the country and is available at the monthly meeting.

## **WHAT ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE IN CHESTER U3A?**

**1. CHESTER U3A** - has two meetings every 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) usually has a community speaker, an 'Internet cafe' and 'Help desk'. Both meetings are held at 10.00 am at St. Columba's Church Hall, Newhall Road, off Plas Newton Lane, Chester. (No 51 Bus service departs approx. 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.

**3. GROUPS** - Members of U3A 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.

Groups meet periodically in members' homes or in rented accommodation. 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.

## 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

1. From the Web - [www.ChesterU3A.org.uk](http://www.ChesterU3A.org.uk).
2. By post on receipt of six S.A.E (C5 size) - the size of this page.
3. By collecting it from 'Age Concern' Queen St., Chester.
4. At the monthly meetings

**2. WEBSITE** - Chester U3A has its own website - [www.ChesterU3A.org.uk](http://www.ChesterU3A.org.uk) where you can keep up to date with all Chester U3A activities and the latest news and News Sheet.

## HOW DO I JOIN?

**MEMBERSHIP FEE** - The membership subscription is agreed at a E.G.M. (Extraordinary General Meeting) held in summer each year.

**MEMBERSHIP** - The membership year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Existing members can renew their membership between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 31<sup>st</sup> August. From 1<sup>st</sup> September, membership is opened to new members and those who are renewing their membership are no longer given priority.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September all applications for membership are dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis until it is declared by the committee that membership is closed.

**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 the Application and Gift Aid forms (if applicable) and return them to the membership secretary :

The Membership Secretary - e-mail - [members@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:members@chesteru3a.org.uk)  
Post: The Membership Secretary, PO Box 167, Chester, CH2 1WL

## Examples of the Interest/Study groups offered by Chester U3A

Further details contact the Group Liaison Officer  
email - [Groups@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:Groups@chesteru3a.org.uk)  
Web site [www.chesteru3.org.uk](http://www.chesteru3.org.uk)

- \* **Art and Craft Groups** (Art Appreciation, Painting, Film Appreciation, Tapestry, Needlecraft Collecting, Crafts)
- \* **Health and Leisure Groups** (Strolling, Ambling, Walking, Tuesday Walking, Friday Walking, Holistic Therapies, Ballroom dancing, Sunday at Seven)
- \* **History Groups** (Industrial Heritage, Local History, History, Regional Heritage, Family History, Heraldry)
- \* **Language Groups** (Spanish, Spanish for Beginners, Spanish Improvers, German Conversation, , French Conversation, French Intermediate)
- \* **Literacy Groups** (Literary Appreciation, Creative Writing, Reading, Play Reading, Story Telling, Poetry)
- \* **Mind Games Groups** (Bridge, Scrabble, Chess)
- \* **Music Groups** (Music, Singing for Pleasure, Jazz Appreciation)
- \* **Science and Nature** (Science, Environmental Issues, Geology, Popular Science Lectures, Bird Watching, Wild Flowers, Photography, Ancient Wisdoms, Psychology)



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