

Welcome to Cheadle (Staffs) u3a and we re pleased to welcome you as a member to our enthusiastic and friendly u3a. You are joining over 700 local members who are keen to learn, laugh, live, sharing knowledge and making friendships.

Interest groups.

This is our heart, with over 50 groups covering a huge range of interests and activities. All our groups are listed on the website and in the latest print version of the programme. Our main base is at The Guild Hall but groups use a number of local venues in Cheadle town and further a field.

How to join a group. Each group has a Leader who facilitates the sessions. To join get in touch with the Leader via the website, by the telephone number on the programme or by contacting the Groups Coordinator. There are spaces available but some groups operate a waiting list to ensure fair access. When a place is confirmed it is just a matter of turning up and paying the £2 session fee. All other costs are incidental and may include a refreshments fund or materials costs, all will become clear.

Monthly Coffee mornings. Everyone is welcome at the Coffee mornings held at The Guild Hall on the second Wednesday of the month, from 10 till 12 and £2 entrance fee. Meet other members, socialise and keep in touch with the Committee.

Social Activities. We organise our own events and also take part in local events.

Membership Fees. Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each calendar year. Our membership fees are kept at a modest amount to cover the annual levy to the national Third Age Trust, publicity, printing, and the basic costs to maintain the organisation in Cheadle. Our accounts are independently examined annually and reported to the Charity Commission.

If you are a tax payer, we can reclaim Gift Aid which then contributes to our funds. Please make sure we have a record if you are happy for us to claim on your behalf. If there are changes in circumstances please let the membership secretary know.

How you can Help. We value the experience, knowledge and energy you bring when you join Cheadle u3a. We are all volunteers and the emphasis is on sharing and lifelong learning, laughing, having fun and making friends on the way.

Settle in and enjoy being with fellow members, supporting events, helping out, or organising and planning. You're welcomed

You may wish to lead a group, start a group or run a short course. Ask, share your ideas you will be supported by fellow members or Committee members.

Keeping in Touch. Our **website** is developing as a resource, please google Cheadle Staffs u3a. Our monthly **newsletter** contains information, group updates and news, we are also on **Facebook**. You are welcome to contribute, contact the Editor.

Third Age Matters is the national magazine of u3a, subscribe by paying the additional fee when renewing membership or read on line for free.

If you do not have internet access, let us know and you will be able to get information from a buddy. **Note: please let us know if you change email address or contact details.**

Cheadle u3a Trustees. We are an independent registered charity, number 1072364, and are run by an Executive Committee of Trustees and some non Trustees. All Trustees are members and volunteer their time and energy. The Cheadle u3a is run in accordance with our Constitution approved at the AGM and following Charity Commission guidance. When you have settled in, we encourage and welcome members to become involved in the running and management of our u3a.

Annual General Meeting, AGM. This is held in April each year and members are encouraged to attend to support the committee, vote on policies, elect committee members and share views about how we move forward as an organisation.

Policies. We have a number of policies on the website for member's reference.

Please take note of the **Code of Conduct** for members:

- Uphold, follow and promote the principles of the u3a movement.
- Comply with the Policies of Cheadle u3a regarding Health and Safety, Equality, Diversity etc.
- Always act in the best interests of Cheadle u3a and strive to uphold its reputation.
- Abide by the terms and conditions of Cheadle u3a Constitution.
- Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
- Comply with and support the decision making process of the elected committee.
- Advise the committee of any changes in personal details or Gift Aid status.
- Pay fees promptly.

Adherence is a condition of membership of Cheadle u3a.

Data Protection. Your membership data is kept securely. We do not share information with any other organisation.

Group Leaders have details available to assist with the smooth running of groups.

Committee members have access as and when necessary for Gift Aid, Group or Health and Safety purposes.

The data of those who subscribe to the u3a Third Age Matters magazine is used to implement the subscription.

Cheadle u3a complies with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation.

About the u3a movement. Cheadle (staffs) u3a is part of a national, the Third Age Trust, and international movement, and you can get access to many regional or national events with membership of our u3a.

Cheadle u3a operates as an independent charity, one of over 1000 UK in the UK. Cheadle u3a has recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. It is a non religious and non political organisation based on the principles of self-help, mutual aid and co-operation.

We hope you will enjoy the experience of belonging to our u3a and we look forward to seeing you at events and as a member in a group or groups.

Chair; Jenny Crump

Vice Chair: Roy Scott

Secretary; Marj Povey

February 2023