



Welcome from the Chair of Bury U3A



Hello new members!

Thank you for joining Bury U3A. I hope that you enjoy our groups and activities. Our motto is 'Live, Laugh and Learn'.

Communication

There are lots of ways we keep in touch with you. The website is constantly updated. You might like to look – Special Events, Registration groups (where we ask members to express an interest in a possible new group), the Events page and Members Forum, in addition to our regular group activities.

We will send you a quarterly newsletter via the internet. We always welcome contributors for this. You will also receive a bi-monthly Information sheet outlining which groups have vacancies and any new

groups.

You might want to look at the National U3A website, there are interesting things to be found www.u3a.org.uk

You will be sent a quarterly magazine directly from the National U3A office called 'Third Age Matters'.

As we have over six hundred members, email is our most effective way of contacting members. If you don't have access to the internet, perhaps you could ask a friend or family member to look at the website with you.

Groups

All of our groups are advertised on our website. You might find that the ones you want to join are full, don't be too disappointed, just join the Waiting List. You could start a new group yourself! It's not difficult and you'd have lots of help.

Our organisation is led by members and everybody is a volunteer. Our groups all depend on a member being willing to lead them, so it's not like Adult Learning.

We have groups in members' houses, or in locations in central Bury where we hire rooms, or further afield if it's an activity group like photography.

We try to choose places where there is disabled access and that are easy to get to. If you have any mobility, hearing or sight difficulties, please tell your Group Leader.

When a group takes place in a hired room, we ask members to contribute a small amount to cover the cost of the room hire, normally £1-£2. We keep costs down as much as possible.



Art Appreciation group's trip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in August 2017.

If the activity is a Lunch group, theatre outing, coach trip etc. then the cost will be at a normal rate. Theatre tickets are cheaper for us because of concessions.

Monthly meetings

Our monthly meetings are held at Bury Town Hall, the Elizabethan Suite, on the third Thursday of every month except August and December. They start at 1:30 and finish about 3pm. We always have an interesting speaker. Details of the monthly meetings can be found on our website. If you have any ideas for monthly speakers, please contact Eleanor Murdoch, she is on the Board of Trustees.

The monthly meeting is a good opportunity to meet other members and ask questions of the Trustee Board members.

In the Lancaster Suite, we have sign-up sheets for any new groups and activities. This information is presented here before it goes on to the website.

There is also a help desk for the website upstairs at the monthly meetings.

If you are interested in the theatre, opera or trips and might want to sign up for these, please bring a cheque book to secure your place. The Group Leaders haven't got time to chase up members for money between monthly meetings.

We hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) every May at the Elizabethan Suite. We would be very grateful if you could attend as we are a charity and need a quorum at our AGM. We cannot continue if we don't have an AGM. We try to keep the business part to a minimum.

Membership cards

We don't give membership cards now, but if you want to print one, please sign on to the website, click on the 'My Information' button and follow the instructions.

It is very important that you have 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) contact details in a prominent place, or that you give them to your Group Leader. If you have a medical condition/allergy and you might need an

ambulance calling, please alert your Group Leader.

We are not doctors as you can imagine, but it's better to be safe than sorry.

Membership fees

You are asked to renew your membership before the 1st April. You can do this online, or at a monthly meeting, or send a cheque to our membership secretaries.

Supporting Bury U3A

Bury U3A is only as good as the members who are happy to lead groups, or go on to the Trustee Board (the Committee). Please think about taking an active role and not leave it up to others. If we all sat back and didn't want to 'step up', Bury U3A would cease to exist.

Have a go at giving your time for other members by taking on a role within U3A – you'll probably enjoy it, learn something and feel good about yourself.

There are many ways to help Bury U3A without necessarily leading a group, or being on the Trustee Board.

We always need people to help with our website - you don't need any previous experience, just an interest in learning all about it.

We need Meeters and Greeters at Monthly meetings. Doreen Hawk and Krys Borritt

would be very grateful if you could help them find new venues and telephone new members to check everything is going well for them. There are many other roles as well.

If you have any questions, problems or ideas, please contact the Chair, or any of the Board members. We all wear lanyards at the monthly meetings and our contact details are on the website.

More information on our website

www.buryu3a.org.uk

**Meetings every third
Thursday of month**

Elizabethan Suite

Bury

