



**Hello Cheadle U3A Members!**  
**Welcome to the February 2021 eNews**  
Editor: Roy Scott - [roy.scott@cheadleu3a.org](mailto:roy.scott@cheadleu3a.org)  
Or telephone: **07751 180 812**

Items for the next e-News before 9 a.m. **Wednesday 24th February 2021** please. It would be helpful if people sent their news items in good time, otherwise they risk not getting them published.

---

Many of our groups are presently inactive, although some are managing to remain busy and in contact. There may be some light at the end of the tunnel, but not bright enough yet to permit normality as we knew it. In the meantime we will try to keep you informed about other activities you may be interested in. There is a lot of information to take on board this month but I hope you will find something of interest.

### **And now for something from Headquarters.**

#### ***What has the Third Age Trust ever done for us?***

Well, they provide loads of learning resources (soon via an on line Learning Hub). They have 70+ designated Subject Advisers on all sorts of topics for Study Groups – everything from Amateur Radio to Yoga. They also do excellent summer schools and events in ‘normal’ years, too, open to all u3a and their members.

#### ***Yeh, ok, but....***

They send round a national e-newsletter on matters of interest and the doings of u3a and their members – sign up at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> And they publish Third Age Matters magazine which is delivered to your door for 0.62p an issue for a 90+ page really great magazine. And now they’ve started podcasts, produced by u3a members with experience in broadcasting!

Oh, and they give excellent advice on everything from finance (special workshops on that one!) to Covid – not only general advice, but answering specific problems when local u3a hit them.

They also create ‘national’ groups for things that local u3a might not have enough interest in or enough members to make a group viable – on writing, for example.

#### ***Yes, but....***

And they created a model constitution for local u3a which keeps us all legal and operating to best charity commission practice.

They also do branding and marketing materials to help us present a lively and professional ‘look’, and attract new members.

### ***But do they help us with insurance?***

Yes they have national insurance policies which cover both the local u3a and also all the individual members when involved in any u3a activity. And all trustees have full Indemnity Insurance - including from the time they're a Steering Group forming a new u3a (oh yes, they also give a start up grant).

Also, for those local u3a that want to see it, they have a 'Beacon' system for managing membership, keeping records, and managing Study Group membership and activities.

### ***Is that all? Hmmmmmm.....***

Oh I forgot to mention that they help new u3a get set up and going, and they support regional/national **networks of u3a so they can support and learn from each other.**

### ***Any good in a crisis?***

They've given great advice during Covid, both about being safe and what can be kept going, as well as providing high quality events on line available to all u3a and their members during the pandemic

### ***Do they speak up for us 'oldies', tho'?***

Yes they do, working with other charities and groups to make the case for aging well and gracefully!

### ***Anything new on the horizon?***

Two great new initiatives. One is branded merchandise – anything from pens to sweatshirts, branded with your u3a name or the name of your particular Study Group. AND a new Discounting Scheme which will easily save you double or more the cost of your u3a Annual Sub if you sign up and use it. Both coming soon.

---

## **WINTER SERIES of Evening PRESENTATIONS**

### **February:**

**3rd** - (Wed)- Family History - English & Welsh Censuses - Given by Steve Williams

**9th** - The Arts & Craft Movement(1 of 2) - Given by David Slade

**12th** - 'International Development - Britain's Future Role' - Given by Rt. Hon Andrew Mitchell

**14th** - Quiz

**19th** - 'The Story of China' - Given by Professor Michael Wood

**23rd** - 'Arts & Crafts Movement' (2 of 2) - Given by David Slade

**26th** - Britain Adrift On A Large Ocean - given by Philip Collins

**28th** - Quiz

### **March:**

**2nd** - Living & Working in Hong Kong - given by Denis McNicholl

**5th** - Climate Change: Will China Save the Planet - given by Isobel Hilton OBE

**12th** - Iran, Islam and Democracy - given by Professor Ali Ansari

**14th** - Quiz

**16th** - Living & Working in China - given by Denis McNicholl

**19th** - The Fraying of The Anglo-Scottish Union - given by Professor Sir Tom Devine

**26th** - The Future of Politics for the Left and Centre - given Lord David Blunkett

**28th** - Quiz

Some of the above may change.

**NOTE** - Pugin presentations are being repeated due to demand.

Others could be added, while our Sunday night Quiz will still accept teams of up to 4 people.

### **Zoom Quizzes**

Steven is now running a Sunday night Quiz for U3A members via Zoom. It is based on the principle that this is a social activity, fun and depends on honesty and trust. (NO Googling please)

The quiz will start around 7.15 and finish before 9.00.

### **What to do now:**

Get together a team of 4 (max) either from another household / bubble or zoom friends, give yourself a team name, nominate a captain and send this information to Steven.

All communications will be through the Team Captain.

Initially there are only spaces for 10 teams, of which we already have 5

**Contact:- [steven.booth@theadleu3a.org](mailto:steven.booth@theadleu3a.org)**

### **Horse Manure**

This well rotted manure is available. Under lockdown and for safety reasons, I fill your bags(up to 50 litres). A donation is gratefully received, to an animal rescue sanctuary.

**Contact [steven.booth@theadleu3a.org](mailto:steven.booth@theadleu3a.org)**

---

### **Jigsaw Group**

They are still circulating the U3A jigsaws which are proving to be a lifeline to many. To take advantage of these and have them delivered, please contact Joyce Burton on **01538 702445**.

---

### **A message to all you creative people out there.**

Dear member,

I'm writing on behalf of King Lear Prizes, the national creative arts competition for older people during the COVID-19 pandemic. I wanted to inform you about the latest round of the competition, which has just opened to entries, and is running from January to 19th March 2021. You may be interested in hearing about the competition, which is specifically for amateurs and beginners who are over the age of 65. You will know better than me which of your groups might be interested! The competition accepts entries in poetry, real stories (short stories from people's lives), art and musical performance, and there are over £2,000 of prizes on offer. The winners will be picked by our panel of expert judges including Gyles Brandreth and Julian Lloyd Webber. Our website gives more information about the competition and the organisation which runs it!**<https://www.kinglearprizes.org.uk>**. If you think some of your members would be interested in taking part, please feel free to share this information with them. It's a great creative project for people to get stuck into particularly during this lockdown, and it's an opportunity for your members to improve their creative skills. If you require any more information, please don't hesitate to ask. All our very best wishes,

Yours sincerely, **Cristina Centelles**.

## **Dear Fellow U3A Members, Feelings of isolation and depression**

At the present time, as we see no end to Covid-19, and it is unlikely we will be able to take part in many of our usual U3A activities any time soon, we are aware that some of our members may be becoming isolated – particularly as winter advances. It is not an easy problem to solve. If you know of someone who lives on their own why not give them a phone call? You may be the only person they have spoken to for some time.

Also, we are fortunate in the Staffordshire Moorlands to have an organisation which addresses loneliness and isolation in older people. Moorlands Home Link, which is based in Cheadle and serves the whole of the Moorlands area, has over 30 years experience of helping people to stay “in touch” and involved. They offer befriending services – particularly over the telephone at this time, when someone will be linked to ring on a regular basis for a chat. They offer support in other ways by providing hot meals delivered to the door and transport by volunteers using their own vehicles.

If you, or someone you know, may benefit from these services Home Link’s number is **01538 750511**. They are also on Facebook and the web and their email address is:- [\*\*office@moorlandshomelink.co.uk\*\*](mailto:office@moorlandshomelink.co.uk)

---

## **Membership Fees**

As you now know you do not have to pay any membership fees at the present time. However, when fees are reinstated ( probably from 1st January 2022 ) you will also have to decide whether you want to receive the TAM magazine. Normally this is free to you, but a decision has been made that members should now pay for it. Provision has been made for you to indicate your choice when you renew your membership. This will also apply to complimentary members.

---

## **Notice of Death**

The past 12 months have been difficult and, sadly, some of our members haven't made it through the year. Just recently we have, at the request of families, notified the deaths of members by email. We would like families to notify Dawn Maley, our almoner, in the first place and she will liaise with me so that we can post the notices on the enews instead. On behalf of the committee I would like to offer our condolences to all those who have suffered a loss.

---