

Glossop U3A

New Member's Welcome Booklet.

Are you

- no longer in full time employment,
- living in Glossop or the surrounding area,
- wondering how to benefit from the time retirement has given you?

Do you want to

- add to or extend your skills and knowledge in the company of like-minded people,
- share your skills and knowledge with others,
- enjoy the company of other 3rd agers in social settings?

Then becoming a member of Glossop U3A could be right for you. This booklet will help you investigate more.

All of us get to a time when we begin to think of ourselves as being in our Third Age. Our first was as a child, growing up and going through school getting skills and qualifications. The second was as a worker, supporting ourselves and our dependents with all of the responsibilities that were entailed. In the Third Age much of this has fallen away. But the 3rd Agers are no more a uniform group than any other for we vary in age across more than five decades, may still be carers of parents or grandchildren, and our physical needs may be little or great. What you can be sure of is that in U3A

there are many people just like you!

1. Groups and Activities

Get the best out of your membership.



The purpose of being a member is to participate in one or more of the Groups and Activities. As U3A is a self-help organisation it draws upon the talents, skills and experience of its membership. These can be many and varied, and every new member has lifetime experiences to draw from and share.



Participation in the Groups and Activities of U3A means having a willingness to contribute and this may include:

- making a short presentation at a group meeting
- organising a theme for a session
- acting as a Group leader or coordinator
- suggesting and starting up a new group.



We are able to run a wide range of Groups because members are willing to act as organisers, coordinators or leaders. We are always trying to expand our range but it is inevitable that some groups have to be limited in size because of the capacity of available rooms. We hope that we will be able to meet your needs but if you do find that a group is full please do not be too disappointed, there are others. And—if you join us with a particular interest and want to start a group we will be very enthusiastic to support you.

In short, to get the best from Glossop U3A members should be active rather than passive. As with all lifetime education the more a member puts in the more they get out. The more members we have the more active we can be, the more fun and enjoyment we can have and the more groups we can offer.

2. What Groups and Activities run in Glossop U3A?



Have Fun!



Enjoyment



Interest Groups

Art Group	History
Art Appreciation	Jewellery Making
Book Group	Knit and Natter
Botany	Local History
Bowling	Military History
Creative Fashion	Monday Walkers
Crochet Group	Monthly Strollers
Curling	Music Appreciation
Current Affairs	Poetry Group
Dancing for Fun	Quilting
Easy Listening	Quiz Group
Flower Arranging	Sacred Geometry
Food Appreciation	Singing for Pleasure
Genealogy	Speakers on Mondays
Globe Trotting	Thursday Group
Good Companions	Writing
Grow it, Cook it, Eat it	
Grow your own	

**Outings Trips
& Visits**
 Alice's trips
 Hallé Concerts
 Travel
 Transport
 Theatre

Social learning



Sharing

Please remember that all these groups are available because members voluntarily run them. Over the course of time new Groups appear while others cease.

As we are constantly trying to start up new groups there may be others additional to those above. Check our website at www.glossopu3a.info

3. What is the educational part of U3A?

Although called a University we do not concern ourselves with qualifications, examinations or testing. It is a place for all, a place where everyone with an interest in enjoyable lifelong learning can come together. The ethos of the U3A is to share our knowledge and experiences, and develop our own individual capabilities by learning from other members.



Is Glossop U3A part of a University?



Each U3A is essentially a cooperative, self-help, voluntary organisation with membership open to all 3rd Agers no longer in full-time employment. The sole source of funding for each U3A is the members' subscriptions.



In the UK all U3As are local and autonomous. This is its strength, in that each local U3A can decide what it would like to do and then arrange it. All the 870 UK U3As are linked together through the Third Age Trust, and there is a national membership of over 295,000.

4. Is Glossop U3A a part of a wider movement?

The U3A is an International organisation for retired people (3rd agers), with leisure time available to meet like-minded members, to expand their knowledge, share interests, acquire new skills, and make new friends. Launched in France in 1972, the movement has now spread worldwide. It began in the UK in the early 1980s and has gone from strength to strength.

The **Third Age** refers to the period of time after the **First Age** of childhood dependence and the **Second Age** of full-time employment and/or parental responsibility. Anyone in the Third Age can join U3A and this includes people who are still working part time. No qualifications are needed and none are given. There is no lower age limit for membership.

5. What does membership entail?

- There is one level of membership and everyone who joins shares the title *Member*.
- All members share the same rights and responsibilities with respect to Glossop U3A
- Every member pays the base fee that covers-
 - Affiliation fees to the U3A Trust
 - Hire of the room in Bradbury House for the monthly coffee morning.
 - Administrative and development costs for Glossop U3A
- Each group runs as a self-financing, non-profit making entity. Costs vary according to the nature of the study or activity but appropriate group fees are applied either annually or termly for groups that meet in hired venues.

So you have decided to join us. Congratulations! You now need to get in touch with our membership secretary by e-mailing membership.glossopu3a@gmail.com or at Bradbury House on 1st Thursday of each month when we hold a coffee morning, 9.30am to 11.30am, fill in the Temporary Member's form and select the groups you want to join. We can then let you know when those groups meet and put you in touch with the group coordinators.

6. Keeping in touch with what is coming up.

For new members, knowing what is going on can be somewhat puzzling as some groups meet in members' homes, others have fixed locations in rooms that are hired and some are flexible in time and location. There are several key places where all members can find information about the programme and new events.

1. The website at www.glossopu3a.info includes lists of all groups, all outings and all activities. Members can book any outing or event by phoning or e-mailing the organiser. All members should have appropriate details but if not, contact Sylvia Rogerson (Group and Activities Organiser) on 01457 866071.
2. The Thursday Meeting in Bradbury House gives an opportunity for members (after 11.00am) to make enquiries and bookings.
3. The monthly coffee morning in Bradbury House on the 1st Thursday of each month gives an opportunity for members to make enquiries and bookings.
4. All group meetings should have information about activities available.

7. Management of Glossop U3A

The whole membership elects members to the management committee at the AGM. Management Committee Members automatically become trustees of the Glossop U3A and are collectively responsible for all aspects of the U3A on behalf of all its members. They are trustees because it is a registered, not for profit, educational charity.

Glossop U3A has its own Constitution, based on the model constitution for all U3As. It also has a full set of Standing Orders that add to the Constitution. The Constitution can only be changed through a General Meeting of the membership but the Standing Orders can be changed by the Management Committee.

The Constitution and Standing Orders are available to all members through any member of the Management Committee, or viewed on the website at www.glossopu3a.info

In addition, the group coordinators meet to share their best practises and to coordinate activities.

We always welcome members who want to get involved with the management of U3A Glossop.

8. The Aims of Glossop U3A are to

1. advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full time gainful employment in Glossop and its surrounding locality,
2. provide facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

These aims are an extract from the constitution. The Glossop U3A aims are met through our wide range of Groups, which span cultural, social, recreational and physical activities. Most Groups have a group coordinator or organiser but a few are run on a cooperative basis. We are always looking for opportunities to open new Groups; every new member is a possible source of a new group that could enrich the experiences we can offer and we are always open to new suggestions!

9. And Finally...

U3A stands for the University of the Third Age, which is a self-help organisation for people no longer in full time employment providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. It consists of local U3As all over the UK, which are charities in their own right and are run entirely by volunteers. Local U3As are learning cooperatives which draw upon the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members to organise and provide interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership. The teachers learn and the learners teach.

The U3A approach to learning is – learning for pleasure. There is no accreditation or validation and there are no assessments or qualifications to be gained.