

A GUIDE TO WOOLER u3a

Wooler u3a

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What we do

Welcome to Wooler u3a. We are glad you are joining us and we hope you find the information in this short booklet useful. If there is anything else you would like to know, please ask. Contact numbers of Committee members and group leaders are listed below.

There is a regular meeting on the second Monday of the month in order to keep in touch, hear about forthcoming events and, on alternate months, listen to an interesting speaker. (Look out for clashes with Bank Holidays when the date can change). These meetings are held at the Cheviot Centre.

Wooler u3a currently has a number of groups that meet regularly, as well as occasional events and excursions. The charge for transport, tickets, etc. is payable on booking.

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The monthly and weekly groups meet at various times and in various venues. They cover many interests and enable members to share their knowledge, skills, and expertise in the friendly and informal way that is unique to the u3a. Details about our current groups are set out in the following pages.

If you have an interest that you are willing to share with others or there is a topic in which you are interested which our current groups do not cover, talk to one of our committee members about it: see pages 3 and 4 for contact details.

It only takes one or two interested people to get a group going and you do not have to be a specialist in the subject; just interested and enthusiastic. We all learn from one another and there are resources available from u3a National Resource Centre to support groups.

There is a modest annual subscription, part of which goes to The Third Age Trust that supports all u3a groups by providing advice, resources, and events. The rest is used to fund the group's activities; e.g. money for speakers, transport, photocopying, etc. In addition, those attending are asked for a nominal payment for room hire and refreshments, usually about £2 per meeting. However, please do not think that you have to commit to a group without first trying it. You can try a couple of meetings with any group before paying the annual subscription.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023-24

Chair	Peter W. Davies 07903 817469 or 01668 281914 peterwinder@icloud.com
Vice-Chair	Steve Mellor 07710 498923 stevemellor@me.com
Treasurer	Andy Middleton 07973 703877 andymiddleton000@gmail.com
Secretary	Judith Oughton Wooleru3a@outlook.com
Networking Liaison	Jan Davies maisondavies@icloud.com 01668 281914
Groups Co-ordinator	Steve Mellor 07710 498923
Wooler u3a Website	Colin Watson cgwatson@btinternet.com
Speaker arrangements	Gill Brooks gillbrk@btinternet.com Jan Davies maisondavies@icloud.com
Bob Taylor	01573 223520 / 07483 877545 bobtayl69@gmail.com

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Committee meetings First Wednesday Alternate months 10.30am Including coffee.	Monthly meeting with Speaker Second Monday Alternate months Coffee 10.45am Speaker 11-12	Monthly meeting Coffee and news Second Monday Alternate months Coffee 10.45am Meeting 11-12.
6 th December	13 th November	11 th December
7 th February	8 th January	12 th February
3 rd April	11 th March	8 th April
5 th June	13 th May	10 th June
7 th August {Nominations}	8 th July	12 th August
3 rd October	9 th September	AGM 21 st October <i>*3rd Monday</i>
4 th December	11 th November	9 th December

Note: *Easter Monday 1st April; Spring Bank Holidays 6th and 27th May; Summer Bank Holiday 26th August.*

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GROUPS

Groups don't easily fall into categories but the table below might help you to find what you're looking for.

Art & Culture	Art Appreciation Painting and Drawing Opera & Ballet
History	History
Literature	Poetry Corner Reading for Pleasure
Games and Physical Activity	Board Games Bridge Carpet Bowls Table Tennis Exercise
Science and Enquiry	Geology Philosophy for Fun Quiz Computer Advice Wine Appreciation {!}

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Art Appreciation Fourth Tuesday of the month

With the use of visual aids we examine the works of artists past and present. Comments and discussion are encouraged and occasional visits to galleries and exhibitions are arranged.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 2.30-4.30
Contact: Robert Taylor
01573 223520 / 07483 877545
bobtayl69@gmail.com

Board Games Fourth Monday of the month September to June

A mix of board games, Scrabble, Rummikub, etc., offers the opportunity for a relaxed, social couple of hours.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 2.30-4.30
Contact: Maggie Harker 01668 282083
maggie.harker@gmail.com

Bridge Every Friday

A group for a variety of abilities. Instruction is offered to beginners, but more advanced players are welcome too.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 2.00 – 5.00
Contact: Christine Yeaman 01668 281148
theyeamansjy@gmail.com

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Carpet Bowls

Every Tuesday

The group meets every Tuesday morning. Currently we have a membership of between 10 and 14 persons of varying abilities playing on two full sized carpets. We enjoy a good-humoured couple of hours and consider this as important as the friendly rivalry within the games.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 10.00-12 noon.

Contacts:

Dick Rutherford: rjtowermartin1@outlook.com

Tom Wilkinson: thomas.wilkinson324@btinternet.com

Opera & Ballet

First Monday afternoon at 2.30pm
and fourth Thursday evening at 7pm.

The opera and ballet group meet twice a month to enjoy watching an opera and a ballet together on a large wide-screen television. This takes place in a member's house and space limits numbers to ten, so it is essential to reserve a place for those productions you wish to see. There is also an opportunity to learn more about the chosen work and to discuss the performance.

Contact

Veronica Gilbert 01668 281362
veronica.gil@btinternet.com

History

First Tuesday of the month

This is a group for those interested in history. Members participate by researching a subject which they find of interest then presenting their findings to the group for discussion. There is plenty of group support, and there is

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no pressure on people to actively research as they may participate in other ways. Subjects are wide ranging and we occasionally arrange for a speaker and organise trips to places of historical interest.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 2.30-4.30
Contact: Joan Thomas 01890 882853

Painting & Drawing Second and fourth Thursdays
of the month

Come along and join a friendly untutored group in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. All levels of experience are welcome including absolute beginners. Group members should bring their own equipment.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 2.30-4.30
Contact: Joyce Robertson 07368 485314
robertsonjoy@icloud.com

Philosophy for Fun Third Wednesday of the month

Stretch your mind by exploring the big questions! Asking and answering questions stimulates critical thinking by drawing out ideas and underlying presumptions. That's the theory...there may or may not be an answer, but with lively discussion, have fun in the process!

Venue: Cheviot Centre 10.00-11.30
Contact: Maggie Harker 01668 282083
maggie.harker@gmail.com

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Computer Group First Thursday of each month.

Individual help until 10.30 and then for the rest of the time the current study is about iPads and iPhones.
Notes provided.

Venue: Remote room Cheviot Centre 9.45 for 10.00
Contact: Mo Brown
 brown.m.a@icloud.com

Geology First Thursday of the month

This is the joy of discovering the reasons for the shape and changing formation of the land around us, with particular interest in the geology of Northumberland and the Cheviot Hills. In addition, we examine the diversity and origins of life through the existence of fossils and issues such as our planet's changing thermal climate. We also hope to run occasional, local field trips.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 2.30-4.00
Contact: Susan Turner 0754 5984064

Poetry Corner

Every month there is a different poem displayed in the window on the corner of the RSPCA shop, on Wooler High Street. If you have any special requests please let Pat Brown know.

Contact: Pat Brown 07791 255708
 mimulus1@btinternet.com

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will be made very welcome whatever your level of play.

Venue: Glendale Hall, Cheviot Street
09.30-12.00
Contact: Veronica Gilbert 01668 281362
veronica.gil@btinternet.com

Wine Appreciation Third Wednesday of the month

We are a very friendly group with about 15 people regularly attending. The evening is not just about tasting wine. We are also learning about the different grape varieties and how the climate and soil conditions can vary the taste of the same grape. Also, food can play a major part in the taste of the wine so we have a different 'nibble' with each wine. The cost for the evening is usually £6. If anyone would like to join us you would be very welcome - but please contact Ann first to check availability.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 7-9pm
Contact: Ann Love 01668 281532
beatrice180@sky.co

Exercise {Pick & Mix} Every Monday except monthly meeting days - usually 2nd Monday of the month

A safe and sociable 50 minutes of exercises and activities with music and small equipment. We aim to enjoy improving our mobility, stamina, co-ordination and balance. Equally suitable for those who prefer to remain seated and the more energetic. Flat shoes are the only

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requirement. The Group is currently full and there is a short waiting list.

Venue: Cheviot Centre 11.00-12.00
Contact: Patricia Boyd 07415861503
pebie2@btinternet.com

Card Secretary: Sylvia Williams

If you know anyone who would appreciate a card of congratulations or commiserations, please contact Sylvia.

Contact: Sylvia Williams 01668 282168
sylviawil@btinternet.com

Films First Friday of the month

Although films are continuing to be shown, this is now done under the auspices of the Glendale Trust.

Venue: Cheviot Centre
Contact: 01668 282406

Ask to join the What's On mailing list for regular updates about events held at the centre, including films.

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PRINCIPLES OF THE u3a MOVEMENT

The u3a movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The third age principle.

Membership of the u3a is open to everyone not in full time employment., which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full-time employment has ceased.

Members promote the value of lifelong learning and the positive social interaction

Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

The self-help learning principle.

Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire – by the members for the members.

No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.

There is no distinction between Group Leaders, Committee Members and members. We are all members of u3a.

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The mutual aid principle.

Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3amovement.

No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.

Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members must:

- Abide by the Principles of the u3a movement.
- Always act in the best interests of the u3a and never do anything to bring the u3a into disrepute.
- Abide by the terms and conditions of the constitution.
- Treat fellow members with respect and courtesy at all times.
- Comply with and support the decisions of the elected committee.
- Advise the Committee of any change in their personal details.