

CHEADLE AND GATLEY



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER – December 2012

Monthly Open Meetings

The Second Wednesday: 1:15 for a prompt 1:30 start at the URC, Elm Road, Gatley

The Monthly Open Meeting is where to find out about all of our activities and any unforeseen changes to our programme.

Speakers talk on a wide range of subjects.

January 9th	John Doughty	Lancashire Witches
February 13th	Dr Peter Kurer	What the Quakers did for the Jews in Nazi Europe from 1933 to 1945
March 13th	Imre & Julianna Burjan	The Journey – Escape from Hungary in 1956
April 10th	Brian Greene	Andrew and his Amazing Technicolor Musicals
May 8th	Dr George Eccleston	Mary Queen of Scots – The Young Queen
June 12th	John Ambrose	Tax, Care and Toy Boys
Annual General Meeting		

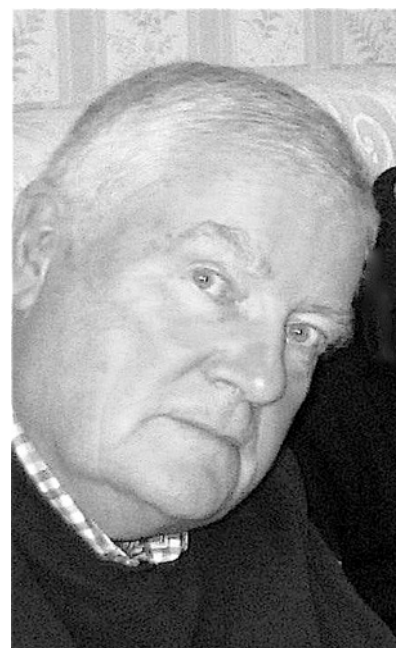
Chairman's Message

It gives me great pleasure to open our first newsletter. Initially we intend to publish twice a year, but hopefully as we get into our stride the newsletter will be produced more often, perhaps every quarter. To ensure its success, every Interest Group, together with the entire membership should feel able to contribute, and I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity. I would like to thank Allan Witton for taking on the role as our Editor, together with his team who have helped to put our first edition together.

Our organisation has only been in existence for eighteen months but already we are beginning to make our presence felt in the area, whether it's the efforts of the gardening group, who have taken over responsibility for the Memorial Garden of Cheadle Library, or the activities of our choir who have been invited to perform at many local venues. I think we can congratulate ourselves on putting our U3A on the map, but more needs to be done to improve what we have achieved so far.

Finally let me wish you and all your family a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

John Houghton



News from around the Groups

Anyone interested in joining a Group should in the first instance telephone the Coordinator, or speak to them at the Monthly Meeting.

Monday Book Group



We have continued to enjoy discussing books on various themes and, from time to time, by a specific author. We had a particularly lively session on Dickens, focusing on *Dombey and Son*, which we read over several months. Our next featured author is Joseph Conrad and we will be looking in particular at *Heart of Darkness*. Since my annual report in the summer, we have talked about epistolary and diary novels, Irish writers and books with a wintery theme!

Lesley Witton

428 1522

Bridge

The Bridge Group exists to give those who wish to learn an opportunity to play Bridge. It is suitable for beginners and the atmosphere is very relaxed. The format is that we simply deal the cards, bid and then play the hand. We then discuss how the hand was played, what went wrong and what went well. Progress comes from experience and learning from mistakes. As coordinator I have prepared a number of written notes on the game, which will be made available to new members.

We meet at St James' Parish Church Hall at 1.30pm on the first and fourth Wednesday each month for about 2 hours. There is a charge of £1 to cover hire of the room and a small additional charge for refreshments.

Godfrey Jackson **437 7890**

Computing

Recently we have been looking at some issues of particular interest to members: getting started with buying and selling using EBay and an introduction to using digital photographs covering topics such as transferring pictures from the camera, organising a photo storage system, straightening crooked pictures, cropping unwanted bits off pictures, lightening dark pictures, making images look sharper and sending and receiving pictures via email.

Another subject of significant interest was looking at what type of computer would be appropriate to purchase after consideration of things such as: what would it be used for, size, weight, visibility and the budget available.

It has been decided to move the meetings to Thursday afternoon to enable more members to attend.

Peter Bayley **282 3468**

Craft/Sewing

Although a small group this is very successful. There are about eight members who come regularly, and we do lots of sewing, knitting and chatting. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, in St James' Church Hall, 10.30 am. Our membership remains largely unchanged.

Josephine Haynes **491 2382**

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group meets every three weeks on a Monday in the first floor room at the Café Unity, in the main shopping parade in Heald Green. There is a car park behind the parade, where parking is free for three hours. The meetings are from 2 pm to 4 pm. The group is 6 strong at present and there is room for up to 4 more members. Do come and join us.

To each meeting, we bring a piece of work on a subject that has been agreed at the previous meeting. Each person reads out his/her work and the group discusses the piece. It is informal, and gentle constructive critiques are the norm. We write stories, reports, poetry. Anything goes. We try to make the pieces around 1000 words to allow everyone to read their piece in the allotted time.

On Monday 26th November, Belinda Johnson conducted a workshop, which was very helpful. The exercises she gave us made us realise that we had much more imagination than we thought.

If any retired teacher would like to present a 'one-off' workshop on any genre, I'm sure we would benefit greatly. Please get in touch with me.

Nigel Bann

491 6835

Dining

The Dining Group meets monthly, usually for lunch. So far we have visited 11 local restaurants or pubs. The dates change each month in an effort to let as many members as possible come to our eatings.

We are a friendly group and welcome all members to join us, but please let the organiser know if you are able to attend.

At each restaurant we rate them for ambience, variety on the menu, quality of food, service and value for money so your opinion really counts!

Lois Evans

428 4373

Family History

The Family History Group has now been in existence for a year. We meet on the first Tuesday morning of each month at the coordinator's house in Northenden. This limits the number of members to 9, and we are currently full. At the November Open meeting, several members expressed an interest in tracing their ancestors, but there are not enough yet for a second group. Anyone who would like to trace their ancestors is very welcome to contact me. If enough people show an interest, we could always have a second group on another Tuesday morning.



The aim of the group is to help one another in researching our family history. The skills range from complete beginners to old hands, so there is a good mix of experience, and some members bring laptops to use at the meeting. It generally turns out to be a lively and cheerful social morning. Home computers are not essential, but they help! If required, visits can be arranged for beginners to sample the excellent facilities at Sale library.

Sheila Harkin

998 7276

Gardening

The Gardening Group helps members gain knowledge through practical sessions, talks, visits and videos. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at 2.00 at various locations. Our main news is that we have taken on the planting and maintenance, plus fund raising for the upkeep of the Patsy Calton Memorial Garden at Cheadle Library. So far we have:

- obtained funding from the U3A and from Cheadle Area Committee;
- purchased compost and plants etc;
- cleared tubs;
- replanted with a selection of bulbs and pansies.

This is an ongoing community project.



A visit to a member's garden



Replanted Memorial tub

Denise Williams 282 1033

History

The History group meets twice a month at 2pm on a Friday at URC Elm Rd., Gatley. We are currently looking at the medieval period up to the 16th century Reformation. We agree topics of interest within this period amongst ourselves and then conduct some ground work which enables us to have a general discussion. Sometimes a member will lead the discussion and on other occasions we will make use of an appropriate DVD from the central library of resources at U3A HQ. Twice a year we decide which area of history to look at given the views of the members

John Houghton 428 2892

Tom Fanning

428 8666

Local History

This group is well established now; our first meeting was in August 2011 and we have had 15 meetings altogether. Mostly we meet in St James' Church Hall, but we have had four outside meetings. We have maintained a fairly steady 17 - 20 attendees. I have found those who do attend regularly really appreciative and the meetings are always enjoyable, with people chatting and interacting well. I also have two lovely ladies who took it upon themselves to do the refreshments regularly - a real help. There will be no meeting on January 2nd since this would be too close to Christmas and New Year celebrations. In February Geoffrey Scargill will be speaking on The Final Triumph of the Railway King, Sir Edward Watkin.

Josephine Haynes 491 2382

Lunchtime Concerts – for free

The aim of this recently formed group is to attend free concerts, usually at lunchtime, at various venues in Manchester. So far we have been to four concerts, the first at the University, the second at the Royal Northern College of Music, the third a programme of baroque and renaissance music in the Baronial Hall of Chetham's School of Music, and the fourth a performance of Dvorak's Wind Serenade at the RNCM. For some members of the group discovering new concert venues has been as much a pleasure as the music itself. Usually I will give an introduction to the music to be heard in the concert at 11.00 am at my house on the day of the concert.

The first concert of 2013 will be at Manchester Cathedral on Thursday 17 January at 1.10 pm, by Chetham's students. Meet at Gatley station for the 11.52 train.

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

Singing for Pleasure



Singing practice at the URC

The singing group flourishes with a very good attendance for the fortnightly meetings. Early in October we took part in an AGE UK day at Stockport Town Hall with a half hour programme of songs. For the occasion we decide to appear in a Concert Uniform. It certainly made us look and feel more professional, dressed in all black with scarves for the ladies giving a splash of colour.

With 3 more performances (including the U3A Christmas party) before the end of the year we are gaining a lot of experience in performing and presenting ourselves. New members as ever are most welcome to join us.

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

Theatre Visits

There are between 10 and 12 regular attendees for our various Monday night visits to local theatres e.g. The Garrick Theatre in Stockport, The Players Dramatic Theatre and Chads in Cheadle Hulme and The Northenden Theatre.

In September we saw Entertaining Angels at the Garrick.

In October it was The Game (about football!), again at the Garrick

If anyone wishes to join us they are more than welcome.

For details of our future visits and the plays please ring me.

Mary Lyons 428 3395

Walking (Short Walks)

The group meets monthly on Thursdays to do afternoon walks of up to about 4 miles at venues not too distant e.g. Dunham Massey, Sale Water Park, Millgate Fields and Fletcher Moss gardens, Higher Poynton, Macclesfield Forest and Tatton Park. Anyone who is prepared to lead a walk would be welcome to do so, and anybody is welcome to join us.

Stuart Forsyth 491 3592

Walking (Longer Walks)

The last six months has seen the number of people on the Longer Walks emailing list increase to 18, fourteen of whom have been on at least one walk, with about half a dozen of those being regulars. We still don't have quite enough regulars to ensure a quorum for each month's walk, but we are getting there, and there were 9 on the November walk round Anglezarke Reservoir.



White Nancy in August



Heading up towards Hollingworthall Moor in October

Recent walks have been:

A circuit of Bottoms, Rhodeswood and Torside reservoirs in Longdendale (6 miles - easy)

Tegg's Nose and Macclesfield Forest (7 miles - moderate)

A figure-of-8 walk between Kerridge White Nancy and Tegg's Nose (7 miles – moderate)

From Bottoms Reservoir to Hollingworthall Moor via Tintwhistle (8½ miles - moderate)

A circuit of Anglezarke and Upper Rivington reservoirs above Chorley (7 miles - easy)

Car sharing from Gatley Hill House is the normal arrangement.

Brushing your teeth is good for you, and we all do it regularly. Walking is *very* good for you, and with the Longer Walking Group it's *much* more fun than brushing your teeth, so come and join us!

Allan Witton

428 1522

Alan Lynn

915 6421

Walking (Strollers)

This relatively new group meets fortnightly to do easy, local walks, up to about an hour long around Cheadle and Gatley. The pace is gentle, the group very friendly, and we often finish at a tea shop.

Marianne Owen

491 3323

Wine Appreciation

Several members have expressed an interest in the formation of a Wine Appreciation group and we have been experimenting with some ideas to see what type of meeting formats, group numbers and venues might work in the longer term. These initial ideas have tended to move away from formal 'wine tasting' to encompass a broader agenda. Early indications are promising that a viable, sustainable group, or even groups, will evolve.

Peter Bayley

282 3468

Feature

A Sort of Limerick

From the Creative Writing Group

The man stood on the burning deck. His trousers were alight.
As flame engulfed the patio decking that he'd finished the previous night.
A "Christen The New Decking" barbeque was not one of his better ideas.
Was it the demise of his pride and joy, or just the smoke that filled his eyes with tears?
He ran and grabbed the hosepipe, the flames to douse.
Just in time to stop them entering the house.
He muttered, "I'm an accountant, and a DIY man I ain't."
What did the man at B&Q say? Something about fire-retardant paint!"

Other News Items

On behalf of the Cheadle and Gatley U3A, the Committee has agreed to purchase 2 fruit trees towards the new orchard on Gatley Carrs.

The North West Region U3A is holding a Summer School from 27th to 30th August 2013.

It will be held in Newton Rigg College, Penrith, Cumbria.

Seven main courses are on offer - Archaeology, Geology, Philosophy, Creative Writing and Science, together with two new courses - History of UK Cinema and Painting.

The cost per delegate will be £300 full board or £150 for a non-residential day place.

Full details from the Secretary, Lois Segar-Evans.

Membership

We would be delighted to welcome any new members to join our U3A. Interested people are welcome to attend a Monthly Open Meeting or an Interest Group meeting at no charge for the first visit.

Fees to join U3A are £3 as an initial joining fee and £12 per year pro-rata, April to March; e.g. someone joining in September would pay £3 + £7 (for September to March). In addition there is a charge of £1 for each Monthly Open Meeting and a similar charge for most group meetings in a hired venue to cover room hire and refreshments where appropriate.

Renewals are due each April and both application forms and renewal forms can be found on the U3A website (<http://u3asitec.org.uk/live/code/u3asite.php?site=333&page=0> or search 'Cheadle and Gatley U3A') or from **Judi Marsden, 4 West Drive, Gatley, SK8 4JJ. Tel 428 4228**. All members this year should have a **blue** membership card; would existing members please make sure their membership is up to date.

Your Committee

Chairman	John Houghton	428 2892	john@the-houghtons.co.uk
Vice Chairman	Tom Fanning	428 8666	mary.fanning@ntlworld.com
Secretary	Lois Segar-Evans	428 4373	lois-gatley@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer	Nuala Lynn	915 6421	nualalynn@yahoo.co.uk
Assistant Treasurer	Martin Davey	491 6132	m_g_davey@hotmail.com
Membership Secretary	Judi Marsden	428 4228	judimarsden@yahoo.com
Groups Coordinator	David Gane	428 0204	davidjgane@btinternet.com
Webmaster	Peter Bayley	282 3468	p.bayley@ntlworld.com
Publications Editor	Allan Witton	428 1522	allanwitton@yahoo.co.uk
Refreshments	Pauline Hadfield	428 6544	p_hadfield@sky.com
NE Cheshire Network	Tina Kelly	312 1874	cmk45@live.co.uk

CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

(At December 2012)

GROUP	COORDINATOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Book Group 1	Lesley Witton	428 1522	1st Monday	7:30	House
Book Group 2	Ann Rogerson	428 6114	2nd Tuesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Bridge	Godfrey Jackson	437 7890	1st and 3rd Wednesdays	1:00	St James' Hall
Computers	Peter Bayley	282 3468	Thursdays	2:00-4:00	House
Craft	Josephine Haynes	491 2382	3rd Tuesday	10:30-12:00	St James' Hall
Creative Writing	Nigel Bann	491 6835	Mondays 3-weekly	2:00-4:00	Café Unity Heald Green
Dining	Lois Evans	428 4373	Periodically as arranged	-----	-----
French	Martin	491 6132	1st Wednesday	10:00-12:00	House
Conversation	& Anne Davey		3rd Wednesday	2:00-4:00	House
Family History	Sheila Harkin	998 7276	1st Tuesday	9.30	House
Gardening	Denise Williams	282 1033	4th Thursday	1:30	URC
Garden Visits	Pamela Holden	428 9915	Periodically as arranged	-----	-----
History	John Houghton Tom Fanning	428 2892 428 8666	2nd and 4th Fridays	2:00	URC
Local History	Martin Davey 0773900 7838 Josephine Haynes 491 2382		1st Wednesday	1:30	St James' Hall
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Periodically as arranged	-----	-----
Singing for Pleasure	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Tuesdays Fortnightly	1:00-3:00	URC
Theatre Visits	Mary Lyons	428 3395	Monthly as arranged	-----	-----
Walking (Longer) (Up to ~8 miles)	Allan Witton Alan Lynn	428 1522 915 6421	3rd Friday	9:30	Meet at Gatley Hill House car park
Walking (Easy) (Up to 4 miles)	Stuart Forsyth	491 3592	Thursday of week after Monthly Meeting	12:30	Meet at URC
Walking (Strollers) Easy local walks	Marianne Owen Anne Taylor	491 3323 428 2683	1st and 3rd Mondays	11:00	Various
Wine Appreciation	Peter Bayley	282 3468	Pilot Group	-----	-----

Please note that occasionally dates or times do change between updates of the Interest Group List. In the event of a change in group details, it would be most useful if the Coordinator would inform the Groups Coordinator, David Gane, so that this Interest Groups List can be kept as up-to-date as possible.

Anyone interested in joining a Group should in the first instance telephone the Coordinator, or speak to them at the Monthly Open Meeting.

Forthcoming events for Groups which meet 'Periodically as arranged' are usually announced at the Monthly Meeting.

No group which caters for your particular interest? Then why not form one?

In order to form an Interest Group there must be:

1. sufficient people with a common interest;
 2. someone (one or more people) prepared to act as the Coordinator(s).
- Anyone interested in setting up a new Group should contact David Gane.