

CHEADLE AND GATLEY



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2013

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 8th	Travels Around the Hawaiian Islands	Ray Broadhurst
February 12th	Global Warming	David Bielawski
March 12th	North West Air Ambulance Service	Les Hardy
April 9th	Causes of World War I	Richard Wimpenny
May 14th	Miracle in Manchester (John Barbirolli & the Halle Orchestra)	Geoff Scargill
June 11th	Public Transport in Greater Manchester Annual General Meeting	David Newton
July 9th	Bees and Honey	Rob Jennings
August	No meeting	



The Lunchtime Concert goes visit a new venue, Ordsall Hall

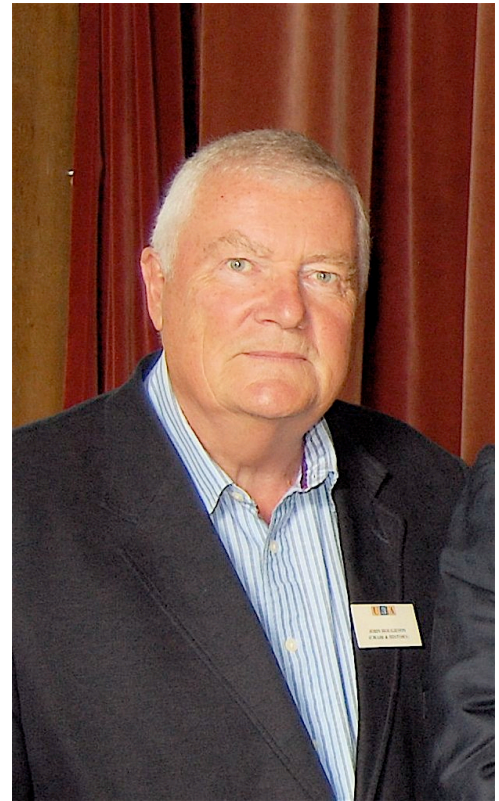
Chairman's Message

The Christmas festivities are once more upon us and it is time for an update of the activities of our U3A. Our membership continues to creep up and we now have close to 200 members. The Group activities continue at a pace, with expansion to cope with members' demands. A third Reading Group, a Pub Quiz Team and a Science Group are now up and running and details of their activities are in the 'News from around the Groups' section.

One successful event does require a special mention and that is the Science Study Day, which took place in September. This was the brainchild of David Gane, our Interest Group Co-ordinator, and nearly 100 members from across the North West Network attended. The feedback from those attending was overwhelmingly positive and after this success who knows we may push the boat out again in the future.

Finally on behalf of myself and your Committee let me wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

John Houghton



Presentation to the Children's Able and Disabled Society (CADS)

In June at Elm Road United Reform Church, the Chairman, John Houghton, presented a cheque to CADS, which has been selected by our U3A as its charity for fund raising purposes for the next 12 months. The children performed a number of dance routines to pop music in front of parents and members from the U3A with skill and great enthusiasm, which was to the credit of their dance instructors. There was much fun to be had watching some of them whizz about with their wheelchairs and in conclusion the children and parents thanked the U3A for their sponsorship.



NE CHESHIRE NETWORK - SCIENCE STUDY DAY

THE WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE

On behalf of the North East Cheshire Network, on September 10th 2013
Cheadle and Gatley U3A organised and hosted a stimulating Science Study Day
exploring the creation and evolution of the Universe and its inner secrets.

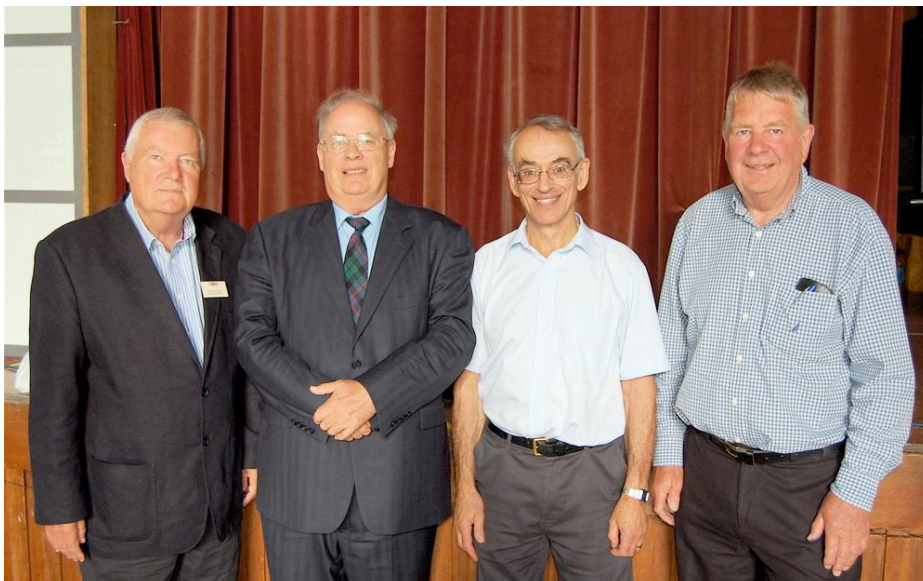
PROFESSOR IAN MORISON
of JODRELL BANK

gave a talk on the creation of the Universe (the Big Bang Theory) and how it has evolved. He explained scientists' latest theory that the Universe is actually expanding from nothing to infinity in 13 billion years!



PROFESSOR LOEBINGER of
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY

spoke about the Inner Secrets of the Universe – the story of elementary particle physics, and how Manchester scientists have played a prominent role in the subject from its very beginnings a century ago to the latest discoveries. They have discovered the strange sub nuclear world of quarks, gluons and leptons. The talk showed how the subject has developed including the recent first signs of the Higgs Boson, and pointers to the future were reviewed.



John Houghton, Professor Morison, Professor Loebinger and event organiser, David Gane.

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

Our discussion on books about gardens or gardening in June included references to *Earthly Joys* by Philippa Gregory, a novel about the 17th century gardener John Tradescant; *Elizabeth and her German Garden* by Elizabeth von Arnim; *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett; *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton; and Andrew Marvell's '*Thoughts in a Garden*'. We all agreed that there is something very restorative about gardens.

The theme for July was 'Journeys' and again a wide range was covered from *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce to *The Holocaust Journey* by Martin Gilbert. Other journeys enjoyed were rafting down the Mississippi with Huckleberry Finn, across America with Jack Kerouac, around Europe with Bill Bryson and the train ride from Edinburgh to London with Alexander McCall Smith.

Ian McEwan was our chosen author for August and we all really appreciated the skill of this author, particularly admiring his plot structure in some very diverse novels. Our author for September was Michael Frayn and his novels, too, were much enjoyed, both for their humour and commentary on modern society. In October we read Doris Lessing and found some of her work quite challenging. November brought a change of mood with Muriel Spark and December's choice was the *enfant terrible* of English letters of the 1930s, Evelyn Waugh.

Lesley Witton 428 1522

Tuesday and Thursday Book Groups

Both groups meet monthly, on the second Tuesday at 1.30 and the third Thursday at 10.30, in the pleasant surroundings of Cheadle Library, which we are pleased to support. ("Use it or lose it" is the motto in current cutbacks.) Both groups have opted for a choice of two books each month. They can choose to read one or both. Authors have included Kate Atkinson, CJ Sansom, William Boyd, Khaled Hosseini, Michael Frayn and Alan Bennett.

The library provides a book supply and also each reader in turn nominates a book choice for the group. These choices are tabled months in advance to give us all time to get hold of a copy, often through the libraries or a charity shop.

Our lively fledgling Thursday group has just started with 6 members and would welcome new members. Please phone to enquire about either group.

Tina Kelly 312 1874

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.

A recent development is that we have enjoyed some duplicate sessions in the form of a team of four event. In duplicate bridge, the same hand is played more than once, so eliminating the luck of happening to hold good cards. All who participated seemed to enjoy the experience. In the New Year I hope to introduce some of the techniques of slam bidding!

We meet at St James' Parish Church Hall at 1.30pm on the first and fourth Wednesday of each month for about 2 hours. There is a charge of £1.50 to cover the cost of hiring the room and a small additional charge for refreshments.

Godfrey Jackson 437 7890

Computing

The group meets at our house in Gatley and the main focus has been to help members become more familiar with the basics of using their computers and gain confidence in using the Internet. This approach has enabled several members to become more comfortable in the use of their own computers and able to progress independently. If any particular issues occur then feel able to contact me by telephone or email.

Peter Bayley **282 3468** p.bayley@ntlworld.com

Craft/Sewing

This is a small but enthusiastic group of people who have interests in sewing, knitting, card making and general fabric and paper craft. Members bring along their own ongoing projects and share their skill and experience with the rest of the group. It's very informal with no set programme of events but with lots of friendly chatter and exchange of ideas over refreshments. We meet in St James' Church Hall on the third Tuesday of the month at 10.30.



*Joan Read, Pauline Hadfield, Josephine Haynes, Pam Bann and Lois Haslam
with an exhibition of some of the work of the Craft Group*

Josephine Haynes **491 2382**

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group generally meets every three weeks on a Monday from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Café Unity in Heald Green. 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 600 to 1000 words to allow everyone to read their piece in the allotted time. If you are interested then do come and join us. Some of us will be giving readings at the December Monthly Meeting.

Nigel Bann **491 6835**

Dining

The Dining Group meets regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12.30 to eat at 1pm. Previously we have met on varied dates in an attempt to suit as many members as possible – but we can't please everyone, so we have settled for this regular date. This year we have visited several local pubs and restaurants. We enjoy meeting socially as much as trying out new restaurants. Suggestions for new venues and new members are always welcome. We hope you will join us. The meeting place for each month will be on the notice board at the monthly meeting and/or you will be notified by email.

Lois Evans **428 4373**

Family History

Who do you think you are? If you have access to a laptop or computer, then it is fairly easy to trace your ancestors. The Family History Group are a cheerful and sociable set who like to help one another with research and are welcoming to new members. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 9.30am at the co-ordinator's house in Northenden. Members who are interested in joining, but do not feel confident, are welcome to have an individual session to help them get started. If you have any questions, just speak to me and I will try to answer your queries.

Sheila Harkin **998 7276**

French Conversation

The French Conversation Group meets at the co-ordinator's house in Gatley on the third Wednesday at 10.00 a.m. We have an average attendance of seven covering a wide range of abilities. As well as discussing numerous and varied topics we also use BBC learning materials. We have a number of publications and learning aids, which are used both at meetings and at home. Everyone is encouraged to participate at their own level and assistance is provided by the more experienced members of the group. We have established a good rapport with the common bond of a love of France and all things French. New members are always welcome.

Martin Davey **491 6132**

Gardening

The Gardening Group helps members gain knowledge through practical sessions, research, talks, visits and videos. We have had an enjoyable and productive 6 months with varied activities as follows.

July: Flower arranging using flowers from the garden
August: Visit to Quarry Bank Mill Apprentice House garden and Mill Owner's garden
September: Plants that we have grown successfully and can recommend to others
October: Planting a Winter Tub. Unusual suggestions from a local garden centre
November: Gardeners' Question Time
December: No meeting

30 Jan 2014 - Speaker - Judy Popley - A Prospect of Arley. This talk is open to all members of the U3A.

The talk is about the wonderful gardens at Arley. There will be a small charge for this meeting.

Please phone Denise to book your place.

The potatoes we planted in tubs earlier this year were harvested and enjoyed and many of us have grown vegetables for the first time.

We continue to maintain the Patsy Calton Memorial Garden at Cheadle Library. Do take a look next time you are there. The pots are now planted up for the winter and spring.

We also took part in a Manchester radio programme run by Becky Want, which was all about the best things about the area in which we live. It was broadcast via a garden centre in Cheadle and the RHS Tatton Show. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. Venues vary and the time is usually 2 p.m.

Denise Williams **282 1033**

History

The Group continues in good shape and we have taken a couple of new members onboard who are a welcome addition. We have now moved to consider a new area of study, namely the Seventeenth Century concentrating on the British Isles and Europe. We continue to meet at the URC Elm Road on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 2 p.m.

John Houghton

428 2892

Tom Fanning

428 8666

Local History

We still meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1.30, but the venue is now the Community room in Cheadle Library. We have continued to provide an interesting programme of talks and visits.

There was a visit to Staircase House in Stockport in July and in September Diana Leitch, the local historian for Didsbury and South Manchester, spoke about “The Simons Of Wythenshawe”. In October the U3A chairman John Houghton gave us a talk on “Early Policing in Manchester”. John has been a policeman and is very enthusiastic about our local police history. A presentation on “The Tramways of Stockport and Cheadle” was given by Derek Gill in November, and in December we had a really interesting tour round Robinson’s Brewery in Stockport.



The visit to Robinson’s brewery



No swimming please!

There will be no meeting in January, but on 5th February we want to take the opportunity to discuss future events and to see if there is sufficient interest in doing something together that provides additional knowledge of our local history. Since both John Pollard and I live in Gatley we have collected most of our information about Gatley and perhaps we could persuade people from Cheadle to collect information on Cheadle itself.

Nick Rogerson

428 6114

John Pollard

428 2150

Lunchtime Concerts – for free

As ever, lunchtime concerts in Manchester continue to offer a stimulating variety of events and venues. A new experience in late summer was a concert in the foyer of the Bridgewater Hall given by an all-woman ‘a capella’ trio. Another new venue in November was Ordsall Hall, Salford, where a flute quartet whose members play in the BBC Philharmonic, presented an unusual programme.

The last concert before Christmas will be at the Royal Northern College of Music where the programme will be music for eight cellos by the Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos.

Please ring me if you would like to join us for any of the concerts.



The concert room at Ordsall Hall

Barbara Wingard

428 5922

Pub Quiz

The recently formed Pub Quiz Team meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Red Lion in Cheadle at 9.00 p.m. We do quite well, having been 3rd on one occasion out of a group of more than 20 teams. Some cannot make it to Cheadle because of transport problems and we have not yet found a way to accommodate them. We can go to the Horse and Farrier in Gatley on the third Thursday in the month if we wish, but I would like people to respond to emails so that we can determine whether anyone is going along.

At the moment the only responses I have received are from those wishing to go to the Red Lion. Twelve members have so far come along, but never all at once. If that were to happen we would have to form two separate teams, as six is the preferred number by the organisers.

If you have a group of friends who would like to form a team please be aware that the quizzes take place each Thursday evening (8.30 p.m. at the Horse and Farrier; 9.00 p.m. at the Red Lion) and every other Tuesday at the High Grove at 9.30 p.m. They are very popular events so early arrival is necessary to secure good seating.

Christopher Bester 312 1874

Science

Following the successful Science Day in September, I am starting a Science Group for talks and discussion on a wide variety of science and engineering matters. This is a joint venture with Wilmslow U3A. My idea is to have monthly talks by local University Professors/lecturers on scientific topics. A programme for 2014 is being developed, and the 40+ people who have already expressed an interest will be emailed with the details. If anyone else is interested in finding out more, please contact me.

The first talk for January has been arranged. The speaker will be Emeritus Professor John Handley of Manchester University, who will talk on *Climate Change – Impacts and Adaptation*.

The lecture will be given on

Thursday January 23rd 7.30 pm -9.30 p.m. at Gatley URC hall, Elm Road Gatley.

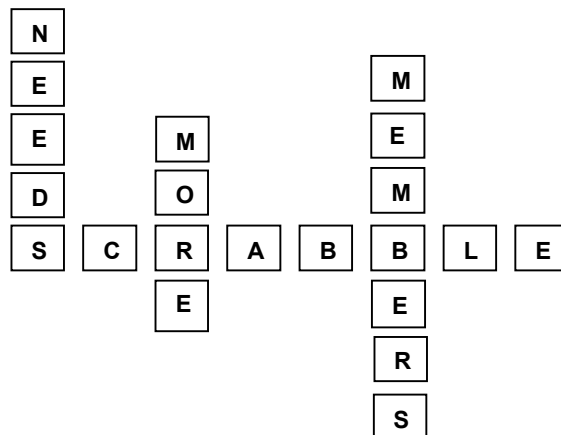
The talk is open to all members of Cheadle and Gatley and Wilmslow U3As.

There will be the usual U3A charge of £1.50.

David Gane 428 0204 davidjgane@btinternet.com

Scrabble

We meet fortnightly at the organiser's home in Gatley, and occasionally at other houses, on Fridays at 2 p.m. Our membership has now increased to 9, although not all members are able to attend each session. We play two games each meeting and it is a friendly, humorous group. We all relish the challenge of the game but the atmosphere is relaxed and non competitive. We would certainly welcome any new members.



Ann Gane 428 0204

Singing for Pleasure



*The choir entertains at the December 2012
Christmas Party*

Combining historical events with music, we have been studying songs about Bonnie Prince Charlie and the unsuccessful Jacobite rising of 1745. What a wealth of material there is, enough to keep us going all year, but Christmas music now takes precedence as we prepare for the U3A Christmas party. Along with two other engagements before Christmas, these public performances do a lot for the choir in giving a focus to our singing and presentation.

If you would like to join us in the New Year, please give me a ring. Our first rehearsal is Tuesday 7th January 2014.

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

Theatre Visits

The Theatre Group has again enjoyed a wide variety of different plays. In June we saw *Tarantara Tarantara*, the story of Gilbert and Sullivan, which was good but rather too long. In September we enjoyed *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers* at CHADS, and in October we saw *Death Trap* at the Stockport Garrick, which was a very good play with lots of twists and turns. In November we went to see *The 39 Steps* at the Players' Theatre in Cheadle Hulme. 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 (Longer Walks)

Even though we have over 20 people on our emailing list and have averaged 8 on walks over the last year, we are all such busy people that there have been occasions recently when there have been insufficient to form a quorum. We must get up Pendle Hill in 2014!



*Near the Bowstones on August's moderate 7½ mile walk round the northern part of Lyme Park
Alan Lynn, Una Malloy, Ian Ewing, Linda Ewing, Don Haslam, Allan Witton (photo: Lesley Witton)*

Car sharing from Gatley Hill House is the normal arrangement.

Country walking with fresh air and exercise in convivial company – if you would like to join us occasionally then register your email to receive monthly details of the forthcoming walks, and feel free to come on as many or as few as you wish.

Allan Witton

428 1522

Alan Lynn

915 6421

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 (Strollers)

The strollers group now has 14 members. We enjoy our short walks twice a month, which are never far away from Gatley. Over the last few months we walked in Styal, Abney Hall, Bruntwood Park and Lindow Common in Wilmslow.



*The Strollers on their November walk
Margaret, Janet, Ruth, Marianne, Tina, Marjorie, Frances, Yvonne, Pam*

Usually we start at Elm Road at 11 o'clock on the first and third Monday of the month. We walk about an hour and spend another hour in a nearby cafe.

Marianne Owen 491 3323

Wine Appreciation

The group began in October 2012 with some exploratory meetings to see what sort of format would prove to be useful. The primary focus is enjoying an evening of lively conversation in a convivial atmosphere when we can share and add to our knowledge and appreciation of various wines.

The group operates on a self-financing basis and during the year our meeting costs have ranged from £5 to £7.50 per person.

Peter Bayley 282 3468

Editor's note: Thanks to Tina Kelly for sending me the above picture; it's the only one of the 13 in this Newsletter that wasn't taken on my camera! Photographs break up the text, add considerable interest and, by the facility of re-sizing them, give flexibility to page layouts. Please bear this in mind for the next Newsletter in June 2014, especially those groups that go out-and-about.

Parking near Elm Road Church

Please remember to be considerate to local residents and not cause an obstruction when parking in Elm Road or nearby streets.

North-East Cheshire Network

The North-East Cheshire Network is an informal association of five local U3As (Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle and Gatley, Poynton, and Wilmslow), which have come together for their mutual benefit, such as sharing good practice and organising common events, such as the Study Days.

Individual U3As, which have a number of vacancies in some of their Interest Groups, will make this information available across the network, so that members of other Network U3As may join those groups. The scheme is still in its infancy, but recently the following U3As indicated vacancies in the groups given below.

Bramhall: Art, Embroidery, Church History, Scottish Dancing
Cheadle Hulme: Poetry, Tai Chi **Wilmslow:** Cycling, Maths

Membership

**We would be delighted to welcome any new members to join our U3A.
Interested people are welcome to attend one Monthly Open Meeting or one Interest Group meeting
before being required to join the Cheadle and Gatley U3A.**

Fees to join Cheadle and Gatley 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 £1.50 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.**

Email Contact

Those of you who have provided us with your email address should have received an email from Groups Coordinator David Gane which included the following:

'I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have entered members' email details onto a Hotmail account which will enable the committee to communicate more easily with those members who have email. This should help communication of important U3A news, especially for those members who are unable to attend monthly meetings on a regular basis.'

Some of the emails received failure notices, which probably means we don't have your correct email address. If this is the case, or you haven't yet provided us with your email and would now like to do so, please email it to the Membership Secretary, Judi Marsden, or David Gane (details below). With the exception of the committee, we will not publish email addresses in this Newsletter, or on our website, or pass them on to any other organisation. Those who have given us their email addresses will be sent this Newsletter in pdf format (with colour photographs rather than black and white!).

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	258 0503	nualalynn@yahoo.co.uk
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

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

(At December 2013)

New groups are in bold

GROUP	COORDINATOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Book Group 1	Lesley Witton	428 1522	1st Monday	7:30	House
Book Group 2	Tina Kelly	312 1874	2nd Tuesday	1:30-3:00	Cheadle Library
Book Group 3	Tina Kelly	312 1874	3rd Thursday	10:30-12:00	Cheadle Library
Bridge	Godfrey Jackson	437 7890	1st and 4th Wednesdays	1:30	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
Dining	Lois Evans	428 4373	3rd Wednesday	Various	Various
French Conversation	Martin & Anne Davey	491 6132	3rd Wednesday	10:00-12:00	House
Family History	Sheila Harkin	998 7276	1st Tuesday	9.30	House
Gardening	Denise Williams	282 1033	4th Thursday	1:30	URC
History	John Houghton Tom Fanning	428 2892 428 8666	2nd and 4th Fridays	2:00	URC
Local History	Nick Rogerson	428 6114	1st Wednesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Periodically as arranged	-----	-----
Pub Quiz	Chris Bester	312 1874	1st Thursday	9:00 p.m.	Red Lion
Science	David Gane	428 0204	Monthly as arranged		
Scrabble	Ann Gane	428 0204	Fridays Fortnightly	2:00	House
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 258 0503	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	Monthly as arranged	-----	-----

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.