

# CHEADLE AND GATLEY



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2014

### 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 15th	Mercy Hospital Ships	Bill Livingstone
February 11th	Manchester Ship Canal	Ray Howells
March 11th	The Beauty of Minerals	Dr. R. Braithwaite
April 8th	Where there's a Will there's a Relative	Estelle Weiner
May 13th	Magistrates in the Community	Tony Clark (North Cheshire Bench)
June 10th	Annual General Meeting and The Work of the Seashell Trust	Wendy Bray



*The Strollers at Bramhall Hall*

(Online version with added images)

## Chairman's Message

I am pleased to report that Cheadle & Gatley's membership level has continued at about two hundred members and our financial position remains in good shape. The number of Interest Groups has also been maintained with a couple of cancellations, matched by some recent additions, notably the re-emergence of Conversational French under Jim Crook and a new group enjoying the History of Art Appreciation led by Tom Fanning. I am also hoping that our Technology Group under David Gane will restart in the spring.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our recently presented day devoted to the commemoration of the First World War. A great deal of work was needed by the membership of the various Interest Groups taking part, notably; History, Local History, the Book Groups and the Choir, who all made a very special contribution to produce a memorable day. I should also mention the 'backroom boys' Lois Evans and Tom Fanning for the production of the souvenir programme and of course Gina Gibson and her team in the production of an excellent buffet lunch, not forgetting the technical support from David Gane and our photographer Allan Witton. I am hoping that our efforts will also be rewarded with an article about our day in the national magazine.

Finally it gives me much pleasure to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and enjoyable New Year.



## John Houghton

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

In July at Elm Road United Reform Church, the Chairman, John Houghton, presented our second cheque to CADS, which has been our U3A's selected charity for fund raising purposes for the last year.





## FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATION DAY

In recognition of the Centenary of the start of World War 1, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November Cheadle and Gatley U3A organised and hosted for its members a most interesting and poignant day.

The first half of the morning programme was presented by members of the History group.

Tom Fanning	Causes of the war
Andrew Jones	Trench warfare
John Houghton	The war at sea
Lois Evans	} The global span of the conflict
David Williams	

This was followed by presentations by members of the Local History group.

Nick Rogerson	Local men who enlisted
John Pollard	Effects of the war on the local area



*David Williams on The global span of the conflict*

A splendid lunch was provided by Gina Gibson and her team in the main hall where there was a display of articles and photographs relating to how the war affected local people and the local area. Much of the display was kindly loaned by Pat Seddon, with a large contribution by John Pollard from his researches.



The afternoon session began with readings by members of our three Book Groups.

Alan Lynn provided the links between readings of prose and poetry by:

Nuala Lynn, Lesley Witton, Dorothea Shurdon, Alma Gardner, Tina Kelly, and David Howard

*Dorothea Shurdon reads 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke*

The afternoon was rounded off splendidly with a concert of songs from the period by the Choir, conducted by Barbara Wingard, who encouraged audience participation, and accompanied by Dorothy Walker on piano, Lee Fairlie on flute and piccolo, and Ann Jubb on oboe.

Further details of the Day can be found on the C&G U3A website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=333>



*Barbara encourages the audience to join in*







## 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 members enjoyed a nostalgic trip back to childhood in July revisiting some of the old classics, but also discovering newer ones like *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White and modern writers like Michael Morpurgo. In September our chosen author was Anthony Trollope and there were mixed reactions to his works. One or two found *The Warden* and *The Bertrams* slow-moving and rather dull, whereas most of us became immersed in volumes of the *Barchester Chronicles* and *Palliser* series and have found ourselves returning to them again and again.

Beryl Bainbridge was our choice for October. We read very different books from her wide range. The novels based on historical events, such as *According to Queeney*, *Every Man for Himself*, *Master Georgie* and *Watson's Apology* were thought to be thoroughly researched and intriguing, but some felt the plots were confusing and the characters unconvincing. Perhaps, the semi-autobiographical novels were appreciated most and her dark humour was also enjoyed.

November's author was Stephen Fry. We all agreed he's an extremely clever man, but opinions varied as to the quality of his writing. After reading *The Liar* and *The Hippopotamus* Alan Lynn, who couldn't attend the meeting, sent an email saying 'Fry is narcissistic and solipsistic and his books seem to be merely vehicles to show off his learning and wit and his attempts to shock have all the bite of a schoolboy trying to goad his elders. (He) should stick to twinkling on TV shows where his charm conceals the lack of depth and humanity behind the frivolous front.' On the other hand, I thoroughly enjoyed the thriller *The Stars' Tennis Balls* and those who read volumes of his autobiography felt some sympathy for the troubled man. His strikingly original use of language was noted by several of us. We are currently reading novels by Zadie Smith to discuss in December.

We were delighted to be able to contribute to the WW1 Commemoration Day along with the other Book Groups. We had discussed various novels, biographies and poems about the war in our June meeting. One of our members, Alan Lynn, sorted out the chosen readings into appropriate sections reflecting the changing attitudes towards the war and provided links between the readings. From our group, Nuala read *Peace* by Rupert Brooke, I read Jessie Pope's *Call to War* and Wilfred Owen's *Strange Meeting* and Alma read Sassoon's *Glory of Women* and Owen's *Futility*. Alan read an extract from *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque. Readers from other groups contributed additional poems and original letters from the front. It was a powerful presentation and we felt privileged to take part in it.



*Lesley, Alan, Alma and Nuala*

## Tuesday and Thursday Book Groups

### Reading Group 2

Cheadle library continues to surprise our 10 members with book club choices, and in the latter half of this year we have had a real mixture of types of novel.

Classics: Truman Capote *Breakfast at Tiffany's*  
William Golding *Lord of the Flies*

Booker prize authors: Kasuo Ishiguro *Never let me go*

Scandinavian noir: Jussi Adler-Olsen *Disgrace*

Social issue novels: Kay Langdale *Her Giant Octopus Moment* and  
Patricia Ferguson *The Midwife's Daughter*

Modern Popular Authors: J.K. Rowling *The Cuckoo's calling* and Nicholas Evans *The Loop*

Opinions vary enormously on occasion but we enjoy the debate and all inputs, and we are still going out for Christmas lunch!

### Reading Group 3

We currently have a lively, friendly group of 7 members, and once again the Library system has provided us with a good range of literature in the last 6 months. Several books have had international settings and/or authors.

Alaska: Eowyn Ivey *The Snow Child*

Japan: Yoka Ogawa *Revenge* short stories; Kasuo Ishiguro *The Remains of the Day*

France: Joanne Harris *Peaches for M. Le Cure*

Denmark: Soren and Lotte Hammer *The Hanging*

England: William Boyd *Ordinary Thunderstorms*; Elizabeth Gaskell *Mary Barton*.

*Reading Group 3 –  
not reading,  
but enjoying their  
Christmas lunch at  
the Vinery*



Some of our group have participated as readers in WW1 Commemoration Day and some will be appearing again at Christmas.

**Tina Kelly 971 5953 or 07909 126362**

## 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 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 main focus of the group has been to help members become more familiar with the basics of using their computers and to gain confidence in using the Internet. In particular we have looked into various issues using laptops, tablets, Kindle readers and manipulating and managing digital photography.

This approach has continued to enable members to become more comfortable in the use of their own computers and able to progress independently. If any particular issues occur they feel able to contact me by telephone or email.

**Peter Bayley**      **282 3468**      [p.bayley@ntlworld.com](mailto: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.



*Sheila Mepham with her hand made quilt*

**Josephine Haynes**      **491 2382**

## Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group is still going strong with seven regulars. We meet at the Café Unity in Heald Green at 2 p.m. once a month, generally the second Monday in the month. We all write a small piece (600-1000 words) on a pre-agreed subject, and read out our contributions at the meeting. The pre-agreed subject is not set in stone, and members can read out any piece they have written if they struggle to come up with anything on the agreed subject. We attempt all types of writing: poetry, short stories, report writing -anything goes. If you are interested in joining us, ring me to check the next meeting date.

**Nigel Bann**      **491 6835**



## Dining

The group has only met three times since the last Newsletter. Nevertheless we have had three enjoyable eating experiences and welcomed a new member. In June we visited D'Agostino, an Italian restaurant in Cheadle Hulme; in October we went to The Micker Brook on Councillor Lane in Cheadle and in November The Farmer's Arms in Cheadle Heath.

We aim to visit a variety of restaurants and pubs. Our main criterion is finding good food which is also good value for money. Both The Micker Brook and The Farmer's Arms gave a good value menu of basic pub grub. D'Agostino provided a varied Italian menu with plenty of choice and good quality food. We will next meet in January when we plan to visit The Crown Inn, Cheadle. All members are welcome to join us at our very informal lunches. We enjoy the food and also each other's company.

**Lois Evans**                      **428 4373**

## French Conversation

We are pleased to have been able to re-start the French Conversation Group. At the moment it is quite a small group, and we would be happy for anyone else who shares an interest in France and the French language to join us in our monthly meetings. We engage in informal conversation and speakers of any standard are welcome.

**Jim Crook**                      **428 5764**

## Theatre Visits

The Theatre Group has continued to enjoy a wide variety of different plays performed at local theatres. In September we had two outings, and saw *Ladies' Day* at CHADS, which was rather silly and not well acted, and also *Lady Killers* at the Altrincham Garrick, which was pretty good. In October we found *Veronica's Room* at CHADS quite exciting, though it had a strange ending. In November the whole group enjoyed *Barefoot in the Park* at the Players' Theatre.

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**

(This report is out of alphabetical sequence for formation reasons.)

## Gardening

We have had a varied and interesting year. During the summer months we visited each other's gardens, where we took cuttings, recapped on vegetable growing, and split perennials. We also collectively ordered spring bulbs and had a plant swap.

The pots at the library have been a cause for concern as there was an infestation of vine weevil, which threatened all our spring and winter planting. We have experimented with nematodes and so far the remaining plants seem OK.







One of the pots we maintain at Cheadle library



Yvonne McWilliam, Heather Wilkinson, Margaret Morris, Marjorie Ding and Brenda Attack sorting out the spring bulbs and designing front gardens.

We finished the year with a Christmas meeting at Wilmslow Garden Centre where 13 of us enjoyed retail therapy and afternoon tea.

**Denise Williams            282 1033**

### German

We've been meeting about a year now. Our activities include discussing, reading and even some singing. Perhaps we will include sharing recipes and food one day. We now meet regularly on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Lee Fairlie                    428 4791**

### History

We continue to have regular meetings where members give very interesting and enthusiastic accounts of the subject area under review and our slight increase in membership has improved the depth of discussion within the group. Currently we are examining the impact of exploration from the early medieval period up to the eighteenth century, both in Europe and worldwide.

**John Houghton            428 2892**

**Tom Fanning                428 8666**

### History of Art

Our group consists of 18 members and we are following a programme of study entitled *Art across the Ages*. Each meeting consists of two 30 minute presentations of an artist or group of artists in chronological order.

So far we have covered the Renaissance Artists of the 15th/16th centuries especially those of Italy.

From January the programme will focus on Venetian, Spanish and Northern European Artists of the Baroque period. In the coming year we also hope to visit some of the North West Art Galleries.

In addition some members have attended screened exhibitions at the Parris Wood Cinema Complex on The Vatican Museums including the Sistine Chapel and Rembrandt.

The following films will be on at Parris Wood in the New Year:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Vermeer <i>The Girl with the Pearl Earring</i> | 13th January |
| 2. Vincent Van Gogh                               | 14th April   |

**Tom Fanning                    428 8666**



## Local History

Ours is a large and diverse group, all keenly interested in Local History, and we continue to provide a varied and interesting programme of talks and visits all with a local theme. We have had Tom Fanning telling us about Robert Barnes the philanthropist who funded Barnes Hospital, a talk on Hatting in Stockport and a visit to Stockport Town Hall that gave us all a chance to see the incredible interior.



*The Ballroom of the Town Hall ...*



*The Council Chamber*



*Inspecting the listed  
Gents' urinals!*

We also contributed to the First World War Commemoration Day in November providing details of local involvement in the war.

**Nick Rogerson      428 6114      John Pollard      428 2150**



## Lunchtime Concerts – for free

This term we have had three concerts at the Royal Manchester College of Music. Most outstanding was a performance of the Symphonic dances from Bernstein's *West Side Story*. There was a huge orchestra conducted by Clark Rundell, who always has something interesting to say about the music. In September at the Bridgewater Hall there was a concert of Bridie Jackson and The Arbour's harmony-led arrangements of songs with touches of blues, jazz, baroque and gospel. In early November the RNCM's newly re-furbished and enlarged concert hall was opened, and we recently had the chance to experience the improved acoustics and seating. This was a programme in which the RNCM Concert Orchestra played Weber's *Hassan Overture* and Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony*, yet another memorable musical experience.

*Lee and David Fairlie meet Bridie Jackson*



*Did you hear the one about the piccolo player who ...*

Our last concert will be on Friday 5th December at the Manchester University Department of Music where once again we shall hear the many and varied student groups in their Vocal Showcase programme.

We meet at Elm Road at midday for the usual transport arrangements. Please ring me for further details.

**Barbara Wingard 428 5922**

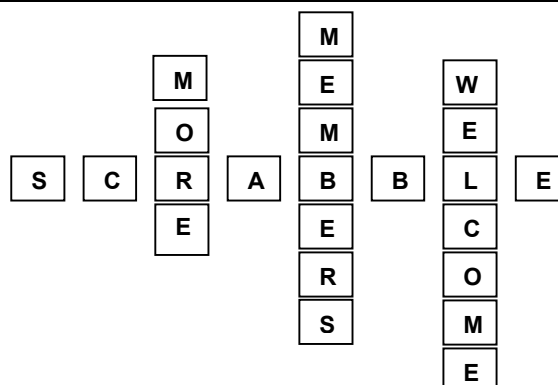
## Science

It is hoped that the Science Group will recommence in the New Year. Two or three potential speakers have been identified and the first talk should be at the end of January/early February. Members who originally expressed interest will be contacted by email but all are welcome. The venue may have to be changed as the URC is undergoing building work and I am exploring alternatives.

**David Gane 428 0204 davidjgane@btinternet.com**

## Scrabble

Our friendly and non-competitive Scrabble Group is flourishing. We now have nine members and usually get between five and seven at our fortnightly meetings. We can still accommodate new members and would welcome anyone interested in joining us.



**Ann Gane 428 0204**

## Singing for Pleasure

Songs from the First World War have been the focus of our rehearsals for the past few months in preparation for the First World War Commemoration Day. It's been a rewarding experience not only discovering new songs but also in finding out so much about the background to them.

For the *Tunes from the Trenches* medley specially written for this centenary year, we had instrumental accompaniment with Lee Fairlie playing the flute and piccolo and Ann Jubb on the oboe. Dorothy Walker as ever gave us great support on the piano. We are indeed fortunate to have such competent musicians in our U3A.



Another of our members, Ian Ewing, also makes a greatly appreciated contribution to our practices. As an experienced folk singer and guitarist, he has a great repertoire of songs to pass on to the choir in our regular 'folk slot'.



*Three of the male voices, Ian Ewing, Don Haslam and Keith Harris*



If there are any other U3A members who are interested in singing and would like a 'taster session' please come along; previous experience is not necessary and there are no auditions! We start up again on Tuesday 13th January.

**Barbara Wingard 428 5922**



## Walking (Longer Walks)

2014 has been a very good year; we now have a sufficient number on the email list (23) to ensure enough participants for a walk every month of the year, with an average of 9 walkers.

- Jun: A circuit of the Grane Valley above Haslingden (7.5 miles – moderate)  
Jul: Cat and Fiddle to Three Shires Head (6 miles – moderate)  
Aug: Taxal, Goyt Valley, Fernilee Reservoir and Ladder Hill (7.5 miles – moderate)  
Sep: A circuit up to the moors around Hollingworth Lake (6 miles – easy)  
Oct: Stalybridge Country Park, Swinshaw Res., Hollingworthall Moor (7 miles – moderate)  
Nov: A morning circuit of Lantern Pike from Rowarth, with lunch at the Devonshire Arms in Mellor (5 miles – easy)



*In the Grane valley ...*



*... mind the gap!*



*Ice creams back at the car park*





*Above Fernilee Reservoir  
Keith and Judi Marsden, John and Judith Houghton, Lesley Witton,  
Linda and Ian Ewing, Jenny Smith and Don Haslam*



*Heading up towards Hollingworthall Moor ...*

*Judi Marsden, Jenny Smith, Susan Bayley, Ian Ewing, Linda Ewing, Don Haslam, Tom Fanning,  
Lesley Witton, David Gane, Allan Witton, Keith Marsden*



*... and on the summit*

Car sharing from Gatley Hill House is the normal arrangement. 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 membership is now 16, with an average of 8 per walk.

Over the last year we have enjoyed a variety of 12 walks including:  
Jumbles Country,  
Dane Valley,  
Tittesworth,  
Marple Bridge,  
Entwistle.

*The group at Entwistle*



Next year's list will take us further afield as we have an earlier start time of 11 a.m. and will take packed lunches. Any U3A members who would like to join us meet outside the URC on the Thursday of the week after the monthly U3A meeting.

**Stuart Forsyth      491 3592**

## Walking (Strollers)

There are now 16 members and we have changed the starting time to 10.30. It is a friendly group of women, the tempo is not high and we always finish with a drink, somewhere. Most months we walk on the 1st and 3rd Monday morning. Recently we went to Dunham Massey, Bramhall Park, Vernon Park and Abney Hall.

*The Strollers at Bramhall Hall*

*Francis Heron, Marjorie Ding,  
June Kennedy, Lesley Boardman,  
Barbara Joyce, Pam Marshall,  
Ann Taylor, Yvonne McWilliam,  
Pat Marsden, Marianne Owen,  
Margret Broadhurst, Mary Lyons*

**Marianne Owen      491 3323**



## Wine Appreciation

The raison d'être for the group is to enjoy evenings 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**







## DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

(At 10th December 2014)

The four changes 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	07909 126362	2nd Tuesday	1:30-3:00	Cheadle Library
Book Group 3	Tina Kelly	As above	1st 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	2nd Monday	2:00-4:00	Café Unity
Dining	Lois Evans	428 4373	3rd Wednesday	Various	Various
<b>French Conversation</b>	<b>Jim Crook</b>	<b>428 5764</b>	<b>4th Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00-12:00</b>	<b>House</b>
Gardening	Denise Williams	282 1033	4th Thursday	1:30	Various
German	Lee Fairlie	428 4791	<b>4th Tuesday</b>	<b>10:00-12:00</b>	House
History	John Houghton Tom Fanning	428 2892 428 8666	2nd and 4th Fridays	2:00	URC
History of Art	Tom Fanning	428 8666	Last Wednesday	10:30-12:30	St Chad's Hall
Local History	Nick Rogerson	428 6114	1st Wednesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
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	Various	Various
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	<b>11:00</b>	Meet at URC
Walking (Strollers) Easy local walks	Marianne Owen Anne Taylor	491 3323 428 2683	1st and 3rd Mondays	<b>10:30</b>	Meet at URC
Wine Appreciation	Peter Bayley	282 3468	Monthly as arranged	7:00	House

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. Otherwise contact the Coordinator for details.

*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.