

CHEADLE AND GATLEY



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER – JUNE 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.

July 9th	Bees and Honey	Rob Jennings
August	No meeting	
September 10th	Natural History of the Amazon	Brian White
October 8th	The Life & Work of James Clerk Maxwell (19 th century physicist)	David Fairlie
November 12th	The First World War Study Day	
December 10th	Christmas Meeting	



Members of the Gardening Group on their visit to Biddulph Grange

Chairman's Message

We are pleased to note that our membership numbers remain strong. This is the result of a united effort by everybody involved and I would like to thank our Membership Secretary, Judi Marsden, for all the hard work undertaken. As you will all be aware, some of the Committee have given notice of their intention to stand down at the AGM. Although I will thank them formally at this meeting I would like to take this opportunity to make a personal thanks to Tom Fanning, our Vice Chair, Nuala Lynn, our Treasurer and Judi Marsden, our Membership Secretary. Without their collective effort we would never have got off the ground and I owe them a sincere thank you for this. I hope that members will come forward to fill the posts which will become vacant, and they can be assured of all the necessary assistance from the rest of the Committee whilst they settle in.

Finally, we are starting to come together to develop a new Study Day based around the First World War, which I am sure will be as memorable as our Science Day last year. I hope you will all feel able to take part in supporting the Day, which will take place on the 12th November.

Thank you all for your continued support.

John Houghton



National and Regional News

The **U3A AGM and Conference** will be held on 9th and 10th September at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

Lecturers will be Peter Morris, Senior Lecturer in Law, and Professor Richard Faragher on 'What is ageing and what can we do about it'.

Full details on the U3A website or from C&G Secretary.

U3A National Photographic Competition The theme this year is 'Architectural Britain – old and new'. Entries are invited from U3A members, the closing date is 31st August.

Full details available on the U3A website or from C&G Secretary.

U3A North West Region is looking for new volunteers to join the **North West Regional Committee**. NW Region organise seminars and workshops, promote and start new U3A groups.

If you would like to receive a regular copy of the NW Region Newsletter, send your email details to Jenny Carley Tel: 01244 680 460 or www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

The **North West Region Summer School** will be held at Newton Rigg College, near Penrith from Tuesday 26th –Friday 29th August 2014. Places still available on Archaeology, Art, Creative Writing, Novels of 1961, and a Musical journey from Renaissance to Romanticism
Contact David Joseph on 01625 861 327 for more information.

U3A 2015 Diaries – orders are being taken by the Secretary. The diaries will cost £2 – payable in advance.

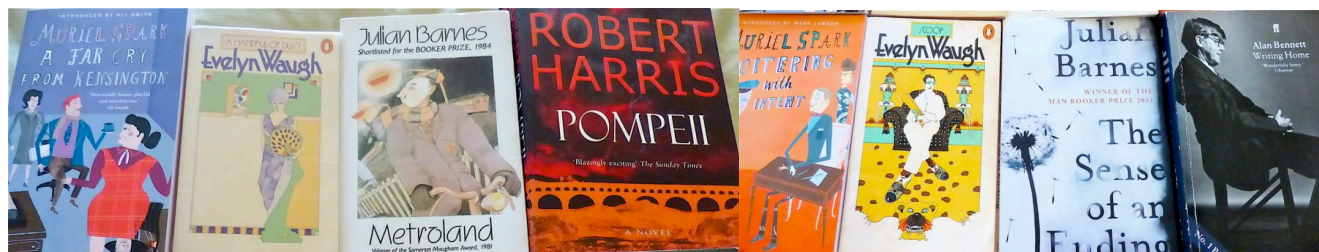
News from around the Groups

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

When we met in January, members recommended books they had enjoyed over the festive season. These covered a wide range of genres and included a novel about contemporary Afghanistan, *The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul* by Deborah Rodriguez; Simon Brett's whodunnit, *Bones under the Beach Hut*; a blockbuster epic spanning five generations of a Texan family, *The Son* by Philipp Meyer; *The Heartbreaker*, last in Susan Howatch's St Benet's trilogy, centring on an Anglican church in London; a collection of broadcasts by Radio 4 correspondent Fergal Keane, *Letter to Daniel: Despatches from the Heart*; and classics by John Steinbeck, Dickens and Jane Austen.

Featured authors this spring have been Julian Barnes, Robert Harris and Alan Bennett. We enjoyed the latter's books in May, which happily coincided with the author's 80th birthday so we had the added bonus of watching *Talking Heads* and several of his plays again on television.



In June we read books associated with World War One. It was interesting to get a German perspective from *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque and to hear the woman's point of view from *Testament of Youth* by Vera Brittain. Both of these were read by several members and were highly recommended.

Our theme for July is 'Children's Classics' and for September our chosen author is Anthony Trollope.

Lesley Witton **428 1522**

Tuesday and Thursday Book Groups

Reading Group 2 now has 11 members. We continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Cheadle Library. We have read such authors as Robert Harris, Charles Dickens, Khaled Hosseini, Pat Barker, Susan Abulhawa, John Mortimer and Muriel Spark among others.

We have continued to give readers a choice each month of the library-provided book or their own choices in turn. A diverse range of opinions each month means there is never a dull moment.

Members of the Tuesday Book Group



Reading Group 3 - the more recently formed group - now has 7 members and would welcome more. It is run along similar lines but on the first Thursday of the month again at Cheadle library. Authors have included books from the library and readers' own choices including Peter May, John Steinbeck and Jeffrey Archer.

At both groups we have lively, non-serious debates and eat biscuits!

For more information or if you want to join us, please contact me.

Tina Kelly 312 1874 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.

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.

Also, I have introduced a monthly bridge problem. At the start of each month, all members of the group are invited to solve a bridge problem. The problems will mostly concentrate on features of the play of the hand, but it gives a format for introducing ideas, e.g. endplay or squeeze, which may not readily occur in randomly dealt hands. In this way, it is hoped that expertise might be gained.

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 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

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.

Josephine Haynes 491 2382

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group is still going strong with seven regulars. We meet at the Cafe Unity in Heald Green at 2 pm 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

Since January the Dining Group has visited five local restaurants.

First we tried the new Brazilian restaurant in Cheadle. We were made very welcome and enjoyed very good food at a reasonable price.

The waiter took our photo and the satisfied looks of the diners tell it all.



In February we visited Stockport College. A very high quality menu was prepared and served by the students – haute cuisine at rock bottom prices, we couldn't go wrong and most of us plan to return. The students gave excellent service and the food was superb.

In March we enjoyed afternoon tea at the Plaza, Stockport. Most people like afternoon tea and we had a choice of teas and menus and some entertaining waitresses who are all volunteers.

April saw a trip to a traditional pub with a carvery menu – The Cheadle Hulme. In May we are planning an early evening visit to the Gatley Tikka Masala which opened recently.

The Dining Group usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month for light-hearted social get together with food and drink. Everyone is welcome, but notice of your intention to join us would be appreciated because of restaurant bookings.

Lois Evans

428 4373

Family History

Since the Family History group resumed after last summer's break, interest has been rather limited, largely due to the fact that most members have done as much research as they want to do and only one or two new members have joined. Nevertheless, good progress was made by those doing research into their ancestors, and interesting discussions were held on cloud computing, on new ways of recording research and on new articles in the magazine 'Who do you think you are?'.

As coordinator, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all the members who have shown enthusiastic support to the group since it started in 2011. As all members now know enough to proceed on their own and no one else has shown interest, I decided to relinquish leadership of the group at the May meeting. If anyone is interested in re-starting the group from September I would be happy to help them re-launch it.

Sheila Harkin

998 7276

Gardening

The Gardening Group helps members gain knowledge through practical sessions, research, talks, visits and videos. A committee decides the programme and some members have run meetings this year. We have had an enjoyable and productive 6 months with varied activities as follows:

February	DVD Growing vegetables
March	Gardening Quiz
April	Plant swap and Wild flowers
May	Visit to Biddulph Grange
June	Naming plants in David's garden
July	Visit to a group member's garden where we will be taking cuttings
August	Visit to a group member's garden for further information on vegetable growing



Members of the Gardening Group on their visit to Biddulph Grange

We continue to maintain the Patsy Calton Memorial Garden at Cheadle Library. The 2 smaller pots are planted with rockery plants and look very sweet. The 2 larger pots will soon have summer flowering plants. Do take a look next time you are there.

In addition we have taken part in the setting up of a communal herb garden at Cheadle Medical Practice.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. Venues vary and the time is usually 2 p.m.

Denise Williams 282 1033

German

Once a month our small group of intermediate German language students meet to share experiences and ideas in conversation. The topics range from food through history and travel, but our goal is to become more confident and fluent speakers of German.

Lee Fairlie 428 4791

History

Group membership continues to be maintained, and we are currently finishing our latest session covering the period up to the middle of the Eighteenth Century. In September we will select a new topic, which is yet to be agreed. In addition we will work on our contribution for the Study Day in November offering an Introduction to the Day covering the causes leading up to the First World War.

John Houghton 428 2892

Tom Fanning

428 8666

History of Art

This new course had its first, preliminary meeting in April with 14 people attending. The course proposes to cover the history of Western Art from the late Middle Ages to the present day, using a series of DVDs from 'The Great Courses Company'. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month from 10.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. at St. Chad's Church Hall in Cheadle. The hall is next to St Chad's RC Church and adjacent to Bullock's Coaches garage and booking office.

Tom Fanning

428 8666

Local History

We continue to provide a varied and interesting programme of talks and visits. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1.30, and the venue for talks is the Community room in Cheadle Library.

After a change of plan in February we visited Stockport Heritage Library, which was well attended and interesting for everyone.

In March we had our discussion on what could feature on a future programme, then on what we might contribute to the WW1 day to be held in November. Surprisingly not many members knew of relatives who had served in the War.

April saw a return visit by Diana Leitch who talked about Fletcher Moss and the Parsonage gardens.

In May we visited the Plaza Cinema for a tour that covered its history and the changes that had been made by the volunteers who run the enterprise and are restoring the fabric.

In June, John Houghton continued his talk on the early history of policing in Manchester.

Nick Rogerson

428 6114

John Pollard

428 2150

Lunchtime Concerts – for free

Because of the concert hall restoration work, after Christmas the RNMC concerts were held at the new (for us) venues of the interesting gallery space of the Art School and at the beautiful early 18th century church of St Ann's in the city.

The programmes, stimulating as ever, have furthered our musical experiences, particularly a recital by eight harpists and also a concert of Jewish Klezmer (celebration) music at the University. We finish this summer term at the Bridgewater Hall for the aptly named 'Little Bite Concerts'. How fortunate we are to have so much music on our doorstep. If you would like more details about the programmes, then please give me a ring.

Barbara Wingard

428 5922

Pub Quiz

We meet each month on the first Thursday at The Ashlea in Cheadle at 8.00 pm. Altogether twelve people have turned up at various meetings, but generally there are between 4 and 8 of us. We are usually stumped by questions about pop music, but do rather better on history and general knowledge. On one occasion we won £10, but that was for being second to last, which is a special skill!

Chris Bester

312 1874

Science

A Science Group was set up during the winter jointly with Wilmslow U3A. Almost 50 Members expressed interest, split roughly 50:50 between Wilmslow and our own U3A members.

An initial meeting was held to discuss the format etc attended by just over twenty members. It was agreed to hold monthly meetings with an external speaker invited to talk on current topical scientific topics – not too technical and aimed at interested non-scientists. Generally the speaker would be from a local University or local industry. The initial range of topics could include climatology, cosmology, bio medical research, energy (supply and demand, renewables, nuclear, fracking), computing, history of science discovery in the north-west. Visits to scientific establishments are also a possibility.

The first talk was at the end of January by Emeritus Professor John Handley on Climate Change – Impacts and Adaptation. It was a very entertaining and informative talk, well received by the 50 members who attended.

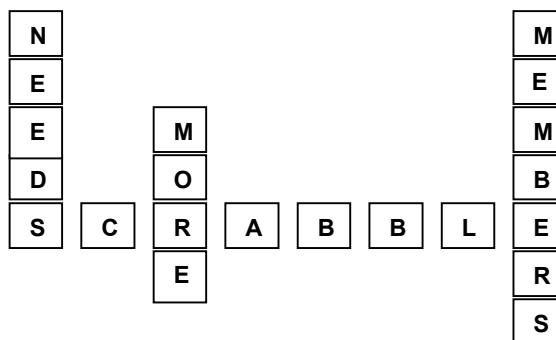
A full programme for Autumn 2014 is now being prepared and it is hoped that the next talk will be at the end of September.

Anyone else interested please let me know and I will add your name to the group circulation list.

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

Scrabble

The 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. We are friendly and non competitive.



Ann Gane **428 0204**

Singing for Pleasure

Nationalism and national songs have been the main focus of our sessions since Christmas. In addition to songs of the British Isles we have learned, through one of our members who comes from Finland, a national song by her country's great composer, Sibelius. This, as well as Verdi's famous chorus from Nabucco, makes interesting programme building.

We are now starting on a new repertoire of songs for the World War 1 centenary, and we shall be presenting some of these for the U3A Study Day in November. Although we now have six men in the choir, it would be good to have a few more for the rousing choruses from the 'Tunes from the Trenches' programme. It is not necessary to be able to read music and there are certainly no auditions, but there is a very friendly atmosphere to welcome new members.

Barbara Wingard **428 5922**

Theatre Visits

The Theatre Group has continued to enjoy a wide variety of different plays performed at local theatres. In February we saw the hilarious farce 'Lend me a Tenor' at the Garrick. CHADS was the venue in March to see the very well acted story of Alan Turing 'Breaking the Code'. At the Northenden theatre in April 'Stepping Out' was enjoyed by those who like tap-dancing, and in May we saw 'Kindly Keep it Covered' 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**

Walking (Longer Walks)

We have been pleased to welcome three new members on walks in the last few months, for which we have had an average of 8 participants.

Dec:	A short festive circuit from Alderley Edge via Hare Hill, with mulled wine and mince pies for elevenses	(4 miles – easy)
Jan:	A circuit of Ramsbottom and up to the Peel Tower	(7 miles – moderate)
Feb:	Errwood Hall and Shining Tor from Pym Chair	(6 miles – moderate)
Mar:	A linear walk from Broadbottom to Glossop	(6 miles – easy)
Apr:	Winter Hill from Smithills Hall	(8 miles – moderate)
May:	Lad's Leap from Tintwistle	(6 miles – moderate)



On the summit of Shining Tor: Jim Crook, Ian Ewing, Linda Ewing, Susan Davies, Heather Wilkinson, Alan Lynn, Geoff Weisgard, Lesley Witton, Charles Booth, Tom Fanning (photo Allan Witton)

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 Short Walks group undertook 11 walks over the last year visiting exotic places like Alderley Edge, Lyme Park, Broadbottom and the Goyt Valley.

The current membership is 15 and we average 8 walkers on each trip. The last 12 months has seen many more members offering to lead walks which helps to give a more varied list of walks.

For anyone wishing to join us we meet outside the URC on the Thursday of the week after the U3A monthly meeting or contact me for details of forthcoming walks.

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.



The Strollers on their November walk
Margaret, Janet, Ruth, Marianne, Tina, Barbara, 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 the photos of the Gardening Group's visit to Biddulph Grange and of her Book Group, and to Lois Evans for the Dining Group photo. 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 December 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 a cooperative association of local U3As: Bramhall; Cheadle Hulme; Cheadle and Gatley; Poynton; Wilmslow; and Macclesfield was accepted into the group earlier this year. Representatives from each U3A meet 3 times a year, to share good practice, fresh ideas, ways of working and news, and to organise common events, such as the Study Days.

This year's **Study Day** is on 'Arts', and is entitled '**Every Picture tells a Story**'.

It will be held at St Michael and All Angels, Bramhall on Thursday 9th October, 10 am till 3 pm. Look out for the poster and ticket forms. It costs £15 for the day including lunch and refreshments.

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 following is a list of the current Open Groups. Details are on their websites.

Bramhall: Church History, Creative Writing, Line Dancing, Art, Wine Tasting, Badminton
Cheadle Hulme: Poetry, Tai Chi
Macclesfield: None.
Poynton: Exercise, Creative Writing, Cake decorating, Hallé concerts.
Wilmslow: Country Dancing, Cycling

For more information on any of the above, contact the C&G Network representative:
Tina Kelly 07909 126362. Email: cmk45@live.co.uk

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.**

Your Committee

Note that the positions of Vice Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary will change after elections at the AGM.

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	07909 126362	cmk45@live.co.uk

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

(At 7th June 2014)

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	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
Gardening	Denise Williams	282 1033	4th Thursday	1:30	Various
German	Lee Fairlie	428 4791	Tuesdays monthly	2:00-3:30	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
Pub Quiz	Chris Bester	312 1874	1st Thursday	8:00 p.m.	Ashlea
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	12:30	Meet at URC
Walking (Strollers) Easy local walks	Marianne Owen Anne Taylor	491 3323 428 2683	1st and 3rd Mondays	11:00	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.