

CHEADLE AND GATLEY



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2015

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

8th July	The UK and Music of the 1950s	Bill Jubb
August	No meeting scheduled	
9th September	Stockport Riots	Tom Fanning
14th October	Folk Lore and Traditions of the North West	John Doughty
11th November	Life and Landscapes in Nepal	Lesley Witton
9th December	Christmas entertainment	



The Local History group visits the wonderful St. Thomas' church in Stockport

Chairman's Message

As some of you will know it is my intention to stand down as Chairman at our June 2015 AGM after 4 years in office. I have had the pleasure of working with an enthusiastic and very capable group of people who made up the Committee and as a result made my job a lot easier. I think we can look back with some pride on our efforts in establishing a thriving organisation, which is now financially solvent with a growing level of membership. With all that in place I think it is time to step down and let my successor with a new team take the Cheadle and Gatley U3A on to the next level and I wish them every success.

Our usual venue at Elm Road Church as now been renovated and provides additional facilities to our membership, which I am sure will be to the benefit of us all.

Our Interest Groups continue to prosper and I am looking forward to joining our latest addition which is an Archaeology Group which is going to be led by Lois Evans, starting in the autumn.

Our U3A annual charity for this year was the Stockport Youth Carers, and I am pleased to report that over the last 12 months we have raised £300, which will be presented to them in due course. Many thanks for your support.

It only leaves me to say that I am grateful for all your support and wish you all the very best.

John Houghton



The new gardens and entrance to the URC halls



Relaxing inside the new foyer

Your Committee

The following photograph includes those who were newly elected to the committee at the June 2015 AGM.



Vivien Willan Pam Marshall Mary Sharples Tina Kelly Batsheva Samely Janet Farrall Lesley Witton

Chair	Lesley Witton	428 1522	
Vice Chair	Tina Kelly	376 7909	07909 126362
Secretary	Janet Farrall	428 7883	
Treasurer	Batsheva Samely	428 6030	07722 026278
Membership Secretary	Pam Marshall	282 5359	
Speaker Secretary	Mary Sharples	428 4901	
Groups Coordinator	Vivien Willan	491 5763	
Webmaster	Peter Bayley	282 3468	
Publications Editor	Allan Witton	428 1522	
NE Cheshire Network	Tina Kelly	376 7909	07909 126362

Many thanks to Pauline Hadfield who has resigned from the committee but will continue to coordinate refreshments.



Growing old is something you do if you're lucky

Groucho Marx

Growing old is no more than a bad habit which busy people don't have time to form.

André Mauvois

The older I get, the older old is.

Tom Baker

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.

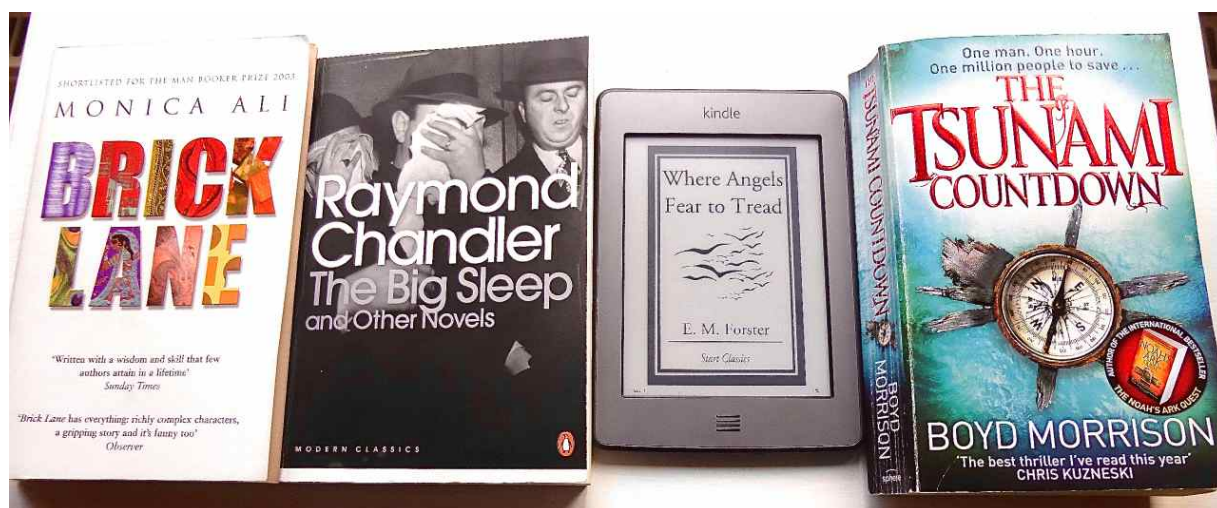
Archaeology

I am planning to start an archaeology group later this year. I am hoping to hold an ideas meeting in July, and to start meetings in the autumn. The group will be mainly based at URC Elm Road, so there's no need to buy a spade just yet! If you are interested in this exciting subject please contact me by phone or email.

Lois Evans 428 4373 lois-gatley@hotmail.co.uk

Monday Book Group

The Monday Evening Book Group has enjoyed a very varied programme of reading in 2015. We started the year with Monica Ali, whose prize-winning novel *Brick Lane* was the most popular book. It is a fascinating and poignant account of life in a Bangladeshi community in London. Two of the group read *In The Kitchen*, a thriller, one read *Untold Story* (a fantasy based on the idea that Princess Diana did not die but escaped to a small town in America!) and another read *Alentejo Blue*, set in a Portuguese village. While her novels are very different, the group decided that they all feature displaced persons in some way and examine the role of fate in our lives.



February's choice was Arnold Bennett and we all enjoyed his novels about life in the Potteries in the nineteenth century. We agreed that he really captures the period and place, but some felt that, though he describes relationships well, he does not have the real insight into character seen in later novelists. We had a complete change in March with the novels of Raymond Chandler. Once tuned to the style and language, we were completely drawn into the rather seedy world of Californian crime in the mid-20th century. His plots are gripping and his descriptions capture the mood and atmosphere with witty details. Our theme for April was Natural Disasters and the books we found included non-fiction and fiction and ranged from the appallingly badly written to the very engaging. (details on request!).

E.M.Forster was our chosen author for May and some read (or re-read) *A Room with a View*, though *Where Angels Fear to Tread* was also enjoyed and *A Passage to India* came into the discussion as most of us had read it before. It was our opinion that Forster explores ideas of identity in his novels and the conflict between the individual and society.

For June we have chosen two crime-writers: Ruth Rendell and Val McDermid and over the summer we will be reading Booker Prize nominees to discuss in September.

Lesley Witton 428 1522

Tuesday and Thursday Book Groups

Reading Group 2 (Tuesday afternoons) has enjoyed some modern novels recently. Our 'Archivist' keeps a record of our verdicts and key comments. We give each one a consensus star rating (in brackets).

Waiting for Sunrise and *Any Human Heart* by William Boyd (2/3*) "Kafkaesque"

The Dinner by Dutch novelist Herman Koch (2*) "Unreliable narrator makes it exciting"

The Thread by Victoria Hislop (3*) "Well researched and fascinating - a cultural melting-pot history of Thessaloniki"

A book that one member may think is 'laugh-out-loud funny' another may consider 'contrived and scarcely believable'. Yet another may point out that the book 'deals with the fact that we are a composite of many selves and how we change over time, using the technique of a journal'. So everyone can read with different levels of depth and enjoyment, which makes for a good and stimulating session.

Reading Group 3 (Thursday mornings) was treated to a quality selection by our library book providers this semester. They have decided we are discerning readers and have given us mostly a range of classics:

The Great Gatsby by Scott Fitzgerald, *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh, *Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee, and a Booker Prize Winner *Bring Up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel.

We are now so cultured that we have requested a lighter read for a change and our latest novel is their Book of the Month : *The Separation* by Dinah Jefferies.

We have sometimes read the classics many years ago but get even more out of them now. Some stand the test of time better than others in our view and evoke a world which is quite fascinating although long gone.

Anyone wanting to try a taster of either reading group should please contact me.

Tina Kelly

376 7909

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.

Occasionally 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. I hope to introduce duplicate Pairs some time soon.

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

Rather than being a regular group, the Computer Group has become more of a Helpdesk, where members can make contact to obtain practical advice on particular issues that concern them. This approach enables members to become more comfortable in the use of their own computers and able to progress independently. Members should feel free 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 generally meets every month on a Monday, at the first floor room in 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 2pm to 4 pm.

The group is 8 strong at present .

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 800 words. Come and join us.

Nigel Bann 491 6835

Dining

The Dining Group has continued to look for new dining experiences. Our criteria in choosing a restaurant has been good, varied food which offers good service and value in a pleasant setting. Our **January** meeting was cancelled because so many of us had other post Christmas commitments. In **February** we visited the White Hart in Cheadle, which is under new management. We all had an enjoyable, reasonably priced meal with very good service. In **March** we tried Platform 5 in Cheadle Hulme. This was also under new management but we found the service to be slow and although the food was plentiful it was rather pricey. **April** saw us enjoying very good fish and chips (always a favourite!) in Jackson's Fish restaurant in Cheadle.



The dining Group in The Clink: Chris Bester, Susan Brown, Janet Stoppard, Mary Sharples, Barbara Wingard, Lois Evans, Pauline Hadfield and Janet Farrell

Lois Evans 428 4373

In **May** a new venture - The Clink restaurant - opened in the grounds of Styal Prison. The aim is to help prisoners by teaching them trades which will help their rehabilitation on release. Some of us were daunted by the security requirements for our visit but, as the restaurant is outside the prison, these have been relaxed. The food and service were highly recommended.

We welcome new members to join us for a convivial dining experience. We usually meet at lunchtime on the third Wednesday of the month. Any ideas for new places to visit are always welcomed.

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

Gardening

As a group we are saddened by the loss of one of our founder members, Yvonne McWilliam, who passed away recently. She will be much missed by all her friends in the Gardening Group. She leaves her husband, Ken, children and grandchildren.



The Gardening Group continues to flourish and we currently plan the meetings by means of a committee. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, usually at 2 p.m., and venues vary. We enjoy gardening topics, visits and other gardening related activities. We have some meetings in each other's gardens (which we usually combine with taking cuttings etc.), visits to ornamental gardens, talks and quizzes.

We also continue to maintain the planting commemorating Patsy Calton at Cheadle Library.

In addition some members of the group take part in the Gatley Open Gardens Scheme by opening their gardens or volunteering our help in the show gardens. (See the feature on page 12).



Due to pressure of other commitments, I am stepping down from being Coordinator of the Gardening Group. Anyone wishing to take over from me please let me know.

*Brenda Atack, Nuala Lynn,
Marjorie Ding and Marianne Owen
at a recent visit to
Walkden Gardens, Sale*

Denise Williams

282 1033

German

Our shared language, cultural and family interests often lead to stimulating and thoughtful discussion. This term we have used video, articles and family memorabilia as our starting points. We are fortunate to include native speakers of German as well as interested participants in our group. We welcome new members to our meetings held on the 4th Tuesday morning of the month.

Lee Fairlie

428 4791

History

We have maintained our membership during the year and are finishing our current project which is the examination of the Age of Exploration up to the eighteenth century and its impact on Europe and the rest of the world. In the autumn we will decide our next venture.

John Houghton

428 2892

Tom Fanning

428 8666

History of Art

Our group consists of an average 12 members. We are continuing our study of Western Art. We have now progressed from c 1400 to the beginning of the 16th century. We are using a DVD based programme from the Great Studies series.

During the next 3 months we are concentrating on the Art of the Baroque and the programmes will focus on the art of Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. Please note that we have a new venue and time:

1.30 on the last Wednesday of the month at the URC Elm Road, Gatley.

Tom Fanning

428 8666

Local History

We continue to enjoy great support from our members with excellent attendances at our meetings and visits. This year the first visit was to Manchester Art Gallery to see 'Sensory War 1914-2014' which followed on from the theme of the Study Day. Next we had the Didsbury local historian Diana Leitch talking about the S&J Watts family of Burnage, Didsbury, Cheadle and Heaton Mersey with particular emphasis on their time at Abney Hall. Then John Houghton talked to us about how the Victorians solved Manchester's water problems, which was a topic completely different and most enlightening.



The exterior of St Thomas' church

Our last visit was to St Thomas' church in Stockport which everyone enjoyed, in particular the home made-cakes they put on for us. The church was most interesting as well so a good choice!



Nick Rogerson

428 6114

John Pollard

428 2150

Lunchtime Concerts – for free

As ever the Royal Northern College of Music and the University Music Department have presented us with not only a great variety of music in style and period, but also with many different combinations of instruments and voices. The concert with twelve harps at the RNCM was certainly a memorable musical and visual experience. In April we visited Manchester University for a performance of Klezmer Music. A visit beforehand to the Jewish Museum enhanced our appreciation and understanding of this special music.



Some of the Lunchtime Concert goes visiting the Jewish Museum

For the summer we shall be attending ‘A Little Bite Music’ concerts at the Bridgewater Hall. These are usually weekly events held at 12.30 in the foyer of the Bridgewater Hall. The programmes cater for all tastes of music. We shall be attending as a group on Friday 3rd July and Friday 11th September. Please ring me if there are any questions.

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

Science

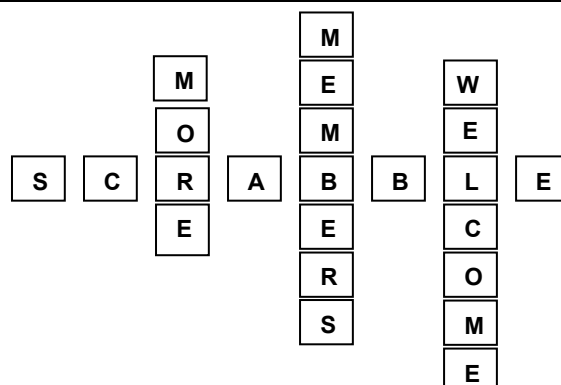
The Science Group is now a Network Group, organized by Graham Beech of Wilmslow U3A. Talks so far this year have been: ‘When Galaxies collide’, ‘Medical Imaging’ and ‘Fracking - Economic benefits and environmental impacts’.

The talks are at Wilmslow Library at 7.30, and a programme for the autumn is currently in preparation. Anyone interested in the talks should contact Graham Beech on 01625 402946 or email him at gb.u3a@talktalk.net to be put on the e-mailing list, or contact the C&G representative, David Gane.

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

This year one of our themes has been a national song tour of the British Isles. It's been enjoyable to sing old favourites and to learn some new ones such as 'Scots wa' hae wi' Wallace bled' that really needed the help of an interpreter! We did, however, eventually get to grips with this patriotic song, which in the event of Scottish independence would most likely have been the national anthem.

Our new focus following the Jewish experience of the Lunchtime Concert Group is 'Fiddler on the Roof'. We hope to present a medley from this musical at the U3A Christmas party. Anyone interested is welcome to join us; our last rehearsal this term is on 7th July, and we start up again on 8th September.

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

Theatre Visits

The Theatre Group has continued to enjoy a wide variety of different plays performed at local theatres, such as CHADS, the Altrincham Garrick, the Players' Theatre, and the Stockport Garrick. Thanks are due to Mary Lyons for arranging the visits for the last 3 years.

If anyone wishes to join us they are more than welcome. For details of our future visits and the plays please ring me.

Chris Bester 376 7909

Walking (Longer Walks)

The Longer Walking Group continues to thrive, with four new members joining the regulars during the first half of this year. We are fortunate that a number of people are prepared to lead the walks, so there is always someone available in the absence of others.

Dec:	A morning walk through Lyme Park from Disley	(4 miles – easy)
Jan:	A circuit from Dunham Woodhouses, including Dunham Massey Park	(6 miles – easy)
Feb:	A walk from New Mills	(6 miles – moderate)
Mar:	A walk from Disley Golf Club	(7 miles – moderate)
Apr:	Bosley Cloud from Rushton Spencer	(7 miles – moderate)
May:	Mill Hill from Little Hayfield	(7 miles – fairly strenuous)



On the December walk through Lyme Park ...



... with mulled wine and mince pies for elevenses



Crossing the fields near Dunham Woodhouses



The whole party on the summit of The Cloud

It was a beautiful day for our walk up Mill hill to find the remains of the WW2 plane.



High above Kinder Reservoir en route to Mill Hill



On the way up William Clough ...



... and emerging at the top



David has a question for our researcher Lesley about the crashed plane

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 has a membership of 17 and we average 8 members per walk. This year's walks now start at 11 a.m. giving us the chance to walk in areas that are a bit further out. Walks the group will undertake this year will include: Hilbre Island; Wildboardclough; Delamere Forest; Rudyard Lake and Turton. Anyone wishing to join us will find us gathering outside the URC on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 a.m. If you require any information regarding the group you can contact me at:

stuart.forsyth4@gmail.com

Stuart Forsyth

491 3592

Walking (Strollers)

The Strollers meet every 1st and 3rd Monday morning at 10.30 at Elm Road URC for a walk of about one hour followed by a drink of at least an hour. We often walk in parks not far away such as Bramhall Park, Wythenshawe Park, Abney Hall Park and Vernon Park. It's a very friendly, welcoming group, and there are usually about 10 people taking part - all women.



A rainy morning in May on Gatley Hill has not deterred the Strollers.

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



The group sampling wines for the 'What's that wine?' quiz

Gatley Open Gardens 2015

Sunday, 28th June, 10.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Lovely private gardens on show, plants for sale, art, music, fun,
and lots of cake: don't miss it!

Several U3A members open their gardens as part of this scheme, and others act as helpers on the day. It started 2 years ago and raises funds for The Christie Hospital; over £8000 was raised in the first 2 years.



Programmes are £5 and give access to all gardens and show all venues.

They are available from 8th June, from A&I Supplies and Armenique in Gatley.

Visit our blog: <http://gatleyopengardens.wordpress.com>

Contact us: gatleyopengardens@hotmail.co.uk

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.

Free Legal Advice

The Third Age Trust has arranged free, 24-hour legal advice for U3A members. FirstAssist can advise members on **any** legal issues, not just U3A-related ones. Simply telephone FirstAssist on 01455 251 500 and quote the following details: Name – The Third Age Trust, Number – 70494.

North-East Cheshire Network

Representatives from each U3A in this network (Cheadle and Gatley, Cheadle Hulme, Bramhall, Poynton, Wilmslow and Macclesfield) meet every quarter to discuss ideas, recent activities and issues of common interest and study days open to all. We have a regional representative present at each meeting to advise and update us on correct U3A practices.

Network U3As sometimes have Open groups, which you can join on our U3A membership card. For other groups you have to join their own U3A.

For more information on any of the above, contact the C&G Network representative:

Tina Kelly 376 7909 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').

Editor's note: Thanks to those who have submitted photographs in addition to the Group reports.

However, 20 of the 29 images in this expanded edition were taken by Lesley and me.

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, especially those groups that go out-and-about.

Did you know? ... that the two latest editions of the Newsletter, with additional images all in colour, can be seen on the Cheadle and Gatley U3A website.

For the last 3 years the Newsletter has been published twice a year, in June and December. Publishing in June for the AGM means that it is immediately out of date by not reflecting changes in the committee that occur at the AGM. In future the Newsletter will be published in July and January in order to avoid this problem. This online version of the June 2015 Newsletter includes the new committee.

Bored? Here's a way the over-60s can easily kill a good half hour:

1. *Place your car keys in your pocket.*
2. *Phone a friend to arrange a lunch out.*
3. *Now look for your car keys.*

Steve Martin

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

(At 10th June 2015)

The seven changes are in bold italic.

GROUP	COORDINATOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Archaeology	Lois Evans	428 4373	To be announced	TBA	URC
Book Group 1	Lesley Witton	428 1522	1st Monday	7:30	House
Book Group 2	Tina Kelly	376 7909	2nd Tuesday	1:30-3:00	Cheadle Library
Book Group 3	Tina Kelly	376 7909	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	As arranged	Various	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
French Conversation	Jim Crook	428 5764	4th Wednesday	10:00-12:00	House
Gardening	Denise Williams	282 1033	4th Thursday	1:30	Various
German	Lee Fairlie	428 4791	4th Tuesday	10:00-12:00	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	1:30	URC
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	7:30	Wilmslow Library
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	Chris Bester	376 7909	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	11:00	Meet at URC
Walking (Strollers) Easy local walks	Marianne Owen Anne Taylor	491 3323 428 2683	1st and 3rd Mondays	10:30	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 Allan Witton, 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 any member of the Committee.