

CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

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

February 8th	The Eddie Stobart Story	Sheila Dale
March 8th	*Lyme Hall – My Weekend Home	Elaine Bates
April 12th	Euphorbias and other Spring Flowering Perennials	Don Witton
May 10th	*The Creation of a Modern Public Waterworks for Manchester	John Houghton
June 14th	Annual General Meeting Tax, Care and Toy Boys	Oliver Hill
July 12th	A Prison Life	Andrew Platt



Enjoying refreshments at the Christmas Social Meeting

(* NB The dates of these two talks have been interchanged since the black and white Newsletter was printed.)

Message from the Chair

The highlight of the second half of 2016 was undoubtedly the **Celebration Day** in November. The event had been a year in the planning and the idea was to involve as many Interest Groups as possible in celebrating the industrial and cultural heritage of Manchester. It worked really well with Ann Gane and members of the different History groups giving talks on the development of Cottonopolis and the contribution made by Jewish, Irish, German and Italian immigrants; readings from *Mary Barton* and *The Manchester Man*; the Choir singing ballads recording the Peterloo Massacre and the Great Exhibition; displays by the Archaeology, Art History, Craft and Gardening groups and a Timeline all the way round the hall celebrating significant events, contributed to by many different groups. We also had a magnificent lunch provided by Gina Gibson's team!



One of the many displays for the Celebration Day, this one about art in Manchester



Lee Fairlie, coordinator of the timeline



At our September meeting it was my privilege to present a cheque for £400, the money raised over the past year by the Christmas raffle and book sales, to Wendy Bray for the **Seashell Trust**.

Our charity for this year is **Walthew House**, who provide support for all those in Stockport with any kind of sensory loss.

Presentation to the Seashell Trust

Our **Christmas Social** was great fun and I'd like to thank Mary Sharples, our Speaker Secretary, for planning this so efficiently and Dorcas Flower and helpers for organising the raffle. The total raised by the raffle and donations was £302.50. Once again, Gina and her team laid on a beautiful afternoon tea.

The **Beacon Management System** has now been set up and thanks are due to Peter Bayley for his preparation for the transfer of our data and Allan Witton and Batsheva Samely for getting to grips with the running of the system. It will be in full use soon.

All our **Interest Groups** have stimulating activities planned and a new group has been set up for those interested in continuing their education through online courses, known as **MOOCs**. We also have a wide-ranging selection of speakers booked for our monthly meetings, so I very much hope that all members will find something to suit them in 2017.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Lesley Witton

Christmas Social Meeting



Entertainment: first by the Hawaiian dancers ...



... then by the choir singing 'West Side Story' ...



... followed by a marvellous spread enjoyed by all.



Bramhall U3A Loire Valley Tour

In September three of our members were delighted to be able to accompany members of Bramhall U3A on a week's tour to the Loire valley. The base for the tour was Chinon, a picturesque and historic town in the heart of Touraine. Heading south towards the Loire Valley we called at the interesting and beautiful Château de Vendevre and its gardens. The tour then took us west to the scenic and ancient Saumur, famous for its heritage, imposing castle, and the home of Gratien et Meyer wine cellars, which were informative and refreshing. We visited the pretty little town of Azay-le-Rideau, cruised on the Loire river, and had a tour of the Château Gaudrelle vineyard. On our return journey north to Caen for the ferry we called at Angers.



We found the tour interesting and stimulating, and there had been a lot to see, but we never felt that we were rushed. We really appreciated all the hard work that had gone into organising this holiday. We also felt that our U3A could arrange a similar holiday, and a small group of us are researching holiday ideas and suggestions for you to consider.

Pat Ayaydin, Lois Segar-Evans & Janet Farrell

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

We visited a dig at Collyhurst and I went on a dig at Dunham Massey. No finds at either but we have good contacts now with the South Manchester Archaeology Research Trust who hold their monthly meetings in Cheadle.

We have made use of the U3A Resource centre to borrow various DVDs on Archaeology and we contributed to the Celebration Day by displaying some finds from South Trafford excavations.

Next April we are planning another Field visit to South Wales to view Caerleon Roman remains, a 14th century ship, Caerphilly castle, the Welsh Folk Museum, Big Pit and Iron works in Blaenavon. In January SMART will be looking for ancient remains on Gatley Hill.



The display about archaeology for the Celebration Day, with some local finds

Lois Evans

428 4373

Monday Book Group

We have had a slight change of personnel since my last report, with two new members joining and others leaving, so the group has stayed at an ideal number for maintaining good discussion. Our choice of authors since June has once again been very varied.

John Steinbeck was enjoyed by everyone with comments covering his love of humanity and the countryside, his appreciation of people's stoicism and his superb plot construction. David Lodge and Kathy Lette were suggested as alternatives for our summer reading. Those who read Lodge admired him as a writer skilled in comedic observations of situation and character. Kathy Lette's *The Boy Who fell To Earth*, the story of a mother and her autistic son, proved to be a witty and wise account with some humour, lots of pathos and plenty of real love and affection at its heart.

Paulo Coelho, the Brazilian writer, was our next choice and there were mixed opinions. He clearly deals with interesting ideas, most of which involve some kind of spiritual journey, and has had enormous success worldwide. Some of us found his novels absorbing, others felt he was pandering to a modern trend for wanting to 'find oneself'. Peter Ackroyd is another writer interested in the power of the supernatural, but with a thorough academic knowledge of history too. Some of us read his non-fiction historical accounts and biographies, others read the novels *Hawksmoor* and *The Three Brothers*. We all agreed that his writing is accomplished and fascinating, though some felt the style was too elaborate in his non-fiction and others found some of the content in the novels disturbing.

Our final choice for the year was F. Scott Fitzgerald. His elegant prose style and detailed observations of society were much admired in *The Great Gatsby*, as he exposed the limitations of following 'the American dream'. His experiments with plot structure in other works were commented on, as was his use of autobiographical details.

We have got Iris Murdoch, John le Carré and Dostoevsky lined up for the new year, so it looks as if we are in for an interesting time!

Lesley Witton

428 1522

Tuesday Book Group

Since amalgamating our two reading groups owing to shortage of numbers, we have had a flurry of interest and now our group has reached 15 (officially the maximum number for book sets chosen by the library). We continue to award stars for reading quality and interest. Our diet this semester has been as follows.

We need new names by Noviolet Bulawayo (A young girl's adventures growing up in Zimbabwe, and ending up in the USA – weighty themes but written with brio.)

The Children Act by Ian McEwan (Satisfying on every level. It produced discussion on profound moral dilemmas.)

The Night Book by Richard Madeley (Lightweight and predictable but an enjoyable holiday read.)

Loki by Joanne Harris (Adventures of an amoral Norse God - who has his own comic book fan following elsewhere than here.)

Lost Luggage by Jordi Puntí (Rambling and ultimately unsatisfying tale by Catalan journalist, of sons in search of their father, enjoyed by one member however.)

Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey (1950s classic read, exploring the truth behind the traditional villainous depiction of Richard III. Most felt the re-read was worthwhile and a 'Not Guilty' verdict was the larger consensus.)

We rewarded ourselves as usual in December by wassailing with the rest of the festive revellers!

Tina Kelly

376 7909

Bowling

We are continuing to make good progress. Mutual support creates a fun atmosphere.

We are now beginning to apply the Rules and play in teams.

Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 1.00 p.m. at the URC Elm Road.

Anyone interested please contact me.

Anne McCarty

437 9900

Bridge

Firstly we must place on record our appreciation for Godfrey Jackson's efforts in getting the group up and running and playing to a reasonable standard. We gave him a bit of a send off and wish him well now that he is closer to his family in North Yorkshire.

We continue to meet on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at the small hall at St. James' parish hall. We normally have 3 tables but could accommodate a few new members if anyone is interested. What would be of great benefit is if an experienced player could come along on an occasional basis to keep us on the right track. If anyone feels that they fit the bill perhaps they could get in touch; we cannot promise a fee but there would be copious tea and biscuits. We hope you enjoyed Christmas and we will see you in the New Year.

Linda Ewing

312 5072

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.



The Craft/Sewing group's display for the Celebration Day, showing cotton, from raw material to finished goods

Josephine Haynes 491 2382

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing group is 8 strong at present and 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.

For 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, and poetry. Anything goes. We try to make the pieces around 600 to 800 words. Come and join us.

Nigel Bann 491 6835

Dining

Since June we have visited Jacksons Fish restaurant, Smithy Croft, Turquoise, Bill's Café, D'Agostino and the Farmers Arms. All these were repeat visits, some after a gap of two years or more, so it was interesting to mark the changes.

Although the Dining Group offers a pleasant social occasion we also discuss various current affairs with friendly debates, but not lively enough to cause indigestion! So far we have covered Turkish politics, the USA Presidential election, poverty in the UK and, of course, Brexit.

The Dining Group always welcomes new members. We generally meet at lunchtime.

Lois Evans

428 4373

Family History

The Family History group has had an interesting and successful autumn term. However, because of my ill health, I have decided with regret not to continue. I have enjoyed hosting this group and I wish all the members every success in tracing their family history. I am pleased to report that Linda Corry will be taking over as Group Coordinator.

Sheila Harkin

998 7276

French Conversation

The group has not mustered a full number at any of its autumn meetings, due to members (including the host!) going on holidays. We have renewed our subscription to La Vie Outre-Manche magazine. The CD is an excellent accompaniment, having clear and precise diction.

Jim Crook

428 5764

Gardening

The Gardening Group does not have a coordinator but is run collectively by the members of the group. We meet every month throughout the year, except December, and try to plan as many outdoor events as possible.

In June the group visited Pam Marshall's garden, which is a 'work in progress' garden. Brenda Attack gave a demonstration on taking cuttings from geraniums and we shared our knowledge on cuttings from other plants. July was a visit to Arley Hall to see the formal garden and to visit the greenhouse and walled area where they grow and sell plants.

In August we spent a very wet but enjoyable day at the Southport Flower Show.

In September we went to Tina Kelly's garden, also a 'work in progress' garden. Tina has some unusual and beautiful plants and as it was a lovely sunny day we had tea in the garden.



Enjoying the sunshine and beautiful plants in Tina's garden

In October we gathered at Lena Kirk's house to make Christmas garlands. Lena had worked very hard providing all the trimmings and gathering berries, ivy, cones and fir branches. Between us we made three very impressive garlands. An enjoyable and productive afternoon.

We rounded off the year in November with a celebratory Christmas lunch at The Vinery in Bruntwood Park. Highly recommended!



Christmas lunch at The Vinery

The Gardening Group's programme for 2017 is currently being put together. Activities will include a gardening quiz at the URC, a visit to Rode Hall to see the snowdrops, a talk on types of bamboo, a visit to an NSG garden, a talk on bees and their benefits and a visit to the beautiful Bodnant Garden in Wales. One of our group has recently acquired an allotment and we have agreed to help her in March or April and actually get our hands dirty doing some weeding.

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

Pam Marshall **282 5359**

German

This informal group aims to build members' confidence, fluency and understanding of German by engaging in conversation, activities and discussion at our monthly meetings. We come from a varied background and level of competence in German language, but share the enjoyment of meeting together and exchanging information and opinions in German. We feel that we are beginning to 'hit our stride' and are certainly enjoying learning together. Now in our third year, we have a membership of 10 persons with an average attendance of 6 at monthly meetings. New members are welcome.

Lee Fairlie **428 4791**

History

The Group continues to go from strength to strength. We continue to maintain our membership numbers and this period we decided to have a change from our recent topics, which concentrated on world history. Since September we have been examining the development of medicine across the world from Ancient China, including Ancient Egypt, Greece, Roman, Arabic and eventually considering Indian and Medieval medicine.

John Houghton **428 2892**

Tom Fanning **428 8666**

History of Art

Since September our group has been studying the Art of the late 19th century, including the Impressionists and the beginning of what is called Modernism. We have now reached the end of the 19th century and have started studying Picasso.

In November, as a follow-up to the Celebration Day, we visited Manchester Art Gallery and a curator gave us a very interesting talk about paintings of Manchester by Valette and Lowry.

Tom Fanning **428 8666**

Local History

We have had a few members drop out, but continue to have new members joining which keeps our attendances up.

In September we had a local historian from Marple talk to us about Samuel Oldknow, Marple's favourite son, as he was known for his local philanthropy.

In October we visited the refurbished Bramall Hall, which had only recently reopened. The group was so large we were split into two. Our guide had all the historians including Diana Leitch and her husband who had asked to join our group. She had earlier in the year talked to us about Bramall Hall. The guide was constantly 'advised' but took it well and claimed to have learned more about the Hall and its contents.



The wonderful painting on the original timbers of the Upper Hall at Bramhall Hall

In November John Pollard talked about the Alderley Edge Landscape Project but also covered the historical part of the work.

There was no meeting in December due to my sudden onset of Dementia, I forgot to get the keys for the library, despite spending time preparing the talk. The subject of the meeting has been put back to 1st March.

Nick Rogerson 428 6114 John Pollard 428 2150

Lunchtime Concerts – for free

Our season started with a very good turnout of members at the University for a talk rather than a concert when Mark Elder delivered a brilliant lecture on 'Is a conductor really necessary?'. This was his inaugural speech on being appointed Honorary Professor of Music by the University. In the light of our later research into the history of Sir Charles Hallé and the Hallé orchestra for our Celebration Day it is evident that this charismatic conductor, Mark Elder, continues the great musical tradition established by Sir Charles in 1857.

The RNCM was also the brainchild of Hallé. It was originally housed in a building designed as a gentlemen's club, which was not really suitable. It was not until the 1970s that the present well-designed college was opened. It is in the concert hall (there) that we especially enjoy the orchestral concerts given by the students and often directed by student conductors. There will be more of these concerts to come when programme details are available.

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

MOOCs – The Online Learning Group

MOOCs stands for **M**assive **O**pen **O**nline **C**ourses. There are literally thousands of such courses on every conceivable topic, offered online and free of charge. Always hungry for a bit more knowledge, 12 of us started the online learning group in October.

Sometimes we choose a course that we study together (each in their own home, in their own time, and at their own pace) but usually we all choose different topics. Once a month we meet to talk about what we learned, exchange tips and generally have a good time over a cuppa along with good discussions.

One course that most of us chose – and enjoyed – was on Successful Ageing. There was a wealth of detailed information, hints, tips, strategies, encouragement, new ideas and inspiration to be had and all of us took away something different to try out, implement, change, or just enrich our lives. Way to go!

Batsheva Samely 428 6030

Painting and Drawing

This group of 6 has met 4 times now on the first Friday morning of each month. They are a friendly group and welcome new members. They all report enjoying the informal atmosphere (and the refreshments!) and helping each other along the way.

If you want to know more, please get in touch with us.

Pat Marsden **428 7820**

Science

The Science Group is now a Network Group, organised by Graham Beech of Wilmslow U3A.

Full details and the programme can be found on the Wilmslow U3A website:

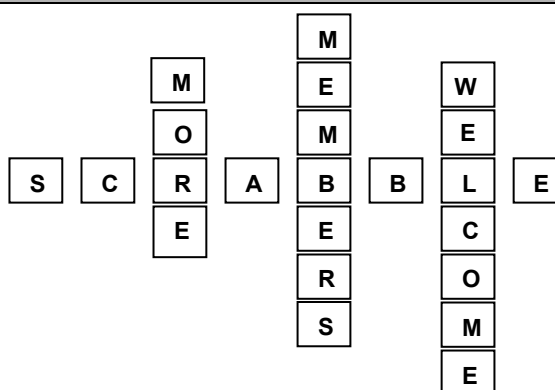
<http://wilmslowu3a.org.uk/interest%20groups/science.htm>

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

Our main project for the new year continues the exploration of British composers from the 16th to the 20th century. Having already sampled the music of Tallis and Byrd from the 16th century, Purcell from the 17th century and Benjamin Britten from the last century, it's time to look at George Frederick Handel. Although German by birth, Handel settled in London around 1716 with George I, his former employer in Hanover, and he became a British citizen in 1726.

The sacred oratorio *Messiah*, written towards the end of his life, is considered his greatest work and is certainly his most well-known. From it we are going to attempt the Hallelujah Chorus. This will be quite a challenge, but a worthwhile musical experience.

Although we have well and truly celebrated the Bard's anniversary there still remains a further performance of *West Side Story* (based on *Romeo & Juliet*) in March when we sing for the URC Women's Group, so please hang on to your copies.

New members are welcome. There are no auditions and previous experience of choir singing is not necessary.

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

Theatre Visits

The Theatre Group continues to thrive, and since the last Newsletter we can report what we have seen at our local theatres.

At the Heald Green theatre we went to see *Double Identity* by Roscoe Chalk, and their recent Pantomime, *Snow White*.

At Chad's in Cheadle Hulme we went to see *Private Fears in Public Places* by Alan Ayckbourn, *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen and *Kidnapped at Christmas* by Willis Hall.

We also visited the Northenden Players Theatre to see *Veronica's Room* by Ira Levin, and *The Seven Year Itch* by George Axelrod.

These plays provided a good cross-section of drama, and we were all pleased at the quality of the productions. I am conscious that there are other theatres not far from us, but I have chosen to concentrate on those closest to us for ease of access and transport. I also think it important that we support our local theatres, relying as they do on local volunteers to keep going, and our presence is a great help to them. We would really miss them if they closed down.

I shall send out a proposed list for future visits in the New Year. If you would like to join this group please contact me with your e-mail or phone number.

Chris Bester 376 7909

Ukulele

The Ukulele Group has made significant progress over the past six months with a repertoire that now stretches to five songs; some with significantly more than three chords. We should be ready for our first public engagement within the next 10 to 15 years. Some members have unfortunately dropped out but we have a core of about 15 players. If anyone wishes to dispose of their uke, they can get in touch with me and I might be able to put them in touch with potential new members who wish to join the group. We continue to meet fortnightly at the URC at 3.15; our next session will be after choir practice on 10 January.

Keep strumming.

Ian Ewing 312 5072

Walking (Long Walks)

The Long Walks Group continues to thrive, with an increase in average attendance again in the last 6 months. 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.

- Jul: A route in the Etherow valley, including Etherow country park (7½ miles – moderate)
- Aug: A rather grey and drizzly walk from Chinley over Cracken Edge (6½ miles – moderate)
- Sep: A great walk up Win Hill from Hope station, with marvellous views (5 miles – moderate)
- Oct: A walk over Frodsham Hill and Helsby Crag on a cold, crisp day (7 miles – moderate)
- Dec: Our shorter pre-Christmas walk, this time from Styal along the Bollin Valley (5 miles – easy) followed by a convivial lunch at The Horse and Farrier



Above the Etherow valley



Sheltering from the weather on Cracken Edge



A windy day, but with great views from the top of Win Hill



A collection of Fly Agaric en route to ...



...the War Memorial on Frodsham Hill



A steep climb along Frodsham Edge



On Helsby Hill



A record turn-out of 19 for our short December walk from Styal along the Bollin Valley ...



... followed by a festive lunch at The Horse and Farrier



Car sharing from Gatley Hill House is the normal arrangement. If you would like to join us for fresh air and exercise in marvellous countryside with convivial company, 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

258 0503

Walking (Short Walks)

The short walks group undertook 15 walks this year, which included the joint walk with the Long Walks Group to remember the Mass Trespass as part of our Celebration of Manchester.

The group has 21 members and on average we had 12 people attending each walk. We visited many places including Combs Reservoir, White Nancy, Bunbury and Gawsworth Hall.



On the summit of Shining Tor on a 'beautiful' August day



Better weather at Bunbury in September



At Worsley in October

The programme for 2017 will include Delamere Forest, New Mills, Holcombe Moor and Mam Tor. We are always looking for new members and anyone wishing to join us should contact me.

Stuart Forsyth 491 3592

Walking (Strollers)

The Strollers meet twice a month 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.

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.



Our Christmas banquet and wine tasting, hosted by Susan and Peter Bayley

Peter Bayley 282 3468

Photographic Competition

The theme of our first Photographic Competition was *Nature in Cheadle and Gatley*. After a slow start (for some months Lee Fairlie's Canada goose was the winning entry because it was the only one!), there was a steady trickle of entries, most of them really good. A big 'Thank you' to all who took the trouble to submit images, I am really pleased with their variety and quality.

I sent the entries to Derek Stubbs, a former colleague of mine at Manchester Grammar School who for many years ran a Photographic club. His comment about the entries was "The overall standard was very impressive!" He has selected the winner and runners-up, and commended several others, all shown below.

Congratulations to **Keith Marsden** for his winning image of a dragonfly, taken in his garden in July. Keith writes: 'The dragonfly was drying its wings prior to taking off, and only a few minutes after I'd taken the shot it actually took off and headed over to Gatley Hill.'



Southern Hawker dragonfly (Aeshna Cyanae)

Second place goes to **John Pollard** for his image of a heron.

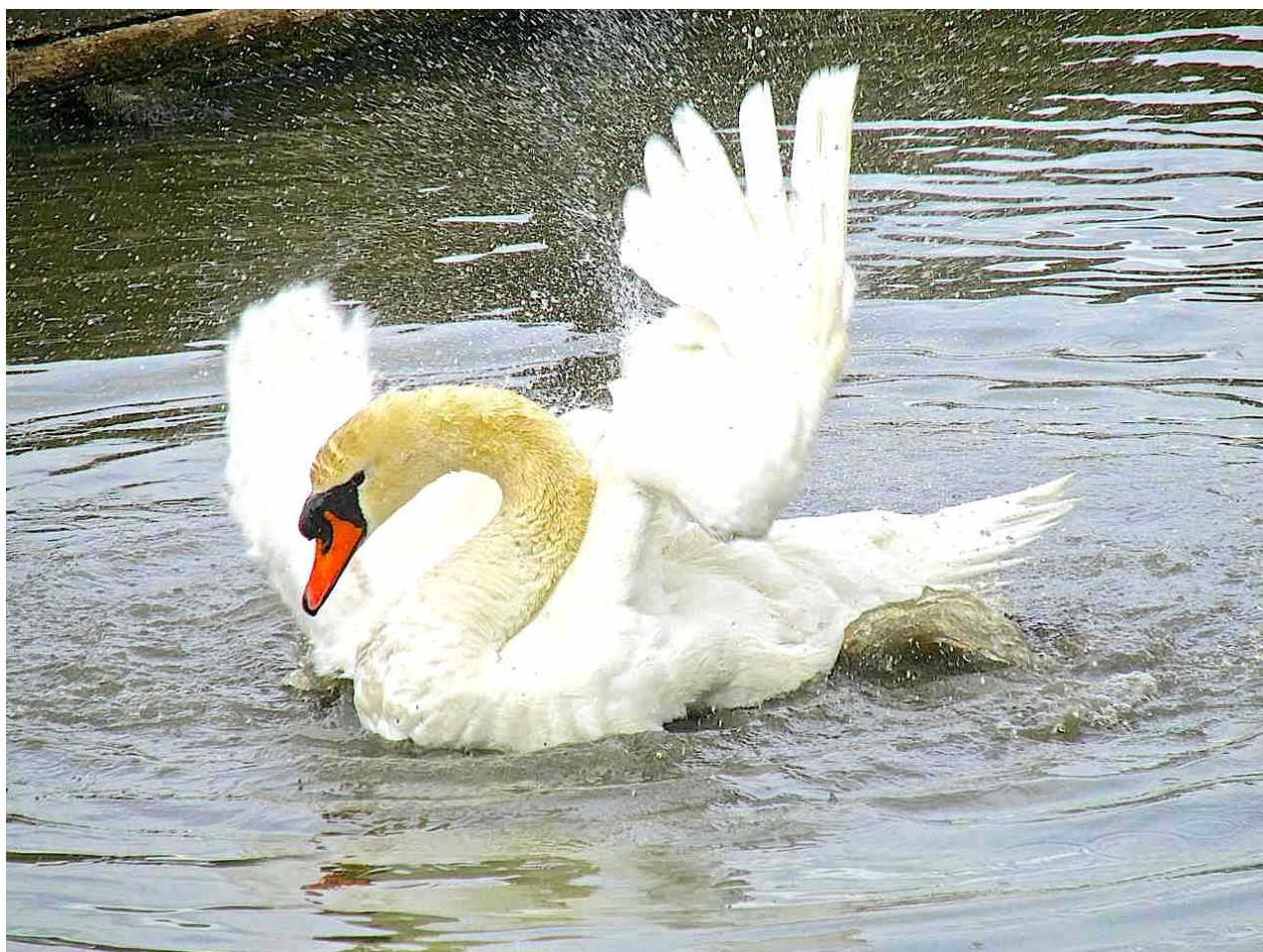
John is Wildlife Officer of Gatley Carrs Nature Reserve, and according to him our local heron, Henry, is a regular visitor to Gatley Carrs.



Who me?



Commended entries



Shake it out! Taken by Josie May at the pond at Cheadle Business Park



Busy bee
Taken by John Houghton in his garden.



Fly Agaric (Amanita Muscaria)
Taken by Isobel Brittle in Heald Green



Murder in the pond Taken by Batsheva Samely in her garden.

As there was such a good variety of entries, I will keep the same theme for the 2017 competition:

Nature in Cheadle and Gatley.

Those interested may submit digital images by email to me by the deadline of 30th November 2017.

Please send them to me at allanwitton[at]yahoo.co.uk (using 'at' in the address printed here helps reduce the spam emails I receive; replace it with the usual symbol if you wish to use the address).

The winner will be announced at the January 2018 Monthly Meeting.

Allan Witton



Canada Goose Taken at Gatley Carrs by Lee Fairlie

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

We have continued to meet with our fellow committee members from Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme, Wilmslow, Poynton, Macclesfield and Bramhall and work together and share good practice.

Several of our neighbours have a group of people called '**Friends of U3A**'. These are members who can be called upon occasionally to help out generally when need arises. If you would like to be 'A Friend' of C&G U3A, please email or speak to any of the committee. We welcome your support.

Your Committee

Chair	Lesley Witton	428 1522
Vice Chair	Vacant	
Liaison 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	Judi Marsden	428 4228
Webmaster	Peter Bayley	282 3468
Publications Editor	Allan Witton	428 1522
NE Cheshire Network	Mary Sharples	428 4901



Pam Marshall *Mary Sharples*



Batsheva Samely *Janet Farrall* *Lesley Witton*



Peter Bayley



Allan Witton

Thanks to Judi Marsden, who was co-opted onto the committee to chair the organisation of the Celebration Day.

She has now agreed to stay until the AGM in June in the rôle of Groups Coordinator.

Many thanks to Pauline Hadfield who continues to coordinate refreshments, and to Dorcas Flower for running the book stall and helping with the raffle.



Judi Marsden

Cheadle and Gatley U3A emails

We are increasingly making use of emails to communicate with our members. An expanded edition of each Newsletter (the same as the one on the website, with additional images all in colour) is sent to all members for whom we have an email address. Other notices of interest to the membership as a whole are also circulated.

Most of you have already provided us with your email address, but if you have email and have yet to give us the address, please consider doing so. If you have changed your email address please inform us. If you haven't been receiving U3A emails, we don't have your correct address! If you don't have email, would you consider adopting an 'email buddy' whose email address you could provide? This could be a friend, neighbour or family member (grandchild?) who you see regularly and could pass on an email.

Online Management System: Beacon

The Cheadle and Gatley version of this U3A National system is now live, and we are currently tailoring it to suit our needs. It enables all aspects of our membership and finance to be managed centrally online. When fully operational, emails to all members will be sent via Beacon, and Group Coordinators who wish to will be able to use the system to maintain their group's membership list and to communicate with members of their group. We are also looking into the possibility of joining and renewing membership online.

Cheadle and Gatley U3A Website

We are making efforts to keep our website up-to-date, and we encourage those of you who are online to look at it periodically (<http://u3asitec.org.uk/live/code/u3asite.php?site=333&page=0>) or more simply, search 'Cheadle and Gatley U3A', and then save the site in 'favourites' for easy access.

In addition to summaries of all our active groups you will find, amongst other things, links to:

- the two latest editions of the Newsletter, with additional images all in colour;
- membership application and renewal forms to print;
- a New Members' Leaflet with an overview of our U3A;
- the North-West region and the National U3A websites with details of courses etc;
- various other items of information and interest to our U3A members.

Membership

We would be delighted to welcome any new members to join our U3A.

Please pass this Newsletter on to anyone you think might be 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.

We are pleased to announce that for the first time our membership has topped 200.

Please make an effort to renew your membership on time each year

Editor's note and plea for help: Thanks very much to those who have submitted photographs for this Newsletter, but it has not been a vintage season. Only 6 out of the 20 images in the printed Newsletter were submitted by others, the rest were taken by 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. It doesn't have to be the Group Coordinator who takes and submits the photos!**

Please send them to me at allanwitton@at.yahoo.co.uk (using 'at' in the address helps reduce the spam emails I receive; replace it with the usual symbol if you wish to use the address).

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

(At 11th January 2017)

The 4 changes are in bold italic.

GROUP	COORDINATOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Archaeology	Lois Evans	428 4373	3rd Tuesday	2:00-3:30	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
Bowling	Anne McCarty	437 9900	1st Tuesday	1:00	URC
Bridge	<i>Linda Ewing</i>	<i>312 5072</i>	<i>1st & 3rd Wednesdays</i>	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
Family History	<i>Linda Corry</i>	<i>428 4094</i>	1st Tuesday	9:30	House
French Conversation	Jim Crook	428 5764	4th Wednesday	10:00-12:00	House
Gardening	<i>Pam Marshall</i>	<i>282 5359</i>	4th Thursday	1:30	Various
German	Lee Fairlie	428 4791	3rd 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
<i>MOOCs</i>	<i>Batsheva Samely</i>	<i>428 6030</i>	<i>3rd Wednesday</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>Various</i>
Painting and Drawing	Pat Marsden	428 7820	1st Friday	10:30	URC
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	2nd and 4th Tuesdays	1:00-3:00	URC
Theatre Visits	Chris Bester	376 7909	Monthly as arranged	Various	Various
Ukulele	Ian Ewing	312 5072	2nd and 4th Tuesday	3:15	URC
Walking (Long) (Up to ~8 miles)	Allan Witton Alan Lynn	428 1522 258 0503	3rd Friday	9:30	Meet at Gatley Hill House car park
Walking (Short) (4 - 5 miles)	Stuart Forsyth	491 3592	3rd Thursday	10:15	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.

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

Details of forthcoming events for Groups which meet 'Periodically as arranged' can be obtained by contacting the Coordinator.

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.