

CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

JANUARY 2018 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

January 10th	Building Hope, Changing Lives	Eddie Tarry
February 14th	Recycling of Plastics Waste	Peter Briggs
March 14th	Charles Darwin: Darwin's Tree of Life	Andrew Jones
April 11th	The Science of Chocolate: Food of The Gods	Dr Diana Leitch
May 9th	History and Mysteries Surrounding Gemstones	Robert W Wood
June 13th	AGM Randolph Caldecott: Children's Illustrator Extraordinary	Mary, Lady Mallick
July 11th	Milestones in Forensic Medicine	Geoff Keeling



*Barbara Wingard conducts the Singing for Pleasure Group
in a rousing rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus for our Christmas Concert*

Message from the Chair

I wish you all a very **Happy New Year** and hope you are keen to embark on another exciting journey of learning with like-minded friends!

Since the July issue of this Newsletter, we have had a very interesting programme of speakers. Topics included crime-writing, folk magic and the history of Pyrex, which I think beautifully sums up the wide-ranging scope of the U3A.



We very much hope that the desire for learning is still strong in our members as our **Groups Coordinator**, Peter Briggs, has some interesting ideas for research projects in the new year. He has been collating information about members' interests and expertise and will tell us more about the opportunities at our January meeting. Please read his report at the end of this newsletter.



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 a representative from **Walthew House** in Stockport, which supports those with sensory loss.

Once again our **Christmas Social** was a great success thanks to Mary Sharples' planning, with entertainment being provided by the Singing Group and the Ukulele Group in their first public performance! Thanks go to Barbara Wingard and Ian Ewing for their patient guidance and to Dorothy Walker for her accompaniment to the singers. There was also a presentation by the ConChords, a four man a cappella group, whose harmonious singing was very much appreciated. The raffle was again ably organised by Dorcas Flower and her team and **raised £300 for Beechwood Cancer Care**. The afternoon tea provided by Gina Gibson and her lovely ladies was enjoyed by all.

A fascinating range of speakers for the next six months has been lined up for us by Mary Sharples, so I hope to see many of you at our monthly meetings, which also offer a good opportunity to socialise with friends.

Interest Group co-ordinators have also been busy planning their programmes so we can all look forward to a very stimulating and educational 2018!

Lesley Witton

Christmas Social Meeting

This was a very musical event held in the main church, with an introductory tuneful set by Dijon, followed by the Singing for Pleasure Group bringing us much pleasure with a selection of music hall songs and the Hallelujah Chorus, when most of the notes were in the right order and at the right time!

The Ukulele Group then entertained us with a host of sing-along numbers, and finally we heard the wonderful harmonious melodies of the a cappella group The ConChords. After the raffle was drawn we transferred to the main hall for a marvellous spread provided by Gina Gibson and her team.



*Dijon: David Williams,
Jean Thomas and Nigel Bann*



The Ukulele Group



The ConChords



Applause for Gina and her team

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	Lois Evans	428 4373
--------------------	-------------------	-----------------

The group has been able to purchase a series of lectures on DVD on the archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome. The South Manchester Archaeology Research Trust is planning further excavations on Gatley Hill in the New Year. We will be joining them in the search for evidence of the 16th century farmhouse.

We have also made contact with the newly formed U3A North West region association of archaeology groups and hope to become involved in their activities. If you are interested in ancient or industrial archaeology you would be very welcome.

Monday Book Group	Lesley Witton	428 1522
--------------------------	----------------------	-----------------

The mixture of specific authors and themes since June has once again introduced us to new areas of reading which we might not have embarked on left to our own choice!

July's author was Ann Patchett and her novels were admired for their clever plotting and examination of ethical and cultural issues and very believable characterisation. Some, though, found her plots and the complexities of relationships a little too complicated.

We turned to political memoirs for our August and September reading and this proved to be a fascinating topic. Accounts of the personal lives of politicians from Left and Right were most revealing, both about their characters and the machinations of the political world.

In October we re-visited Jane Austen in honour of her bicentenary. It was a great pleasure to read again and talk about old favourites.

At last, in November we got round to discussing *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky which we had been reading for months! There was a very lively debate and the final result was 5:3 in favour! Positive comments were that the plot was gripping and the characters 'larger than life' and that the novel was a fascinating exploration of philosophical and theological ideas and the place of people in society. More negative ones were that the style was meandering and the philosophy muddled.

The theme for December's meeting was 'mystery' and our choices ranged from old classics to more modern authors. They included: Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*; *The Man in the Queue* by Josephine Tey; *The Thin Man* by Dashiell Hammett; *The Tiger in the Smoke* by Margery Allingham; *Grasshopper* by Barbara Vine; *The Tenderness of Wolves*, Stef Penney; *Elizabeth is Missing*, Emma Healey; the female detective stories set in Chicago by Sara Paretsky and *The Shadow Hour* by Kate Riordan. All of these were enjoyed by our readers.

We chose 'humour' as the theme to discuss in January as we all felt like some light reading over the festive period.

Tuesday Book Group	Tina Kelly	376 7909
---------------------------	-------------------	-----------------

The Tuesday Book Group continues to thrive with 13 members and library selected books. Thanks to Pam Bell who keeps a record of ratings (in 0-5 stars) and comments. Thanks also to some baking stars who have provided tasty cakes. This semester we read the following:

June: *The Marble Collector* by Cecilia Aherne (3.5 stars). Enjoyed by the majority of the group.

July: *When Will There Be Good News* by Kate Atkinson (4 stars).
A Jackson Brodie story enjoyed by everyone.

August: *A Boy Made Of Blocks* by Keith Stuart (4.5 stars).
Based on a true story, this is about an autistic boy and his relationship with his father. The group found it interesting and informative.

September: *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler (2/3 stars).
Most people in the group found this book boring with no plot.

October: *Fifteen Dogs* by Andre Alexis (2 or 4 stars)
Much discussion on the philosophy of this book. Very divided group: a few liked it; most loathed it or refused to read it.

November: *The World Before Us* by Aislinn Hunter.
No group meeting took place in December as we were out enjoying a Christmas meal, so this book is to be discussed in Jan 2018.

Bowling**Anne McCarty****437 9900**

We meet at the URC, Elm Road, Gatley on the first Tuesday afternoon in the month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with a short break for refreshments.

We commence and finish with a few gentle stretching exercises. You do not need any equipment apart from a pair of light shoes which have not been worn outdoors, to protect the mat.

We are a happy group and new members would be very welcome. No previous experience is necessary.

If you are interested please contact me.

The bowlers ready for action

**Bridge****Linda Ewing****312 5072**

We continue to meet on the 1st, and 3rd Wednesdays at the small hall at St. James' parish hall. We have 3 or 4 tables and from time to time in the new year we hope to have visiting experienced players coming along to give us tips on the finer points of the game.

New members always welcome.

**Bus Pass and Explorer****Janet Farrall
Pat Ayaydin****428 7883
428 1917****jango123@btinternet.com**

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in Bill's Coffee Shop, Church Road. Anyone having a Bus Pass and feeling they would like to get out and about is most welcome to join us, upon the purchase of a cup of coffee. I'd like to be able to say that all the chattering is the discussion of "expeditions" but at 11am we manage to pause for breath whilst information is given out about timetables, bus numbers, train and metro times for trips you can choose, and I am happy to Report some have chosen and explored the following visits - Etherow Country Park, Southport, (mentioning the Flower Show,) Ordsall Hall & Museum, Treacle Market, Well Dressing and Carnival at Buxton, Britannia Hotel to take in the Grand Staircase & magnificent Chandeliers, marble toilets and of course the Pensioner's 3 course lunch for £6.50.! Bury Market, Wonderful World of Theatre Organs, Free Day Pass tickets to Lyme Park, courtesy of Pam, Blackpool Illuminations with Fish & Chip Supper, Broadstone Mill & fashion show. Our Festive Lunch at The Hanging Gate, Chapel en le Frith with afternoon entertainment. A special thank you to Jill for getting us the history and information. Mince Pies and chat about our winter expedition to Trentham Gardens and Sugnall Hall for the Snowdrop Walk. We are looking forward to a January Winter Warmer Lunch to discuss our next adventures. We have a Ring Binder full of suggested trips which is passed round for perusal at each meeting and we welcome trips that are added by the members or if they are setting off somewhere inviting anyone to join them. We are happy to help: Childhood Memories of Blackpool Illuminations for Local History Group. "Oklahoma" Plaza visit by URC Group. We are looking forward to you joining us to help plan 2018.

Santa's Bus Pass

The intrepid travellers battled through the wind and rain, but nothing would stop them from reaching their destination - the Bus Pass and Explorers Group Christmas meal! Better hurry. Don't want to miss that bus! Oh, here it comes but what's this? Santa is driving? Ha ha, nice touch from the bus company, entering into the spirit of Christmas.

All the ladies boarded the bus, with their bus passes, of course. The beeping of the machine was endless and the driver's eyes seemed to spin in their sockets as the endless stream of feisty pensioners greeted him before taking their seats, almost filling the bus to capacity.

With a shout of, "All aboard!", from Santa, the bus rolled out of the station. As the journey got underway, the ladies began to warm up. As they got deeper into the countryside the view was spectacular, with the snowy hills in the distance. But, alas, no snow fell for their outing, which would have made their trip more special. However, 'Santa' entertained them with silly Christmas jokes, such as, what job does Santa do in the garden?" "Hoe, hoe, hoe." Which, of course, set off a whole slew of everyone else's funny Christmas jokes.

In no time at all, they reached their destination, all reluctantly leaving 'Santa' behind. Wonder where he's going now, seeing as the bus is empty? Oh well, into the pub for their meal! On entering the pub, everyone gasped in pleasant surprise. It was more like Santa's Grotto than a pub. Wow! As they were shown to their seats, the ladies looked around in wonder. It was like they had landed at the North Pole and stepped into Santa's igloo. The walls were covered in 'snow' and icy looking tunnels led here and there. Baubles hung from the ceiling and candlelit lanterns glowed at each table, the light bouncing and shimmering around the magical wonderland.

All in all, the ladies had a wonderful time. The food was good and the entertainment even better. After the Christmas sing-along the merry time had to end, reluctantly. So, off they went to catch the bus home, once more using their bus passes. After all, they were called the Bus Pass and Explorers Group. Standing at the bus stop, the ladies commented how cold it was and yet they still didn't have any snow. How perfect that would have been. Brrrrr. They all huddled together until the bus appeared.

As they all boarded the bus, they each exclaimed, "Oh, good, it's 'Santa' again!" The driver greeted them like old friends. "Ho, ho, ho! Nice to see you again ladies." They all laughed and thought how nice it was that the bus company encouraged their staff to be so friendly. All through the trip home they were, once again, kept in a state of merriment by 'Santa'. "What do you call a blind reindeer?" "No eye deer." And, the jokes continued until the journey was near an end. "What do you all wish for this Christmas then, ladies?" asked the driver as they neared their stop. They all shouted as one, "Snow!" Well, I'll see what I can do," he replied, with a secret smile.

Before stepping off the bus, Janet thanked the driver on behalf of their group, then added, "The only thing lacking was snow". The driver said, "Really?" He pointed up into the sky as Janet stepped off the bus. Something tickled Janet's nose and she looked up to the winter's night and the air was filled with sparkling snowflakes. She turned around to smile at the driver, but the bus was gone. Funny, she didn't hear it depart. And, they were at the depot. The bus should still be there for a different driver to take back on the route. Shrugging, Janet looked up at the falling snow, happy that their wish was fulfilled. A bright, shooting star caught her eye. But, it was going up, not down. And, it was red! After a few moments of gaping, with her mouth open and filled with melting snowflakes, she whispered to herself, "Maybe, Santa has a Bus Pass, too."

Ros Davies

Computing	Peter Bayley	282 3468	p.bayley@ntlworld.com
------------------	---------------------	-----------------	------------------------------

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.

Craft/Sewing	Josephine Haynes	491 2382
---------------------	-------------------------	-----------------

This is a small but enthusiastic group of people who have interests in sewing, knitting, card making and general fabric and paper craft. It's a really friendly group of like-minded people. We bring along our own ongoing projects and share skills 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.



The Group busily working on their projects at the November meeting

Creative Writing	Nigel Bann	491 6835
-------------------------	-------------------	-----------------

Starting from the 8th January 2018 the Creative Writing Group will change venues and meet at St James church small hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At present the group is seven strong, and we all prepare a piece of original writing some 600-800 words long, on any subject we like. We each read out our offerings at the meetings and receive constructive and encouraging comments from the rest of the group.

We write stories, poetry and report writing; anything goes.

Dining	Lois Evans	428 4373
---------------	-------------------	-----------------

The Dining group meets for lunch on the third Wednesday of the month at a variety of local pubs and restaurants. We are a friendly group and you would be made very welcome

Family History	Linda Corry	428 4094
-----------------------	--------------------	-----------------

The group meets in my house in Gatley, on the first Tuesday morning in the month. Currently a very small group, we would welcome new members. We are using the Internet for our research, using free web sites as far as possible, with the occasional need for an outlay of about £10 for a certificate, or possibly a trip to a library. I am happy to give one-to-one advice to anyone who doesn't know where to start.

French Conversation	Jim Crook	428 5764
----------------------------	------------------	-----------------

We are currently reading a short story by Emile Zola, among other activities.

Due to holidays, etc. our numbers have fluctuated from small to smaller. We have room for two or three new participants, so if you feel this is the time to brush up your French, or even start to speak it, Please contact me.

The Gardening Group does not have a Coordinator but is run collectively by the members of the group. A visit to a National Garden Scheme garden in Great Budworth was our outing in July. In August Batsheva Samely gave us a stimulating talk about the bamboos in her garden and we enjoyed some first class hospitality. It was a most enjoyable afternoon as you can see from the smiles.



Batsheva Sameley, Brenda Attack, Leena Kirk, Barbara Joyce, Marjorie Ding, Pam Marshall, Tina Kelly

In September we visited the garden of another group member, Christine Benson, and spent a pleasant afternoon admiring the garden and over refreshments we talked about our favourite plants.

October was a talk at URC given by a visiting speaker and open to all C&G U3A members. The talk was on beekeeping and the importance that some plants play in the production of honey. We rounded the year off in November with a Christmas meal at The Vinery in Bruntwood Park.

A programme has yet to be put together for 2018, but a gardening quiz has been arranged for 25th January. This will be hosted at the house of Lena Kirk, one of the group members.

We also continue to maintain the planting commemorating Patsy Calton at Cheadle Library, and grateful thanks should go to Brenda Attack and Marianne Owen who go regularly to weed and put in fresh plants.

We are fortunate to include native speakers and students with varied levels of German fluency in our group. Our shared language, cultural and family interests often lead to stimulating and amusing discussion. In addition to conversation, we include other resources including articles of current interest. New members are welcome.

The Group continues to meet on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 1.30 p.m. in URC Elm Road. Although we are one of the smaller groups we have seen a couple of new members join us in the autumn. We are currently discussing Norman and now early Medieval history with each member preparing a topic of their choice which resulted in excellent presentations to the others in our group. We have decided to keep with this period of history until the summer, when we will select a new topic for the start of September.

In June we started a new project on the history of Western Art from the 13th century. We have covered some of the art and sculpture of the 13th, 14th, and 15th century, including:

Giotto -The Arena Chapel, Duccio-Maesta, Sienese Art in the 14th century, Early Renaissance artists in Florence, Masaccio, Piero della Francesca, Sandro Botticella, Andrea Mantegna and Giovanni Bellini, Early Renaissance sculpture in Florence and Venice.

Last month we moved on to the Art of Northern Europe, Jan Van Eyck and Hieronymus Bosch.

During the Spring term up to Easter we turn to the late 15th and 16th centuries:

January Albrecht Durer and Pieter Bruegel;

February Leonardo da Vinci;

March Michelangelo;

April Raphael.

We have a large and thriving membership who are provided with a mixture of talks and visits.

In July, Anne Heath arranged a visit to Manchester Cathedral with refreshments at the Propertea cafe.

In September, Judith Wilshaw talked about the development of Marple, beginning with what is known of its prehistory, passing through the medieval period to the Industrial Revolution and the changes in transport that the Revolution required to present day times as part of the commuter belt.

In October, this talk was followed up with a visit to Marple for a Guided Tour of the Town Centre by Judith to see some of the changes that she had talked about. 18 members enjoyed the walk around the town and back along the canal and across the Memorial Park.



The building built for the Coop in 1891 and in continuous use as a shop ever since



Learning about the history of the Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals



I must get one of these for my garden! - Editor



Judith Wilshaw (left) with members of the Group enjoying tea and cakes after the Marple Tour

In November, Diana Leitch gave a talk on the Williamsons of Didsbury. Emily Williamson was a founder of the RSPB.

The provisional programme for 2018 is as follows:

January	No meeting
February 7th	Talk by John Pollard <i>Gatley Carrs 1500-2018: willow swamp to nature reserve</i>
March 7th	Visit to Gorton Monastery
April 4th	Talk by Suzanne Hindle, Manchester Blue Plaque Guide <i>History of Wood Street Mission, Manchester</i>
May 2nd	Readings by members of U3A Creative Writing Group led by Janet Farrall <i>Historical Reminiscences</i>
June 6th	Visit to the Peoples History Museum, Manchester
July 4th	(To be arranged) Talk by a group member or a visiting speaker
August	No meeting (summer break)

I am taking over as group coordinator from Nick Rogerson for 2018. I would like to thank Nick on our behalf for all his excellent leadership over the past years.

John Pollard

As Chair of Cheadle & Gatley U3A, I would like to reiterate John's thanks to Nick, who has played such an important rôle in making the Local History Group one of our most active and vibrant Interest Groups.

Lesley Witton

The coming term at the Royal Northern College of Music presents us with an outstanding programme. For the first time there is a concert devoted entirely to RNCM guitars. Then as a part of this year's French Connection theme, on 3 March, students from the Paris Conservatoire of Music join the RNCM orchestra for a concert that reflects music from the time of WW1. This will include Debussy's *L'après midi d'un faune* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

The other outstanding event at the RNCM is a student production of *West Side Story* in this centenary year of Leonard Bernstein's birth. This runs from Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th February. Both of these major events are ticketed and take place in the evening. Anyone interested in joining a group should contact me by 19th January.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) continue to give us massive enjoyment and learning opportunities. In the past year we studied a wide variety of courses: from Cultural Studies to Nutrition, Government, Italian, Mindfulness and Empire, to name but a few. Some topics we investigate as a group and some we study as individuals. Sharing our findings with the group benefits everybody, and we get to hear and understand many things which we might never have chosen to research of our own accord. Fabulous! We are a small but fun group of ten people and would very much welcome anyone curious and open-minded to join us. If interested, please ring me for details.



We have about ten members who work individually on a variety of subjects using pencil, chalks and paints. There is an informal atmosphere but we work with concentration, seeking advice and inspiration from each other, making it an enjoyable and fruitful experience. New members are always welcome.

*Is the bottle of wine for still life drawing
or for 'inspiration'?*



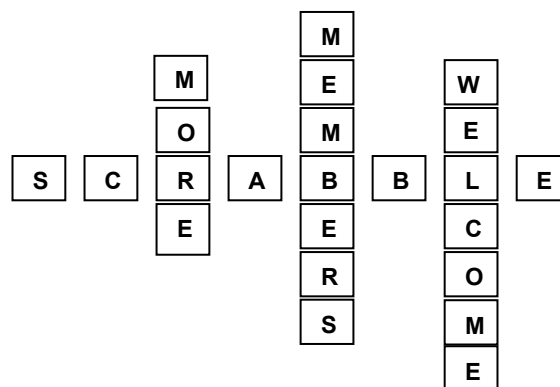
Science	David Gane	428 0204	davidjgane@btinternet.com
----------------	-------------------	-----------------	----------------------------------

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.

Scrabble	Ann Gane	428 0204
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

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.



Singing for Pleasure	Barbara Wingard	428 5922
-----------------------------	------------------------	-----------------



Our new theme based on the music hall songs of the Victorian and Edwardian period should keep us busy until the summer. We have a bumper collection of songs and a selection of books on the historical and social background of the period.

All this material comes from the Henry Watson music library at the Central Library in the city centre. We are very lucky to have this resource so near at hand.

We made a good attempt at Handel's Hallelujah Chorus at the Xmas party. It's been a great experience to get inside this inspired piece of music.

To conclude our exploration of the English Choral tradition, we are working on a very tuneful piece by Vaughan Williams, one of the great names in twentieth century music. If you find our programme tempting and would like to give us a try, please give me a call.

Social Swimming	Peggy Cunningham	428 4935
------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------

This informal group meets periodically on Wednesday afternoons at Cheadle Leisure Centre.

Spanish	Jim Crook	428 5764
----------------	------------------	-----------------

The inaugural meeting of the Spanish Group took place on 4th January, when the new members got acquainted, and informed each other where they are and how far they want to go with their Spanish. Future meetings will be on the first Thursday from 10:00 to 12:00.

Theatre Visits	Chris Bester	376 7909
-----------------------	---------------------	-----------------

The Theatre group continues to grow, which demonstrates a great interest in our local theatres. These provide a high standard of performance. We derive great pleasure from our visits to them and thank them for their efforts on our behalf. We are fortunate that such a great variety is offered to us and although we are not all able to get to all of them we do greatly enjoy those we choose to go to.

We have recently visited Chad's theatre, the Northenden players theatre and our very local Heald Green theatre. We have also branched out a little and visited the Brookdale theatre in Bramhall and the Poynton Players theatre. One local theatre we have not visited for a couple of years is the Players Theatre in Cheadle Hulme. Maybe we can remedy this in this new season. If you would like to join our group please contact me.

Ukulele	Ian Ewing	312 5072
----------------	------------------	-----------------

Following our triumph at the Christmas party we're waiting for the offers to come rolling in.

Most of us have now mastered the basics so it's now mainly a matter of learning new songs and enjoying ourselves.

If there are any beginners who wish to join I can run a couple of extra sessions to bring them up to speed.

An expert in action!



Why do ukulele players stand for long periods outside people's houses?
They can't find the key and they don't know when to come in.

Why do so many people take an instant dislike to the ukulele?
It saves time.

LIFE

Life is like a good play with a badly written 3rd act. Peter Ustinov

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough. Mae West

There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle, and the other is as though everything is a miracle. Albert Einstein

Experience is the name people give to their mistakes. Oscar Wilde

We learn from experience that Man never learns from experience. George Bernard Shaw

The Long Walks Group continues to thrive, and we offer varied walks to suit a variety of abilities. 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 walk over Pule Hill, high above Oldham	(7 miles – moderate)
Aug:	In the Etherow valley, from Compstall via Botham's Hall and Higher Chisworth	(8 miles – moderate)
Sep:	A middle-mountain walk above Hayfield	(6 miles – moderate)
Nov:	From Bollington, over Bakestonedale moor and back by the Macclesfield canal	(7 miles – moderate)
Dec:	Our shorter winter walk - a circuit of Sale and Chorlton Water Parks followed by a festive meal at the Red Lion, Cheadle	(5 miles easy)

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.



Crossing the Sett stream above Hayfield ...



... with a fine lunch spot on the banks



On Bakestonedale Moor at a capping stone for an old mine shaft which depicts local industries





At Chorlton Water Park on our shorter December walk ...



... followed by a festive lunch at the Red Lion Cheadle



This was another good year for the group. We currently have 17 members and are averaging 8 members on each walk, and 8 people have led walks. Some of the places we visited included Dove Stone Reservoir, Tegg's Nose Country Park, Mam Tor and Holcombe Moor. Next year we have a full programme of walks including The Roaches, Shutlingsloe, Caldey Hill and Rainow. If any one would like to join us please contact me.



Above Dove Stone Reservoir: Adrian Bartram, Neville Ding, Pam Marshall, Marjorie Ding, Tina Kelly, Barbara Joyce, Maureen Butler and Susan Cook



A sunny day at Marbury: Jim Marshall, Maureen Butler, Neville Ding, Tina Kelly, Susan Cook, Pam Marshall, Barbara Joyce, Peter Brooks, Marjorie Ding, Norma Daniels, Marie Coventry and Stuart Forsyth.

The Strollers walking group is suitable for people looking for a walk of no more than an hour. Often we walk in nearby parks such as Bramhall, Bruntwood, Fletcher Moss or Wythenshawe. When it is practical we use public transport and we always finish with a cup of coffee and a chat. New members are welcome.



Strollers on an autumn day at Fletcher Moss

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

Photographic Competition

Although the theme of this year's competition was the same as last year, *Nature in Cheadle and Gatley*, there wasn't the same range of entries this year, with most offerings being close-ups of creatures, but there were some really good ones.

Congratulations to **John Houghton** whose winning image of a green shield bug (*Palomina prasina*) is shown below. The insect is sometimes known as the green stink bug and is a very common shield bug throughout Europe. Adult green shield bugs range in the colour of their backs from bright green to bronze, and are found in a large variety of habitats, including gardens, where John captured his image.



Second place goes to Jennifer Bradbury for her *Four Frogs*.



Commended entries

Life and death on Marrick Avenue



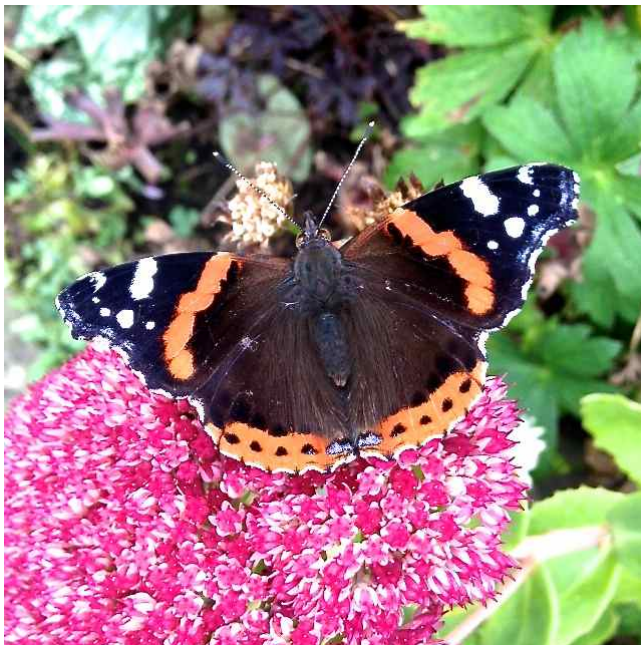
This photo was taken by Judith Houghton from her house in Marrick Avenue.

The technical quality of the image isn't high because it was taken from some distance away and through the glass of a window, but it captured a rare and fleeting moment.

Judith reports that immediately after the attack a magpie flew down to investigate, which frightened the sparrowhawk off and the pigeon flew away.



It must have been a good year for Red Admirals because I had 3 entries of which Keith Marsden's was the best.



Red Admiral lunching on Sedum



Comma butterfly

by Jennifer Bradbury



Guinea pigs beware!

by Jennifer Bradbury

Allan Witton

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.

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	Peter Briggs	485 6871
NE Cheshire Network	Mary Sharples	428 4901
Member	Brian Green	428 8535



Pam Marshall Janet Farrall Brian Green Mary Sharples Peter Briggs Batsheva Samely Lesley Witton

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.

Liaison Secretary

Janet Farrall 428 7833

On behalf of all the members I am pleased to send anyone who is having a special birthday a card, or where this applies, a Get Well Soon card etc., so do please let me know of anyone appropriate. I am also happy to promote any of your Group's information on the Notice Board or to generally point you in the right direction should you have a query.

Groups Coordinator

Peter Briggs 485 6871 peterjbriggs1959@btinternet.com

Further to the publication of the U3A Guide 'Getting involved in Research', the National Committee has this year encouraged all U3A Groups to seek areas for research which would be interesting for their members to participate in. Some local research topics have now been identified that should complement the specific activities of several of our current Interest Groups.

Outline plans for Research Framework Programmes will be developed in February 2018 and a Research Steering Group formed to help coordinate agreed projects with individual Group Coordinators and their members. The first projects to be planned will be:

1. Recycling of Plastics Waste

2. Art in the North West Region

3. History of Local Transport

Further ideas on these projects will be welcomed and should be addressed to me.

Cheadle and Gatley U3A emails

Sending emails is an important method by which we 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. An email containing all the notices announced at the Monthly Meeting is sent shortly after the meeting, and other notices of interest to the membership as a whole are also circulated.

Online Management System: Beacon

The Cheadle and Gatley version of this U3A National system is now being used to enable many aspects of our membership to be managed centrally online. Emails to all members are now sent via Beacon, and Group Coordinators who wish to can now use the system to maintain their group's membership list and to communicate with members of their group.

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.**

The fee to join Cheadle and Gatley U3A is £12 per year pro-rata, April to March; e.g. someone joining in September would pay £7 (for September to March). In addition there is a charge of £2 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.

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

Editor's notes

Plea for help. Thanks very much to those who have submitted photographs for this Newsletter, but apart from those taken by me, Lesley and Tina Kelly, I have had a very limited choice for the Group Reports for this edition. 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@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).

Since starting to feature an image of one of our groups or events on the front cover of the Newsletter in June 2013, I have chosen different groups each time: Long Walks; Lunchtime Concerts; Gardening; Strollers; Local History; Media City Tour; Archaeology; Christmas Lunch; Short Walks; and for this edition, Singing.

Technical note. I produced this Newsletter on an Apple iMac desktop computer using Word. To keep the file size of this colour pdf version down so that I can email it and upload it to our website, all the images are low resolution, which accounts for the slight graininess in some of them. The average size of the 41 images is about 70 kB, making the size of this pdf file 4 MB, not much larger than one normal compact camera image. If anyone is interested in learning or improving their image editing and DTP skills I would be happy to help.

Allan Witton

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS 2018

At 10th January

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	Linda Ewing	312 5072	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	1:30	St James' Hall
Bus Pass Explorer	Janet Farrall	428 7883	3rd Thursday	11:00	Bill's Café
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	<i>St James' Hall</i>
Dining	Lois Evans	428 4373	3rd Wednesday	Various	Various
Family History	Linda Corry	428 4094	1st Tuesday	9:30	House
French Conversation	Jim Crook	428 5764	4th Wednesday	10:00-12:00	House
Gardening	Pam Marshall	282 5359	4th Thursday	<i>2:00</i>	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	1:30	URC
History of Art	Tom Fanning	428 8666	Last Wednesday	1:30	URC
Local History	John Pollard	428 2150	1st Wednesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
MOOCs	Batsheva Samely	428 6030	3rd Wednesday	Various	Various
Painting and Drawing	Pat Marsden	428 7820	1st and 3rd Friday	10:30-12:30	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
<i>Social Swimming</i>	<i>Peggy Cunningham</i>	<i>428 4935</i>	<i>Wednesdays as arranged</i>	<i>2:00-4:00</i>	<i>Cheadle Leisure C</i>
<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Jim Crook</i>	<i>428 5764</i>	<i>1st Thursday</i>	<i>10:00-12:00</i>	<i>House</i>
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	10:00	Meet at URC
Walking (Strollers) Easy local walks	Marianne Owen	491 3323	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).

If you are interested in setting up a new Group, contact Peter Briggs, Groups Coordinator (485 6871)