

# CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## JULY 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

September 12th	Mercy Hospital Ships	William Livingstone
October 10th	It's a Small World	Penny Dean
November 14th	From New Orleans to New York in Music	Roger Browne
December 5th	Christmas Meeting with Entertainment	
January 9th	The History of Dunham Massey House	Peter Braun



*Some of the Environment Group visiting Sharston Materials Recovery Facility for a talk and a tour*

## Message from the Chair

It has been another busy six months for Cheadle and Gatley U3A. Our membership has increased to 250 and we now have 32 Interest Groups, with two new ones recently started.

The afternoon tea and information session for new members and Coordinators in March was very much appreciated by all who attended.

We amended our application and renewal forms in line with the new GDPR regulations and have also included a Gift Aid form for members.

At the AGM a resolution was passed to change the Object Clause in our constitution to bring it in line with the Charity Commission requirements.



**Peter Briggs**, our Groups' Coordinator, has created a new Interest Group focussing on the Environment and intends to lead a research project on Plastics Waste.

I should like to thank our Treasurer, **Batsheva Samely**, for her immaculate accounting. In addition, this year she has gone through the process of registering our U3A with HMRC for the purpose of claiming Gift Aid. We will now be able to do this at the end of the current financial year.

**Mary Sharples** has continued to arrange a very interesting programme for our monthly Open Meetings and she arranged the entertainment for the Christmas social, which was a great success. Mary also represents us at the North East Cheshire Network meetings, which are very useful for the sharing of ideas.

Thanks go to **Pam Marshall** for her excellent management of our membership and attendance records and also to her little band of helpers who take the register and the money at monthly meetings. This support is much appreciated, as is the provision of refreshments by **Pauline Hadfield** at our Wednesday meetings. I'd like to thank, too, all those who help with the chairs and in other ways at our meetings. This doesn't go unnoticed and we are very grateful – the committee can't do everything!

We are also grateful to **Dorcas Flower** and her team for continuing to organise the book sales and raffles which have contributed so much to pass on to Beechwood Cancer Care this year. The grand total raised was £521.08 and I'd like to thank everyone who supported this effort.



**Janet Farrall**, our Liaison Secretary, expressed her wish to stand down from the committee. Janet has been an enthusiastic member of the committee for several years and has contributed a great deal to the U3A, especially with the setting up of the Bus Pass Explorers Group and the organising of several trips. She has also performed a valuable service in sending cards on behalf of the committee to members on birthdays and when ill or bereaved. We thank Janet for all that she has done for Cheadle & Gatley U3A and I'm sure she will continue to be a very active member.

Finally, I'd like to express my appreciation to all my fellow committee members for their continued support over the year. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Chair for the past three years.

I am delighted that **Batsheva Samely** has agreed to take over the role of Chair. I am sure she will do a great job and can count on your support. **Allan Witton** will be your new Treasurer. I shall continue to serve on the committee as Business Secretary.

**Lesley Witton**



## Group Coordinators' and New Members' Meeting

We had a very enjoyable meeting in March with afternoon tea for our Interest Group Coordinators and New Members. It was a good opportunity to thank Coordinators for all they do in organising interest groups and encouraging members to take part. It was also a chance for new members to find out more about our Groups, and to meet most of the Coordinators in person.



Coordinators who were present, from left to right: Lesley Witton, Peter Briggs, Barbara Wingard, Pat Marsden, Batsheva Samely, Stuart Forsyth, Lee Fairlie, Linda Ewing, Marianne Owen, Ann Gane, Allan Witton, Pauline Hardy, Anne McCarty, John Pollard, Nigel Bann, Linda Corry, Ian Ewing, Peggy Cunningham, Brenda Ward, Tom Fanning, Lois Evans, Janet Farrall, Jim Crook, John Houghton.







## 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

We have been working on the DVDs of Classical Roman and Greek archaeology during the winter.

We will be joining the South Manchester Archaeology Research Trust who are organising another dig at Gatley Hill on 23rd June as part of the Greater Manchester Archaeology Festival.

Also in June we made a field trip to Richard Arkwright's Masson Mill in Matlock Bath, followed by a visit to Cromford Mill, the world's first successful water powered cotton-spinning mill.



*Cromford Mills*



*Masson Mill*

We receive lots of information from other archaeology groups about digs and visits in the North West, so if you would like to learn more about archaeology you are very welcome to join us. Archaeology will feature at the U3A summer school in August on the theme of "What did the Romans do for us?"



*Masson Mill working demo for the Archaeology Group*

<b>Monday Book Group</b>	<b>Lesley Witton</b>	<b>428 1522</b>
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The scope of our reading in the first six months of the year has been as wide-ranging as ever! Some of the choices for the humour category for January were *How to be a Brit* by George Mikes (which our German member found hilarious!); *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons; John Lanchester's *The Debt to Pleasure*, which mixes a tour of France with recommended recipes; and *Significant Others* from the *Tales of the City* series set in San Francisco by Armistead Maupin.

In February we read Helen Dunmore and would all thoroughly recommend her novels set in different periods of history. We decided on a change for March and brought along poems to discuss. As well as some well known verses by Blake, T.S.Eliot, Matthew Arnold, and modern classics by Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes and Carol Anne Duffy, we looked at poems by Helen Dunmore from her collection *Inside the Wave* and an anthology called *The Emergency Poet* edited by Deborah Alma, who goes around in an old ambulance to read poems as therapy to people in hospital and on housing estates.

April's author choice was Margaret Drabble. Although we admired the quality of her writing, some found the subject matter of one or two of the novels rather depressing and others more like social history than novels as they lacked a conventional plot.

Paul Theroux was our choice for May and his novels, particularly *The Mosquito Coast*, were enjoyed rather more than his travel books, though the latter are perhaps more well-known. The two novels *My Secret History* and *My Other Life* were both seen as semi-autobiographical and, although enjoyable, revealed a rather unpleasant and egocentric character. In June we read the Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami. His novels are challenging and varied in subject matter. Two of us read his memoir *What I Talk About When I talk About Running*, which we felt revealed a fascinating and very disciplined man. Our choice for July is Graham Greene and we are looking forward to revisiting his large oeuvre.



We continue to have books provided by Cheadle library and here are our ratings.

NOV/DEC: *The World Before Us* by Aislinn Hunter (2/3 stars) Bookish. Had limited effect.

JAN: *J* by Howard Jacobson (2 stars)  
Many did not enjoy this, though very good writing and psychological insights.

FEB: *The Flight* by M R Hall (3+ stars) Enjoyable though very detailed.

MAR: *The Dark Flood Rises* by Margaret Drabble (2/3 stars)  
Well written, though many felt subject matter depressing as too near our age group!

APR: *My Cousin Rachel* by Daphne du Maurier (4/5 stars)  
Well liked. Much discussion re the ambiguity of the story.

In June, Cheadle library closed for a month's repairs, so one member generously offered to accommodate us at her home. As there were no book packs, we each chose a book which had had a lasting impact on us and we would recommend others to read. It was a very enjoyable session. Here are our offerings.

*The Dean's Watch* by Elizabeth Goodge (human interest and how one person can have a good effect on so many others)

*Rising* by R.C. Hutchinson (how an evil man finds redemption)

*1356* by Bernard Cornwell (human interest coupled with unparalleled depiction of the battle of Poitiers in the 100 years war.)

*Vanity Fair* by W.M. Thackeray (fascinating adventures of a spirited woman in an age of female submission.)

*Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson (one of Jackson Brodie series of novels by acclaimed and accessible modern writer.)

*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (a must-read set in WW2 but needs time, not odd moments, spent on it.)

*The Stars Look Down* by A.J. Cronin (written, and made into film, about injustices in mining industry in 1935 by a master of prose.)

*A Man called Ove* by Fredrik Backman (Swedish story about how a grumpy but loveable curmudgeon slowly has his life changed.)

*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. (stay with it and you will be hooked.)

*The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes. (how can a man live a whole life and fail to engage with or understand his life and the people in it? It will keep you wondering. Man Booker winner 2011.)

## **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 are a small and friendly group who enjoy playing bowls, and are learning the techniques required.

There are limited facilities, which means we now have a waiting list for new members. If you are interested in joining and wish to be put on the waiting list then please contact me.

*The bowlers ready for action*



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 Explorers**

**Janet Farrall  
Pat Ayaydin**

**428 7883  
428 1917**

**[jango123@btinternet.com](mailto:jango123@btinternet.com)**

This Group is for people who would like to use their Bus Pass to go on journeys of exploration. We meet over a cup of coffee in Bill's Coffee Shop on Church Road on the 3rd Thursday of the month to discuss experiences and possibilities, with Notices at 11 a.m.

Members can go on their own journey, go on a suggested journey from the growing list we have compiled in our Folder of Suggestions, join us on organised journeys or journey with us with a chance to explore on arrival. Together we try to plan an outing each month, and your suggestions are really appreciated. The 'Explorers' part of our title refers to our coach trips, a recent one of which was a visit to Liverpool to see the Terracotta Warriors.



*Discovery of the First Emperor's Terracotta Army*



*Three models of soldiers from the Terracotta Army*

If you are interested put your name down on the list by the notice board at the U3A Monthly meeting, or at our meeting at Bill's.

Our group is also participating in one of the Research Projects, and investigating local transport. We have gone back as far as the 17th century to a wheelwright in Gatley.



<b>Computing</b>	<b>Peter Bayley</b>	<b>282 3468</b>	<b>p.bayley@ntlworld.com</b>
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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.

<b>Craft/Sewing</b>	<b>Josephine Haynes</b>	<b>491 2382</b>
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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*

<b>Creative Writing</b>	<b>Nigel Bann</b>	<b>491 6835</b>
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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. There is a humorous poem written by Liz Smith following the Group Reports.

<b>Dining</b>	<b>Lois Evans</b>	<b>428 4373</b>
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We have visited various local pubs and restaurants and are gradually eating our way around Cheadle and Gatley. We hope to visit places further afield during this next session and transport can be arranged for those who don't have access to a car.

All our visits are very sociable and, as most of us live alone, it is good to be able to join U3A friends for a lunch-time outing. We welcome new members.

<b>Environment</b>	<b>Peter Briggs</b>	<b>485 6871</b>
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This new Group has been formed as a result of our research investigations 'Recycling plastics waste from food and drinks packaging'. We have learnt that local councils have different policies concerning which plastics they want to collect and in what form these should be. The main targets in Stockport are PET bottles collected in the same bin together with steel, aluminum and glass containers. However, much of our household waste comprises packaging made from at least 6 different plastics, which can be in forms such as films, bags, trays or pots.



The above variety of products challenges the waste separation processes and leads to some unsatisfactory disposal methods for single-use plastics that cannot be recycled; these include landfill, burning for energy, incineration or (perhaps the worst of all?) litter that can occur on a gross-scale and lead to pollution of rivers, seas and oceans. This subject has become a hot topic for the media, environmentalists, supermarkets and governing bodies (such as DEFRA in the UK).

The Environment Group will monitor the plastics packaging situation locally, and as part of this we visited the Greater Manchester Materials Recovery Facility at Sharston for an excellent presentation and tour of the facilities. The huge building on the left as you enter the plant turns the contents of our green bins, after a 6 week composting process, into material that can be sold to farms as a soil improver.

The other very large building houses some high technology equipment which separates the contents of our brown bins. A system of magnets separates the steel cans, and the aluminium (cans and foil) is extracted by an 'eddy current separator'. Glass bottles and jars are crushed, the pieces fall through a metal grill, then a system of lasers is used to identify the glass fragments. The remaining plastic bottles are then pierced and crushed.

The products of these processes are sold for re-use, but their value is reduced by contamination caused by people not putting the right things in the correct bins. The tops from glass and plastic bottles and glass jars should be removed and put in the black bin. There should be no Pyrex or ceramics in the brown bin, and no plastic bags in with the paper or garden waste. Worst of all, if not spotted at an early stage, then large items like a child's bicycle or a crowbar put into the brown bin have caused the machines to jam, and they have had to be shut down for repair. Stockport and Trafford have the best records with respect to good sorting of rubbish put in bins.

The contents of our black bins is sent for incineration to generate electrical energy in a plant with a high technology system which reduces the pollution in the smoke to virtually zero.



*Aluminium cans being compressed into large 'bricks' for transport and re-processing*



*..... so keep your fingers well away!*

Our programme will also consider the wider implications of marine pollution by micro-plastics and micro-fibres, and in the future extend to other environmental challenges such as causes of climate change and safety in the built-environment.

<b>Family History</b>	<b>Linda Corry</b>	<b>428 4094</b>
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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.

<b>French Conversation</b>	<b>Jim Crook</b>	<b>428 5764</b>
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We have changed from *La Vie Outre-Manche* to a slightly easier magazine called *Rendezvous*, which has interesting articles ranging from Crueset cookware to Victor Hugo and the Empress Josephine. At the next meeting we will exchange French recipes.

We welcome new members, so if you feel this is the time to brush up your French, or even start to speak it, please contact me.

<b>Gardening</b>	<b>Pam Marshall</b>	<b>282 5359</b>
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The Gardening Group does not have a Coordinator but is run collectively by the members of the group. Every member contributes one activity for its continuation. Thanks to those who made this year possible.

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

This Winter and Spring the group has kept itself busy with a quiz, visits to Dunham Massey Winter Garden and to a member's house to take indoor plant cuttings and to swap plants.

A highlight of Spring was our trip to Harrogate Flower show on a breezy, full and action packed day.

A trip to Trentham Gardens, which had everything, Italian Gardens, Monkey Park, Lake and wonderful shopping, was also hugely enjoyed by members and their kind drivers.



<b>German</b>	<b>Lee Fairlie</b>	<b>428 4791</b>
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We are fortunate to include native speakers and members with varied levels of fluency in our group. We aim to encourage conversation and fluency through a wide range of activities led by various group members.

We usually meet in a member's home, monthly, on the 3rd Tuesday morning. New members are welcome.



<b>History</b>	<b>John Houghton</b>	<b>428 2892</b>	<b>Tom Fanning</b>	<b>428 8666</b>
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The Group has welcomed a couple of new members during this period and we continue to discuss subjects relating to English Medieval history. As usual we do not meet in August and between now and then we have to decide whether to continue with our current topic or decide to change to a new period of history. Given our interest in the current era I suspect we may continue along our current path for the time being.

<b>History of Art</b>	<b>Tom Fanning</b>	<b>428 8666</b>
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The period of the High Renaissance in late 15th and early 16th century Italy has been the focus in the last 3 months. We have studied the works of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael. In the coming months we will be concentrating on the art of Venice, Spain, Germany and the Low Countries in the 16th century.

The group has also been exploring the lives of Artists who have flourished in the North West, as its contribution to the U3A Research Initiative.

<b>Local History</b>	<b>John Pollard</b>	<b>428 2150</b>
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Our group continues to thrive with often 30 members attending talks at Cheadle library or slightly fewer on our visits. We don't meet in January so our 2018 programme began in February with a talk by John Pollard, '*Gatley Carrs 1500-2018: willow swamp to nature reserve*', the fascinating history of our peaceful local greenspace.

In March we visited Gorton Monastery and were impressed by the grand architecture and to learn of the important social work of this small community of monks in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The social history theme continued in April with a talk by Suzanne Hindle on the 'History of Wood Street Mission (1863-2018)'.

*At Gorton Monastery*



For an open meeting in May on 'Childhood recollections of visits to Blackpool' we were joined by members of the Creative Writing and Bus Pass Explorers groups. We had some excellent contributions from members in both prose and poetry, including the history of 19<sup>th</sup> century tourists in Blackpool, weekly cost £1/18s/4d, but up to 9 men to a room in lodgings!

In June we visited the People's History Museum by the River Irwell in Manchester and saw the original Manchester Pankhurst banner for the founding of the Women's Social and Political Union (Suffragettes) (1903) and displays of British social history from Peterloo (1819) to today.

July rounds off our summer programme with a talk on 'The History of Manchester Airport', a foretaste of the U3A research theme on the History of Local Transport.

Our planned autumn programme includes 'Memories of Belle View' from members in September, a talk on 'Fletcher Moss's Travels' by Diana Leitch in October and a visit to the Portico Library in November. Ideas for our 2019 programme are always welcome from members.

As usual at this time of year the Bridgewater Hall presents a lunchtime concert programme on Fridays at 12.45. We have already heard an excellent a capella female vocal trio and look forward to a programme of Indian Music for the Mind and Soul on Friday 14th September. As this is a ticketed event but still free, please let me know by the 3rd September if you wish to join us. This event will certainly be a first in our concert going and illustrates again the wealth and variety of musical experiences to be had in Manchester.

Can you imagine yourself discussing topics as diverse as The Battle of Agincourt and its background, Muslims in Britain, Why People Migrate, The Suffragettes or Medicine and the Arts? These are just some of the areas we recently delved into in the MOOCs Group. How does it work? We study a free online course of our choice in our own time and share what we learned with the group when we meet once a month. Enlightening afternoons guaranteed every time. Depending on the weather, we even get to wear rice-paddy hats...



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.





<b>Poetry</b>	<b>Tina Kelly</b>	<b>376 7909</b>	<b>cmk45@live.co.uk</b>
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Poetry is everywhere, even on flowers by the roadside. Our group, which has just started, is keen to share and explore poetry in all its forms and expand its appreciation of what is “out there” (not forgetting great and famous poets) in a relaxed atmosphere. From the mildly curious to the poetry writer, fan or expert, everybody is welcome. No prior knowledge needed.

If anyone would like to know more, please email, phone or just come to a taster session in the URC lounge on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month (starting 23<sup>rd</sup> July) at 1.30 till 3pm.

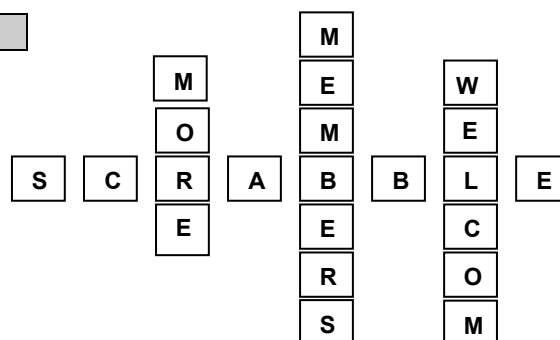
<b>Science</b>	<b>David Gane</b>	<b>428 0204</b>	<b>davidjgane@btinternet.com</b>
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The Science Group is now a Network Group, organised by Graham Beech of Wilmslow U3A. Full details and the programme can be found on the Wilmslow U3A website:  
<http://wilmslowu3a.org.uk/interest%20groups/science.htm>

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.

<b>Scrabble</b>	<b>Ann Gane</b>	<b>428 0204</b>
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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.



<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	<b>Barbara Wingard</b>	<b>428 5922</b>
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We have had a good year in which our musical experience has been widened with songs new as well as more familiar ones. It has also been a year of celebration for the music of Bernstein and Debussy, to which we added a British composer, Dame Ethel Smyth, to celebrate the victory of the Votes For Women Campaign in 1918. This formidable lady wrote a rousing Marching Song that was sung at suffragette meetings and parades; the choir managed to sing it with considerable enthusiasm too!

The programme for the next session will include a medley arrangement of songs from Oklahoma. If anyone is attracted by that, do come along and give it a try.

<b>Spanish</b>	<b>Jim Crook</b>	<b>428 5764</b>
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We are making good progress using the BBC book *Espagne Viva* as our course book. New members are welcome to join us.

<b>Theatre Visits</b>	<b>Chris Bester</b>	<b>376 7909</b>
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It has been a very busy and enjoyable 6 months for our group. We have visited all the local theatres, and we are very happy to offer them our support because they provide us with some very entertaining shows.

During this last half-year we have seen the following: *The Odd Couple (female version)*; *April in Paris*; *Pub Quiz is Life*; *Dad's Army*; *Around the World in 80 days*; *Ladies Day*; *Bouncers*; *Confusions*; *There Goes the Bride*; *Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Although some of our theatres are struggling to keep their heads above water these shows are of a high quality and I am very happy to keep the group informed of what is on even though the take-up is on the small side. Northenden Players are in the process of building a new theatre for themselves so that they do not have to rent the local church hall. Their shows are always very good.

I shall keep you up-to-date on all that these theatres are offering us when their autumn and winter programmes are published.

Most of us have now mastered the basics so it's now mainly a matter of learning new songs and enjoying ourselves. In May the Singing and Ukulele Groups performed a concert for the residents of Abney Court Care Home.

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



### Walking (Long Walks)

Allan Witton

428 1522

Alan Lynn

258 0503

The Long Walks Group continues to thrive, and we offer varied walks to suit a variety of abilities. We have been fortunate to recruit some new leaders recently, and are grateful to them for their participation.

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|-------|---|----------------------|
| Jan:  | An easy ramble round Wigan Flashes Nature Reserve                               | (7 miles – easy)     |
| Feb:  | An ascent of Winter Hill from Smithill's Hall on a cold, bright winter's day    | (8 miles – moderate) |
| Mar:  | A ramble round the paths and lanes near Acton Bridge and along the river Weaver | (6 miles – moderate) |
| Apr:  | From Bradwell over Abney Moor on a glorious spring day                          | (7 miles – moderate) |
| May:  | Up through bluebell woods to the edge of the West Pennine Moors near Chorley    | (6 miles easy)       |
| June: | A circuit from Gradbach to include Three Shires Head and the village of Flash   | (8 miles – moderate) |



*Well wrapped up on Winter Hill in February*



*Emerging from the bluebell woods above Chorley*





*A drizzly morning turned into fine afternoon for lunch by the river Weaver*



*Heading up out of the village of Bradwell*



*A convenient seat for the old folk on Abney Moor*

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.



We have had a good year so far with walks at Fernilee Reservoir, Macclesfield Forest, Lantern Pike, and Hayfield. The walks were enjoyed by the members and the weather has been dry for most of the walks. We have a membership of 19 and we average 9 members on walks.

For the remaining part of the year we have 6 more walks including The Roaches, Shutlingsloe and Rainow. We meet on the third Thursday of the month outside the URC at 10 a.m. and if anyone wishes to join us you can contact me as above.



*A view over Birch Vale from the route to Lantern Pike*



*At Turton*



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.

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.



*Sampling wines for our annual 'Round the World' wine quiz*

## **Vintage Shop**

## **A humorous poem by Liz Smith of the Creative Writing Group**

It's cold and it's raining and I am out with my friend,  
We will have to do something or we'll go round the bend,  
We can't go wrong with a garden centre,  
But a vintage emporium is more like what we're inter.

It's housed on the first floor of a blooming great Mill,  
Just out of town and up the hill.

The steps have been mounted hundreds of times,  
and have dips where clogs clicked and stamped in lines.  
The room is vast and the windows high,  
Not many here, but feels like Mary Quant might pass by.

Pull up a chair to a Formica table,  
Or sort through the Pyrex just like Aunt Mabel,  
A mixing bowl that's seen many a pudding,  
But those skintight pants you wouldn't look good in!

A sewing machine in its own inlaid case,  
Or a pretty crepe blouse with a collar of lace,  
Baby clothes looking large and wide,  
Designed to fit them till they could play outside.

How about a lava lamp, never seen a volcano,  
Or the fragile sheet music that sits on the piano.  
If it's music you want the one thing you'll get,  
is a wad of old records and a plastic Dansette.

There is furniture too with shelves a plenty,  
And so many ornaments they need never be empty.  
Oh just a minute a rail full of men's jumpers,  
Gosh I went out with him and he had a grey Humber.

We leave to Dusty belting out 'Preacher Man',  
With a vase and a book about cakes and jam.  
I now know what happened to those Rupert annuals,  
They're all stacked together with the Ford Cortina manuals.



**The Gatley Open Gardeners (and several U3A members) did it again –  
They raised £5,002 for The Christie Charity!**

On a beautiful summer's day several hundred visitors enjoyed Gatley Open Gardens, getting ideas for their own gardens, buying plants from the gardens, basking in the sunshine and savouring home-made cakes and tea, and just having a great time.

New and very popular venues this year were St Ann's Allotments and the beautiful new gardens surrounding Gatley's United Reformed Church.

Denise Williams, a U3A member, was Artist in Residence in one of the gardens.

Some pieces are sketched in pencil then coloured with oil pastels and finally water colours.

Her work can be seen at The Williamson Art Gallery and Museum from 8 July to 9 September 2018 in the Textile 21 exhibition 'On the Edge of.....' [www.textile21.co.uk](http://www.textile21.co.uk)



*Refreshments in Batsheva's garden*



*Artist in Residence, Denise Williams*



*Suzanne's Garden, by Denise Williams*

*Suzanne's Garden  
Silver Birches  
by Denise Williams*





## Coach Holidays

I am really pleased with the response to our first holiday in October to Bridlington, which is on a lovely heritage coast. I plan to arrange open meetings when I will ask you for your ideas for future places to go and I look forward to your support. Please get in touch with me if you want information on holidays already planned.

**Brenda Ward**                      **943 6095**

## Parking near Elm Road Church

Please remember to be considerate to local residents and not cause an obstruction when parking in Elm Road or nearby streets.

## North-East Cheshire Network

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	Batsheva Samely	428 6030    07722 026278
Vice Chair	Vacant	
Business Secretary	Lesley Witton	428 1522
Treasurer	Allan Witton	428 1522
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
Trustee	Brian Green	428 8535



Pam  
Marshall

Brian  
Green

Mary  
Sharples

Peter  
Briggs

Batsheva  
Samely

Lesley  
Witton

Allan  
Witton

## **Liaison with members**

As you know, Janet Farrall sent cards on behalf of the committee to anyone having a special birthday or undergoing an operation or illness or suffering a bereavement. We intend to continue this practice so please let a member of the committee know of anyone appropriate, preferably by email so that we can act promptly.

Please give any notices about your group's activities or anything else of interest to members to Lesley Witton so that these can be displayed on the noticeboard at Wednesday monthly meetings and emailed to members afterwards.

## **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.

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 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' or on your desktop 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.

*This year there were more than the usual number of late and very late renewals.*

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

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## Editor's Notes

**Plea for help:** Thanks very much to those who have submitted photographs for this Newsletter, but again the choice for the Group Reports has been rather limited 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'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).

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; Singing; and for this edition, Environment.

**Technical note.** I produced this Newsletter on an Apple iMac desktop computer using Word. If anyone is interested in learning or improving their image editing and DTP skills I would be happy to help.

In order to email this colour edition as an attachment, and to be able to upload it to our website, the overall file size must be less than 5 MB. So I have used low resolution images (which still display adequately at A4 page size), and the file size (with 42 images) is 3.2 MB, about the same size as one typical original image.

**Allan Witton**

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## DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

At 14th July 2018

*The 2 changes are in bold italic.*

GROUP	COORDINATOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Archaeology	Lois Evans	428 4373	3rd Tuesday	1:30-3:30	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 and Explorers	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	St James' Hall
Dining	Lois Evans	428 4373	3rd Wednesday	Various	Various
<b><i>Environment</i></b>	<b><i>Peter Briggs</i></b>	<b><i>485 6871</i></b>	<b><i>4th Monday</i></b>	<b><i>1:30</i></b>	<b><i>URC</i></b>
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	2:00	Various
German	Lee Fairlie	428 4791	3rd Tuesday	10:00-12:00	House
History	John Houghton	428 2892	2nd and 4th Fridays	2:00	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
<b><i>Poetry</i></b>	<b><i>Tina Kelly</i></b>	<b><i>376 7909</i></b>	<b><i>4th Monday</i></b>	<b><i>1:30 - 3:00</i></b>	<b><i>URC</i></b>
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
Spanish	Jim Crook	428 5764	1st Thursday	10:00-12:00	House
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.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the **Theatre Matinées** visits or possible **Coach Holidays** should contact:

Theatre Matinées	Pauline Hardy	428 4539
Coach Holidays	Brenda Ward	943 6095

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