

CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

JANUARY 2019 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 13th	The History of Dunham Massey	Peter Braun
March 13th	Health, Wellbeing, Self-care and Exercise	Francine Harrop, Genna Heald and Dawn Morris
April 10th	A Penny's Worth	Penny Dean O.B.E
May 8th	Stranger in a Strange Land (an expat in Japan)	Gillian Russell
June 12th	AGM with Speaker to be arranged	
July 10th	The History and Science of Prosthetic Limbs	Dr. Diana Leitch



The Craft and Sewing Group

Message from the Chair

In the past year there have been some changes to our committee. Having served as Chair for three years, **Lesley Witton** needed to stand down as per the rules in our constitution. Under her leadership, our U3A went from strength to strength: membership grew by 25% to 250; interest groups flourished; networks were strengthened and individuals supported. I took over, as Chair, a happy and healthy U3A and hope to follow the excellent example.

Lesley Witton is now Business Secretary; **Allan Witton** is our Treasurer, Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor; **Mary Sharples** does a fantastic job as Speaker Secretary; **Peter Briggs** is Groups' Coordinator; and **Brian Green** assists **Pam Marshall** as Membership Secretary.



The newest of our 32 Interest Groups is the Poetry Group run by **Tina Kelly**. Details of all groups can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

We all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Party! And it was the biggest ever: 120 members met on 5th December to enjoy musical and magic entertainment and a fabulous Christmas Afternoon Tea: Thank You, **Gina Gibson and Team**, it was delicious! There was a vibrant and joyful atmosphere about the place and everyone got their fill of catching up with friends old and new over tea, coffee and wine.



A big Thank You goes to **Dorcas Flower and her Team** for organising the book sale, and to you, our members, for supplying and purchasing second hand books. Over the past year, through our raffle and book sale, we raised £521.08 in support of Beechwood Cancer Care Centre.

This year we are going to contribute to Elm Road URC's purchase of a defibrillator, a project that has been advocated by several of our members for a number of years.

This is my fourth year on the committee and my first as Chair. Having been 'out of action' recently following an operation, I had the opportunity of observing from a distance the workings of our committee. And I must say, this was a wonderful experience. To see how a handful of like-minded friends work together for the good of our U3A – preparing the Christmas Party, exchanging information where needed, supporting members who are unwell – is a delight to behold. It made me very proud to be a part of this endeavour. And it made me think that perhaps YOU might want to share in this teamwork. I am sure that, like me, you will say that this is the best thing you took on in many years. Go on, give it a try! Get in touch!

Do you have an idea for our U3A? Is there something where you thought "It would be nice if our U3A did...." Or do you have a disability which excludes you from taking part in certain activities of our U3A, or a need we don't currently meet? Please do let us know. We are open to new ideas and would love to tailor our activities to what members would enjoy. Please ring me on 428 6030 or email me at sheva.samely@gmail.com Any and every idea is welcome!

With all best wishes for a happy and healthy year 2019,

Batsheva Samely

Christmas Social Meeting

Our Christmas Social was a very jolly event, thanks once again to the efficient organisation of Mary Sharples. The Ukulele Group got us off to a great start with a seasonal selection of tunes and thanks go to Ian Ewing for arranging this.



Lawrie Adam then gave us a dazzling display of magic, which had us all gasping in amazement. Some of our members were invited to take part in the tricks and their expressions as the sleight of hand took place spoke volumes!



The entertainment concluded with a performance by the Singing Group, which included songs from *Oklahoma*. The time and effort put in by Barbara Wingard and Dorothy Walker to enable both singers and audience to enjoy this experience is much appreciated.



The Grand Raffle, ably organised by Dorcas Flower and her assistants, was then drawn and delighted winners went away with some wonderful prizes. Thanks to all who donated and bought tickets – the total raised was £351.50. The afternoon was rounded off magnificently with the delicious tea provided by Gina Gibson and her team.



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### **Jim Crook 1937 - 2018**

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Jim Crook in November. Jim was an enthusiastic member of Cheadle & Gatley U3A and made a most valuable contribution. He led several walks for the Long Walking Group and convened both the French and the Spanish groups. Jim was a modest, but very talented man who encouraged others and brought out the best in them. He will be much missed by the whole community.





## Art Exhibition

At our Christmas Social Meeting the Painting and Drawing Group exhibited some of their wonderful work, which was admired by all who observed it. Below is a selection, reproduced by kind permission of the artists. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to take acceptable images of all of the works, sometimes because of reflections in the glass, but I would be very happy to feature works by other artists in future editions.



Linda Corry



Pat Marsden



Richard Pether





Richard Petter



Joan Proctor



Pat Marsden





Linda Corry



Mavis Wynne

*(Two more works are included with the Painting and Drawing Group report.)*



## Coach holiday to Bridlington

**Ann Walker**

The first Cheadle and Gatley U3A holiday coach departed from the Tatton bus lay-by bound for Bridlington on the morning of Friday, 5th October 2018, after the 22 travellers had caused chaos by blocking the pavement to passers by.

A warm welcome was received from Phil our coach driver and we set off after picking up five members of the South Manchester U3A group from Parrswood.



There was a drizzle of rain but the atmosphere was optimistic as we made our way to the first stop at Ripon. By the time we arrived the rain was coming down steadily and shelter in cafes was sought as it was our lunch stop. Three brave souls made it to the Cathedral but all were pleased to return to the bus and complete the journey among “steaming” macs.

A jovial Yorkshire welcome awaited us at the Monarch hotel in Bridlington and we all dispersed to our various rooms, comparing notes on room size and duvet thicknesses in the bar after dinner.



*I'm not sure whose round it was but they all look a bit nervous!*



## Day Two

After breakfast on a fine morning it was a short journey up the coast to Scarborough where the party split up into various groups to explore.

Some walked down to sea level at South Bay and others took the Victorian Central Tramway Funicular Train.



An ancient castle dominates the headland between the two bays (North and South) which is in an ideal position to ward off any marauders attacking from the east, or anywhere else for that matter, particularly on a Saturday night! The town used to be a Roman signalling station and also boasts that Richard III stayed the night in the historic Richard III House on the sea front which is now a restaurant. This was of course before he died in 1485 when he was killed in battle and buried himself under a car park in Leicester, only to emerge in 2012 with a less tarnished reputation than the one Shakespeare had given him.

There was a strong refreshing breeze blowing off the sea and some members got their share of ozone by walking around Marine Drive almost as far as North Bay.

Later back in Bridlington after dinner a very pleasant singer entertained us with songs which suited our vintage. After early reluctance, this resulted in some boogying on the dance floor.





### Day Three

We all survived the dancing and were raring to go next morning on our trip to York. The city was very busy as it was a Sunday and lots of families and people of all ages thronged the streets. There is so much history to hear about and places of interest to visit in York that couldn't possibly be achieved in a day, but most of our group stayed on the coach for an extra historical tour around the city, the remaining few visiting places of interest under their own steam.

On a Sunday the glorious Minster is closed in the morning for a service attended by various dignitaries but some of the dignitaries in our own group managed to look around later.



*York Minster cAD 637, ASDA Bag 2018*

The drive home to the hotel was quiet as everyone was tired after the busy day, but a good dinner and a relaxing time at the bar later left most of us wide awake enough to play Bingo. There was the usual banter of calling out an appropriate phrase after each number was announced, and some singing too, and the winners received substantial cash prizes. Their names are protected to avoid begging letters.



A vote of thanks was made to our Holiday Organiser/Bingo caller Brenda Ward.

### Day Four

The day dawned with a stunning sunrise over the North Sea which couldn't be captured on camera but will remain in the memory banks. After saying goodbye to our hosts at the hotel and to Bridlington (which hadn't been explored in any detail) we headed for Knaresborough which was our stop en route home. There were various accounts when back on the coach as to what had been seen in the short time we had there, some missing out on the famously stunning river view from a bridge near the castle. That is a good excuse to return sometime.

We continued with a safe journey home and fond goodbyes were made, to our friends from South Manchester too whose cheerful company we had enjoyed, indicating the success of the holiday and most were asking when the next one would be. Thank you so much Brenda for all your hard work in making the weekend such a success. You have done it so well that you have got the job!!



## News from around the Groups

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

|                    |                   |                 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Archaeology</b> | <b>Lois Evans</b> | <b>428 4373</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

Three of us enjoyed the CBA North West annual conference in November. There was a variety of talks on archaeology in the North West and displays from all the local groups. Free booklets on the latest work were given out which have added to our growing library.

We have continued to watch our DVDs on the archaeology of Ancient Greece and Rome.

The group has been working closely with SMART (South Manchester Archaeological Trust) to try for a Heritage Lottery bid. The aim is to fund a major dig on Gatley Hill, seeking a 15<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse and possibly earlier remains. If anyone has information about what happened on the Hill, or about the weavers' cottages we would like to know as U3A has been tasked with helping research the history of the site. Three test pits were dug last year which gave promising results.

We welcome any new members with an interest in any aspect of archaeological research, although most of us are only armchair archaeologists these days.

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|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Monday Book Group</b> | <b>Lesley Witton</b> | <b>428 1522</b> |
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We all thoroughly enjoyed our choice for July, Graham Greene. His superb use of language, great storytelling and marvellous powers of description were much admired. The way his novels deal with complex issues inviting his readers to engage with these was also appreciated. Elizabeth Strout, the Pulitzer prize-winning American author, was August's choice and her novels portraying life in Amgash, Illinois were found to be well observed and beautifully crafted. One, *My Name is Lucy Barton* has recently been adapted for the stage.

Another American author, Joyce Carol Oates, was chosen for September. She is a prolific writer and has covered many different subjects. Our readers felt that she had a good understanding of psychological issues, but were somewhat frustrated by the lack of resolution in some of her stories.

In October we read V.S. Naipaul. His early comic novels, including *The House of Mr Biswas*, were considered very readable, with brilliant caricatures and realistic description. Later novels explored aspects of society in various parts of the world, including London and Africa.

We would recommend very highly our choice of author for November, Penelope Lively. We read eight novels between us – some were enjoyed more than others, but we all appreciated her skill in showing how the same events can be interpreted and recalled differently by various people.

Another Penelope, this time Fitzgerald, was not enjoyed quite so much in December! Readers did not really engage with her characters and found her plots unsatisfactory. *The Bookshop* was, however, enjoyed by some of us.

We are currently reading Anne Enright and intending to tackle another major classic this year.

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|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Tuesday Book Group</b> | <b>Tina Kelly</b> | <b>376 7909</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

We continue to read book sets provided by the library on the second Tuesdays and members are welcome to come for a taster.

This semester, the books we read and rated were as follows:

|           |                        |                   |                            |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| June      | Gorky Park             | Martin Cruz Smith | 3*                         |
| July      | Napoleons Island       | Thomas Keneally   | 2*                         |
| August    | The Secret by the Lake | Louise Douglas    | 2*                         |
| September | Blood Salt Water.      | Denise Mina       | 2/3*                       |
| October   | The Bell               | Iris Murdoch      | 4*                         |
| November  | Magpie Murders         |                   | to be reviewed in Jan 2019 |

In December we repaired to a hostelry instead for some Christmas food and drink .

A jolly time was had by all.



**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*

**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 Explorers****Janet Farrall  
Pat Ayaydin****428 7883  
428 1917****[jango123@btinternet.com](mailto:jango123@btinternet.com)**

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Bill's Coffee Shop on Church Road. Make sure you purchase a drink, and you can come for breakfast or stay for lunch if you like, but at 11.00 we give out the 'Business of the Meeting'.

We are a sociable and chatty group but have a serious and creative side too. Recently, after a visit to Stockport Art Gallery, Ros and Josie submitted 'Dreamboxes' to be part of the display for 'Peace' in November at the Art Gallery.

We try to offer somewhere to go each month, either together or as individuals, using your Bus Pass for at least part of the journey. We appreciate people recommending places to go. At the meeting we pass round various lists of what is coming up.

We enjoy doing coach trips too, with a chance to explore.

Can't get to the meetings? We will email you the lists and notices. No email? Check the notice board at the Monthly Meetings for updates. Got a bus pass? Then you are one of us and we would always be pleased to see you.

**Computing****Peter Bayley****282 3468 [p.bayley@ntlworld.com](mailto: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.

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| <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.

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| <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.

|               |                   |                 |
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| <b>Dining</b> | <b>Lois Evans</b> | <b>428 4373</b> |
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We have continued to eat our way around Cheadle, Cheadle Hulme and Gatley. We usually meet at lunchtime, and welcome new members to join us. Also we welcome ideas for new places to try. If anyone is concerned about lack of transport because of disability, or the venue is off a bus route, we can arrange lifts.

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| <b>Environment</b> | <b>Peter Briggs</b> | <b>485 6871</b> |
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The Environment Group discussed the tragic fire in Grenfell Tower at our November meeting. There will be widespread and serious repercussions from this event for owners and managers of these multi-occupancy, high-rise buildings. Since our Group is considering both local and global environmental threats, one of our members (Peter Bayley) raised his concerns about fire safety in tower blocks with Stockport councillors and MPs. Our Group will follow the progress of the Grenfell Inquiry closely in 2019.

At next year's meetings we will address climate change (including global warming and wild fires) and the impact of pollutants (such as wet wipes, plastics packaging, microfibres from textiles, microrubbers from tyres, vehicle exhausts, pesticides, etc) on human and animal life.

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| <b>Family History</b> | <b>Linda Corry</b> | <b>428 4094</b> |
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The group meets in my house in Gatley, off Styal Road. We are currently a small group at varying stages in our research. From experience gained we are able to advise each other, and help each other by looking up records. We use the internet for our research, trying to use free websites as far as possible. Some group members have now moved on to taking out a subscription to a paid-for website. The same data is available for free in libraries, but it is still occasionally necessary to buy a certificate.

I am always happy to give advice to anyone who doesn't know where to start.

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|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>French Conversation</b> | <b>Peter Bayley</b> | <b>428 3468</b> |
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As many of you will know Jim Crook who has been the convenor for the Group for some years died in November. During his illness he was really enthusiastic that we should continue to meet. I have agreed to take over the duties of Convenor temporarily in an attempt to keep the group continuing.

I propose that there will be an initial continuation meeting on Wednesday January 30th from 9.30 until 11.30 at 1, Keswick Avenue, Gatley SK8 4LE for some French Conversation and to discuss how we might progress the group activities.

Anyone who might be interested in continuing in or joining the group would be very welcome and you can contact me on 0161 282 3468, 07766025668 or at [p.bayley@me.com](mailto:p.bayley@me.com).



The Gardening Group does not have a Convenor but is run collectively by the members of the group.

Our meetings this 2018 included an interesting summer visit by bus to Buxton Pavilion, to see the exotic indoor plants. Another meeting was held at Ordsall Hall in Salford, where we were given a talk by the gardener on the challenges they faced restoring the gardens and growing organically. Well worth a visit.

Also this summer we spent a very enjoyable sunny afternoon in Sue Cook's garden where her husband Colin showed us his greenhouse containing an amazing grape vine and, as an unexpected extra treat, we all went home with a large bunch of delicious grapes.



In October we held our meeting at Tina Kelly's house where we watched a video on gardening tips and how to garden on a budget.

Our penultimate meeting was at Marjorie Ding's house where her friend Freda demonstrated how to make two festive flower arrangements. These were then raffled off and won by two lucky group members.

The year would not have been complete without a return visit to The Vinery in Bruntwood Park for our Christmas celebration lunch.

The programme for 2019 will be arranged in the New Year.

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.

We have decided to make some changes to the way the sessions are organised in the New Year. Firstly we are going to examine a new topic, namely the history of China and secondly for the first time we will be using elements of relevant video as supporting material. We will see how it goes and whether members are happy with the changes.

Since September we have been studying the Art of Venice and Spain in the 16th/17th centuries. In November we had a special session devoted to Art in Manchester. Three members did research on:

- The origins of Manchester School of Art;
- The career of Adolphe Valette in Manchester (He was a teacher at the Art school, and had an influence on L.S Lowry.);
- The history of the Ancoats Museum with special reference to T. C. Horsfall.

In January we will be visiting the Pre-Raphaelite Exhibition at the Lowry.

After the summer break in August our group reassembled in September with good numbers at Cheadle Library to hear talks from two members on *Memories of Belle Vue*. Pat Pritchard outlined the history of Belle Vue from 1836 as a Victorian Zoo and Pleasure Gardens to its heyday in the early 20th century, then decline in 1970s to closure in 1980s. Ginie Stevenson recalled her childhood living close to Belle Vue including ways to slip in over the wall! Other members added memories of the circus, zoo, greyhound racing and speedway.

In October Diana Leitch visited us recalling the *Travels of Fletcher Moss* with his friend James Watts of Abney Hall. Their excursions were by train and bicycle visiting the halls of Cheshire gentry, always taking photographs, which today are some of the only records of these now vanished halls.

Our programme of visits renewed in November at the Portico Library in Mosley Street, Manchester. Here we were shown some historic books and shelves of 18th and 19th century books, some 'Polite Literature', many of which are in need of sponsorship for rebinding. Also we were able to see an extended exhibition of five lesser-known suffragettes, their activities and sufferings, including many posters and early film.

*In the Portico Library in front of shelves of 'Polite Literature' and suffragette posters.*



We do not meet in December or January but will reassemble in February 2019 with a talk on the *History of Bullocks Coaches*, followed in March by a visit to Rochdale Town Hall and possibly the Rochdale Pioneers Museum. Diana Leitch returns to us in April to talk about *Development of the chemical industry in Widnes and Runcorn in the 18th and 19th century*.

#### Lunchtime Concerts – for free

Barbara Wingard

428 5922

We had a late start to our programme but eventually got going at the RNMC with an excellent orchestral concert. The main work was the very accessible *Military Symphony* of Haydn. Totally different was a later concert with quite challenging programming for a string ensemble and a large wind and percussion group. Apart from a comfortable Vivaldi concerto, the other items were very modern music, which was a new but interesting experience for us.

In the New Year the plan is to hear more of the young artists at Chetham's Music School in addition to the RNCM and University events. Please telephone me if you are interested in joining us.

#### MOOCs – The Online Learning Group

Batsheva Samely

428 6030

07722 026 278

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. If you like to find out new things and share your findings, this group is for you.

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.



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.

Further works exhibited at the Christmas meeting.



Joan Proctor



Mavis Wynne

|               |                   |                 |                         |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Poetry</b> | <b>Tina Kelly</b> | <b>376 7909</b> | <b>cmk45@live.co.uk</b> |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|

We meet at the URC on the fourth Monday of the month. Next meeting is 28th Jan 2019 at 1.30pm.

Our group, which now has 8 members, has looked at poets from Armitage to Zephaniah and such luminaries as Shakespeare and Heaney.

We have also been fortunate to have members willing to write their own poems. Usually, we group round a theme, such as Winter, Journeys or a particular poet or group, such as women poets. Any member wishing to come for a taster, please ring or email.

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|----------------|
| <b>Science</b> |
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The Science Group is now a Network Group, organised by Chris Foreman of Wilmslow U3A.

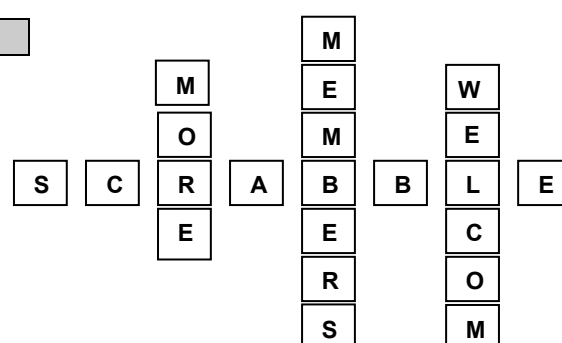
Full details and the programme can be found on the Wilmslow U3A website.

Details are also circulated to our members via Beacon.

Anyone interested in the talks should contact Chris Foreman by email, caforeman22@hotmail.com

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| <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.



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|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Singing for Pleasure</b> | <b>Barbara Wingard</b> | <b>428 5922</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|

Our theme of post-war Americal musicals starting with *Oklahoma* is going well. As often happens when we start a new theme, members of the choir come up with musical anecdotes. Lee Fairlie saw *Oklahoma* on Broadway in New York when it first opened in 1943, and Rosemary Round saw it in 2010 at Manchester's Opera House for the pre-season run.

In the new year *My Fair Lady* and *The Sound of Music* are on the programme. If anyone is attracted by these, do come along and give it a try.

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|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Spanish</b> | <b>Elaine Bowker</b> | <b>437 8480</b> |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|

Jim Crook set up the Spanish Group last year and during his illness was very keen for it to continue. Members rallied round and meetings took place. Following his death in November, Elaine Bowker has kindly agreed to be the contact and to arrange sessions.

New members will be very welcome.

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|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Theatre Visits</b> | <b>Chris Bester</b> | <b>376 7909</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|

Our local theatres continue to provide us with some really good productions and we have made good use of them in the recent past.

Northenden Players have now moved into their own theatre, having used the local church hall up until the present. Their final play was *Run for your Wife*, a really very funny production which went down extremely well with the full house. We also visited Heald Green, and both Chads and The Players theatre in Cheadle Hulme. Visits have also been made to Poynton and Bramhall theatres.

I shall shortly be sending notification of all upcoming productions to our members, and if you would like to join us please let me know.



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

We enjoyed playing at the Christmas Social Meeting as much as the audience enjoyed hearing us.

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. We were pleased to welcome several new members during the year, and our average group now consists of eleven.

- |      |                                                                                                       |                       |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jul: | A walk in the Etherow Country Park                                                                    | (8 miles – moderate)  |
| Aug: | From Adlington via Adlington Basin and Styperson Pool                                                 | (6½ miles – easy)     |
| Sep: | A grey and wet walk from Haigh Hall via Worthington Lakes                                             | (6 miles – easy)      |
| Oct: | From Wincle via Ludd's Church on glorious autumn day                                                  | (7 miles – moderate)  |
| Nov: | A new route from Higher Poynton through Lyme Park via Bollinhurst Reservoir                           | (6½ miles – moderate) |
| Dec: | Our shorter winter walk - along the Bollin Valley followed by a festive meal at the Red Lion, Cheadle | (3½ miles easy)       |



*In the Etherow valley*



*At Worthington Lakes*





*En route to Ludd's Church*



*Crossing the canal en route to Lyme Park*





*Styal Cross*



*In the Bollin valley*



*At the Red Lion*



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.



**Walking (Short Walks)****Stuart Forsyth****491 3592****stuart.forsyth4@gmail.com**

The group currently has 18 members and we averaged 8 people per walk. We visited Frodsham, Rainow, Macclesfield Forest and Lantern Pike on our walks this year. We did find the hot summer weather put some of our members off joining us on the walks. Next year's list of walks will include Pennington Flash, Rowarth, Mellor, Fernlee and Wybunbury. Anyone wishing to join us can meet out side the URC on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. You can contact me as above.



*Photo taken on a beautiful day in November. Left to right:  
Adrian Bartram, Pam Woods, Fiona Sharrocks, Pam Marshall, Christine Benson, Jim Marshall,  
Marjorie Ding, Neville Ding, Barbara Joyce , Tina Kelly, Norma Daniels and Maria Coventry.*

**Walking (Strollers)****Marianne Owen****491 3323**

We are a friendly group that consists at the moment of only women, but men are welcome too. We meet at 10.30 at Elm Road for a gentle walk of about an hour, often around Gatley. When we have enough cars we go to one of the nearby parks such as Bramhall, Wythenshawe, Bruntwood or Fletcher Moss, and we always finish with a welcome drink. Currently we meet every 1st and 3rd Monday, but we are considering changing the days that we walk. New members are welcome.

**Wine Appreciation****Peter Bayley****282 3468**

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.

**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                | 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

## North-East Cheshire Network

The North East Cheshire Network of U3As (NECN) comprises Cheadle and Gatley, Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme, Poynton, Macclesfield, and Wilmslow. We have continued to meet with our fellow committee members from the network to work together and share good practice.

Some Interest Groups within the Network have been designated as 'Open Groups'. These can be attended by members of other U3As in the Network provided they are current members of their own U3A and pay for attendance at the meeting. Members who attend a meeting of an Open Group should show their current Membership Card for their own U3A. Cheadle and Gatley Open Groups are:

### **Archaeology, Bridge, Environment, German, MOOCs**

Information about the Open Groups of other U3As in the Network is currently being updated and a list will appear here in due course, but in the meantime details can be found by going to their websites.

## Liaison with members

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.

We will continue to send cards on behalf of the committee to anyone having a special birthday or undergoing an operation or illness or suffering a bereavement, so please let a member of the committee know of anyone appropriate, preferably by email so that we can act promptly.

## 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. If you acquire a new email, or change your email address, please let one of the committee know so that we can update our records.

## 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 Convenors 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

Our website is fully updated twice a year, in January and July on the publication of the Newsletter, with minor updates at other times, and we encourage those of you who are online to look at it periodically. The simplest way is to do a web search for '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.

**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 Convenor who takes and submits the photos!**

The simplest way to send them is to reply to any U3A Beacon email you receive and attach the photo.

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 a different group each time: Long Walks; Lunchtime Concerts; Gardening; Strollers; Local History; Media City Tour; Archaeology; Christmas Lunch; Short Walks; Singing; Environment; and for this edition, Craft and Sewing.

**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.

**Allan Witton**

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## DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

At 9th January 2019

The 4 changes are in **bold blue**.

Open Groups are in **bold orange**

| GROUP                                   | CONVENOR                  | CONTACT              | DATES                    | TIME        | VENUE                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Archaeology</b>                      | 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                                   |
| <b>Bridge</b>                           | 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>Environment</b>                      | Peter Briggs              | 485 6871             | 4th Monday               | 1:30        | URC                                   |
| Family History                          | Linda Corry               | 428 4094             | 1st Tuesday              | 9:30        | House                                 |
| French Conversation                     | <b>Peter Bayley</b>       | <b>282 3468</b>      | 4th Wednesday            | 10:00-12:00 | House                                 |
| Gardening                               | Pam Marshall              | 282 5359             | 4th Thursday             | 2:00        | Various                               |
| <b>German</b>                           | Lee Fairlie               | 428 4791             | 3rd Tuesday              | 10:00-12:00 | House                                 |
| History                                 | John Houghton             | 428 2892             | 2nd and 4th Fridays      | <b>1:30</b> | 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                               |
| <b>MOOCs</b>                            | Batsheva Samely           | 428 6030             | 3rd Wednesday            | Various     | Various                               |
| Painting and Drawing                    | Pat Marsden               | 428 7820             | 1st and 3rd Friday       | 10:30-12:30 | URC                                   |
| Poetry                                  | Tina Kelly                | 376 7909             | 4th Monday               | 1:30 - 3:00 | URC                                   |
| Science                                 | <b>Network</b>            |                      | 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                                 | <b>Elaine Bowker</b>      | <b>437 8480</b>      | 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)<br>(Up to ~ 8 miles)     | Allan Witton<br>Alan Lynn | 428 1522<br>258 0503 | 3rd Friday               | 9:30        | Meet at Gatley Hill<br>House car park |
| Walking (Short)<br>(4 - 5 miles)        | Stuart Forsyth            | 491 3592             | 3rd Thursday             | 10:00       | Meet at<br>URC                        |
| Walking (Strollers)<br>Easy local walks | Marianne Owen             | 491 3323             | 1st and 3rd Mondays      | 10:30       | Meet at<br>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 Convenor, 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 Convenor.

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

|                  |                      |          |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Theatre Matinées | <b>Pauline Hardy</b> | 428 4539 |
| Coach Holidays   | <b>Brenda Ward</b>   | 943 6095 |

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