

# CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## JULY 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

September 11th	Manchester Oddities.	Keith Warrender
October 9th	The Moravians - the Story of their Journey from Eastern Europe to Fairfield.	Jean Bailo
November 13th	Barrow to Bagdad and Back Again.	Philip Caine
December 4th	Christmas Meeting with Entertainment.	
January 8th	Amazing Walks.	Josephine Gosling

### Devon Coach Holiday



Cruise on the river Dart.



At the Visitor Centre at Princetown on Dartmoor.

## Message from the Chair

In its 8<sup>th</sup> year it's official: Our U3A is very good! National Office recently circulated a so-called Health Survey containing questions regarding various areas of local U3As and we came out with a clean bill of health! We thought we were doing all right, but it is nice to get confirmation.

National Office makes sure that we all stay within the law and keep up to date with new developments. This year, our committee members worked in the areas of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Safeguarding; Insurance; and Data Protection. One of these areas – Safeguarding – was explained by Brian Green at the AGM and you can read the policy on our website.



At the AGM, two members stepped down from the committee: **Pam Marshall** served as Membership Secretary and greeted and welcomed us all so warmly at each monthly meeting. Pam kept and monitored all membership records on paper and online and also managed subscriptions and attendance fees – no small responsibility! Thank you, Pam, for your efficient and meticulous work, it is much appreciated! **Peter Briggs** served as Groups' Coordinator for two years and in this role he surveyed members' research interests and also initiated a number of interesting group visits, some of which are planned for this summer. Thank you to both Pam and Peter for your invaluable contributions. Two new members joined the committee as trustees: welcome to **Heather Wilkinson** and **David Wrigley**!

I should like to thank **Allan Witton** for excellent work as treasurer. Apart from carrying out all financial affairs of our U3A, Allan conducted a room audit, checking room use against billed use on invoices and in the process developed a system that is both easy to use and also highly transparent. You all receive from **Lesley Witton** regular U3A news by email. In her role as Business Secretary, Lesley also manages all correspondence, keeps the committee informed, and sends get-well cards when needed. **Brian Green** has been shadowing Pam for the past year and will take over from Pam as Membership Secretary. **Mary Sharples** is our Speaker Secretary and always manages to find interesting and informative speakers for our monthly meetings. Thank you to all committee members for giving freely of your time, effort and enthusiasm!



Thank you also to **Pauline Hadfield** for providing refreshments at our monthly meetings and to **Dorcas Flower** and her team for their substantial help in raising money through book sales and raffles.

This year, the money raised amounts to the wonderful sum of £773.00 and will go to Gatley United Reformed Church to be used towards the purchase of a defibrillator.

Last but not least I would like to thank our **Group Convenors**. You are the life blood and driving force and inspiration of our U3A. You freely give of your time, enthusiasm and energy to sustain no fewer than 32 interest groups and 265 members. Thank you for making Cheadle and Gatley U3A such a great place to be!

**Batsheva Samely**



## Remembering the 60s Celebration Day

Our last Celebration Day three years ago, *A Celebration of Manchester's Heritage*, is still fondly remembered by all of us (see the photographic brochure via the Archive link from the Homepage on our website). We all contributed and took part and had lots of fun.



Lee Fairlie, coordinator of the timeline.



The choir led the audience in songs which reflected aspects of Manchester's heritage.



But could we do something like this again?

Do you remember the sixties?  
There have been lots of enthusiastic comments regarding a possible  
**60s Celebration Day**  
and a number of individuals and groups have said they would help.

Possible topics include  
Fashion, Music, Society, Politics, History,  
Food, Customs, Personal Recollections,  
and many more.

So can we make it happen in 2020? Please let us have your ideas – it can't happen without you!  
In September we will set up a sub-committee/steering group to move the project forwards.

## Convenors and New Members Meeting

The meeting held in March was a great opportunity to thank our Group Convenors for all the work they put into organising their Groups, and for them to chat to each other and exchange ideas.

Our New Members were able to meet them and find out more about our U3A. We all enjoyed a tasty lunch too!





## Art by the Painting and Drawing Group

Thanks to members of the Group for permission to reproduce the following works. There are others with the Group report.



By Lesley Boardman.



By Maggie Newton.



By Val Davison.



## Devon Coach Holiday

Ann Walker

**Day One** On a bright and sunny day at the end of March, 20 U3A members (17 from Cheadle and Gatley and 3 from South Manchester) travelled down to Torquay on a coach driven by our friend Phil. On arrival at the Derwent Hotel we checked into our comfortable rooms and explored the many facilities this hotel has to offer.

**Day Two** - Dartmouth via Brixham. We set off in glorious sunshine once again, bound for Brixham, our first stop. A museum ship, which is a replica of the first ship to circumnavigate the globe, the Golden Hind, captained by Sir Francis Drake, is moored in the harbour. It has various points of interest on board with interactive features for amusement and education. As Sir Francis wasn't at home, we called into a coffee shop on the opposite side of the road, which served large cups of coffee either to drink out of or to sit upon!



The Golden Hind.



Coffees all round.

We continued our journey via Totnes to Dartmouth, which was sparkling in the sunshine on the estuary of the River Dart. The Naval College stands high up above the town and "Greenway", Agatha Christie's former home, can be seen on the banks too. This is now owned by the National Trust and is a popular place to visit.

During our hour-long lunch we shared our sandwiches with some cheeky seagulls who have a well constructed and practised plan of dive bombing whilst eating is in progress. No photo available!! We then boarded a boat for a sail up and down the river, the conditions for which could not have been bettered, and returned by the much quicker route to Torquay by ferry.

In the evening at the bar we paused to remember Margaret Windram from South Manchester U3A who was meant to join us on our trip but had sadly passed away a short time before.

**Day Three** Our first stop was Newton Abbott where an indoor and outdoor market were in full swing and an elderly gentleman dressed in civic costume, on a motorised vehicle, greeted us off the coach. A landmark in the town is a tower, which is all that remains of a 13th Century Chapel which was dedicated to St Leonard, now containing two working clocks. There is also a museum detailing the history of The South Coast Railway which was extended to the town in 1846.

As some complained they had "lost their marbles", Phil agreed to take us to The House of Marbles in Bovey Tracey in the hopes of finding them again. This proved to be really interesting, with glass blowing displays and inter-active events associated with the marbles and glass goods produced there.

After we had set off we realised we had forgotten to look for our marbles but nevertheless continued on to Dartmoor, our main destination of the day.



On entering the National Park and after passing through Moreton Hampstead, we spotted the famous ponies and an ancient clapper bridge over the river, the word "clapper" being derived from the Anglo Saxon word meaning "bridging the stepping stones".



As we reached the highest point on the moor, the forbidding Dartmoor Prison could be seen on the skyline. The original buildings were started in 1806, the first prisoners from the Napoleonic Wars being housed there in 1809. In Victorian times it became a convict prison, the original buildings being demolished and replaced with those we see today. The worst criminals in the land have been held there gaining a frightening reputation for the prison. Today it houses low category prisoners who are encouraged to reform through training programmes and rehabilitation.

We made a stop at the small town of Princetown close by which boasts a very interesting visitor centre giving information about the area and a section featuring the Sherlock Holmes story by Arthur Conan Doyle, “The Hound of the Baskervilles”.

**Day Four** Our half-day excursion in the morning was to Totnes, which is a very attractive hilly town at the head of the River Dart estuary. It features a castle dating back to 907 AD, which we planned to explore, only to find it was closed, as was St Mary’s church.

Totnes in the present day has a “New Age” community with some living a Bohemian lifestyle, which does not apply to the folk in the photo!

In the afternoon of our last day some of the group explored Torquay, whose coast and marina were looking stunning in the sunshine, and a few others walked on a well prepared path through woods and lanes to a village called Cockington. This village has some expensive looking houses and delightful cottages, with the Manor House having craft studios and tea rooms (which happened to be closed!).



However, the little gem of a 950 year old church, St George and St Mary, was discovered in the grounds.

This was being spring cleaned by members of the congregation who obviously treasure it as a precious part of our English heritage.

**Day Five** We had a safe journey home and thanks were given to Phil and to Brenda Ward our organiser. Another triumph Brenda.

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME ALONG ON THESE HOLIDAYS. NOT ONLY MIGHT YOU LEARN THE HISTORY OF AND STORIES OF INTEREST FROM PLACES YOU MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE VISITED, BUT THEY ARE GREAT VALUE, WELL ORGANISED AND LOTS OF FUN. WE DIDN'T STOP LAUGHING FOR 5 DAYS!!

## 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>
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In January and February we had talks from members – Janet Farrall on Gatley Hill and Rhona Doughty on Heald Green. In March we had a talk about the archaeology of Samuel Oldknow's house undertaken by Mellor Historical Society.

In April we visited the revamped Egyptology exhibition at Bolton Museum; in May the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port; in June the Museum of Science and Technology, Castlefields Roman site and the Canal Basin in Manchester.

We are also supporting SMART in their Heritage Lottery Bid for an excavation of Gatley Hill, work which we expect to continue.

<b>Monday Book Group</b>	<b>Lesley Witton</b>	<b>428 1522</b>
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Our discussion on Anne Enright in January drew the conclusion that she is a writer who gives a very insightful analysis of family relationships in a lyrical style.

In February we chose the theme 'The Sea' and this produced a wide variety of material including novels by R.L.Stevenson, John Banville, Annie Proulx, Richard Hughes, Jean Rhys, Iris Murdoch and, of course, Hemingway.

Our choice of author for March was Philip Pullman. *The Good Man Jesus and The Scoundrel Christ* was read by two members who both found it disappointing. The trilogy *His Dark Materials* was, however, enjoyed by several of us who found the plots gripping and the ideas provocative. One of his Victorian mysteries, *The Tiger in the Well*, was also enjoyed.

We chose another theme for April: 'Cities'. New York was beautifully evoked in *The Beautiful and Damned* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Two very different perspectives of Edinburgh were given in *The Sunday Philosophy Club* by Alexander McCall Smith and *Rather Be The Devil* by Ian Rankin. Elizabeth Gaskell's portrait of Manchester in the 1800s in *Mary Barton* was much appreciated and *Munich* by Robert Harris turned out to be more about the meeting between Chamberlain and Hitler than the city! A great read nevertheless. A non-fiction book giving an insight into the cities of Bradford and Birmingham in the mid-eighties proved to be very interesting: *Tales from Two Cities* by Dervla Murphy.

A lighter choice was made for May as we were all also reading George Eliot for later discussion and Ken Follett was the author selected. Though two of our members were very scathing about his writing, most of us found the books 'a good read' with intriguing plots – entertaining and undemanding. The June meeting was abandoned as several of us were away, but in July we are at last going to discuss George Eliot!

<b>Tuesday Book Group</b>	<b>Tina Kelly</b>	<b>376 7909</b>
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Our 12 members continue to meet at the Cheadle library community room. Our discussions sometimes show wide differences of reaction to individual books but we generally agree on our overall ratings out of 5\*. These are our recent books, chosen by the library and our group average ratings for each.

<i>The Noise of Time</i>	Julian Barnes	4*
<i>The Tenderness of Wolves</i>	Stef Penney	4*
<i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i>	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	3*
<i>Go Tell it on the Mountain</i>	James Baldwin	3*
<i>Man without a Shadow</i>	Joyce Carol Oates	2*

Anyone wishing to come for a 'taster' please contact me.



**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 at St. James' Church Hall at 1.30 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. We usually have 3 or 4 tables and the competition is (not) intense. About once every 6 weeks an experienced player comes along to coach us on the finer points of the game. New players are always welcome and we do provide the best biscuits in the U3A.

**Bus Pass and Explorers****Janet Farrall  
Pat Ayaydin****428 7883  
428 1917**

We are sorry that due to unexplained circumstances we had to leave Bill's Coffee Shop, and we wish him well. We now meet at St James' church hall, 10:15 to 12:15 on the third Thursday.

Each month we try to go somewhere of interest using our Bus Pass. The Explorers part of our Group means we go further afield in a coach. We offer everyone a friendly welcome and over a cuppa we will bring you up to date with our latest plans. For those who can't manage to come to the meetings we are happy to email you with the latest news.

We recently visited the Crown Court and were called upon to re-enact a 1953 murder case. The court scene was set, gowns and wigs were distributed, and we all played our part. Yes, the fellow was found guilty and hanged, and his accomplice was given life imprisonment. We then compared the old law with how evidence would be produced today, which would include various reports such as medical, social and psychological to help the Judge with his summing up and in directing the Jury.



Judge (Janet Farrall). Usher (Peggy Cunningham).

The Jury.



We are pleased to say that our friendly Coach Holiday Group is proving very successful, as you can tell from the article about our recent holiday in Devon.

Our aim is to arrange reasonably priced holidays in interesting places, with excursions included in the price. We stay in good hotels and always have some single rooms available. If you may be interested in joining us then have a chat with one of us and pass on your phone number/email so we can keep you informed about what is being arranged or planned for the future.

**Computing****Peter Bayley****282 3468**

Rather than being a regular group, the Computer Group has become more of a Helpdesk, where members can make contact to obtain practical advice on particular issues that concern them. This approach enables members to become more comfortable in the use of their own computers and able to progress independently. Members should feel free to contact me by telephone or email.

**Craft/Sewing****Josephine Haynes****491 2382**

This is a small but enthusiastic group of people who have interests in sewing, knitting, card making and general fabric and paper craft. It's a really friendly group of like-minded people. We bring along our own ongoing projects and share skills and experience with the rest of the group. It's very informal with no set programme of events but with lots of friendly chatter and exchange of ideas over refreshments.

The photo shows the Craft Group making Christmas cards, which we would like to offer to the U3A to sell in aid of the Community Involvement. There is a total of 60 cards and we would suggest 50p per card. The materials were kindly donated by our group member Pam Allen and her sister.



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 reports; anything goes. The following poem is by Liz Smith.

*The Brown Eyes Looked At Me*

The brown eyes looked at him, not knowing He couldn't see  
The tail dipped then wagged gently, He could not see his glee  
His head lifted, his muzzle sniffed it, he moved steadily to his knee  
Neither had planned this encounter, especially he

He didn't want a dog who could walk him  
He didn't want a dog who could see for him  
He wanted that last glimmer, to last forever  
He could find his bearings, those tiny shadows were clever

He fell like a rock into the gloom  
When He woke every morning to a very dark room  
This place He knew well was a space in his head  
He could move easily except his feet were like lead

He didn't need to go out, his aide would do shopping  
He didn't need the pub or a club to go bopping  
He was fine where He was, the darkness his friend  
His own four walls, and his sofa end to end

After months of training He had learned to accept  
And in those same few months this dog was no longer a pet  
He was a working dog, sensitive, astute and highly trained  
Wanting to lead him in the bright sunshine and even when it rained

Those brown eyes looked at him knowing He couldn't see  
His long tail wagged as he spoke with glee  
"My name is Patience I'll be taking care of things from now"  
He folded his hind legs under him and offered himself with a bow

Since January the group has visited Bellini's, The White Hart, Aamachi Mumbai and The Vinery all in Cheadle and D'Agostino's in Cheadle Hulme.

New members are welcome to join us for lunch – the venue changes each month, sometimes revisiting old favourites but always willing to try somewhere new.



<b>Early Christianity</b>	<b>Tom Fanning</b>	<b>428 8666</b>
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This new Group will study the history of Early Christianity from a non-sectarian point of view. We hope to start in September, but details of meetings are at the moment provisional.

<b>Environment</b>	<b>Peter Briggs</b>	<b>485 6871</b>
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The serious deteriorating state of the global environment has received much national and international attention (both scientific and political) in the past year. Our Group has benefited from the vast media coverage (especially from TV programmes and newspapers). We have concentrated on major conservation threats and considered impacts to both global and local environments. Discussions have been held on

- Climate changes (especially global heating due to burning of carbon-based fuels).
- Air pollution due to emissions from factories, road vehicles and aircraft.
- Pollution of rivers, seas and oceans by single-use plastics and how to ensure more plastics are properly recycled.
- Effects of large fires in multi-storey buildings and of wild-fires, which are occurring frequently in many countries as well as in the UK.
- Threats to wild-life (such as animals, birds, insects and plants) and the links to the huge depletion of the World's forests.
- Threats to health and food safety from process chemicals.

The Environment Group has broad plans for further considerations about the above environmental concerns; we welcome members to contribute their views and to provide literature and film about these conservation issues.

We have also initiated some historical studies of local North Cheshire environments, especially those relating to the urbanisation of the region in the past 250 years due to the industrial revolution. These studies will include visits to museums, mills and key transport developments (such as the Bridgewater Canal and the original Manchester to Liverpool railway service).

<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.

<b>French Conversation</b>
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We are hoping to continue with a French Conversation group and would ask anyone interested to give their name to Lesley (428 1522) or Batsheva (428 6030) so that something can be organised for the autumn. There are some resources available.

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

We began the year with our usual quiz thanks to Barbara Joyce. In February we had a visit to Rode Hall to see the snowdrops. Unfortunately these had nearly finished due to the unseasonal warm weather! But there were other things to see and a lovely tearoom!

In March we visited Heather Wilkinson's garden and watched a video on hanging baskets & containers. We went to Dunham Massey Spring Garden in April.

May was a visit to Arley Hall to see the renowned herbaceous borders, the walled garden and nursery. In June the group are going to Bluebell Cottage Gardens and Nursery.



A damp day at Rode Hall.



In the Spring Garden at Dunham Massey.

Still to come this year are visits to Norton Priory Museum, Cholmondeley Castle Gardens and to members' houses for a plant cutting and swap session and a Christmas craft and decoration session.

We aim to encourage conversation and fluency in German. Group members plan and share a variety of activities and exercises. We meet monthly, on the third Tuesday morning in a member's home. New members are welcome.

In January, we decided to make some changes to the way the sessions are organised. We embarked on a new topic, namely the history of China, and are now using elements of relevant video as supporting material. We will see how it goes and whether members are happy with the changes.

The focus for the group since Easter has been the art of 17th century Europe.

This month we will be studying the paintings and engravings of Rembrandt, followed by 17th century Dutch art including Vermeer.

In the Autumn there is a plan to study French artists Nicholas Poussin and Claude Lorrain.

A guided tour of Salford Art Gallery (not the Lowry) has provisionally been arranged in October.

I have told the group I plan to step down from the role of leader on 31st July, and I have asked for volunteers to continue leading this popular group.



We began our 2019 programme in February with a talk by Alan Bullock on the History of Bullock's Coaches of Cheadle. A fascinating story of how a family firm of agricultural hauliers with one lorry in the 1920s has become the prestigious bus and coach company we know today!

In March we planned a visit by tram to Rochdale Town Hall and if time permitted the Rochdale Pioneers' (Co-op) museum. The stalwart members attending had a troublesome journey as the tram broke down in central Manchester and they had to continue by bus. However, the problems were worth it for the remarkable high Victorian gothic town hall, but no time to visit the Pioneers' Museum.

Our favourite speaker, Dr Diana Leitch of Didsbury, talked to us in April about the History of the Chemical Industry in Widnes and Runcorn in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. As always it was very interesting and gave the background for the new Catalyst Museum in Widnes to educate schools and the public on the importance of the chemical industry.

In May one of our members, Judith Houghton, reported on her researches into the Statues of Manchester. She outlined the personalities of the Victorian politicians or Manchester 'worthies' represented, the locations, designers and sculptors of the statues.

June was time for another visit, this time to the hidden gem of Clayton Hall on Ashton New Road, Manchester. This is a medieval hall, one surviving wing of a 3 or 4 sided manor house standing on a raised platform, surrounded by a moat, now dry, which is crossed by a 17<sup>th</sup> century double arched bridge. The house itself has connections with the ancestors of Lord Byron and was the home of Humphrey Chetham of library and music school fame. It has been restored recently into a living history museum by a Friends Group, open to the public 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month, and to schools or groups at other times. The theme is Victorian times with a tea-room providing, appropriately, excellent Victoria sponge!

We are having a Members' Afternoon in July, hoping for members to share their local history interests, particularly of Gatley 50 years ago.

When we reassemble in September after the August break we plan to visit Peterloo exhibitions at the Portico Library and possibly the People's History Museum or the John Ryland's Library. Tom Fanning is talking to us in October on his further researches on John Barnes of Barnes Hospital fame.

In November we will probably have a Remembrance theme to our meeting and we do not meet in December but attend the Christmas social event.



The Local History group at Clayton Hall.

**Lunchtime Concerts – for free****Barbara Wingard****428 5922**

Of the concerts since January, the most memorable have been those given by the RNCM Symphony Chorus and Orchestra. As ever, seeing these young students filing onto the platform and performing with such energy and focus is a very moving experience. We will long remember the choir singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* and the orchestra playing *Finlandia* by Sibelius.

Chetham's Music School with its much younger students is equally impressive. We look forward to hearing them in July in an orchestral concert of music by Walton and Elgar.

**MOOCs – The Online Learning Group****Batsheva Samely****428 6030****07722 026 278**

Looking at the picture you would be forgiven for thinking that MOOCs was all about Afternoon Tea. (Well it is, but...) we share what we learned online on a variety of topics. These included in the past few months The Humanist Approach to Life; Climate Change; Introduction to Psychology; Mathematics; Building a Future with Robots.

It's a wonderful way of expanding your horizon and discussing subjects you would never have learned about on your own. And there's always lovely cakes!

**Painting and Drawing****Pat Marsden****428 7820**

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.

Thanks to members of the Group for permission to reproduce their work.

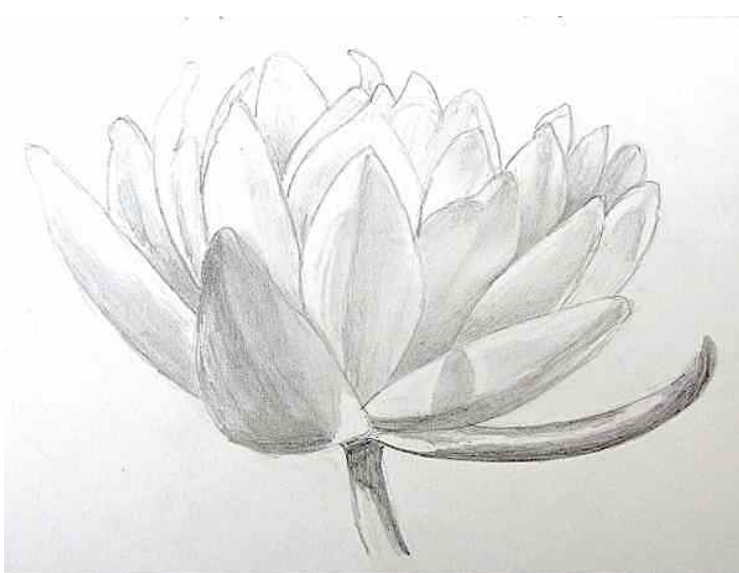


Some members of the Group  
on a visit to the Lowry.





By Christine Healey.



By Pam Allen



By Janet Davies



By Christine Healey.

## Poetry

Tina Kelly

376 7909

cmk45@live.co.uk

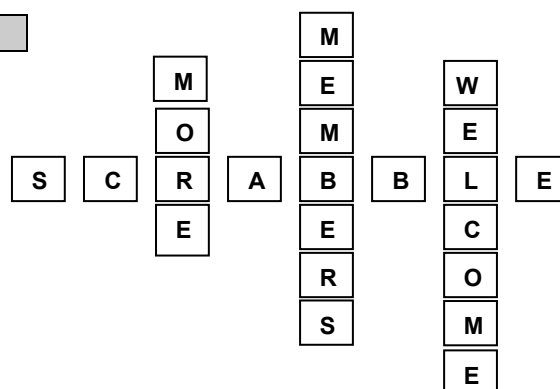
We are 8 members and now meet on the **first Monday** of the month at 1.30 in the URC Vestry Room where it is quiet and undisturbed by other URC activities. Our members all have a say on topics and poets we would like to feature and we can each read a poem or poems before discussing. Sometimes we can use recorded material. Anyone wanting to come for a taster, (poet or reader!) please contact me.

## Scrabble

Ann Gane

428 0204

Our friendly and non-competitive Scrabble Group is flourishing. We now have nine members and usually get between five and seven at our fortnightly meetings. We can still accommodate new members and would welcome anyone interested in joining us.



Some members of the choir have recently taken part in singing days arranged by other organisations outside our U3A. Of these, the most outstanding was *Thank Hallé, it's Friday*, which is a very special experience of not only singing in a large choir of six hundred, but with the Hallé Orchestra as well.

Bringing a different experience are the *Big Sing* days organised by the North-West U3A. One was held in Manchester and was attended by eight of us, and this year it will be in Liverpool on 5th September. St Ann's Hospital Festival Choir also hold *Come and Sing* days. Their next one is on 28th September in Bramhall. If you enjoy singing but don't have the time to commit yourself to a regular choir such as our U3A one, these one day events are ideal. For more information about the September dates contact me.

The choir was invited to sing at a Victorian tea party in June to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cheadle Hulme URC. They sang a selection of music from the period and some of them even managed to dress appropriately!



Our meetings are held regularly each month with a lively and entertaining group of 6/7 who are steadily improving and gaining in confidence. For us to learn new vocabulary we use a BBC book, a series of CDs, worksheets, Powerpoints, and YouTube clips: they give the sessions variety and structure. There is a possibility that we may meet more often in order to practise our spoken Spanish. New members would be most welcome to join us.

Because of the way that theatres now deal with bookings it is virtually impossible to organise a group visit unless everyone responds immediately to my email and then commits to paying the ticket price whether they do actually come or not. Accordingly, I now send an email to all members with information about forthcoming performances at our local theatres and leave it to their good judgment and choice as to which play they wish to see, either as an individual or with friends.

There has been a good raft of shows this spring and I shall keep everyone informed about up-coming plays at our local theatres once their autumn schedules are known. If you would like to join us please let me know.



The “band” has made significant progress over the past 12 months as demonstrated by our bravura performance at the Christmas party, (the audience went wild).

Our repertoire has expanded to include songs by such as: Nat King Cole, Fats Waller and Lennon and McCartney and we now know more chords than you can shake a stick at. We can even tell the difference between Bb9 and Fm6 (in joke – sorry). New players are always welcome. Absolute beginners might like to give me a ring to arrange a couple of lessons in the basics before joining the main group.



### 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. 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.

- Jan: An undulating route encircling Tintwistle from Valehouse reservoir. (7 miles – moderate)
- Feb: A short, high level route from Hayfield over Mount Famine and Brown Knoll and past Edale Cross on a glorious day. (6½ miles – fairly strenuous)
- Mar: From Marple Bridge along the Peak Forest Canal to Strines and back along the Goyt. (6 miles – easy)
- Apr: Over the moors above the Upper Goyt valley on another glorious day. (7½ miles – fairly strenuous)
- May: From Bugsworth Basin, over Chinley Churn and back along the Peak Forest Canal. (6½ miles – moderate)
- Jun: A circuit of Macclesfield Forest. (6½ miles – moderate)



High in Macclesfield Forest, with Shutlingsloe on the skyline.





Heading up out of Hayfield with Kinder Low End above.



At Edale Cross.



At the railway viaduct over the Goyt.



Heading up from Bugsworth towards Chinley Churn.

### Walking (Short Walks)

Stuart Forsyth

491 3592

[stuart.forsyth4@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.forsyth4@gmail.com)

So far in 2019 we have undertaken 6 walks. For several reasons we have had to change walks on the programme this year, but the replacement walks did prove popular and were well attended.

We currently have 15 members and so far this year on average 10 members have been on each walk. These have included Pennington Flash, Fernilee, Tittesworth, and Dunham Massey.

On the walk from Dunham Massey.







At Tittesworth Reservoir.



We have a further 5 walks planned for this year which includes Mellor, Rowarth, Burrs Country Park and Styal.

If anyone wishes to join us we walk 4 to 5 miles on average on the third Thursday of the month, and we meet outside the URC at 10 am. If you would like further details please contact me on 491 3592.

Lunch stop on the Longdendale Trail.

#### **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
Business Secretary	Lesley Witton	428 1522
Treasurer	Allan Witton	428 1522
Membership Secretary	Brian Green	428 8535
Speaker Secretary	Mary Sharples	428 4901
NE Cheshire Network	Mary Sharples	428 4901
Trustee	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278
Trustee	David Wrigley	915 5337



Heather Mary Brian Batsheva David Lesley Allan  
Wilkinson Sharples Green Samely Wrigley Witton 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. C&G Open Groups are: Archaeology; Bridge; Environment; German; and MOOCs. There are 26 Open Groups across the whole Network. The following list includes just those for which C&G does not currently have a Group.

<b>Bramhall</b>	Embroidery	Scottish Country Dancing	Line Dancing	Video & Film Making
<b>Cheadle Hulme</b>	Art Appreciation	Photography		
<b>Poynton</b>	Film Discussion	Geology	Hallé Concerts	Needlecraft
<b>Wilmslow</b>	Cycling	English Country Dancing		

Further information about all 27 Groups is given in a link from the Welcome page of our website, and you should use the contact details provided there if you are interested in joining an Open Group.

## 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, I have had a good selection 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; Craft and Sewing; and for this edition, Coach Holidays.

**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 30th June 2019

The 5 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	<b>10:15-12:15</b>	<b>St James' Hall</b>
<b>Coach Holidays</b>	<b>Brenda Ward</b>	<b>943 6095</b>	<b>Periodically as arranged</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Various</b>
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>Early Christianity</b>	<b>Tom Fanning</b>	<b>428 8666</b>	<b>3rd Monday (provisional)</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>URC</b>
<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>Being re-arranged in the autumn</b>				
Gardening	Heather Wilkinson	428 9279	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	1:30	URC
History of Art	Tom Fanning	428 8666	Last Wednesday	1:30	URC
Local History	John Pollard	428 2150	1st Wednesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
<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	<b>1st Monday</b>	1:30 - 3:00	URC
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	Elaine Bowker	437 8480	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 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.

If you are interested in setting up a new Group, contact any member of the committee.