

CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

JANUARY 2020 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 visits, and to hear speakers talk on a wide range of subjects.

Speakers for February to July 2020

February 12th	Liverpool Cowkeepers	David Joy
March 11th	Toy Town to Buckingham Palace	John Stirling
April 8th	The Great American Songbook	Roger Browne
May 13th	The Ride for Your Life	Blood Bikers (t.b.c.)
June 10th	AGM	
July 8th	Herbs for Health (Herbal Medicine)	John Taylor B.Sc.



Some of the Painting and Drawing Group on a visit to Salford Art Gallery.

Message from the Chair

I wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

Looking back over 2019, it has been a busy, active and lively year for our U3A. We had interesting and informative speakers at our monthly meetings; we heard a moving account from our chosen charity for this year, Pip's Place; and we had a fabulous Christmas Meeting, organised so ably by Mary Sharples.

Ian Ewing and the Ukulele Group played uplifting music for us all to enjoy and Barbara Wingard and the Choir delighted us with music from *My Fair Lady* and we all joined in singing *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. Sharon Richardson entertained us with stories and songs. These presentations together with the Christmas Tea, offered by Gina Gibson and her team, made for a true Christmas highlight.



We are conscious, though, that we were unable to accommodate everyone and that left some people unhappy. Due to health and safety reasons, the church hall can seat only 100 people safely, and tickets were available on a first come first served basis. As a committee we will address this issue and would be grateful to hear from you if you can think of a solution.

The Christmas raffle, organised by Dorcas Flower and her team raised the wonderful amount of £320 for our chosen charity, Pip's Place. This charity is aiming to set up a drop-in centre in Manchester to offer support and guidance to individuals and families who are affected by eating disorders.



Last year we supported the project of Gatley United Reformed Church to purchase a defibrillator. It has arrived and is now in place in the foyer of the church (see picture). Given that all ages attend the church's premises on a regular basis, it is particularly reassuring that the lifesaving unit is also suitable for children.

We intend we hold training sessions to ensure that many people will be able to operate the device. If you would like to participate in the training, please let me know.

A new Interest Group has been formed, Early Christianity, convened by Tom Fanning. From the start it has attracted considerable interest and is flourishing. It is pleasing and a sign of active life and wellbeing that we continue to gather and enjoy learning in what are now 33 Interest Groups. In case some of our new members feel that there is room for other Interest Groups, why not start one? You can always speak to us to bounce off ideas.

Looking ahead to what is surely going to be a highlight of the year, here is a date for your diaries: on 14th October 2020 we will be holding our *Remembering the Sixties* celebration day. Interest in this enterprise has been strong from the beginning and last October nearly 30 members got together to discuss possibilities. Ideas have been circulated to all members and all who are interested are invited to come and help firm up plans on Thursday, 16th January, at 12 noon at URC.

Looking forward to sharing an exciting U3A year with you,

Batsheva Samely

Images of the Christmas Meeting



Thank Hallé It's Friday

On Friday 12th July this year, several members of the Cheadle and Gatley U3A Singing for Pleasure group enjoyed a wonderful experience. We sang in an early evening concert with the Hallé Orchestra in The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester.

The programme in which we participated included Beethoven's '*Ode To Joy*' from Symphony No.9, *Choral*, the '*Dies Irae*' from Verdi's *Requiem*, '*The Heavens Are Telling*' from Haydn's *The Creation*, the traditional American folk song, '*Shenandoah*', and '*Somewhere*' from *West Side Story*.

Having been sent online access to the respective pieces, we, along with several hundred enthusiastic singers of all ages, attended a piano rehearsal on the Tuesday prior to the concert, where we were given the sheet music (on loan only!) and sat in the auditorium to practise the songs. We then went away, ideally to run through the music at home, and returned on the Friday afternoon for further rehearsal, initially with piano accompaniment and then with the Hallé Orchestra.

Finally, the big event, with an audience, took place on the Friday evening. We sang with the full orchestra. It is hard to put into words just how uplifting this experience of singing with a world-renowned orchestra and 600+ voices was. For me, personally, singing the '*Ode to Joy*' with the full orchestra and singers of the Hallé Choral Academy was particularly moving and memorable. The total event was very special and people who took part would have loved to repeat this in future. Unfortunately, this was to be the final 'Thank Hallé It's Friday', as the event was funded by Creative Europe. Those of us who participated in this event will treasure the memory of a very special experience.

Helene Adam

Art by the Painting and Drawing Group

Thanks to members of the Group for permission to reproduce the following works.



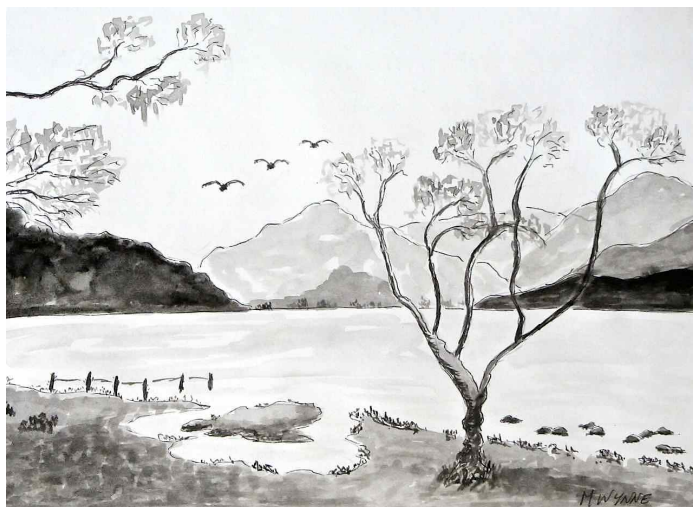
Christine Healey



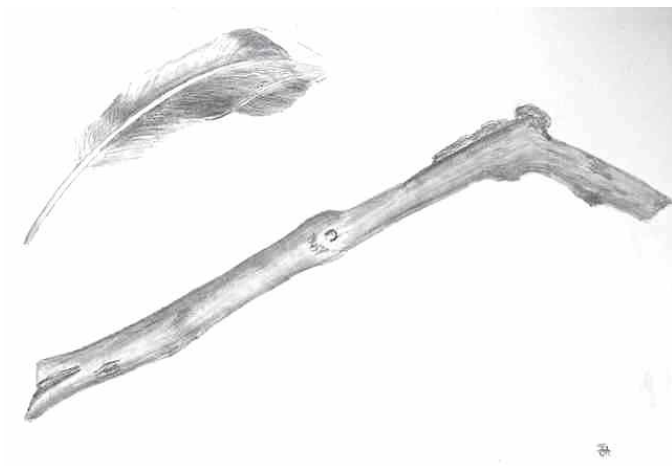
Janet Davies



Christine Healey



Mavis Wynn



Pam Allen



Pam Allen

Swansea Coach Holiday 16th-20th September

Janet Farrall

Monday We boarded the coach at Gatley, were welcomed by Phil (our favourite driver) and made good progress, arriving at our hotel in the later part of the afternoon.



We were astonished to see a large red Dragon (sadly, plastic) perched on the roof of our hotel and looking, just as forlornly as us, at all the building paraphernalia lying about. There was a big regeneration scheme being undertaken all around us.

Tuesday was a visit to **Tenby**, which has two beautiful beaches separated by the harbour and Castle Hill. We followed the little cobbled streets with shops selling necessary 'seaside' things and prettily painted houses, along the quaint narrow lanes down towards the beach. Over lunch we shared chips and happy memories of times spent on sandy beaches.



We found the remnants of the old town walls and archways and admired the abundance of flowers planted out in borders and baskets, still showing no signs of giving up their glory. It had been quite a climb so some of us returned to the hotel by taxi.

On **Wednesday** we headed to the **Gower Peninsula**, the first place in Britain to be designated an Area of Outstanding National Beauty. For its size the Gower must be the most prized and protected part of Britain with over 30 wildlife and nature reserves, almost 40 conservation areas and a wealth of 'best beaches'. Its 26 miles of coast is in the safe hands of the National Trust.

We visited the Gower Heritage Centre & Rural Life Museum, welcomed by a large bear – (that nail polish looks familiar!) It was full of small interesting areas of different craft workshops, some showing the art of weaving, and cheese making. The centre was based around a 12th century spinning water wheel originally built to power a corn mill.



The old air raid shelter brought back memories of it being used 'properly' or played in. It certainly brought the rich rural history back to life. Time to go – decisions: buy a glass of homemade cider, a homemade ice cream or call at the Bakery.

We called at **Mumbles** for lunch on the way back.

It is located on a five mile stretch of Swansea Bay and retains its Victorian seaside charm with its piers and long promenade before continuing round a rocky and secluded peninsular.



We found an enterprising Methodist Church that sold the best coffee and homemade cakes.

Thursday gave us a choice of either visiting **St. David's Cathedral** or exploring **Swansea**.

For those visiting the Cathedral it meant an early start. The Cathedral was begun in 1181 and is at least the fourth church to have been built on a site reputed to be that on which St. David himself founded a monastic settlement in the 6th century. The outstanding features of the building are the magnificent ceilings, oak in the nave and the sloping floor. The Cathedral has been an important place of pilgrimage for nearly fourteen centuries. In 1124 Pope Calixtus 2nd declared that 2 pilgrimages to St. David's were equal to one visit to Rome and that 3 were equal to one visit to Jerusalem itself.



The medieval Shrine of St. David is in the presbytery and was restored and dedicated on St. David's Day 2012. The Cathedral's treasures include croziers and rings from the medieval bishops, illuminated manuscripts, textiles and silver.

Those who went to Swansea had a very interesting time too. Some went on a boat trip and saw the coastline from a different perspective. Swansea truly came of age during the Industrial Revolution when its docks were thronged with ships carrying cargo across the globe. The local speciality was copper, smelted and exported in such huge quantities that Swansea became known as Copperopolis.

The National Waterfront Museum was visited with its fascinating blend of the past and future with high-tech, hands-on, exhibits.



The Dylan Thomas Centre was also explored and enjoyed. He was one of the 20th century's most significant writers and the centre had interactive displays telling the story of his life and work. (I think a bit of retail therapy was also involved!)

Friday was sadly our last day and we packed our cases and returned home, reflecting on what an interesting time we had had and how lucky we had been with wall-to-wall sunshine each day!

We were delighted to welcome new people for their first time to our coaching holidays. If you feel you would like to know more about our holidays, or join us, do contact Brenda Ward (943 6095) so we can put your name on the Holiday List and tell you what value for money holiday is coming up. We cannot promise wall-to-wall sunshine each time, but we can promise lots of interesting places for you to see, at your own pace, and with good friends.

Photographs Margaret Rowland & Stephanie Harrison

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.

Archaeology

Lois Evans

428 4373

For the past few months we have been attending a course in Didsbury *Adventurers in Archaeology*. Our group is kept in touch with all the archaeology events in our area via email and we have been able to join in with some. From January we will be meeting in my home to view some of the broadcasts on archaeology on TV and later in the year we will resume our programme of visits.

This year and next we will be supporting SMART (South Manchester Archaeology Research Trust) in their work to excavate a warehouse and farmhouse on Gatley Hill. Andrea Grimshaw of SMART gave a talk to the U3A monthly meeting about this work, explaining that a grant will be applied for from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a full fortnight's dig on the site. All U3A members have been invited to become involved and some of us participated in the three test pits that were dug on the site in 2019.

Monday Book Group

Lesley Witton

428 1522

We finally turned our attention to George Eliot in July and we all felt that it had been very worthwhile persevering with some challenging reading. *The Mill on the Floss*, *Adam Bede*, *Middlemarch* and *Daniel Deronda* were the novels discussed. Our subject for August was 'Memoirs' and both contemporary and historical figures featured. Michelle Obama's book *Becoming* was read by two of our group and was considered interesting, though not very well written! *Poison in the Blood* is the story of Lucrezia Borgia and is a fascinating read with each chapter ending on a cliff-hanger! Edmund Gosse's *Father and Son* gives an intriguing insight into the nature of faith. *The Journey* by Tony Blair reveals the background to some of the key events at the time of his premiership and John Simpson's *A Mad World, My Masters* tells about the life of a BBC foreign correspondent.

September's theme of 'Russian Short Stories' gave us plenty of scope. Stories by Chekhov, Gogol, Dostoevsky and Pushkin were read with varying degrees of enjoyment! Our choice of author for October was James Baldwin. *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, *Giovanni's Room* and *Notes of a Native Son* were all considered to be powerful reads dealing with life's big questions. We all agreed that Baldwin was an intelligent and thought-provoking writer.

D.H. Lawrence was our choice for November and there were mixed responses to his work. Some felt he understood the individual's striving for fulfilment through relationships and that he wrote with great sensitivity; others saw him as a man who became disillusioned by the world around him. Our theme for December was 'Myths & Legends' and Norse mythology featured strongly. We also noted, however, that myths from all over the world have a great deal in common. We heard the stories of the *Mahabharata*, an ancient Indian epic poem, *Beowulf* in the translation by Seamus Heaney and 'The Wooing of Etain' and 'The Dream of Oengus' from *Early Irish Myths and Sagas*. Joseph Campbell's book *Myths to Live By* proposes that myths are essential for us to understand the world.

We are now focusing our attention on novels published in the 1960s in preparation for the U3A's celebration of this decade.

Tuesday Book Group

Tina Kelly

376 7909

We now meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the library, which is free to book groups. During this semester we have discussed and awarded ratings out of 5* to each of the books chosen and provided by the library as follows.

<i>The Last Tudor</i>	Philippa Gregory	3*
<i>Children of Fire</i>	Paul C. W. Beatty (local author from Marple)	0*
<i>Blade of Light</i>	Andrea Camilleri	4*
<i>Birdcage Walk</i>	Helen Dunmore	4*
<i>The Boy who lived with the Dead</i>	Kate Ellis	2/3*

Please contact me if you would like to join us for a taster session.

Bowling	Anne McCarty	437 9900
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We meet at the URC, Elm Road, Gatley on the first Tuesday afternoon in the month from 1.00 to 3.00 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.

Bridge	Linda Ewing	312 5072
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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
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Anyone is always welcome to join us on the third Thursday of the month and have a catch up over a cuppa. If you can't manage our meetings don't worry we will email you or you can catch up with us at the monthly meeting. We always try to go places each month using our Bus Pass or Explore via a coach trip.

One of our recent trips was to the Church with the twisted spire in Chesterfield. It was built in the late 13th century with local stone and decorated in the Gothic style. Its height is 230 feet and it is the largest Church in Derbyshire. We also learnt that the spire was twisted when unseasoned wood was used during its construction and 32 tons of lead tiles were placed on top. As the timbers dried out the weight of the lead twisted the spire.

Amongst the beautifully decorated Christmas Trees was one from their U3A. We noted that they didn't have a Bus Pass Group but did have a Dog Walkers Group!



We had a full day trip to Appleby-in-Westmorland. We were met and greeted by the former Mayor who escorted us to the Council Chambers, "Moot Hall" (Moot means "to meet"). It is dated 1596. It was where the Town Council met and discussed local affairs - a practice, we were told, that continues to this very day. After a good slice of history, seeing photographs of former Mayors, and accessories, still being used, it was explained that it is only one of two Moot Halls in England still being used for its original purpose.

After our lunch break we were delighted to see that the Mayor had come to wave us off on our way to Settle for a short stop on the way home. Pat and I appreciate your continued support.

Coach Holidays	Brenda Ward	943 6095
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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 Swansea.

Computing	Peter Bayley	282 3468
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Rather than being a regular group, the Computer Group has become more of a Helpdesk, where members can make contact to obtain practical advice on particular issues that concern them. This approach enables members to become more comfortable in the use of their own computers and able to progress independently. Members should feel free to contact me by telephone or email.

This is a small but enthusiastic group of people who have interests in sewing, knitting and general fabric and paper crafts. It's a really friendly group of like-minded people and we bring our own ongoing projects to the group and share skills and experience with each other over refreshments. There is no set programme of events but there is lots of friendly chatter and exchange of ideas.



The Craft Group making Christmas cards.

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.

Halloween Story by Nigel Bann

Bob leaped off the bus and jogged across the market square, oblivious to the cars tooting him and swerving around him. Heading for the opticians, he took one of the many alleys that radiated from the square. It was a typical dull October day, making the alley even less inviting than usual.

Half a dozen steps down the alley and in the eerie half-light, Bob noticed a large bundle of rags stacked against the wall. As he came closer he realised that it was a body slumped in the alley, back against the stonework and legs splayed across the alley floor. Feeling slightly unnerved, Bob cautiously approached the still form. "Are you OK?" Bob ventured. No reply. Bob bent down to get a closer look. It was a man for sure, old trainers, jogging pants and scruffy anorak, out of the hood of which stared a distinctly grey and unwell-looking face. "It's probably an old tramp that's been at the meths," Bob thought. "Hey mate, are you OK?" Bob tried again. Nothing. Bob gently brushed the face. It was neither hot nor cold, almost a bit stiff to the touch. No reaction.

Bob thought back to the dim and distant past when he had sporadically attended first aid classes, and put his head on the man's chest. It gave a little - with a mysterious rustle. Bob wasn't actually sure what he was supposed to hear, but he couldn't hear any breathing noises or heart beat. He picked up a gloved hand and felt for a pulse. Bob reeled back in horror as the gloved hand came away with a crackling noise which sounded like very dry bones breaking. "Well that's settled that- he's dead alright- I wonder how long he's been here - that's typical of the council street cleaners - what do I pay my council tax for?" Bob thought aloud.

He reached for his mobile phone from his inside pocket and started fiddling with it. "Who should I ring, ambulance, nah-no point, funeral parlour, nah, better make it the police". He had a habit of thinking aloud. "It's no good, I'll have to get a new mobile, I can't read the numbers- they're all rubbed off and blurred". Bob was poised on his haunches by the body, messing with his phone when he suddenly had a queasy feeling. Three weak shadows, caused by the lights from office windows overlooking the alley, slowly appeared on the stone wall above the body. Bob froze, not daring to look around. "I'm gonna be mugged for my phone - oh no -did they kill the old man?" Thoughts rushed through Bob's brain.

A shadow spoke. "Any coppers to spare, mister?" Bob whirled round to see what appeared to be three young lads standing over him, 8 or 9-ish at most. He looked at the kids, and then looked really closely at the corpse, and it finally dawned on him, October 31st. He'd been trying to resuscitate a Halloween dummy. Bob sheepishly gave the kids a few loose coins and started off on his way down the alley to collect his repaired glasses from the opticians. "That's it, I'm gonna order a spare pair this time ", he muttered under his breath, and scowled at the large billboard on the wall at the end of the alley. He could read that alright. "Should've gone to Specsavers".

Dining

Lois Evans

428 4373

The Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. We welcome new members.

Each month we choose a different place to eat – usually at lunchtime. If you would like to join our hungry, friendly group please contact me and I will put you on our mailing list

**Early Christianity**

Tom Fanning

428 8666

We meet at Elm Road on the 3rd Monday of the month at 10.30 a.m.

Since the Group was established in September 2019 we have had an average attendance of 14 members. So far we have discussed the following aspects of Christianity:

The Greek-Roman background to 1st century Palestine; Judaism; the background to the Gospels and the first Christian communities in Palestine and the early life of Paul.

After Christmas we plan to study the missions of Paul to the non Jewish world, the Gentiles, and the later spread of Christianity.

Environment

Peter Briggs

485 6871

A programme of 5 local visits was planned during the summer months of 2019 by the Archaeology and Environment Open Interest Groups. Members of our Local History Group were also invited to participate as were U3A members of the NE Cheshire Network (NECN). Three of these 1-day visits were popular and were enjoyed by up to 13 members with car-sharing being a practical transport solution.

The theme of our visits this summer was urbanisation of North Cheshire as a consequence of the Industrial Revolution in NW England during the 250 year period of 1769 to 2019 when there were huge expansions of industries (especially textiles, chemicals and coal) and of transportation (due to innovations in canals and railways). This period also brought significant changes to the social life of the largely agricultural population of North Cheshire.

Visit 1 on 21st May was to the National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port. This open-air museum provides an excellent history of inland navigation. It is well-situated at the junction of the Shropshire Union and Manchester Ship Canals with good views across the Mersey Estuary and towards the new Mersey Bridge near Runcorn. The museum has a large floating collection of inland waterways craft as well as fascinating exhibitions in traditional warehouses and dock buildings.

Visit 2 on 24th June was to the Castlefield region of Manchester. We started at the Science & Industry Museum to see George Stephenson's steam locomotive 'Rocket' and the world's oldest surviving passenger railway station, which opened in 1830 to link Manchester and Liverpool. We then walked around the rebuilt Roman fort of Mamucium (established in AD79 to guard the road between Chester and York). We finally had a tour of the canal basin where the Bridgewater Canal meets the start of the Rochdale Canal. In this scenic area, the well-preserved merchants' warehouses contrast today with the new luxury tower blocks that are now sprouting near to the canal basin.



By Stephenson's Rocket.

Visit 3 on 2nd September was to Worsley. This village has more than 50 listed heritage buildings and is a fine reminder of the wealth that the Duke of Bridgewater and his family brought to the Worsley Delph area based on the Duke's coal-mines and on the transport distribution system made possible by the supporting Bridgewater Canal and the local railway loop-lines in the late 18th and 19th centuries. We propose to extend our knowledge of the heritage around Worsley area with another visit there in 2020.



The Packet House with the long stone steps (1769) for passengers going to Manchester.



On the arched footbridge (1907) over the Bridgewater Canal.

Family History	Linda Corry	428 4094
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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.

Gardening	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278
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The Gardening Group does not have a Convenor but is run collectively by the members of the group.

We visited Norton Priory Museum and gardens on one of the hottest days in **July**. We managed to keep cool moving from shade to shade, tree to tree! Our **August** meeting was at Cholmondeley Castle Gardens where we wandered around the magnificent grounds and different gardens.

Members bought spare plants and cuttings to Sue Cook's house for a swapping session in **September** and again reaped the benefit of her husband's grapevine! In **October** we went to Bent's Garden Centre where everyone enjoyed some retail therapy. We finished our gardening year in **November** at Piccolo's in Gatley for a celebratory lunch.



Our plans for 2020 include visits to RHS Bridgewater, Tatton Park, as well as the usual visits to members' gardens and plant swapping sessions.

German	Lee Fairlie	428 4791
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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.

History	John Houghton	428 2892	Tom Fanning	428 8666
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The Group is finishing our review of Chinese history, our last session on this topic will be in the second week in January. We have enjoyed looking at a country of which most of us had only a hazy recollection of a very extensive history. Next year we will embark on a new subject area to be decided.

History of Art	Mary Sharples	428 4901
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Art History is a popular group that welcomes new members. You do not need any prior knowledge and each meeting can be an independent learning experience. We plan to continue studying art in the era of Louis XV and the Rococo: Then we move on to study Neoclassicism and the Birth of Romanticism. There are frequent opportunities for visits and guided tours to art exhibitions in the area. A trip to the Whitworth Gallery is planned for Spring 2020.

Local History	John Pollard	428 2150
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For our last meeting in **July** before the summer break we held a 'Members' Afternoon', a free open discussion of ideas for future talks and visits. From this we have been able to construct our programme for 2020. The autumn session began in early **September** by several members joining Peter Briggs' Open U3A visit to Worsley canal basin and the Bridgewater Canal. This gave us a fascinating glimpse of late 18th and 19th century industrial life and transport. Recent restoration of the area with new explanation boards by Salford City Council made the visit well worthwhile.



Worsley Canal Basin showing the entrances to the Duke of Bridgwater's underground coal canals. The silhouettes are of the unique shaped coal barges which navigated these tunnels. They were called 'starvationers' because of their exposed internal ribs.

Our official **September** meeting was a visit to the Portico Library in Manchester to see their Peterloo Exhibition based on books and contemporary press reports. We learnt that members of the Portico library were on both sides in the massacre. Hugh Birley was in command of the Volunteer Cavalry and gave the order to charge the crowd, while Hubert Gregg of Styal Mill testified against Hugh Birley at the subsequent public enquiry. While at the Portico members present decided to sponsor the rebinding of a Victorian book of either local or natural history.

In **October** we returned to Cheadle Library for a talk by one of our members, Tom Fanning, on his 'Further Researches on John Barnes of Barnes Hospital'. John Barnes was a major 19th century benefactor in Manchester, providing such social benefits as public drinking fountains. We had seen one of these preserved in the garden of Clayton Hall when we visited there in June.

At our **November** meeting we enjoyed an informative and entertaining talk by John Hartley on life, personalities and deprivations of Gatley in World War 1 based on his ebook *Gatley: a village at War 1914-1918*, published digitally in 2018. In appreciation we presented him with a copy of *Cheadle & Gatley Roll of Honour 1915*, which had been donated recently to our group historic archive. John has researched this roll and added 25 names of men who served, bringing to nearly 200 men in the forces from a village population of about 900, an amazing proportion of the population.

We do not meet in December or January but we have prepared a provisional programme of talks and visits for 2020. This includes talks on “Men of Warrington” (Diana Leitch, February) and “Victorian Plant Hunters” (Pam Corps of South Manchester U3A, April). Visits are planned to Manchester Police Museum in March and Victoria Baths in June. In May we are encouraging members to share their Memories of World War 2 in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day 8th May 1945. At our July meeting we may be confirming our individual or group contributions to the U3A ‘Celebration the 60s’ event in the autumn.

Lunchtime Concerts – for free	Barbara Wingard	428 5922
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Although it is concerts with the full orchestra that we enjoy most, occasionally we listen to some chamber music to widen our musical experience. Composed usually for two to four players and performed in a space smaller than a concert hall, this music is much more intimate in style and sound. Dvorak’s trio for piano, violin and cello which we heard in November is one of the best examples of this genre. Let’s hope that in the coming term there will be another accessible example of this type of music. Our programme will be emailed to you and put on our website by mid-January.

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

Painting and Drawing	Pat Marsden	428 7820
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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.



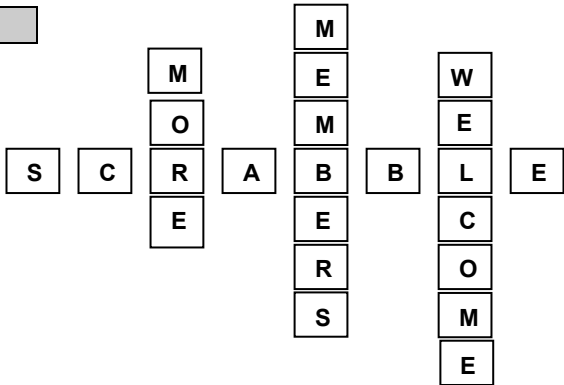
Pam Allen.



Val Davison.

We continue to meet in a quiet part of the URC and decide month by month whether we adopt a theme or a poet for the following month. It is an informal group. Sometimes a member will lead a session and sometimes a member will write a poem. We are delighted and much enriched by both. Our range is broad and as poetry and song sometimes overlap, we use audio equipment when necessary. Please contact if you would like to come for a taster.

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.

We have enjoyed working at My Fair Lady which is without doubt one of the most interesting post-war American musicals, not only for memorable tunes but also the unusual story line based on G B Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

In the new year our final choice from the world of musical theatre will be *The Sound of Music*. Based on the true story of the Trapp family, this musical has a wide variety of songs that will be familiar to most of us.



As ever, interested in anniversaries and their musical associations I spotted in 2019 the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 2 as an occasion to recall some of the popular songs of the time. With *Lilli Marlene* and *There'll always be an England* plus a few others still to go we shall continue this theme for a few weeks. If you are interested do come and join us.



The Spanish group continues to improve and gain in confidence.

Not only are we meeting once a month on a Thursday morning, but we now are gathering to chat and have a glass of wine on a Monday evening.

Last October we met some of Peter's Spanish friends; Miguel and Eva from Panxon. Eva made us a wonderful tortilla which was enjoyed by all.

New systems are now in place at our local theatres and when booking a seat for a play one is required to pay immediately. This makes block bookings a problem. So in future I will send you information about plays at our local theatres and you will then be able to choose which and when you wish to see.

In the new year the **Players Theatre** in Cheadle Hulme are presenting *Kindertransport* from March 7-14 and *Private Lives* from May 9-16. **Heald Green Theatre** present *The Haunting* from February 18-22 and *Barefoot in the Park* from April 21-25. **Chads** will present *Iron* from January 25 - February 1 and *No Mans Land* from February 18-22. The **Garrick** in Stockport are putting on *Dear Lupin* from January 25 - February 1 and *Silver Lining* from March 7-14.

This is a small selection of what our local theatres are offering us. As yet I do not have **Northenden's** programme, but will let you know when I do have it. If you would like more information please contact me.

The group is now well established and competent (except for the two or three who pretend to play – you know who you are). However, everyone enjoys playing (and singing) our ever growing repertoire. The performance at the Christmas party was well received and we managed to squeeze 4 songs into our allotted time. From now on we will consolidate and continue to learn new songs. New players are always welcome but any absolute beginners might like to contact me for a couple of lessons in the basics before joining the virtuosi in the band.



LL

The Long Walks Group continues to thrive, and we offer varied walks to suit a variety of abilities.

- Jul: A walk in the Bollin valley, cut short because of heavy rain. (4 miles – easy)
- Sep: Mellor, Linnet Clough, Roman Lakes. (6½ miles – easy)
- Oct: Longdendale Reservoir circuit from Hadfield. (9 miles – moderate)
- Nov: A glorious day on Rivington Moor and along Rivington reservoir. (7 miles – moderate)
- Dec: Our shorter winter walk - along the Bollin Valley (3½ miles easy)
followed by a festive lunch at the Red Lion, Cheadle.



Cheerful in spite of the rain in the Bollin Valley.



A much sunnier day above Mellor.

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.



By the reservoirs in Longdendale.



By the Pigeon Tower on Rivington Moor.



Short and muddy walk in the Bollin valley.



The Short Walks Group have undertaken 5 walks in the second half of the year which included Nether Alderley, the Goyt Valley and the Anderton Boat Lift. We currently have 17 members and have averaged 11 per walk.



At Nether Alderley.



On the Roman Bridge in the Goyt valley.

Next year’s walks will include Delamere Forest, Holcombe Moor, Pilsbury Castle and New Mills. Our walks are about 5 miles and if you would like to join us then please contact me.

Our Strollers walks are held on the first and third Mondays of the month, starting at 10.30 at Elm Road. They are never longer than about an hour (or 5 km - time to go metric as it’s 48 years ago that Britain officially went metric) that’s exclusive of the cup of coffee afterwards.

Occasionally we use the train or a bus and most of the time we walk in parks such as Abney, Bramhall and Bruntwood. Sometimes our walks are even more local, such as Gatley Hill, or Gatley Carrs. We are a friendly chatty bunch and would welcome any new members who wish to join us.

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.



Enjoying wine with our festive meal hosted by Peter and Susan Bayley.

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 Wilkinson Mary Sharples Brian Green Batsheva Samely David Wrigley 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. C&G Open Groups are: Archaeology; Bridge; Environment; German; and MOOCs. There are 27 Open Groups across the whole Network. The following list includes just those for which C&G does not currently have a Group. I have been notified of no changes at January 2020, so the list remains as before.

Bramhall	Embroidery	Scottish Country Dancing	Line Dancing	Video & Film Making
Cheadle Hulme	Art Appreciation	Photography		
Poynton	Film Discussion	Geology	Hallé Concerts	Needlecraft
Wilmslow	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 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 Coordinators who wish to can now use the system to maintain their group's membership list and to communicate with members of their group.

Cheadle and Gatley U3A Website

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, and **it would be most helpful if renewals were made at the March or April Monthly Meetings or**

by post by the end of April at the latest.

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; Coach Holidays: and for this edition Painting and Drawing.

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

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

At 1st January 2020

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

Open Groups are in **bold orange**

GROUP	CONVENOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Archaeology	Lois Evans	428 4373	3rd Tuesday	1:30-3:30	URC
Book Group 1	Lesley Witton	428 1522	1st Monday	7:30	House
Book Group 2	Tina Kelly	376 7909	1st Tuesday	1:30-3:00	Cheadle Library
Bowling	Anne McCarty	437 9900	1st Tuesday	1:00	URC
Bridge	Linda Ewing	312 5072	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	1:30	St James' Hall
Bus Pass and Explorers	Janet Farrall	428 7883	3rd Thursday	10:15-12:15	St James' Hall
Coach Holidays	Brenda Ward	943 6095	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
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
Early Christianity	Tom Fanning	428 8666	3rd Monday	10:30	URC
Environment	Peter Briggs	485 6871	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
Family History	Linda Corry	428 4094	1st Tuesday	9:30	House
French Conversation	See note below				
Gardening	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278	4th Thursday	2:00	Various
German	Lee Fairlie	428 4791	3rd Tuesday	10:00-12:00	House
History	John Houghton	428 2892	2nd and 4th Fridays	1:30	URC
History of Art	Mary Sharples	428 4901	Last Wednesday	1:30	URC
Local History	John Pollard	428 2150	1st Wednesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
MOOCs	Batsheva Samely	428 6030	3rd Wednesday	Various	Various
Painting and Drawing	Pat Marsden	428 7820	1st and 3rd Friday	10:30-12:30	URC
Poetry	Tina Kelly	376 7909	1st Monday	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	428 1522	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

If anyone would like to be involved in re-starting the French Conversation Group please contact Lesley (428 1522) or Batsheva (428 6030).

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, please contact any member of the committee.