

CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

Special edition notice

As there have been no Monthly or Group meetings since March, this is a slimmed-down version of our usual Newsletter. There is no list of forthcoming speakers, and some of the normal features such as reports on the New Members' Meeting and Coach Holidays are absent because they did not take place. This time the printed black and white version of this Newsletter is identical to the colour online version (except for the colour!).

The cover photograph normally features one of our Groups, but on this occasion I have used a collage of flower and blossom images taken around Gatley during the period of lockdown. Apart from the Bee Orchid, they are all common varieties. The Bee Orchid was spotted on 8th June near the Lake District estate and is long gone now.



Pink cherry blossom



A rare Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*)



White cherry blossom



Hollyhock



Orchid



Yellow iris



Bramble

Message from the Chair

Dear Members

Not only does this Newsletter look different, our very lives look and feel very different from what they were only a very few months ago.

Most things that made up our lives gave way to something entirely different: going out shopping, meeting friends or running errands was replaced by having to stay at home.

Communication became scarce. Togetherness changed into social distancing. All of a sudden we had to deal with feelings of isolation and loneliness.



Yet out of this exceptional situation arose an abundance of extraordinary acts of kindness and goodwill: neighbours got to know each other for the first time and started looking out for each other. Shopping and emergency help schemes blossomed. Strangers exchanged kind words and there was a palpable sense of helpfulness about. In many ways, this pandemic has shown the goodness of people.

It seems a long time ago since our usual U3A activities came to an abrupt halt. But following the disruption the pandemic caused, many of our members and their Interest Groups found new ways of keeping in touch – by telephone, through Facebook groups and via video conferencing. You can read about these endeavours in this Newsletter and, who knows, this might stimulate some of us into finding yet more ways of keeping in touch and keeping learning and laughing.

At the time of writing it is not known when our Monthly Meetings and regular Interest Groups will be able to resume. When we have information about this we will inform all members by email, and by post for those without email. It may be that outdoor Groups such as the Walking Groups, where social distancing is easy to achieve, will be able to resume before indoor Groups. This may happen soon or take some time yet. We will be guided by government advice and it will happen. As The Queen reassured us all: We Will Meet Again!

With all best wishes and greetings to you all,

Batsheva Samely

Message from the Treasurer

The Covid-19 outbreak has caused considerable financial difficulties for almost everyone, from the Government, through businesses large and small and charities, to families and individuals. Cheadle and Gatley U3A is likely to make a substantial loss during the current financial year, but fortunately we have sufficient reserves to be able to cope with this, and we will remain financially strong (see the 2020 Financial Statement circulated recently with the AGM information).

Even though we have been unable to offer a full year's activities, the Committee decided it was best to leave the renewal fee at £12 for the following reasons:

1. It is relatively inexpensive (5 cups of coffee at Costa *cost about* as much!) and membership of the WI is £43 per year.
2. Our fixed 'per member' expenses remain substantially unchanged. Approximate figures for these are National U3A membership £3.70, Beacon licence fee £1.00, Third Age matters postage £2.00, C&G Newsletters 80p, a total of about £7.50. The remaining £4.50, together with the small surplus made on room hire costs, enables us to fund such things as the Christmas meeting (a £370 subsidy), Committee and 60s planning meetings room hire and refreshments (£280), resources for Groups (£180) and a National Conference delegate (£310 last year), a total of £1140, about £4.60 each for our 250 members.
3. When meetings had to be cancelled abruptly due to the national lock-down on 23 March, the Committee took the decision to honour payments for the cancelled March meetings (£230), and agreed to make 'goodwill' payments to the URC and St James for April, May, June and July totalling £480. We have no Group income to cover these payments, and will have to review the situation in September.

Allan Witton

Community Involvement

Our Community Involvement for 2019-2020 was the Pip Foundation. This was supported via a variety of donations from the Christmas raffle, book sales, card making, seed sales, the Singing Group and collection tins. The total raised was:

£530

Marie McManus has thanked the people of Cheadle and Gatley for their generosity with the following message.

**Thank you so much for your generous support and beautiful words.
The Pip Foundation will continue to raise funds and
awareness for those suffering from this terrible illness.
With your help Pip's legacy will continue to grow, helping others in need.
Love, Marie X**



Thank you message from Anorexia and Bulimia Care.

**ABC is very grateful to receive your kind donation.
We work tirelessly to raise essential funds in order to continue
providing our vital services to support and care for people
suffering with eating disorders and their families. Thank you!**

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
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We have not met since February but that has been no excuse for not getting involved and learning. We have had plenty of material to keep us engaged with archaeology: Future Learn courses; Dig Venture videos; SMART on Zoom; and various other sites and lectures.

Monday Book Group	Lesley Witton	428 1522
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We started off the year as normal, choosing the theme of novels written or set in the Sixties as our January choice in preparation for the 60s Celebration Day planned for the autumn. There was such a wide range of books to choose from that we kept this theme for February too.

John Updike's *Rabbit Run* was one novel felt to capture the spirit of the time with uncertainties about sex, religion and the places of men and women in society. Other novels discussed were *Portnoy's Complaint* by Philip Roth; *Room At The Top*, John Braine; *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, John le Carré; *The Listener*, Taylor Caldwell; and *The Golden Notebook*, Doris Lessing, which all reflected the period in different ways. Some of the other books read, though written in the sixties, were set in other times.



In March we met to discuss novels by modern British writers. Some of us missed the memo that they should be set in modern times, however, and the two that I read, though written in 2018, were both set in the Second World War! *Dear Mrs Bird* by A.J.Pearce is about a girl who longs to be a war correspondent but ends up answering letters to the problem page of a women's magazine. It is an easy read, amusing but also quite moving and a celebration of the courage of women. *Transcription* by Kate Atkinson is more complex in plot and structure with time shifts and a tangled web of intrigue. Much of it was based on fact about working for MI5 during the war and for the BBC in the fifties.

Lowborn by Kerry Hudson is an autobiography about being born poor in today's society. The author is now a prize-winning novelist, but twenty years ago she scored 8/10 on the Adverse Childhood Experiences measure of childhood trauma. This moving and readable account has been highly praised.

Sally Rooney's *Normal People* was enjoyed by two of the group and has gone on to be a very successful TV series. It is a sensitive account of the relationship between two young people who both have difficulty fitting in in different ways. In *Queenie* by Candice Carty-Williams, the eponymous heroine is from a Jamaican British family, who don't seem to understand her, and has problems with her job, her boyfriend and life in general. The novel deals with relationships and racism with humour and real insight.

Our choice for April was modern American authors, but the coronavirus lockdown prevented us from meeting to discuss them. We exchanged reviews via email, however. Some of the novels enjoyed were: *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr; *Hazards of Time Travel* by Joyce Carol Oates; *There, There* by Tommy Orange.

For May, we decided that as libraries, bookshops and charity shops had all closed we would resort to our own bookshelves and either choose books we had been meaning to read for ages or re-read old favourites. Two of our members took advantage of the isolation to embark on their own readathons! One read *War and Peace*, the other read all three books in the Hilary Mantel *Wolf Hall* trilogy (he had already read the first two, but read them again as a preparation for the third!). The conclusion of both readers was that 'great literature makes lockdown a pleasure rather than a penance'. Other books read were: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion; *Crimson China* by Betsy Tobin; *Ghostwritten* by David Mitchell; *A Place of Refuge* by Tobias Jones; *Without Merit* by Colleen Hoover.

We continued with this plan into June and reviews were received for *The Secret River* by Kate Grenville; *A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley and *Wildfire* by Ann Cleeves. Our members have also been reading books about art and gardening.

There is not room to give the detailed reviews here, but I have them all on file so if anyone wants a recommendation please let me know! I am very grateful to our group members who have taken the time and trouble to circulate their interesting comments for the benefit of the rest of us.

Tuesday Book Group

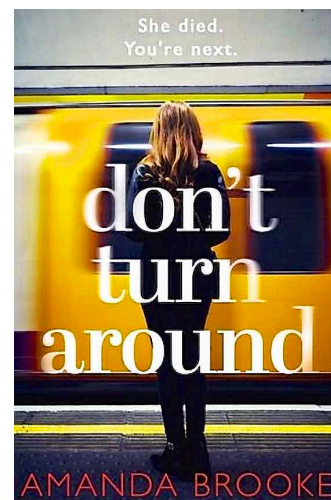
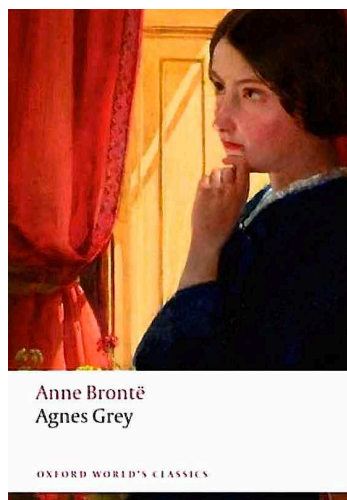
Tina Kelly

376 7909

In January, we read *Agnes Grey* by Anne Bronte which everyone appreciated for its style and social comment.

In February we received *Don't Turn Around* by Amanda Brooke. Such was the contrast from the previous work in content and quality, that some could not even finish it.

In March we read *Therese Raquin* by Emile Zola which divided the group. Some had read other works by Zola and were enthusiastic, while others found the subject matter and treatment dark and depressing. We conducted the last feedback online.



As we rely on the (now closed) library for book and meeting venue, we are awaiting developments about future opening. However, some members have been exploring online borrowing and it has now become possible to do this as a group, when and if everyone has access. As to meetings, member access to Zoom has been patchy so meetings cannot yet happen. The library are sending newsletters and being most cooperative.

Bowling

Anne McCarty

437 9900

We are all missing each other, the gentle exercise, the team competitions and the friendly chat over a cup of tea and biscuits. Until we meet again, stay safe.

Bridge

Linda Ewing

312 5072

When it is permissible for meetings to resume we will gather again 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	428 7883
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As most of you know, our Group doesn't need a speaker because we are a very chatty group who meet over a 'help yourself' cuppa. We catch up with friends and exchange ideas about where we would like to go next. While we have all been very good at self-isolating, just doing our recommended hour's local walk, we have kept in touch via an email sent out on the day we would have met. We have passed on news and information gleaned from meeting people on our walks and from telephone conversations. From our feedback people seem to have enjoyed this so please keep it up.

We feel this is all we can do at present but are really looking forward to organising the next trip - afternoon tea at Claridges for Mary, and the Ponderosa for the rest of us? We had to cancel next month's booked trip on the Judith Mary Canal Boat (with afternoon tea of course!), but we will book it again on another occasion. Stay safe, everyone matters to someone.

Computing Assistance	Peter Bayley	282 3468
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I have been a bit more engaged in the last quarter with helping members to resolve some email and video calling issues and in the selection of a new computer system to cope with higher usage of video calling and general online activity.

I am currently investigating the availability and use of (free) screen reader software to assist those experiencing vision issues surrounding our enhanced reliance on online systems during the ongoing pandemic and associated lockdown. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact me.

Craft/Sewing	Josephine Haynes	491 2382
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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.

During this period of lockdown we have been working on our crafts at home, although without the encouragement of friends and the exchange of ideas, to say nothing of the laughter and chatter of our actual meetings, some of us have rather lacked motivation. We have started a Facebook page for the group, and of course, we can email, but we can't wait to actually start our personal meetings again. There will certainly be lots of chatter then as we look back for a short time and then forward to the future.

Our member Lois Haslam has taken advantage of a little more free time during the lockdown to finish this lovely quilt. She writes "It is made from the remnants from 70 years of sewing, and is a historic reminder for me of the dresses, shirts, curtains, cushions and the machined patchwork quilt I made for my granddaughter's 18th birthday."

A great deal of time, care and skill (and love) have resulted in this beautiful quilt, well done Lois.



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.

LOCKDOWN GIRL (A poem for the times by Nigel and Pam Bann)

She said her name was Sue, her shop closed at six.
Will it ever open again, this virus sticks.

I hadn't known her long, we seemed to connect.
Will I ever see her again, this virus wrecks.

The girl behind the counter at the bakery.
Was that smile for everyone, or was it just for me.
Will I live a lifetime with her memory in my brain.
Or maybe in a month or two, will she be serving me again.

The shop is open now, but Sue, where is she.
Baker said she won't be back 'til she's virus free.

We've had the all-clear now, there's Sue at the till.
"How about a drink", I ask her, she says she will.

She's back behind the counter at the bakery.
She still smiles at everyone, especially at me.
No more endless fretting with the "might or might not be".
I took my chance and I'm made up 'cos she is coming out with me.

Nigel Bann and David Williams (both U3A members) and their friend Jean Thomas are the members of the group DiJoN who have entertained us wonderfully at various U3A events. They perform a number of their songs on the free website www.charitysongs.co.uk where (optional) donations can be made to charities if you wish to download their songs.

Sadly we have had no meals out since February and we are awaiting news of restaurants reopening, but we aren't sure how social distancing will work for this very sociable group!

A core group of members in our Environment Group have not met since 2019 but are considering future options for discussions and possible visits for 2020 – 2021 (post Covid-19 pandemic). In these trying times, there are some environmental subjects that are similar (or even more urgent) than Covid-19; these of course include global warming and climate change. However, our Group policy has remained to study and to relate to our local environment and to heritage areas of interest mainly within the North of England.

Prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, we had a rather long list of places that were recommended for day visits and this list is currently being refined so that members can choose from # *Environmental places for U3A visits in 2021*. Please let the convenor know if you would like to offer a short talk (or a visit venue) with environmental or heritage themes.

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.

We had the normal meeting in March and since then have been using some of the lockdown time to pursue our own individual research.

Gardening	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278
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We began the year with our annual quiz. Thanks to Christine Benson for the questions and prizes. We gave out the programme for 2020 arranged, over coffee, on our visit to Bent's Garden Centre in October.

In February we should have gone to Rode Hall to see the snowdrops but due to the very cold weather on the day we went to Brookside Garden Centre instead.

We had arranged a private garden visit in Macclesfield for March but this of course coincided with the lockdown & social isolation so was cancelled.

If there have been some positive side effects of the lockdown, one of them has to be that more people have spent time gardening & of course the weather has played its part too! So we have been sharing photos of our own gardens.



German	Marianne Owen	491 3323
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We aim to encourage conversation and fluency in German. Group members plan and share a variety of activities and exercises, with speaking being the most important part.

Our recent monthly meetings (for those of us with the technical expertise) have been virtual on Zoom, but we look forward to meeting in person again on the third Tuesday morning from 10 till 12 in a member's home. New members are welcome.

History of Art	Mary Sharples	428 4901
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The History of Art Group has been finding novel ways of learning without having to meet in person in a building.

We have found many institutions offering virtual experience through digital technology. It is possible to visit art galleries, watch films and attend university lectures in destinations all over the world. This journey has taken us to art galleries in London, a lecture at Harvard on Japanese Art and the cinema experience of Impressionist Painters "Monet to Matisse." There is still much more to explore so until it is safe to organise a meeting at the URC on the last Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm our virtual excursions around the world will continue.

New members are extremely welcome. The experience is a free and easy way to learn. Why not be amazed? Get your contact details on the mailing list!

Local History	John Pollard	428 2150
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We began our 2020 programme in February with a talk in Cheadle Library Community room by our favourite speaker Dr Diana Leitch on "Men of Warrington". It is fascinating how her researches establish the history of our local heroes, their achievements and the relationships between them.

In early March our first visit of the year was to Manchester Police Museum, Newton Street, Manchester. Set in an old police station it contains museum displays of uniforms, helmets, truncheons, handcuffs and equipment from the past 200 years of the City Force and the modern Greater Manchester Police area (see map on the group photograph). There are also an old street police box, a charge room, cells and an old magistrates court removed from Dukinfield. Overall, a most worthwhile visit which would well repay a return on a Tuesday when the museum is normally open to the public.



The group at Manchester Police Museum in front of the map of Greater Manchester Police area and photos of police cars and a police motor cyclist.

The arrival of the coronavirus pandemic in mid-March led to the cancellation of our monthly newsletter and meetings planned from April to July. Hopefully some of these, including Victorian Plant Hunters and Memories of World War 2, may be rescheduled in the autumn or when meetings resume.

During the lockdown members may have pursued their own local history interests. Personally, I have been further researching 'Gatley Village in 1960s' from our own resources for our display in the hope that we may be able to hold our 'Celebration 60s' meeting in the autumn or next year.

Lunchtime Concerts – for free	Barbara Wingard	428 5922
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Recently Chetham’s School of Music has started up lunchtime concerts online. These take place on Fridays at 1.30 on YouTube in the homes of the participating students. So far (as I write) the performers have been rather younger than we are accustomed to, with occasional problems of intonalties, but they all show promise.

The RNCM are also arranging lunchtime concerts, again on YouTube, with programme details available well before the concerts on Mondays and Thursdays. I would be very interested to receive your comments about these events.

MOOCs – The Online Learning Group	Batsheva Samely	428 6030 07722 026 278
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The MOOCs Group – learning new things through online courses – at last went online as a group! It was so good to see each other despite the lockdown.

We discussed Covid 19, of course, and in particular diagnostics, testing and mental health issues.

Also Global Water Security and Mood and Food. Other than these we each dipped into a considerable number of other topics and enjoyed the continued stimulation and inspiration we gain from learning new things.



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 Linda Corry for permission to reproduce two of her works. She saw two parakeets in her garden and believe they are breeding in Gatley Hill fields.



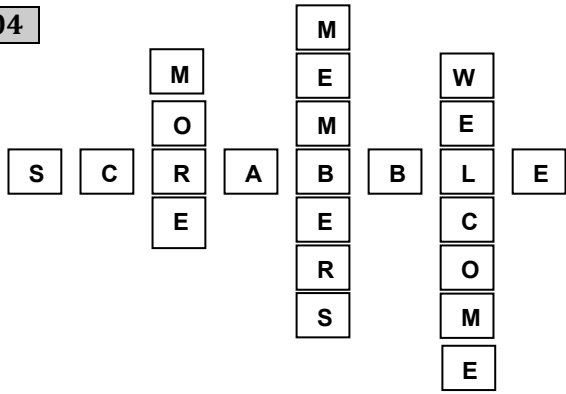
Rosy ringed parakeet (watercolour)



Lilac (pastel)

With the closure of URC not much activity has taken place. Although personal circumstances have sometimes reduced the group to 4 members, it is surprising how lively those meetings have been. Anyone starting a group could be encouraged by this.

We now have nine members in this friendly and non-competitive Scrabble Group and look forward to resuming our fortnightly meetings, when between five and seven members attend. We can still accommodate new members and would welcome anyone interested in joining us.



Sad to say our meetings are on hold until lockdown is over. I have, however, been turning over various ideas for a new theme when we start again, as our post-war American musicals came to an end with *The Sound of Music*. How about the songs and the history of the Beatles as our new theme? Most of us will have very vivid memories of the formidable four and their music way back in the sixties. So, blow the dust off your old LPs and do some revision of their amazing songs such as *Yellow Submarine*, *Michelle*, *Yesterday*, *A Hard Day's Night* etc.

Once again I acknowledge the help of one of the Choir, Janet Farrall, with this idea. She gave me a copy of a medley arrangement that she had sung some time ago which will suit us fine.

Lastly, if you follow Gareth Malone (remember Military Wives?), you can find him on YouTube conducting in self-isolation the Great British Chorus and Choir.

Spanish	Elaine Bowker	437 8480
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The Spanish group continues to 'meet' every Thursday morning for about an hour on Zoom. It has been great to be able to keep in touch and make sure that everyone is safe and well. We have been doing some written activities during the week and then checking them and practising some conversation exercises when we meet on-line. It has meant that we have edged forward (especially with conjugating our verbs!) rather than sliding backwards. It will be good when we can get back together again.

Theatre Visits	Chris Bester	07587162517	376 7909
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We have in the past tried to visit one of our local amateur theatres during the season. However, our numbers have declined, and this could be for several reasons. Maybe we are reluctant to go out at night; we now have Netflix to keep us at home, or perhaps the plays on offer are not to our liking. But whatever the reason I hope we can continue to support our local theatres in the future.

There has also been confusion on my part. My computer was hacked and I lost all the addresses of members, which meant I could not contact you. So I now propose to make a fresh start and ask that if you would like to join, or even just be kept up to date with what is on offer, that you contact me with your email address. When the new season begins and our theatres open up I can send you all the relevant information and we can begin to enjoy our theatres once again. With my very best wishes to you all.

Ukulele	Ian Ewing	312 5072
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The group is now well established and competent and everyone enjoys playing (and singing) our ever growing repertoire. 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.

Walking (Long Walks)	Allan Witton	428 1522
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Our January, February and March walks went ahead as usual.

January: A walk in the Goyt valley, round Fernilee Reservoir. (7 miles - moderate)

The weather turned out to be not quite as bad as the forecast, but it was a gloomy day.



On the Midshires Way



Lunch by Fernilee Reservoir



Feb: Marbury Country park and Northwich Community Woodlands

(6½ miles – easy)



Coffee time



By the Anderton Boat Lift

March: Dunham Woodhouses, Bridgewater canal, Spud Wood, Heatley, Trans-Pennine Trail. (7 miles – easy)

This walk was just 3 days before the lockdown was announced, but social distancing was in place, so I brought an old climbing rope with markers at 2 m intervals to make sure we complied!



Lunch in Spud Wood



Butterbur near Spud Wood



Car sharing from Gatley Hill House is the normal arrangement. If you would like to join us for fresh air and exercise in marvellous countryside with convivial company, then register your email to receive monthly details of the forthcoming walks, and feel free to come on as many or as few as you wish.

Walking (Short Walks)	Stuart Forsyth	491 3592
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Our walks are about 5 miles on the third Thursday of the month, meeting at 10:00 outside the URC. Anyone wishing to join us can meet us there when our group walks resume, or may contact me as above.

Walking (Strollers)	Marianne Owen	491 3323
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We haven't strolled since early March, but normally our walks are on the first and third Mondays of the month, starting at 10:30 at Elm Road. They are never longer than about an hour and we always have a cup of tea or 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 when we resume.

Wine Appreciation	Peter Bayley	282 3468
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The Wine Appreciation Group, affectionately known to its members as the WAGs, has been meeting every month for several years.

We cancelled the scheduled March meeting because of rising concerns about the spread of the virus. Emails were then immediately circulated within the group about the possibility of holding a 'virtual' meeting and a week later we held our first exploratory meeting checking out various video packages and some of our own wines. Several of us use various video systems such as Skype, FaceTime, Zoom, Houseparty and others, to connect with our dispersed families; it was concluded that the best video system would be Zoom.

And so 'WAGs in the Cloud' was formally launched a week later and we have continued to meet every two weeks (doubling our previous monthly schedule!). Our initial concerns about the viability of holding a virtual meeting involving such a tangible and tactile activity have to some extent abated; all is not wonderful but is very worthwhile in the circumstances!



Our format has changed, instead of sharing four to eight different wines or so with the host selecting suitable nibbles as accompaniment each meeting we now usually have one red, one white per household chosen, bought and distributed to each other's doorstep by various group members and we each arrange our own nibbles; as ever we just share the costs surrounding each meeting.

The formal tasting and sharing of comments and impressions remains much the same and quickly we relax into two to three hours of lightweight general discussion of all things and anything of interest which is really good, particularly at the current time. It seems somewhat bizarre but it does work.

Later in the summer we have a planned barbecue evening, which we hope to be able to hold as a 'Real' event as we have not yet quite fathomed how a virtual barbecue could happen.

It turned out that for successful participation with multiple video streams a quite good, fast broadband connection was required and, unfortunately, as a result one of the households has not been able to continue with Cloud participation and we all look forward to when we can all return to normal meetings.

These types of video event are a bit different from our usual experiences of family video calls and even work related calls of the dim and distant past. If any other groups would like some information based on our experience please contact me.

Parking near Elm Road Church

Whenever Monthly Meetings resume, 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



June's socially-distanced committee meeting to discuss arrangements for the AGM

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 June 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 Lesley Witton so that these can be emailed to members during this period of social-distancing.

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 Lesley know of anyone appropriate, by email or telephone so that she can act promptly. Several cards have been sent during lockdown and have been much appreciated.

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, which has 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.

Editor's Notes

Thanks very much to those who have submitted articles and photographs for this Newsletter. 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; Painting and Drawing; and for this edition a compilation of flower images taken during lockdown.

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

Open Groups are in **bold blue**

Even though there are no Group meetings at the moment, this list has been left for reference.

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
Gardening	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278	4th Thursday	2:00	Various
German	Marianne Owen	491 3323	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

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.