

CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



The Explorers Group on their day out at Hebden Bridge



The Long Walks Group on a frosty December morning in Wilmslow Carrs

Message from the Chair

Happy New Year to all our members! I hope you were all able to enjoy the festive season.

After our Welcome Back in September, we organised our monthly meetings with a pre-registration system and this worked well with attendance averaging 35. Thankfully, we did have a most enjoyable meeting in December (see details below). However, just as we thought things were getting back to normal, the upsurge in infections due to the omicron variant meant that we had to cancel our January meeting. This was a great pity and I very much hope we will be able to offer these meetings again soon.

It is heartening to hear of the activities of our Interest Groups and I know that members welcome the opportunity to get together responsibly when circumstances allow and I want to thank all convenors for assisting with this. We are also hoping that Indoor Bowling, Poetry and Local History will be able to resume soon.



The last two years have been difficult for everyone, but your committee has tried to keep things going with online activities and informative emails during lockdowns. We have enjoyed doing this and feel we are offering a worthwhile service, but we are somewhat concerned about the future of our U3A.

Three of us volunteered to stay on the committee for an extra year beyond the normal term of office, but the time will come soon when we have to stand down. If no one comes forward to take our places this U3A is in danger of folding. The Treasurer post in particular must be filled in order for us to remain in existence and although Allan can stay on for a while he would welcome someone to shadow him in preparation for taking over. If you feel you could offer something to your U3A in any capacity please let us know and we will invite you to come along to a committee meeting and see what fun we have!

Lesley Witton

Christmas Meeting

Covid restrictions meant we had to cancel Monthly Meetings from March 2020 until our Welcome Back Meeting in September 2021, so there was no Christmas Meeting in 2020. Because of the continuing difficult circumstances, our December 2021 Christmas meeting was considerably reduced in scope. Nevertheless, we all had a lovely afternoon.

Peter Turner gave a most interesting and entertaining talk on magic and optical illusions and we marked the season with mulled wine and mince pies in addition to tea and coffee.





INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Explorers Group Visit to Hebden Bridge and Haworth

Linda Crolla

On the 16th October we had a lovely coach trip to Hebden Bridge and Haworth in Yorkshire. After the pickup in Gatley we were driven straight to Hebden Bridge. This former mill town is now a tourist attraction due to an influx of artists and hippies during the 1970s and 1980s. It is full of quirky independent shops and cafes as well as a small weekly farmers' market. We all found plenty to see and do there.

After lunch we enjoyed a spectacular scenic drive through the countryside to Haworth, home of the famous Bronte sisters. Again, there was plenty for us all to do and see, from the Parsonage Museum, Church and Graveyard at the top of a steep picturesque cobbled Main Street which was full of shops and cafes. We enjoyed pleasant weather and it was another successful and sociable day out for everyone.



Explorers Group Visit to Wells, Somerset, 16th to 18th November

Pat Williams

Nine members of the Explorers Group spent 3 days in Wells, Somerset, travelling with McCarthy Coaches, staying at the Swan Hotel on Sadler Street, directly opposite Wells Cathedral. Parts of the Swan Hotel date back to 1422, and it is included in a 'Plaques Trail' of the City.

Our first port of call before arriving at Wells, was the village of Cheddar, on the edge of the Somerset Levels, renowned for its world famous Cheddar cheese, and the magnificent limestone Cheddar Gorge and Caves. The Gorge and Caves were formed over a million years ago in the last Ice Age. The Gorge is the largest of its kind in the UK and is famous for herds of wild sheep and goats. At the beginning of the 20th century, Britain's oldest human skeleton, 'Cheddar Man', was discovered in one of the caves.

Members spent day 2 of the tour exploring the local market place, Wells Cathedral, and the nearby moated Bishop's Palace with its extensive gardens. The Bishop's Palace is the residence of the Bishop of Wells and Bath. The market place has been a focal point in the City over the ages and remains so, with twice weekly markets selling local produce, including a Farmers' Market. It has an unusual medieval fresh water conduit which helps drain spring water from the nearby Bishop's Palace Gardens.

Starting with a small Roman settlement, Wells takes its name from 3 naturally occurring springs or wells, one located in the market place, and the other two in the Bishop's Palace Gardens. The wells are fed by a water course in the Mendip Hills which overlook the City.

There has been a church on the site since 704. The wells and the Anglican Cathedral are all dedicated to St Andrew the Apostle. Wells is the smallest city in the UK, and can call itself a city because of its 13th century cathedral.



The architecture of the medieval cathedral, the first in England to be built in the Gothic style, is simply stunning. We all marvelled at the skill and craftsmanship involved and the length of time it took to create (over 200 hundred years). The Scissors Arches are particularly impressive.





We left Wells on the 3rd and final day of the tour, regrettably so, as there was still so much to see and do in the City. But before returning home, we headed by coach to Gloucestershire for a guided tour of an Elizabethan Manor House and Chapel called Chavenage, in Tetbury. Now privately owned and run by members of the Lowsley-Williams family, we were given a fascinating, (and at times hilarious), insight into the history of Chavenage. It is apparently one of only two remaining historic houses in England where tapestry-lined walls still exist. Much-needed revenue to maintain the house and grounds comes from various sources, notably from TV filming. A number of period dramas have been filmed there including, Poldark, Larkrise to Candleford, and Poirot.

All 9 of us were unanimous in our enjoyment of the trip to Wells and felt we had learned a great deal from it, as well as having time to relax and enjoy the company of others.

Silent Footsteps

Rosaleen Davies

Yesterday we walked through the park, as usual just ambling along, talking about random things. But, every now and then we looked back and a sigh escaped our lips. For, there she should have been, regaling her companion with a story she had already told last week, their laughter making us smile.

In our rational minds we knew that she was not there but, in our hearts, it was the place she would always be - a bright, shimmering shadow who follows wherever we may wander, her silent footsteps hidden amongst our own. Nobody can see them, but we know they are there.

We know she will never leave us, as we would never leave her. Our strength is in our friendship and that will never wane. We'll always keep a place for her when we stop to have a drink. We may even indulge in her favourite apple pie and custard. That should slow us down!

Maybe one day those silent footsteps will walk with us instead of behind. Maybe one day we will hear them, crunching the autumn leaves, or the winter snow. Because we know that nothing will stop her from joining us and each time we go for that long walk, we will surely feel her there, within us and around us.

In memory of June Wood who was a good friend and member of the Explorers Group,
and we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

GROUP NEWS

If you are interested in a Group which doesn't have a report in this section, you can contact the Convenor for the latest information using the list on the last page.

Book Group 1

Lesley Witton 428 1522

We continued with 'hybrid' meetings for October, November and December with four of us getting together in my front room and two joining us via Zoom. We have discussed favourite novels, books on the theme of Nature and the author Herman Hesse. During the festive season we read 'humorous' books and sadly had to return to all of us meeting virtually this month to discuss them. Our choice for the next month is Spy Novels.

Book Group 2

Tina Kelly 376 7909

Of our recent reads, the first three were Borrowbox (electronic library) books chosen by ourselves from a short Book Groups list. We began meeting again in August at Cheadle Library so the last few books are library choices issued in a book set as normal.

May	<i>The Dead Fathers Club</i>	Matt Haig	3.5 stars
June	<i>20th Victim</i>	James Patterson	2 stars
July	<i>Mrs Death Misses Death</i>	Salena Godden	2 stars
August	<i>Transcription</i>	Kate Atkinson	4 stars
September	<i>The Sound & the Fury</i>	William Faulkner	4 stars and a very challenging read
October	<i>The Grass is Singing</i>	Doris Lessing	3/4 star
November	<i>If Beale St could talk</i>	James Baldwin	4 stars

All were delighted to be back and two members enlivened us with celebratory cake. We take the usual precautions and will continue to do so. We have a short waiting list.

Book Group 3

Margaret Seaby 212 0944

An additional Reading Group is due to meet on the 1st Monday of the month in the morning from 10.30 to midday. The first meeting will take place on February 7th 2022. The location is the Community Room at Cheadle Library. Members will read books supplied by Stockport Library services for the use of reading groups in the borough. If new members would like to join then, in the first instance, please contact me.

I would like to reassure new members that the Community Room at Cheadle Library is ventilated and that social distancing is comfortably achieved due to the size of the room and the small number of members.

Bridge

Linda Ewing 312 5072

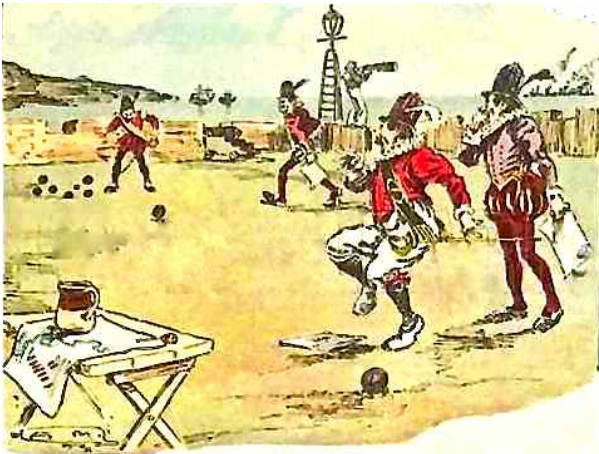
The Bridge group has been running very well since we were able to re-open. All our members have been very keen to get back to some semblance of normality and have attended whenever they have been able to do so.

We have been getting around a dozen people each time and I think that we have all enjoyed the social contact as well as the Bridge as is evident from the photo of our Christmas meeting.



We are a very friendly group and would welcome any new members. We meet at St James Church Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 1-30. If you would like to join us please give me a ring on the number above.

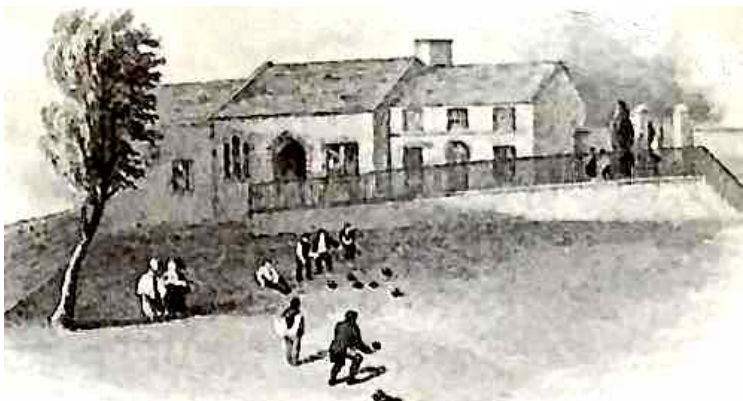
Anyone who would like to come along for a visit to see what it is like just turn up on the day.



Sir Francis Drake's game of bowls 1588



Peasants bowling in front of a tavern in the 17th century



Lawn bowls in Chesterfield in the 18th century



Upper class bowls in the 19th century



The previous group of 21st century bowlers ready for action

Are you interested in being the Convenor for the All Year Round Carpet Bowls Group?

As before, it would be played in the URC large hall and all equipment is provided. Some experience of bowling would be good.

If you would like to talk about it to someone please contact me on the above number. I have the previous register of people who would still be interested.

Rather than being a regular group, the Computing 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.

We have been meeting in St James' Church Hall again since restrictions were lifted, but with rather reduced numbers. Although we still work on our various projects at home, the motivation is less without the support and encouragement of friends, (plus all the chatter and laughter!) and we are all looking forward to the lighter and longer days.

We were busy before Christmas with card making and making gifts but the cold, damp weather has brought most of us back to the old standby, knitting. There is something very comforting in the steady repetition of stitches as a new cardigan or blanket slowly reaches completion. One of our team is working on a lovely seasonal cross stitch design of a polar bear and penguin and another member is working on hand quilting. Our meeting time remains the same, the third Tuesday of the month, 10.30 - 12.00.



Pink rabbit



For sale



Pam Allen's polar bear and penguin



Cactus plants

The Creative Writing group welcomes new members. We meet at a member's house at 2pm on the second Monday of the month. Members bring poems and short stories that they have written on any subject they choose, and read them to the group. For further information please contact me.

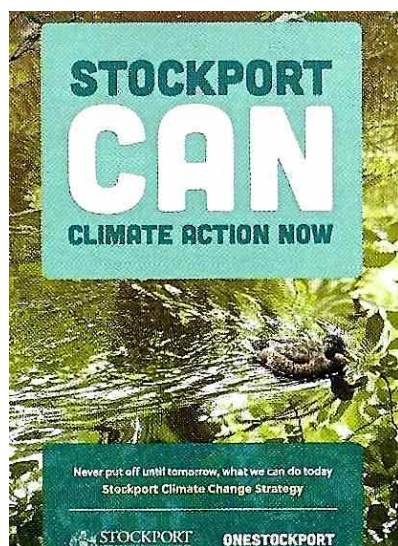
Whilst this Group has not met recently due to Covid-19 restrictions, members have had plenty of time to consider their interests in environmental matters. There has been much publicity in 2021 about the new UK Environmental Bill and about the Cop 26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. Resulting from these inputs and from my experience concerning members' interests, I believe that we should recalibrate how and where we meet in future starting from the premise that our activities will be in **North West England** and visits will be **outdoors**. We can aim to be free from confined meeting places and seek to appreciate more the diverse pleasures of our local environments.

Our future programme will require a more flexible approach and more planning by members. To get this approach moving, I have continued to explore several of our local areas and these proposals might be described as **Environmental Walks** to give members opportunities to reacquaint and to discuss their future interests. Some of our meetings might be more active than walking and could include sporting activities (such as crown green bowls and golf). We are fortunate in the North West with our fascinating heritage, history, and geographical links; these will always give us opportunities to observe nature and to see interesting buildings.

Since 'climate change' and 'global heating' are big **Environment terms** that are often referred to by the press and by television reporters, I propose that our members should follow these subjects whenever possible so that we can add this knowledge to our environmental studies and discussions. However, let us also capture other terms that are important in our lives such as changes to our weather, to frequency of storms, to river levels and flooding, to wild fires and building fires, and to droughts. Why not also include 'tipping points', and waste disposal plus recycling, and finally (but not least) pollution of our air and water sources?

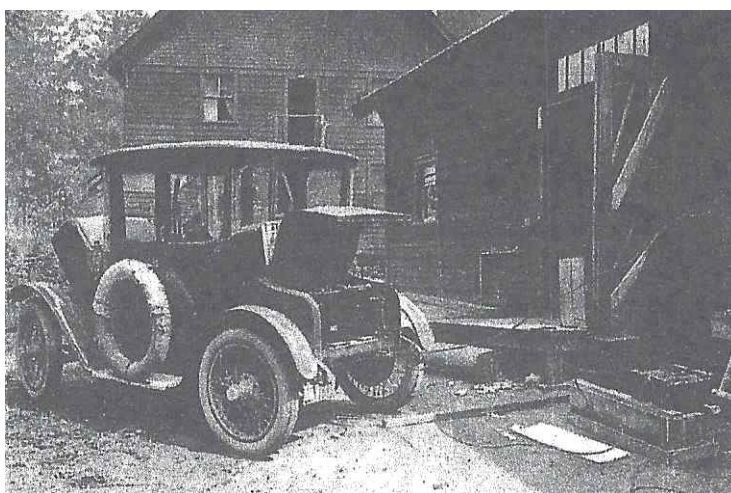


Large mature tree uprooted in Storm Arwen (26.11.2021) and now forming a bridge across the Micker Brook



A good example of how our local government is tackling climate change and improving our natural environment is the **Stockport Climate Action Now (CAN) Trees Project**. Since 2017, Stockport Council have planted over 20,000 standard and young trees; they will plant a further 11,500 standard trees in parks and along our roads up to 2030. There will also be an orchard in every council ward by 2026 contributing a total of over 3500 fruit trees.

Our Environment Group will continue to study environmental matters that affect **Transport in the North West**; the five key areas concerned are roads, rivers, canals, railways, and aviation. Petrol and diesel vehicles are being gradually phased out globally in the next decade due to their harmful gas emissions and there are major investments being made in **electric vehicles** (EVs). This development was underway one hundred years ago in the USA and little has changed in battery technology since then.



Detroit Electric car having its battery charged in 1919

Car manufacturers are now building a high power, rapid charging network on major highways in Europe; according to the European Environment Agency (EEA), road travel accounts for about 70% of Europe's total greenhouse gas emissions. Fortunately, battery technology is improving to reduce these emissions so that manufacturers of electric vehicles are leading the push to decarbonize Europe's Road Transport. On a global scale, transport (including land, sea and air) accounts for about 24% of carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. Present EVs are usually powered by heavy and bulky lead-acid batteries. These will need to be replaced by batteries that are based on rarer elements such as lithium and cobalt. These materials have supply problems, including geopolitical ones that involve China and western countries. This area is worth studying periodically by our Environment Group members as EVs become more necessary transport for many people.

Outline of proposed short Environmental Walks for the Group in 2022

Walk 1: Abney Park, Cheadle Green and Moseley Old Hall.

Start at Abney Hall Car Park on B5095. Easy walking in parkland and on lakeside paths. Heritage interests include Cheadle Hall (18th Century), Moseley Old Hall (17th Century, built 1667 and Grade II listed), Abney Hall (built 1847) and the Literary Institute. Cheadle also has interesting railway bridges, an old rail station and a site for a new rail station close to Cheadle High Street. Coffee stop at Garden Centre or the Old Station Pub.

Moseley Old Hall



Walk 2: Cheadle Brookfields Park, the Micker Brook and Bruntwood Park

Start at Cheadle Leisure Centre Car Park, off Cheadle Road (A5149). Easy walking (some slight slopes, mud possible) in parkland, on river bank and on public footpath across golf course. There are numerous meres within the Bruntwood Park landscape. Heritage interests include Demmings Textile Works (1789 -1926), Bruntwood Hall (built 1861) and the popular Vinery Café. Sporting interests include Cheadle Baths, Cheadle Golf Courses (9-hole plus 18-hole pitch & putt), super BMX cycle track, archery club, and modern adventure playground. For birdwatchers, try to spot the colony of green rose-ringed parakeets. Coffee & ice-creams are recommended at the Vinery.

Bruntwood Hall



Walk 3: Bramhall Park, the Lady Brook and Cheadle Hulme.

Start at March Hare Pub Car Park, Mill Lane (off Lady Bridge Road); an alternative car park is next to Cheadle Hulme Precinct, off Station Road (A5149). Easy walking (mud possible) in parkland, on river bank and on public paths. Heritage interests include Cheadle Hulme rail station, the Ladybridge viaduct, Millington Hall, and the superb Tudor black and white Bramall Hall. Sporting interests include Bramhall Park Golf Course, Lawn Tennis Clubs, Lacrosse and Cricket Grounds, and Crown Green Bowling. Refreshments are good next to Bramall Hall.

Bramhall Hall



Future Activities

The Environment Group is an Open Group for u3a members in North East Cheshire. Whilst some aspects of the 3 Walks detailed above will be familiar to our Cheadle & Gatley members, I hope that there is sufficient interest in these routes to interest new members to our Group.

I have a growing list of additional Walks and Visits for this Group. I will distribute outlines of these other venues as 2022 develops and will be glad to have contributions towards their planning as soon as possible.

Explorers

Janet Farrall 428 7883

We meet every third Thursday in the month at the Piccolo Restaurant (near Gatley Green) at 10.00am. with notices at 11am to let you know what is being planned. We are a very sociable, educational group. Do come, you'd be very welcome, if only for a cuppa, cake and a chat.

We are very lucky as a group to have lots of friends in it who are prepared to step in and help out should the need arise.

Friends who take photographs, write headings and articles for the Newsletter (or other) showing that we are a welcoming, friendly, active group.

All being well hope to see you on the 17th February at Piccolos from 10am as usual (we will of course keep the situation under review), and don't forget your new Diary!



Festive meal at the Istanbul Grill in Cheadle

Family History

Linda Corry 428 4094

The Family History Group is a small group, currently numbering 5. We meet in my house and we resumed our meetings last July. Currently we are taking it in turns to give short presentations to the group about some aspect of family history research. So far we have covered DNA testing; birth, marriage and death records; and WWII records. We continue, as always, to help each other with our own individual research.

Gardening

Heather Wilkinson 428 9278

In October we went to Wilmslow Garden Centre. Over afternoon tea we optimistically drew up a programme of activities and visits for 2022!

In November fourteen of us enjoyed our "Christmas" meal at the Vinery, Cheadle. Thanks to Tina Kelly for organising this.

In January we are hoping to kick-start the New Year by having our annual quiz at URC Elm Road.

Image of Mahonia Charity in full bloom
(shame we can't smell it- mmm)



Festive meal at the Vinery

German

Marianne Owen 491 3323

The German group meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 10 till 12. We usually take it in turns to prepare and lead a session. Barbara was in charge of our Christmas-themed December class with lots of songs and games. The January lesson was held on Zoom again, and David set us a long translation about young people emigrating to Germany and an article about extremely long German words. Probably the next session will be face to face at Elm Road. Most lessons are a combination of translation (both ways), games, a bit of grammar and talking. New students are welcome.

History

John Houghton 428 2892

The History Group is now meeting twice a month at URC Elm Road on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. We had decided to change the historical area of discussion and concentrate on India when we resumed on the 14th Jan. New members are welcome.

History of Art

Mary Sharples 428 4901

The Group has been able to meet a few times recently and we have renewed an interest in Van Gogh. The multi-sensory experience of Van Gogh Alive! at Media City gives an interesting immersive experience and many of the group have enjoyed it.

The exhibition of Grayson Perry's Art Club at Manchester Art Gallery was highly recommended and enjoyed. The Bellotto paintings of the ancient fortress near Dresden can be viewed at Manchester Art Gallery. Bellotto was a pupil of Canaletto. These four important paintings will be exhibited until 27th February.

We hope the meetings on the last Wednesday afternoon of the month will resume in the very near future. Meetings are at Elm Road from 1.15-3.15 and any members are welcome.

Lunchtime Concerts

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

If you are prepared to travel into Manchester there are plenty of lunchtime concerts starting up again at all the usual places, and you can find all the information if you Google *Manchester Lunchtime Concerts*. I leave members to make their own arrangements as I don't want to arrange visits until the summer term.

Local History

John Pollard sent the following message: 'As Convenor of the Local History Group I must apologise to members that the group has not restarted this autumn due to personal illness from July to December. Furthermore I have been advised on medical grounds to reduce my activities and responsibilities which means that I wish to retire as Convenor for Local History.'

I would like to thank John for his work as convenor over the last few years and for enabling so many of our members to enjoy finding out about Local History. We are also grateful to Anne Heath, who sadly passed away recently, for arranging speakers and visits. It is because this has been such a successful group that I felt it must continue and so I have volunteered to take over from John. I will circulate details of the next meeting soon. **Lesley Witton**

Two of the many highlights of past Local History visits.



At Clayton Hall in 2019



At St Thomas' Church in Stockport in 2015

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 and friendly atmosphere but we work with concentration, seeking advice and inspiration from each other, making it an enjoyable and fruitful experience. We have been meeting regularly since September, and new members are always welcome.

Thanks to Linda Corry for submitting these two pastel drawings.



Chipmunk



Kingfisher

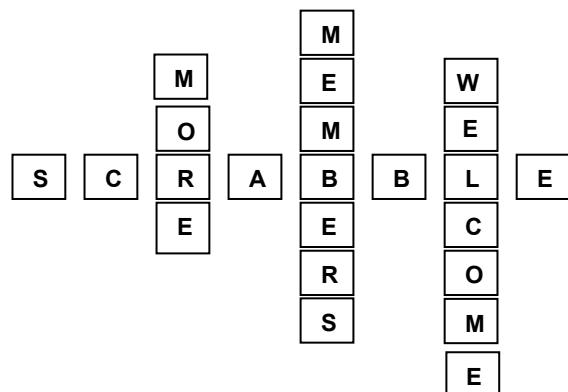
Poetry**John Barnard 436 4150**

John Barnard has very kindly offered to resurrect a Poetry Group if there is sufficient interest. Please ring him if you would like to join. You will have to announce yourself as he has a Call Blocking system!

Scrabble**Ann Gane 428 0204**

Our Scrabble Group is friendly and non-competitive. We usually get between five and seven at our fortnightly meetings.

We can still accommodate new members and would welcome anyone interested in joining us.

**Singing for Pleasure****Barbara Wingard 428 5922**

It was good to be together again in September, even though singing 'distanced' did feel rather strange. Many members missed the vocal support of their near neighbours, so to begin with our singing was rather tentative, but we gradually gained in confidence. How we missed our usual interval, but now we bring our own drinks we have a chance to socialise, without doubt an important part of our choir sessions.

After the break in January let's hope we can start up again on Tuesday 8th February when we will be resuming our Beatles theme with *Eleanor Rigby* and *Yellow Submarine*. As ever, new members will be welcome.

Feliz Año Nuevo a todos.

We continue to meet on Zoom once a week (Wednesday 10 am) and I guess we will continue to do this, covid or no covid. We are also tending to meet every month at my house to read a chapter of a book we are using and to enjoy a glass of wine.

We have seen even more of each other in the run up to Christmas. We went to the Heald Green Theatre to see *Cinderella*, an exceptionally good performance. The panto is always well worth a visit and to get a seat, you have to book early Oh, yes you do!!

We also had a Spanish meal together, one where everyone brought a contribution – an excellent mix of hot and cold foods, starters, mains and desserts.



I have been lucky enough to get to Costa Teguisse in Lanzarote for the New Year. On 5th January we went to watch the '*Cabalgata de Los Reyes Magos*'. This is a parade when the three kings arrive, in town, bearing gifts for the baby Jesus. As you can see, they came to Arrecife on camels. It was something I didn't know much about but apparently this is similar to our Christmas Eve. On the 6th January the children get up and open their presents and the family enjoys a celebratory day pretty much like our Christmas day. Our journey to and from Lanzarote went smoothly – as long as you can print off a Passenger Locator Form and have a Covid passport, it is easy.



The parade during the day



.... and after it got dark

Theatre Visits**Chris Bester 376 7909**

Future shows at our local theatres are as follows.

Northenden Players February 20 - 26
 April 3 - 9
 May 20 - 26

Poynton Players March 14 - 19
 May 23 - 28

Brookdale Theatre February 28 - March 5
 April 25 - 30

Educating Rita
The Importance of Being Earnest
Moon over Buffalo

Handbagged
Agatha Crusty and The Village Hall Murders

Gaslight
Dad's Army

Ukulele**Ian Ewing 376 7909**

Sad to say there has been very little activity over the past months and when we have tried to arrange a practice session it has not been well attended. Hopefully, as we pull out of Covid restrictions, we will be able to get back to normal from February onwards.

After the long disruption due to Covid we have resumed our usual monthly walk date of the third Friday, and numbers are returning to the pre-Covid average of 11. We offer varied walks to suit a variety of abilities, and though most walks in the last year or so have been fairly modest in demand, we may return to longer hill walks in the spring. We have been very fortunate that our walks in October, November and December have all been on beautiful days, and it was bright but cold for our January walk.

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.

- | | | |
|------|--|-------------------|
| Oct: | A walk through Lyme Park | (5½ miles – easy) |
| Nov: | Daisy Nook. | (5½ miles – easy) |
| Dec: | Our shorter winter walk, from Styal, via Lindow Moss and Lindow Common and back by Wilmslow Carrs, followed by a festive lunch at the Horse and Farrier. | (4½ miles - easy) |
| Jan: | A circuit round Rudyard Lake | (6½ miles - easy) |



Lyme Park



Daisy Nook





A glorious, crisp morning for our Christmas walk



Black Lake on Lindow Common



Our return through Wilmslow Carrs



Excellent Christmas fare at the Horse and Farrier



A very good turnout (17 plus Poppy) for our circuit of Rudyard Lake (Lesley took the photo!)

Strollers

Marianne Owen 491 3323

We walk for about an hour on the first and the third Monday morning, usually in parks nearby such as Bramhall, Abney, and Wythenshawe.

Last week we strolled around Cheadle. Occasionally we start our walks in Cheadle, but most of the time we meet at Elm Road in Gatley at 10.30. When we haven't got transport we walk around Gatley.

The group is quite small and we could do with some fresh blood. Anybody keen on some fresh air and gentle exercise?

The Strollers in Bramhall Park in 2014



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.

Solar Panels

Allan Witton

There's a little bit of spare space here to mention our solar panels. It's all Greta Thunberg's fault; when she looked directly into camera and said, "What can **you** do to help alleviate climate change?" it prompted me to take the action I'd been considering for years, and our Solar PV system was installed in May.

Some of you have already had them installed and will be aware of the benefits, especially pertinent in these times of rapidly rising energy costs.

With accurate figures now recorded from June to December, my annual projections are (values are at today's unit prices), generated 4350 kWh (£870), electricity import saved 67% (£750), gas import saved 25% (£240).



19th January 12:20
generating 2,800 W
with batteries fully charged

Anyone interested in a more detailed summary can find it on our website. I've tucked it away in the Committee Documents link from the Welcome page.

Your Committee

Chair	Lesley Witton	428 1522
Vice Chair	Batsheva Samely	428 6030 07722 026278
Business Secretary	Sue Somerville	07305 311716
Treasurer	Allan Witton	428 1522
Membership Secretary	Brian Green	428 8535
Speaker Secretary	Mary Sharples	428 4901
NE Cheshire Network	Mary Sharples	428 4901
Shadow Speaker Sec.	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278



Batsheva Samely Brian Green Lesley Witton Sue Somerville Heather Wilkinson Allan Witton Mary Sharples

Parking near Elm Road Church

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

North-East Cheshire Network

The North East Cheshire Network of U3As (NECN) comprises Cheadle and Gatley, Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme, Poynton, Macclesfield, and Wilmslow..

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: Bridge; Environment; and German. 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 2022, 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 Sue Somerville 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 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;
- membership application and renewal forms to print;
- a New Members' Leaflet with an overview of our U3A;
- various document to help Convenors in the Convenors' Reference link;
- our Privacy and Safeguarding Policies;
- 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,

Editor's Note

Thanks very much to those who have submitted articles and photographs for this Newsletter. I have had a very good selection of images 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.

Allan Witton

DETAILS OF INTEREST GROUPS

Network Open Groups are in **bold blue**

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.

Please note that occasionally dates or times do change between updates of the Interest Group List.

GROUP	CONVENOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
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
Book Group 3	Margaret Seaby	212 0944	1st Monday	10:30-12:00	Cheadle Library
Bowling	The group is hoping to resume. Contact Christine Healy on 428 0094 for details.				
Bridge	Linda Ewing	312 5072	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	1:30	St James' Hall
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	House
Early Christianity	Tom Fanning	428 8666	3rd Monday	10:30	URC
Environment	Peter Briggs	485 6871	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
Explorers	Janet Farrall	428 7883	3rd Thursday	10:30-12:00	Piccolo
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
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5922	Periodically as arranged	Various	Various
Local History	This very popular Group is being re-formed. Contact Lesley Witton on 428 1522 for details.				
Painting and Drawing	Pat Marsden	428 7820	1st and 3rd Friday	10:30-12:30	URC
Poetry	The group is hoping to resume. Contact John Barnard on 436 4150 for details.				
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	Weekly on Wednesdays	10:00-11:00	On Zoom
Theatre Visits	Chris Bester	376 7909	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	9:15	Meet at Gatley Hill car park
Walking (Short) (~ 4 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 you are interested in setting up a new Group, please contact any member of the committee.