

Cheadle and Gatley u3a

Learn, laugh, live, and enjoy life to the full

July 2023 Newsletter

No longer working full time?

Our u3a is run by the
members for the members

We have 26 varied activity and
interest groups such as
Walking, History, Spanish,
Painting, Gardening, Bridge,
Reading and Craft



The Gardening Group at RHS Bridgewater

Enjoy activities, talks, outings, social events, fun and friendship,
all for a membership of **£12 per year**



The Short Walks Group near Mobberley



Our stand at Gatley Festival

Message from the Chair

Lesley Witton

We enjoyed being part of Gatley Festival on July 2nd, which in its 100th year was an impressive occasion. It was good to raise our profile at this local community event and thanks must go to all those members who volunteered to be on the attendance rota for our stand.

Here is the report I delivered at our AGM in June.

It has been another busy and enjoyable year for Cheadle and Gatley u3a.

Elaine Bowker and Margaret Seaby joined the committee at our last AGM and have settled in well making worthwhile contributions to committee meetings and attending some workshops. Elaine now organises the tea rota and Margaret has taken on the role of Groups Co-ordinator. John Barnard attended a few meetings as an observer and I'm pleased to say he has agreed to stand for election to the committee. Marian Fahy has also agreed to stand for election. (Both were duly elected along with the existing committee members)

I'd like to thank all committee members for their hard work and support. We are a good team and enjoy working together.



For the first time last July we took part in Gatley Festival and had a stand on Gatley Hill. Quite a bit of interest was shown and I think more people now know what the u3a is! We have decided to do the same this year.

The Singing Group got going again in October thanks to the enthusiasm and persistence of Patricia Williams. We very much appreciate the help of Barbara Clark, who has taken on the roles of accompanist and conductor!

The Convenors' and New Members' Lunch in November was very much enjoyed by all who attended and gave us the opportunity to chat to each other and share ideas. One outcome of that was the offer of a new Interest Group for Cryptic Crossword enthusiasts. Peter Briggs has reconvened the Environment Group and there has been a series of monthly walks since the New Year.

It was lovely to be able to hold a proper Christmas meeting again. We were entertained by the Ukulele and Singing Groups and heard some very appropriate readings from members. The raffle was co-ordinated by Dorcas Flower and Ann Cooney and raised £320 for two local foodbanks and the presentations were made just before Christmas.

Since the New Year, we have continued to have good attendance at our monthly Open Meetings with some very interesting presentations, thanks to Heather Wilkinson, our Speaker Secretary. Thanks must also go to the team of ladies who serve the refreshments.

Interest Groups are doing well too and I'd like to thank all Group Convenors and their helpers for their hard work organising meetings.

I now look forward to another busy year – which will actually be my last as your Chair!

Monthly Meetings

Meetings are on the **Second Wednesday: 1:15 for a prompt 1.30 start** every month except August at the United Reformed Church Hall, Elm Road, Gatley SK8 4LY.

Speakers talk on a wide range of subjects. Most are illustrated by a slide show, and some are musical. The following are typical:

The Great American Songbook	Roger Browne
Through the Eyes of a Magician	Peter Turner
Amazing Walks	Josephine Gosling
The History of Dunham Massey	Peter Braun
History and Science of Prosthetic Limbs	Dr. Diana Leitch

In November 2022 Michael Billington gave a very entertaining and informative presentation on the History of Bagpipes in Scotland and throughout Europe, and in May 2023 Brenda Martin, with the assistance of Lexie, gave an inspirational presentation about Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.



Brenda and Lexie

Speakers at our Monthly Meetings from September 2023 to January 2024

August	No meeting	
September 13th	Magistrates in the Community (Part 2)	Hillary Clayton and Nick Sheardown
October 11th	My work with Orangutans in Borneo	Sarah Lionheart
November 8th	The life and music of Jerome Kern	Roger Browne
December 13th	To be arranged	
January 10th	Chester Uncovered	Steven Shakeshaft

Our Newsletters

Since our online-only Newsletters during Covid, we have resumed our 6-monthly Newsletters in January and July each year, with an online colour version sent to all members with email, and printed black and white copies available at monthly meetings.

Our Newsletters are designed to be an overview of the activities of our u3a, and in particular Group activities, over the previous 6 months. As well as being of interest to current members, they are very useful for posting on our website so that prospective members can get a clear picture of what our u3a is about.

Gatley Festival

For the second time, this year our u3a had a stand at Gatley Festival on Sunday 2nd July, with the intention of bringing our group to the notice of a wider audience from the local community. It turned into a beautifully sunny afternoon and we attracted considerable interest. Even Spider-Man, who at the age of 61 could be a potential member, called by!



The beer tent



The setting up team



A keen new recruit



One of the bands

GROUP NEWS

**All our groups are sociable and friendly, and most would welcome new members.
So have a look at what they do and if one appeals, contact the Convenor and go along and find out.**

Book Group 1

Lesley Witton 428 1522

Our chosen author for January was Barbara Kingsolver and we all agreed her novels are certainly worth reading for their interesting subject matter, structure and brilliant description. The theme for February was Short Stories and writers included John McGahern, Katherine Mansfield, F.Scott Fitzgerald and Roald Dahl. William Boyd was our author for March and most of us found his plots intriguing and his writing style engaging.

We chose the theme of Dementia for April and found the novels read on this topic both disturbing and poignant. Some of us also read non-fiction and we all felt we had a much better understanding of the condition by the end of the evening.

In May we discussed novels about Art. *Girl with a Pearl Earring*; *Artemisia*; *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*; *The Marriage Portrait*; *The Extraordinary Life and Momentous Times of J M W Turner*; *My Name is Asher Lev*; *The Goldfinch*; and *Lust for Life* (about Vincent Van Gough) were the books read. We didn't meet in June, but in July we shared our thoughts on Martin Amis. The general consensus was that he is a difficult writer to enjoy and only two of the group actually finished their book!



Our Group is a house group, meeting on the first Monday evening

Book Group 2

Cath Dwyer 428 5621

After leading the group for the last 10 years or so, Tina Kelly has left, and in April I took over running the monthly meetings and looking after the admin work in relation to our U3A group and Stockport Libraries. We all want to thank Tina for her hard work which ensured the smooth running of the reading group. She will be much missed.

Since the last Newsletter we have read the following books, with their scores out of 5.

<i>Six Days in Rome</i>	Francesca Giacco	(1*)
<i>How to Stop Time</i>	Matt Haig	(4.5*)
<i>The Mermaid of Black Conch</i>	Monique Roffey	(3*)
<i>Cider with Rosie</i>	Laurie Lee	(4*)
<i>The Maid's Room</i>	Fiona Mitchell	(3.5*)
<i>Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day</i>		(TBA)

The titles were wide-ranging, from a 1930's publication yet to be discussed, to modern via the classic 1950's *Cider with Rosie*, and sparked some interesting debate!

Book Group 3**Margaret Seaby 221 0944**

We continue to read a wide range of literature which provokes lively debate and exchange of viewpoints. The criterion for our selection of titles from the Stockport Library Service sets of books is that no-one in the group has already read the books chosen (we mostly read fiction but do also read non-fiction) so we widen our personal reading horizons.

Recent reads have been:

<i>The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists</i>	Robert Tressell
<i>How to be Both</i>	Ali Smith
<i>Blood and Sugar</i>	Laura Shepherd-Robinson
<i>Trio</i>	William Boyd
<i>Excellent Women</i>	Barbara Pym
<i>Ariadne</i>	Jennifer Saint

We meet on the first Monday of the month in the Community Room at Cheadle Library at 10.30-12.00.

If any new members would like to join us please contact Margaret Seaby on 0161 2210944

Bridge**Linda Ewing 312 5072**

The Bridge group has been running very well since we were able to re-open and we have been very keen to get back to normality. Membership has increased lately and we regularly have 4 tables. We have all enjoyed the social contact as well as the Bridge.

We are a very friendly group and would welcome any new members. If there were enough beginners wanting to come along I am sure we could arrange some tuition.

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.

Computing**Peter Bayley 282 3468**

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.

Craft/Sewing**Pam Allen 971 1880**

We are a small but enthusiastic group with interests in most craft work; our members cover knitting, crochet, sewing and various paper crafts. We have been pleased to welcome two new members recently. We don't do tutorials as such, but encourage each other with the different projects that we are each working on. We meet in my house on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 10.30 until 12.00. For further details please contact me.

Creative Writing**Nigel Bann 491 6835**

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.

Cryptic Crosswords**Jane Lloyd 07713848734**

The Cryptic Crossword Group was recently formed for people who either enjoy solving cryptic crosswords or would like to develop their skills as a cruciverbalist! The crosswords are provided by the group Convenor (with solutions if needed!).

There is plenty of space for new members and you would be very welcome. If you are interested, and for further details, please contact me.

Our Open Group within the North East Cheshire Network seeks to study how changes in local and global environments may affect people and nature in defined environments. We shall include examples of both natural and built environments. We want to encourage policies that help to protect and conserve both natural and built environments.

Members are encouraged to recognise threats to our local environments in Cheshire and in Greater Manchester. We will note historical influences (such as the Industrial Revolution and the development of mass transportation, especially road vehicles, railways, canal and civil aviation).

In 2023 our Group has initiated a programme of monthly environmental walks in North West England. These have proved to be popular as our members enjoy being with companions in stimulating outdoor places. Our first 6 walks may be summarized as follows:-

January	Abney Park and Moseley Old Hall, Cheadle
February	Bruntwood Park and Micker Brook, Cheadle
March	Bramhall Park and Bramall Hall
April	Marple Aqueduct and Peak Forest Canal locks
May	Mersey Valley (East) and Heaton Mersey Nature Park
June	Mersey Valley (West) and Fletcher Moss Gardens, Didsbury



Abney Hall



Moseley Old Hall



Bramall Hall



Bramall Hall



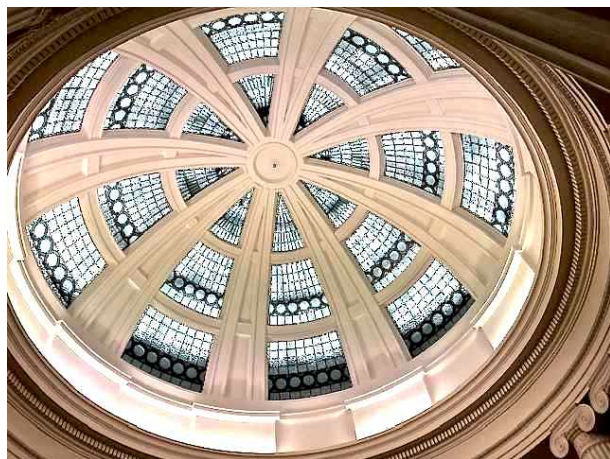
In Stenner Woods

The Explorers Group are pleased to welcome members who enjoy a chat and a cuppa and a chance to set off on one of our well-organised, interesting days out or on a holiday, all with good company. We already have exciting outings in the pipeline and lists ready for your name. The only thing we ask is that you have to be responsible for yourself.

We look forward to your visit. Not a member? Not a problem we have the technology. Janet and Pat

February: Lytham Hall, Lytham with tour of stunning 18th century well cared for listed building, in 78 acres of Parkland with sheets of Persil white snowdrops. Certainly worth another visit.

March: We visited the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and then the Lady Lever Gallery at Port Sunlight, which was celebrating 100 years and exhibiting a collection of stunning jewellery from the world famous 223 year old Boodle Jewellery designers - usually borrowed and worn at red carpet events! An excellent trip.



April

A chance for a fuddle at Bury Market then to board the East Lancashire Steam Train for a return trip through the rolling Lancashire hills and views of the Irwell valley.

A very enjoyable day even though it rained.



May: Forty three members of the Explorer Group enjoyed a magnificent very tasty 3 course celebratory lunch at Bethany Church to mark the Coronation of King Charles II. As the meal was being shared, with an array of red, white and blue attire on display, memories of Queen Elizabeth's coronation were recalled. One member of the group brought the teaspoon she had been presented with at primary school some 70 years ago. Plans were equally shared of the memorabilia that members were planning to give grandchildren and family members to celebrate this momentous occasion. Proceeds from the event were donated to the food bank.



June: Saw us supporting Live Theatre at the Plaza.

We also had 'Picnic for Piccolos' on the lawn at Bethany Church. Sumptuous sandwiches, delicious cakes, welcome drinks and perfect weather. The proceeds were given to Piccolos as a 'Thank you' to Piccolos for sharing his restaurant with us.



July: We visit the Llyn Peninsula. Beyond Snowdonia's craggiest peaks with the Irish sea on one side and Cardigan Bay on the other, it has an unspoilt charm. We will call at Pwllheli and Criccieth for a welcome cuppa.

August: Sees us setting off on a short break to Highgrove, King Charles' gardens.

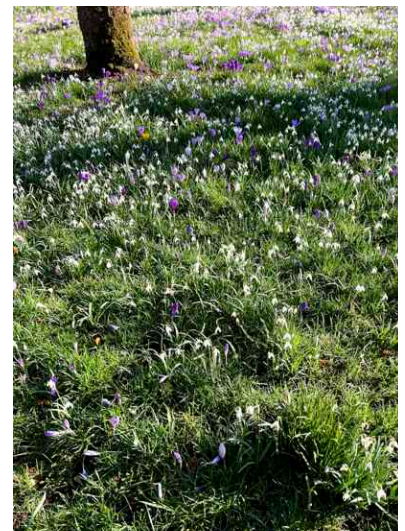
The Family History Group is a small group which meets in my house off Styal Road. We usually discuss where we have got to in our own research, and try to help each other by giving advice. Recently some group members have been giving short presentations to the group about some aspect of family history research. Currently, as most of us have had our DNA tested, we have been considering DNA matching as a tool for research - and some of us have had success in breaking down 'brick walls', or in confirming that previous research is correct. If anyone is thinking of taking up family history as a hobby, but doesn't know where to start, I can help.

Gardening**Deborah Connell 0797 010 3503**

January 2023 began with our annual gardening quiz in the URC Oak Room.

We all chipped in to decide our programme of visits for this year beginning in February with a return to Parsonage Gardens and Fletcher Moss in Didsbury.

Sunshine and Snowdrops at Fletcher Moss



Next we visited Fryer's Garden Centre in Knutsford for our March gathering with its beautiful collection of roses amongst a large selection of other plants.

We enjoyed lunch in their Rosary Restaurant and came away with lots of ideas and purchases for our own gardens

April saw us visit Wythenshawe Park and Gardens to admire the bluebells. As it turned out, we were too late for the bluebells but still had a lovely walk round the woodlands looking for them! We also viewed the Wythenshawe Community Farm and shop and ended up in The Courtyard Cafe.



Wythenshawe Hall



The Community Farm

The sunshine in May was perfect for our trip to RHS Bridgewater where we had an enjoyable walk in the Chinese streamside garden, followed by a wander around the walled garden and rounding the trip off in the Bridgewater café and garden centre.



Most recently in June we visited the gardens of two of our group, Hilary Paley and Margaret Seaby. In the first, we did a plant swap and enjoyed an informative demonstration from Heather Wilkinson on how to take and grow cuttings. Then on to Margaret's beautiful garden where we were treated to refreshments including homemade scones and her blackcurrant jam with cream - delicious!

Thanks to those who helped this year.

German

Marianne Owen 491 3323

The German class meets at Elm Road every third Tuesday of the month from 10-12. Members take it in turn to prepare the next session, deliver the homework, and take the role of leader. The aim is to improve our spoken German in an informal way using games, puzzles, pictures, jokes and songs. Recently one of us composed a crossword puzzle (well, just horizontals). Lessons are comprised of translating in and out of German, grammar exercises and above all, talking. We are lucky to have two German natives.

History

John Houghton 428 2892

Our new members have settled in and we are currently in the midst of discussions about Russian history.

History of Art

Mary Sharples 428 4901

Our Meetings combine academic study of "The World's Greatest Paintings" with research by the group members on individual works chosen from their own interest.

We have studied works by Van Eyck, James Whistler, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso and Gustav Klimpt.

We enjoyed a cinema visit to see "The Vermeer Exhibition" in Stockport.

When opportunities arise for visits to art galleries our group will plan visits to exhibitions and films.

The History of Art Group meet on the afternoon of the last Wednesday of the month at URC Elm Road. New members are always welcome.

Local History

Lesley Witton 428 1522

We started the New Year by continuing our programme of discovering the history of local religious communities, which had begun with a visit to St James' church, Gatley in April, 2022. We had a talk at Cheadle Masjid in February and a tour of the Yeshurun Synagogue, Gatley in March.

In April, Judith Wilshaw gave a presentation about Manors, Baronies and Royal Hunting Forests in our area and in May Lesley Witton took the group on a virtual trip along the Rochdale Canal through Manchester.

Lesley's slide show about the Manchester section of the Rochdale Canal



Our June illustrated talk was from Andrew Frazer of Cheadle Civic Society who told us about various celebrations held in Cheadle. In July we continued our discovery of local religious communities by hearing a talk at the URC by Margaret Tait, a former minister there. Our Autumn programme is being prepared, but a visit to Wythenshawe Hall has been booked for October.

Lunchtime Concerts for free

Barbara Wingard 428 5922

Lunchtime Concerts have really got going again and I hope to start attending some of them from September. The University with its weekly Thursday events and Chetham's School of Music Tuesday to Thursday concerts are still free, but the Royal Northern College of Music now make a charge of £5 and tickets have to be booked online, so I leave that to individual choice.

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. New members are always welcome.



A bespoke birthday cake was recently enjoyed by the Poetry Group celebrating the first year of the group's restarting. The enjoyment was further enhanced by the topic of the day, 'Ted Hughes and his wife Sylvia Plath', both very extraordinary characters and poets.

The new poetry group members bring with them a variety of interesting views and ideas. Some enjoy reviewing famous poetry, some enjoy writing poetry and some just enjoy the stimulating conversations that ensue.

The Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to Bob Dylan shows how Poetry not only enhances the written word but transforms instrumental music into the songs we enjoy. So, if finding out more about poetry is something you think you might enjoy why not come along to one of our meetings.

In the mean-time here's a little something to whet the appetite – a poem with two completely different meanings depending on reading forward or in reverse: -

Ugly Pretty

I'm very ugly
So don't try to convince me that
I am a very beautiful person
Because at the end of the day
I hate myself in every single way
And I'm not going to lie to myself by saying
There is beauty inside of me that matters
So rest assured I will remind myself
That I am a worthless, terrible person
And nothing you say will make me believe
I still deserve love
Because no matter what
I am not good enough to be loved
And I am in no position to believe that
Beauty does exist within me
Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think
Am I as ugly as people say?

(Now read bottom up)

by Abdullah Shoaib

Scrabble

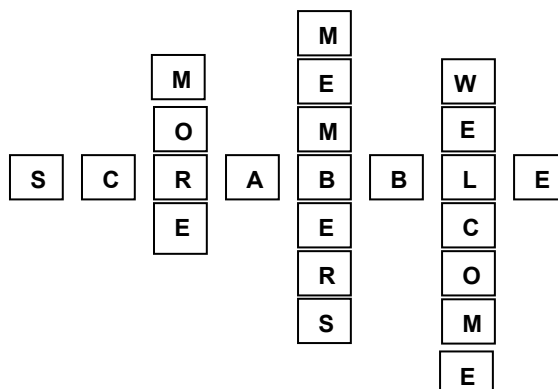
Ann Gane 428 0204

I am pleased that the Group has now been able to re-start.

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.

Please give me a ring if you are interested.



Singing for Pleasure

Patricia Williams 428 9850

The group has continued to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Elm Road, with Barbara Clark in sole charge (both playing piano and leading) from January this year onwards.

We've focused on quite a wide range of music over the past few months, including songs from *Showboat* and *West Side Story*, some old favourites from the previous choir, and new material which Barbara has introduced to the group. Sessions are informal and the emphasis is very much on 'singing for pleasure'. Several new people have joined us since the start of the year and new members are always welcome.



We continue to meet every Wednesday at 10am on Zoom. We are finding a CD called ProSpanish to be a very useful tool in consolidating and refreshing our knowledge. Several members of the group use an on-line app called Duolingo to help with vocabulary, pronunciation, and sentence construction. There is a lot to learn – we are still enjoying the challenge!!

This year some of us have been lucky enough to go to Lanzarote, one of the Canary Islands, to try out our Spanish. It is always warm there and only just over 4 hours from Manchester. There is a lot to see – the Timanfaya National Park is well worth a visit. The landscape was created by volcanic eruptions in the 1730s. It is possible to go around the park on camel-back.



César Manrique, the artist and sculptor, born in 1919 in Arrecife, has very much influenced the buildings (their height and colour) on Lanzarote and there is a museum to celebrate his efforts. There are some lovely places to stay, lovely beaches, and lots of places in which to eat.



The view from Barbara's hotel balcony



My starter in a Chinese buffet restaurant called The Wok in Costa Tegui.

Theatre Visits

Chris Bester 376 7909

Forthcoming performances at our local theatres.

Heald Green Theatre	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	October 5th – 7th
	<i>Mother Goose (panto)</i>	December 5th – 10th
Players Theatre	<i>The Odd Couple</i>	October 2nd - 7th
	<i>God of Carnage</i>	November 27th -December 2nd
CHAD'S Theatre	<i>Educating Rita</i>	September 2nd - 9th
	<i>The Hollow</i>	October 14th - 21st
	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	December 2nd - 9th
Northenden Theatre	<i>Nel Gwynn</i>	October 8th - 14th

The Ukulele Group keeps plonking (and plinking) on. We continue to meet at St James' church hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 2.00pm with 6 or 7 players and after 6 or 7 years we occasionally sound quite musical.

Our repertoire continues to expand with evermore challenging tunes the latest of which is, "Cuando calienta el sol" which I could have sworn was Italian but turns out to be Spanish. Which just goes to show that my knowledge of languages is about as good as my ability with stringed instruments – maybe I should join another group.

Ideally we could use a couple more players and if anyone is interested in joining (or rejoining) they should contact me on 312 5072. No experience necessary; I can usually teach people the basics in 2 or 3 sessions and I have spare ukes to get you started.

Long Walks
Allan Witton 428 1522

We offer varied walks to suit a range of abilities, mostly between 6 and 8 miles.

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.

Some of our long-standing members have now retired and we would welcome new members to join us.

Refreshments at the Leather's Smithy after the Macclesfield Forest walk in June



- | | | |
|------|---|------------------------------|
| Jan: | Dunham Woodhouses, via Heatley, the Bridgewater Canal, and Dunham Massey | (7 miles - moderate) |
| Feb: | A circuit from Valehouse Reservoir via Tintwistle and Hollingworth Nature reserve | (5 miles - moderate) |
| Mar: | A circuit round Congleton via Astbury Mere and the Macclesfield canal | (8 miles - moderate) |
| Apr: | High Lane, Hazel Grove & Stockport golf course, via canal & Middlewood Way | (6.5 miles - easy) |
| Jun: | Macclesfield Forest: Trentabank, Shutlingsloe, Chapel House, Leather's Smithy | (6 miles - fairly strenuous) |



January



February



March



April



June
16

The group tends to walk between 4 and 5 miles which generally is not very hilly. We meet on the third Thursday of the month outside the URC at 10:00 am. The walks are mostly within 45 mins travelling time but never over an hour and there is always room available in members' cars for anyone without their own transport. The current hot weather has depleted our numbers on the last few walks but no doubt with the return of cooler weather we should see them back up again. If anybody wishes to join us please contact me.



A Sunny day near Mobberley



A grey day at Dunham Massey



Enjoying a seat after the Mersey walk

The Strollers go out every first and third Monday for a short, gentle walk of about an hour. We meet at Elm Road at 10:30 and most walks are directly from there to such places as Gatley Carrs and Hollyhedge Park. Sometimes we take a train or bus to somewhere nearby. We tend to walk in parks, and Abney, Bruntwood and Bramhall are some of our favourites. If there are people in the group prepared to drive a short distance and give a lift to others that's very much appreciated, and it enables us to walk further afield, and people are asked to pay 50p or £1 to the driver towards petrol.

In recent months fewer people have been turning up, so we could do with some more members, so do consider joining us. It's always an enjoyable social occasion and a pleasant and healthy way to start the week.

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.

Your Committee

Chair	Lesley Witton	428 1522
Business Secretary	Sue Somerville	07305 311716
Treasurer	Allan Witton	428 1522
Membership Secretary	Brian Green	428 8535
Speaker Secretary	Heather Wilkinson	428 9278
Groups Co-ordinator	Margaret Seaby	221 0944
Trustee	Elaine Bowker	07833 347231
Trustee	John Barnard	436 4150
Trustee	Marian Fahy	07914 028502

John Barnard and Marian Fahy were elected onto the committee at last month's AGM, and since then Gill Brown has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee. I don't have a photo of the enlarged committee yet.



Elaine
Bowker

Sue
Somerville

Allan
Witton

Lesley
Witton

Brian
Green

Heather
Wilkinson

Margaret
Seaby

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 (or confirmation of renewal email) for their own u3a. C&G Open Groups are: Bridge; Environment; and German. On the newly revised list there are 25 Open Groups across the whole Network. Further information about all 25 Groups is given in a link from the Groups page of our website, and you should use the contact details provided there if you are interested in joining an Open Group.

Riviera Travel

When you book a holiday with Riviera Travel, you can claim Affinity Commission for your u3a - which donates 10% of the total basic cost of holidays booked by members back to your u3a.

Simply make a booking by contacting Riviera Travel directly (their telephone number is 01283245322). Mention you are a member of u3a and want to claim Affinity Commission for your u3a. At the end of your holiday, Riviera Travel make a payment to the Third Age Trust. After deducting a handling fee, the Third Age Trust will pass the donation on to the relevant u3a. If booking online, use www.u3ariviera.co.uk.

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 Lesley Witton 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

The disaster that befell all u3a websites operated by u3a sitebuilder in November 2022 resulted in all our uploaded documents and images being irretrievably lost. Fortunately, we have original copies of them all, and the painstaking task of uploading all 150 of them again was completed by the end of last year. We encourage those of you who are online to look at it periodically. The simplest way is to do a web search for cheadle-gatley/home and then save the site in 'favourites' or on your desktop for easy access. Clicking on the link below may take you directly to the site:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/cheadle-gatley/home>

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 documents to help Convenors in the Convenors' Reference link;
- our Privacy, Diversity 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.

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 best photos are of members in interesting locations.

The easiest way to send text or images is to reply to any u3a Beacon email you receive and attach any images.

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 '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.

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

GROUP	CONVENOR	CONTACT	DATES	TIME	VENUE
Book Group 1	Lesley Witton	428 1522	1st Monday	7:30	House
Book Group 2	Cath Dwyer	428 5621	1st Tuesday	1:30-3:00	Cheadle Library
Book Group 3	Margaret Seaby	221 0944	1st Monday	10:30-12:00	Cheadle Library
Bridge	Linda Ewing	312 5072	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	1:30	St James' Hall
Computers	Peter Bayley	282 3468	As arranged	Various	House
Craft	Pam Allen	971 1880	3rd Tuesday	10:30-12:00	House
Creative Writing	Nigel Bann	491 6835	2nd Monday	2:00-4:00	House
Cryptic Crosswords	Jane Lloyd	07713848734	2nd Friday	Mornings	Various
Environment	Peter Briggs	485 6871	2nd Thursday	10:00	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	Deborah Connell	07970103503	4th Thursday	2:00	Various
German	Marianne Owen	491 3323	3rd Tuesday	10:00-11:30	URC Hall
History	John Houghton	428 2892	2nd and 4th Fridays	1:30	URC Hall
History of Art	Mary Sharples	428 4901	Last Wednesday	1:30	URC Hall
Lunchtime Concerts	Barbara Wingard	428 5022	As arranged	Various	Various
Local History	Lesley Witton	428 1522	First Wednesday	1:30	Cheadle Library
Painting and Drawing	Pat Marsden	428 7820	1st and 3rd Friday	10:30-12:30	URC Hall
Poetry	John Barnard	436 4150	3rd Monday	1:45	URC Hall
Scrabble	Ann Gane	428 0204	Fridays Fortnightly	2:00	House
Singing for Pleasure	Patricia Williams	428 9850	2nd and 4th Tuesday	1:00	URC Hall
Spanish	Elaine Bowker	07833347231	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	2:00	URC Hall
Walking (Long) (About 6 - 8 miles)	Allan Witton	428 1522	3rd Friday	9:15 - 3.00	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