

Cheadle and Gatley u3a

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

January 2024 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



Long Walks Group having mulled wine and mince pies



Explorers at Berkeley Castle

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



By Chris Healey of the Painting and Drawing Group



The Local History Group in Wythenshawe Hall

Cheadle and Gatley u3a is a Registered Charity, Number 1172853

Message from the Chair

Lesley Witton

Happy New Year to all our members. I hope you have all had an enjoyable festive season and that you are now looking forward to a new year with your friends in Cheadle and Gatley u3a!

The second half of 2023 was filled with interesting sessions for groups and the monthly Members' meetings. My thanks go to all Group Convenors and to Heather Wilkinson for all their hard work in organising such a wonderful range of activities.

Our speakers at the Wednesday meetings covered topics including The Upside of Down's Syndrome, a Magistrates' Court session, My Life as a Busker, and The Life and Music of Jerome Kern.

The Convenors' Lunch in November gave us the opportunity to chat to each other and share ideas and I thank Margaret Seaby for arranging this and I know that she has taken on board some of the issues raised.

Our Christmas meeting was a great success again this year as you can see from the report on pages 4 - 5. I'd like to thank all those involved in the entertainment, the provision of refreshments and the organisation of the raffle. We will be able to make a very worthwhile donation to the St Ann's Hospice Building Appeal thanks to the generous donations of prizes for the raffle, the purchase of tickets and the wonderful donation from Pam Allen from the sale of her cards.

This will be my last message as Chair as I will be standing down in June. I can honestly say that it has been a privilege to serve on your committee in various roles for the last nine years and I can heartily recommend it as a way of doing your bit for the community and working with like-minded colleagues who all share the same spirit and have a good sense of humour! I'd like to thank everyone I have served with over the years – you have all become good friends and I look forward to continuing to see you all at future meetings.

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Who needs Blackpool illuminations, when we have these Christmas decorations around Gatley?





## 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 July 2023 we learnt the special sign language used by people with Down's Syndrome during an inspirational presentation called *The Upside of Down's Syndrome*, and in September we took part in a mock trial at a Magistrates' Court.



Learning the sign language Makaton



The mock trial

## Speakers at our Monthly Meetings from January to July 2024

|               |                                    |                   |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| January 10th  | Chester Uncovered                  | Steven Shakeshaft |
| February 14th | Swift Recovery                     | Louise Bentley    |
| March 13th    | UK Travels with a Wildlife Camera  | David Tolliday    |
| April 10th    | My Life in Crime                   | Simon Michael     |
| May 8th       | Blackbrook Herb Gardens            | William Woods     |
| June 12th     | AGM                                |                   |
| July 10th     | The History of Manchester Theatres | Marilyn Shalks    |

## 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.

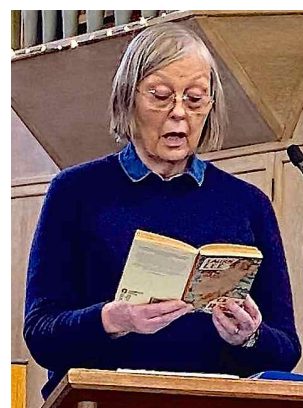


## 2023 Christmas Meeting

Following the success of last year's meeting, we were again entertained by our own members. We opened with some entertaining pieces from the Ukulele Group.



Individual members then gave appropriate readings, including poems, the history of Christmas traditions and excerpts from novels.



The Singing Group performed seasonal classics and later led us in singing carols.







We received some magnificent donations for the raffle and Dorcas, Anne and Josie arranged them beautifully.

Refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies or tea, coffee and biscuits were served, followed by the raffle draw.



The raffle and donations raised a total of £414, and £92 was donated by Pam Allen from the proceeds of her card sales. This will be added to the money donated in the collection box and presented to St Ann's Hospice Building Appeal.



The Local History Group enjoyed a very interesting visit to Wythenshawe Hall on a rather wet day in October. We had a guided tour arranged by The Friends of Wythenshawe Hall and were able to see parts of the hall not open to the general public. It was heartening to see the wonderful restoration that has taken place in collaboration with Manchester City Council and Conlon Construction after the devastating fire in 2016. The Friends currently host open days on one Sunday each month. I would recommend visiting their website if you are interested in the history of the hall and to find out about the themed Open Days each month.

As we toured the hall we were treated to a fascinating account of the history of the Tatton family and the life of the hall by the Vice Chair of the Friends, Libby Edwards, who has a wealth of knowledge. We didn't spot the secret door, but when it was revealed we were allowed to go through into a passageway at the back of the house.



Upstairs, we climbed up into the roof to see the repairs done after the fire. Some charred timbers have been left in place, but the beams have been secured by steel supports so everything is now safe. The bell tower acted as a chimney and actually prevented the fire from spreading further.



I returned on the Open Day the following Sunday and took this photo of the front of the hall.



## Interesting skies over Cheadle and Gatley

Just before Christmas people across the UK were amazed by rare sights in the sky, the shimmering colours of nacreous clouds, and they were clearly visible over Gatley and Cheadle. These were taken on the 21/12/23.



Nacreous clouds form in very cold conditions over polar regions and within the stratosphere, around 12-19 miles (19-31 km) high, far above our normal clouds. They are one of the highest clouds in our atmosphere, and are often referred to as "mother-of-pearl". They are rarely spotted in the UK because of the exceptional conditions needed.



Throughout the autumn, atmospheric conditions have given rise to some marvellous sunsets too.



The 21st November 1841 was extremely cold and the weather unfavourable. Not the kind of weather the good people of Gatley were hoping for. They were getting ready to share with their friends their Quarterly Lovefest — the breaking of bread and taking of water, singing praises and offering blessings. They need not have worried however for soon the preaching room in the farmhouse was crowded and "the presence of the Lord was powerfully felt" Because it was so very crowded and difficult to reach the pulpit it was agreed amongst the people that a Chapel should be built.

On the 29th November 1841 the ground was marked out and the Foundation Stone of the new **Gatley Primitive Methodist Church** was laid. The Chapel proceeded to be built. Rosemary Kopittke (whose 3 times great grandfather was the builder) tells us all this in a Report in Gatley PM Chapel (E-H) "My Primitive Methodists" (to be found on the Internet). It says it is a neat edifice and is ideally situated on the south side of Church Road, near Gatley Green.

Rosemary goes on to say it faced a plot of land with evergreens and Poplar trees. She tells us that the Chapel covered all its building costs of £230 when completed and was described as in "easy circumstances." The inside of the Chapel we are told by her has a rising gallery in front of the pulpit containing 52 sittings, a neat vestry or class room. A School room was added in 1865.

A photograph dated c1931 of the Chapel in the Gatley Pictorial History by Frank Mitchell (Author) shows the original Chapel.



The Chapel in December 2023

It is thought, by the said Frank Mitchell, that the fortunes of the Chapel seemed to have declined and it closed in 1932. Since then, the Chapel has undergone many changes but I am pleased to report it is now embracing the **Explorers**.

We take full advantage of the rising gallery, neat vestry or class room and all of the 52 seats (now provided by Piccolo's restaurant). Our regular monthly 'Lovefests' (the third Thursday) are sometimes a little crowded, but we are grateful to Fran (liaising on behalf of Mr. Piccolo) that we are able to help the Gatley Food Bank.

We enjoy our Outings (sometimes in unfavourable weather) sharing too with our u3a friends a little more than bread and water (because we are in 'easy circumstances', at the moment). But - I have no intention of us declining and I already have the 2024 programme underway.



## 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**

Since July we have discussed books on the theme of food, novels about legal procedure, *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco and fiction and non-fiction about Christmas.

In September, we also gave our personal recommendations and we are currently choosing poems about new beginnings for our January meeting.

The next single novel to be discussed will be *Middlemarch*, which we are all reading at the moment as it's very long!

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



December meeting – festive refreshments after discussing books about Christmas

### Book Group 2

**Cath Dwyer 428 5621**

Our Book Club operates under the auspices of Stockport Libraries, and meets the first Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. Stockport Libraries chooses the book we will read and provides the copies, and we provide them with our feedback. The only month we don't meet is December when our normal Tuesday meeting is replaced by a Christmas lunch. Our November allocation is then reviewed in January.

These are the books we read in the months July to December along with their scores out of 5:

|                                             |                    |       |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <i>Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day</i>       | Winifred Watson    | (3.5) |
| <i>Two Women in Rome</i>                    | Elizabeth Buchan   | (3.5) |
| <i>Jack and Bet</i>                         | Sarah Butler       | (4.0) |
| <i>The Funny Thing About Norman Foreman</i> | Julietta Henderson | (3.5) |
| <i>Worst Idea Ever</i>                      | Jane Fallon        | (2.5) |
| <i>The Anniversary</i>                      | Laura Marshall     | (3.5) |

### Book Group 3

**Margaret Seaby 221 0944**

We continue to read books chosen by the group from the Stockport Library Book Group Service. Our criterion is that we choose books which none of us have previously read so we come to the book with an open mind. As can be seen below, our range of reading is wide and provides us with lively discussion. Since the last newsletter we have read:

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>The Lincoln Highway</i>            | Amor Towles      |
| <i>The Queen's Rival</i>              | Anne O'Brien     |
| <i>The Heights</i>                    | Louise Candlish  |
| <i>Home Stretch</i>                   | Graham Norton    |
| <i>Great Circle</i>                   | Maggie Shipstead |
| <i>The Book of Form and Emptiness</i> | Ruth Ozeki       |

We continue to meet in the morning on the first Monday of the month in the Community Room at Cheadle Library. Do consider joining us.



**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.



The Bridge Group Christmas party

**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**

Mainly due to Covid, we have seen a reduction in the membership from 8 down to 4, so, is there a novel in you? We write stories, poems, reports, anything goes, with 500 to 1,000 words suggested. Each person reads their work out to the group, and the members offer constructive advice and encouragement.

We meet at a member's house on each second Tuesday of the month from 2 to 4 pm. For further information please contact me.



**(Mr Jones )** – “ I’ve been feeling ill for a number of years now, or rather having an ill feeling”

**(Doctor )** – “When do you think it started, Mr Jones?

**(Mr Jones )** – “Well, it was around 2016 when the country voted for Brexit. Both sides of a divided Britain giving out and receiving abuse”

**(Doctor )** – “Go on Mr Jones”

**(Mr Jones )** – “ Then Covid happened. What a sad time. Most people probably fell foul of the rules in some small way. I know I did. They were too complicated, and No 10 didn’t seem to bother following them at all. Families banging on main doors of hospitals and care homes, begging to be let in to say a last goodbye to dying loved ones.”

**(Doctor )** – “Yes,it was a bad time for all, anything else, Mr Jones?”

**(Mr Jones )** – “Ukraine, what a mess! If only Russian people over here could get the truth through to their country about the Special Mission. It would also help if they could convince the people that your average Briton does not want to conquer Russia.”

**(Doctor )** – “ And then all that Russia/Ukraine stuff affected the cost of living, especially the price of petrol. And don’t get me started on the gas and electric companies, the robbing B\*\*\*\*\* – oh sorry, carry on Mr Jones”

**(Mr Jones )** – “I’m with you there doctor. And now we have the Palestine/Israel problem. Will it ever be solved? Then there’s the Falklands. That looks like kicking off again. And potholes everywhere, and why can’t the bin man put my bin back at my front gate and .....”

**(Doctor )** – “Calm down Mr Jones. I’ll give you some pills for your initial stress, but I think I have diagnosed your condition it’s called BREXICOVIUKRAGAZAEONINFLATOSIS. It’s a bit like PTSD, and it is untreatable, but with stable world conditions it will slowly subside for the rest of your life, unless the water companies poison us, or we are all burnt to a crisp with this damned Global Warming ..... Oh, I can’t take it any longer.”

**(Mr Jones )** – “Doctor, what are you doing with that bottle of 100 Paracetamol – no, no, don’t swallow them all! – NURSE, NURSE, come quickly. **Why do I have this effect on people?**

## Cryptic Crosswords

Jane Lloyd 0771 384 8734

The group meets at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of each month at Bodega in Gatley. There are currently seven members and we solve about three cryptic crosswords (provided by the convenor) per session. It is a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in which we help one another to solve the crosswords. If you’d like to hone your skills as a cruciverbalist then please join us - anyone from beginners to experts are always welcome. For further details please contact me.

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The pond at Cheadle Royal Business Park



Gatley Carrs on a clear frosty morning

Explorers 2024 can look forward to exploring some new and interesting places. This year we are including a 5-day holiday to Sidmouth in South Devon and a 2-day break to the famous "Downton Abbey!"

So we can keep our Outings active and members know why they are coming, I send an Agenda just before the Meeting, so you can see what List to put your name on and which trip you need to pay for.

When you have done all this you can settle back with a drink and a piece of cake and make or catch up with friends. All we ask is that you are responsible for yourself at all times and have an Emergency Contact number with you.

The Explorers Group had a busy second half to 2023!

July's trip was a very wet but enjoyable tour around North Wales to the Llyn Peninsula. Our first brief stop was in Llangollen for morning coffee and a quick look around; some members taking in views of the River Dee as it flows through the town. Then onward via Corwen, skirting around a mist covered Snowdon and surrounding mountains to Portmadoc and the Llyn Peninsula to Criccieth, Pwllheli and Abersoch, before returning on the coastal route past Conwy and on to the outskirts of Chester.

August saw the group take on two trips. The first was a tour to Highgrove House beginning with a visit to Berkeley Castle, not far from the River Severn in the Cotswolds. Built in the 12th century, it has been in the Berkeley family since that time. We had an overnight stay in Wotton-under-Edge and then made our way to Highgrove House for a guided tour of the magnificent gardens of King Charles' country house, including the four life-size elephant sculptures on the Orchard Room meadow.



Our second outing in August was a trip to Beverley where we spent an afternoon, with some members taking in the sights of the town whilst others explored the splendid architecture of the Minster.

Our return journey included a crossing of the Humber suspension bridge, which was at the time of its completion the longest bridge of its type in the world.



September was a visit to the South Pennine Moorlands, travelling via Todmorden and Hebden Bridge along the Calder valley, before passing through Pecket Well, made famous in the TV series *The Gallows Pole*. Then over Haworth Moor, where if you imagined hard enough, you could see Kathy wandering the moor looking for Heathcliff.

Our first stop was in the village of Haworth itself, where some members took a walk down the steep hill through the village to the railway station made famous in the film *The Railway Children*. Other members visited the Brontë Museum, where many interesting exhibits are displayed in the old parsonage building. Our next stop was in Clitheroe where a walk around the town gave views of the ruins of the castle and Pendle Hill, famous for its link with witchcraft and the infamous Pendle Witches.

October saw us on a tour of the Lake District, passing through Windermere taking in the awe inspiring autumnal views of the surrounding mountains before a stop at Grasmere. Here we saw Wordsworth's grave in its Church dedicated to Saint Oswald, who is probably more known for the forming of the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumberland.



Our final stop was the market town of Keswick, where several of the group wound their way to the edge of Derwentwater with its magnificent views over the lake to its surrounding mountains.

We were blessed with wonderful Autumn sunshine until late afternoon, when light rain began to fall just before our return trip home via Penrith.

In **November**, the group visited the mediaeval market town of Nantwich, which has a wealth of Tudor and Georgian architecture and has the highest concentration of listed buildings in England.

Several members visited Saint Mary's Church and the local museum.



December saw the group enjoy a delightful Christmas lunch at The Horse and Farrier in Gatley, where our thoughts turned to plans for next year's itinerary and more places of interest to visit.

The Gardening Group meets monthly and continues to thrive with our shared love of visiting local gardens and centres from which to draw inspiration and fresh ideas for our own hanging baskets, pots and borders.

July - Heather organised this interesting trip to Blackbrook Herb Gardens in Wilmslow. The owner gave us a very knowledgeable talk about the many herbs growing there and their historical, medicinal and culinary uses.



Both front and back gardens were full of all kinds of herbs, wild flowers and cottage garden plants and we had plenty of questions to pick his brains on.

We then enjoyed refreshments sitting around the various lawned areas and had the opportunity to buy plants at very reasonable prices.



August - We were off to Northwich to visit Stonyford Cottage Gardens and Nursery located on the edge of the Delamere Forest. These are informal gardens with lots of shade and moisture loving plants grown within a wooded area. There's also a cottage garden sown with summer flowering perennials and a well-stocked nursery. We were given a fascinating guided tour pointing out the many different tree species and their countries of origin. Then it was into the tea room for coffee and cakes!

September - We enjoyed our visit to another RHS Partner garden at High Legh near Knutsford. Awarded the 'Best Garden Centre in the North West' for several years, it was good to browse the main garden shop plus the various other outlets. We had a very nice lunch in the restaurant.

October - Liz led us in a Christmas card making session. It's always fun to make something to be proud of, followed by a cuppa and mince pie.



November - Back to our favourite location The Vinery in Bruntwood Park for our Christmas meal organised by Tina. Great company, good choice of home-cooked food and Xmas cheer. A good time was had by all.



Many thanks to all those who helped this year. See you in January for the Gardening Quiz.

Family History

Linda Corry 428 4094

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.

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 comprise 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

We have finished our major programme, which was the history of Russia, for this year. Before starting another large topic we are each going to present an individual subject of particular interest to each member for discussion until Easter. After this we will decide what our next subject will be.

History of Art

Mary Sharples 428 4901

Our meetings combine academic study of "The World's Greatest Paintings" with a shared research by our members guided by their interest and curiosity.

When opportunities arise we plan visits to art galleries and Art Exhibition screenings at a local cinema. In October we visited a cinema exhibition on screen featuring the works of Gustav Klimt.

History of Art Group meet on the last Wednesday afternoon of the month at Elm Road. New members are always welcome and no previous knowledge or experience is necessary. You can feel confident about learning in a friendly and supportive group.

The picture shows the group enjoying a very interesting presentation about *The Birth of Venus* by Sandro Botticelli expertly researched and shared by Hilary.



In September we had a very interesting talk about the Stockport Underbanks from Jill Trumble of the Stockport Heritage Trust and in October we had our visit to Wythenshawe Hall, which you can read about in a separate article.

Our November speaker was our very own Tom Fanning who told us all about the history of St Mary's church, Cheadle. Another speaker from the Stockport Heritage Trust, Gareth Evans, joined us in December and gave us fascinating information, and a slide-show, about some of the listed buildings in Stockport. For our next meeting members are going to tell us about commercial food and drinks products made locally which have gone on to have international fame!



Some stayed for lunch in the Courtyard Café

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.

Sadly Mavis Wynne, a member of the U3A and the Art Group for many years, died over Christmas. Mavis was a lovely person with a real zest for life and a love of drawing and painting. She made a great contribution to our group with her experience, talent and humour and she will be missed by us all.



Working with concentration



Barn by Janet Davies



Poppies by Joan Proctor



Winter Scene by Joan Proctor

Poetry**John Barnard 436 4150**

Do you enjoy listening to music? Is it the melody, the harmonies, the rhythm or the lyrics? If it's the last two you might find you would also enjoy our poetry group. So why not come along and find out – as with everything else in life, unless you try it for yourself you will never know. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 1.45 in the URC Hall, and there is always a warm welcome.

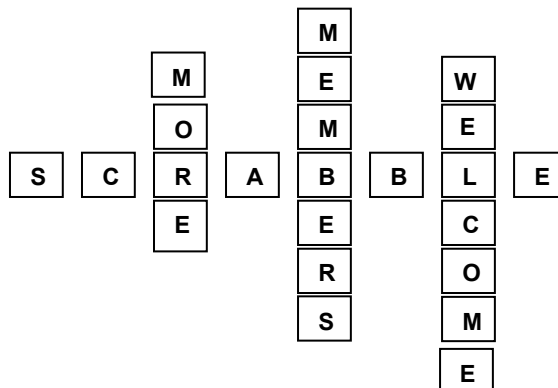
Scrabble**Ann Gane 428 0204**

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****Marjorie Maddison 437 7694**

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).

Since September a team of members has been formed to cover communications, photocopying and choice of music. The group has also been offered as an Open Group in the North East Cheshire Network. We have continued singing old favourites and songs from *Les Misérables*.

New members are always welcome. Sessions are informal and the emphasis is very much on 'singing for pleasure'.



The Group sing for us at the Christmas meeting

Spanish (Intermediate)**Michelle Slater 0771 088 3579**

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!!

Theatre Visits**Chris Bester 376 7909**

Forthcoming performances at some of our local theatres.

Heald Green Theatre	<i>Whipping It Up</i>	Steve Thompson	February 20 th – 24 th
	<i>The Kitchen Sink</i>	Tom Wells	April 16 th – 20 th
CHAD'S Theatre	<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>	Alan Ayckbourn	January 27 th – February 3 rd
	<i>Entertaining Angels</i>	Richard Everett	March 16 th – 23 rd
	<i>Speaking in Tongues</i>	Andrew Bovell	April 23 rd – 27 th
	<i>An Ideal Husband</i>	Oscar Wilde	May 11 th – 18 th
Garrick Stockport	<i>The Last Quiz Night On Earth</i>	Alison Carr	January 9 th – 13 th
	<i>Beautiful Thing</i>	Jonathan Harvey	January 27 th – February 3 rd
	<i>Things I Know To Be True</i>	Andrew Bovell	March 16 th – 23 rd
	<i>The River</i>	Jez Butterworth	April 16 th – 20 th
	<i>A Bunch Of Amateurs</i>	Hislop & Newman	May 18 th – 25 th

Ukulele**Ian Ewing 312 5072**

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 5 or 6 players and after 6 or 7 years we occasionally sound quite musical.

We opened the proceedings at the recent Christmas event which was well received. The small but varied programme included a couple of Christmas songs including the Shaking Stevens classic: Merry Christmas Everyone.

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.

Coffee stop in the woods above Anglezarke Reservoir in November



July:	A circuit from Chinley	(6 miles - easy)
August:	A loop through Lyme Park from Disley	(4 miles - easy)
November:	A circuit of Upper Rivington and Anglezarke Reservoirs	(7 miles - moderate)
December:	Our shorter winter walk, this year in the area around Styal followed by a festive lunch at the Horse and Farrier	(4 miles - easy)



On the Chinley walk



Heading for Lyme Park



Above Anglezarke Reservoir



A sunny lunch spot in November



On Giant's Castle Bridge over the Bollin



Mulled wine, stollen and mince pies for elevenses



Lunch at the Horse and Farrier





Short Walks

Stuart Forsyth 491 3592

The Short Walking Group undertake walks between 4 and 5 miles which are not generally hilly. We meet outside the URC on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00. There are usually plenty of members with cars so transport to the start of the walk is not a problem. We pick walks that are under 1 hour travelling time. The walks are led by different members each month and an e-mail is sent out beforehand with details of the walk.



Autumn around Marple



Christmas lunch at the Boathouse

Strollers

Marianne Owen 491 3323

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.

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.

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
Co-opted	Gill Brown	07972429489

John Barnard and Marian Fahy were elected onto the committee last June, and since then Gill Brown has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee.



Lesley Witton Margaret Seaby Elaine Bowker Heather Wilkinson Sue Somerville Gill Brown Marian Fahy
 Allan Witton John Barnard Brian Green

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; German; Short Walks and Singing for Pleasure. On the 20/12/23 revised list there are significant changes, with 26 Open Groups across the whole Network.

Further information about all Open 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 one.

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

Our website is an important window into the activities of our u3a from the outside world, and we refer to it in all our publicity. We also encourage current members 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.

In these days of high inflation you may be interested to know that our annual membership subscription has remained unchanged in the 13 years of the Groups existence, and there are no plans to increase it.

Editor's Note

Allan Witton

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 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	11:00	Bodega
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
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	Marjorie Maddison	437 7694	2nd and 4th Tuesday	1:00	URC Hall
Spanish (Intermediate)	Michelle Slater	07710883579	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	2nd 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