

# CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



## JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

### Message from the Chair



**9 September 2011 –  
8 September 2021**

Two very important dates for us:  
They mark 10 years of Cheadle & Gatley U3A  
And just possibly the end of lockdown!

***Congratulations to us all!***



Not so long ago, as many of us will remember, people gathered to discuss the creation of a new local U3A group, and on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011 Cheadle & Gatley U3A was born. On the following page you can read Allan Witton's account of the beginning of our U3A.

The 8<sup>th</sup> of September this year, with a little bit of luck, may well be the day when we will meet again for the first of our monthly meetings since March last year! Your committee is planning a party for us all, government regulations – and the weather – permitting. We are hoping to hold a festive get-together, partly outdoors and partly indoors at URC, our usual location, with refreshments and much joyfulness, to celebrate an end of strict lockdown and also 10 years of Cheadle & Gatley U3A. Please mark the day in your diaries.

Very much looking forward to seeing you all again!

**Batsheva Samely**



Landscape by Mavis Wynn of the Painting and Drawing Group

## The Beginning of our U3A

Allan Witton

Soon after Lesley and I retired in 2007, we were looking for something to join to help us pursue our interests and get to know the local community better. In the autumn of that year we heard about the U3A from someone we met on a Ramblers' Holiday in Peru of all places! We knew nothing about it, but she heartily recommended it and so we thought we'd look into it later. When, in 2011, I saw a poster about a new U3A group starting up in Cheadle & Gatley we thought this might be just the thing.

The launch meeting was held at the URC on an afternoon in June 2011 when it poured with rain. Lesley remembers the water cascading down above the entrance to the foyer! Given the weather, there was a surprisingly good turnout and the main hall was nearly full. Tom Fanning and John Houghton were the two instigators of the idea for a local U3A and they addressed the meeting along with the NW Trustee, John Ellison, and the Chair of Bramhall U3A and Jean Layton from Stockport U3A, who was to be our advisor.

Towards the end of the meeting, anyone interested in joining a Steering Group was invited to meet at the back of the hall and to Lesley's great surprise, because I had never been a committee sort of person, I joined them!

After several more meetings of the Steering Committee, Cheadle and Gatley U3A was born with John Houghton as our first Chair, and Tom Fanning as Vice Chair. Other committee members were: Lois Evans, Martin Davey, Judi Marsden, Nuala Lynn, Pauline Hadfield, Peter Bayley and me.

Although we didn't receive official recognition until September 2011, the first monthly meeting was held in July to invite people to pay their subscriptions and to set up Interest Groups. I had met with Alan Lynn and Stuart Forsyth in The Horse and Farrier to discuss Walking Groups that we were interested in organising, and Lesley proposed a Book Group to get us started. Soon other members offered Interest Groups and before long we had around 20 groups, most of which are still flourishing.



The first C&G U3A walk from Alderley Edge, a 4 mile loop, plus an additional loop for the Long Walkers (photo by Lesley)



Lesley's first Book Group

We received a grant from Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund to buy equipment such as a projector for the use of visiting speakers and during the following months we enjoyed an interesting range of talks organised by Lois Evans.

Cheadle & Gatley U3A certainly seems to have filled a gap in the local community and long may it continue to provide the opportunity to live, learn and laugh with like-minded people!

Do you have any memories of the early years of our U3A which we might be able to include in a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of the Newsletter?



## NOTICES

### Monthly Meetings

Mary Sharples

This year monthly meetings have been held via Zoom. It has provided the opportunity for guest speakers to visit virtually from different parts of the country. We have found out about eco-stoves in Uganda and had a whirlwind history of the sixties decade. There was the opportunity to join a United Kingdom wide presentation about a family history of the Fire Service in parts of London.

The next Zoom presentation will be on

**Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 p.m.**

and information will be forwarded via a Beacon email to all members.

The subject is '*The Power of Advertising*' and the presenter is Marilyn Bishop who lives in Devon. There will also be time to give any relevant news or notices of interest.

When we return to normal face-to-face meetings it is hoped that speakers who had been booked prior to the pandemic in Spring and Summer 2020 will be able to visit in person.

### Treasurer's Report

Allan Witton

The arrival of the pandemic, the first lockdown and the consequent cancellation of our Monthly Meetings from March 2020 coincided with the period of our annual renewals for 2020-21. This caused considerable disruption to our renewal process, with members being unable to collect and then give in completed renewal forms at Monthly meetings, and some members being unable to print their own copies to complete. This is one factor which caused our membership to fall significantly last year.

In spite of this disruption, the fall in membership and the cancellation of the large majority of Group meetings during the year, our finances remain in a strong position. We made our first ever claim for Gift Aid, covering the last 4 years, and this resulted in a payment of £1,169.72, which changed what would have been an effective loss of £105.78 into a surplus of £1063.94 for the 2020-21 financial year. A copy of the 2020-21 Financial Statement, as circulated for the AGM, is on the next page.

Last year's large Gift Aid payment was a one-off; future Gift Aid claims will be made on an annual basis, and depending on the membership number it may bring in an annual sum of about £200.

***We are extremely grateful to all those who have completed a Gift Aid form to enable us to make that claim.***

Once you have completed a Gift Aid form, C&G U3A can continue to claim Gift Aid on your behalf for as long as you remain a member.

### Membership Report

Brian Green

Difficult times have called for a bit of ingenuity in the way we do things. We have tried our best to make the renewal process as easy as possible this year, taking on board suggestions from last year such as online payments and somewhere those members who could not print off the forms could collect one if required (certainly a big issue last year!).

In the main I feel this has worked well. About 38% of members renewed paying by Direct Bank Transfer. Just over half the membership paid by cheque with cash coming in third at about 6%. We were nevertheless more than happy to accept whatever payment method the individual member felt best for them, which is how it should be.

Despite our best efforts, the pandemic has had an inevitable effect on our membership numbers. Currently we stand at 169 members. As at March last year our membership stood at around 250. Nevertheless we have had a few new members joining and I have a couple of enquiries pending which is a bright start for the future!

There will be many reasons why our membership has dropped but I feel and hope that once we can start to meet again as normal those previous members will return and I can assure you that you will all be gladly welcomed back.

### Community Involvement

Lesley Witton

At last year's AGM it was agreed that we would continue to give members the opportunity to contribute to Pip's Place by making direct personal donations, since it was not possible to hold meetings and we could not use book sales and raffles as ways of raising funds. Mary and I have now removed all the donated books from the store-room at the URC and these have been distributed to local charity shops. When we can all meet again we will choose another local good cause to support.

## CURRENT ACCOUNT

	2020 -2021		2019 -2020	2018 -2019	2017 - 2018
<b>INCOME</b>					
Subscriptions	£2,396.00	Note 1.	£2,981.00	£2,576.00	£3,104.00
Gift Aid	£1,169.72		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Monthly Meetings	£0.00	2.	£1,218.00	£1,239.00	£1,278.51
Groups	£200.00		£4,187.50	£3,601.00	£2,770.00
Catering (Monthly meetings)	£0.00		£186.25	£0.00	£110.15
Study Day	£0.00		0.00	0.00	£0.00
Christmas tea	£0.00		£300.00	£387.00	£354.00
Visits	£0.00		£975.50	£802.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00		£0.00	£100.00	£0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£3,765.72</b>		<b>£9,848.25</b>	<b>£8,705.00</b>	<b>£7,616.66</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Monthly meetings rent	£0.00	3.	£420.00	£350.00	£315.00
Monthly meeting speakers (one via Zoom)	£50.00		£445.00	£445.00	£310.00
Group rents	£515.00	4.	£3,321.00	£2,928.00	£2,653.00
National U3A membership	£875.00		£913.50	£871.50	£717.50
Third Age Matters postage	£1,139.96		£20.70	£520.26	£413.10
Beacon	£251.00		£261.00	£123.50	£99.50
Newsletters	£24.00		£204.00	£216.00	£206.00
Administration	£161.18		£571.67	£140.16	£210.21
Christmas tea	£0.00		£634.51	£826.50	£760.34
Catering	£0.00		£596.14	£0.00	£475.00
Conferences and Workshops	£0.00		£334.45	£82.80	£451.10
Equipment	£0.00		£184.55	£20.00	£39.45
Visits	£0.00		£975.50	£802.00	£0.00
Study Day	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous (Zoom Pro licence)	£115.10		£100.00	£0.00	£172.46
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£3,131.24</b>		<b>£8,982.02</b>	<b>£7,325.72</b>	<b>£6,822.66</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	<b>£634.48</b>		<b>£866.23</b>	<b>£1,379.28</b>	<b>£794.00</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2020</b>	<b>£6,240.52</b>				
Surplus for Financial year	£634.48	5.			
<b>BALANCE AT 31 MARCH 2021</b>	<b>£6,875.00</b>		<b>£6,240.52</b>	<b>£5,374.29</b>	<b>£3,995.01</b>
Balance as a percentage of income	183%	6.	62%	62%	48%

## 2020-2021 Notes

- Our first ever claim for Gift Aid was for the last 4 years from 2017 to 2021.
- Group income of £168 for last year was paid in during the current financial year. £32 for 3 meetings this year.
- Room rents include a total of £480 paid to St James and the URC as 'goodwill' payments for April to July when no meetings were held, and we had no income to cover the payments. £35 for 3 meetings this year.
- Includes a delayed invoice of £479.66 for 2019-20 and a £660.30 invoice in advance for 2020-21.  
There is a refund due on next year's invoice (because of smaller membership this year) of £117.80.
- Adjusting for the amounts given in notes 2. and 4. would give  
an effective surplus for this year of £634.48 - £168 + £479.66 + £117.80 **£1,063.94**  
Without the 1-off Gift Aid payment the effective loss would have been **-£105.78**
- The huge increase in the percentage is due to our income falling to just 38% of its 2019 -2020 value

## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### Online Digital Photography Course

Denise Williams

I have been on a year long, online, free photography course called, A Year with my Camera. It is run by Emma Davies and I can highly recommend it. It has certainly kept me going through lockdown. For anyone who is interested in learning to understand their camera and taking better pictures, Google AYWMC.

The photograph below was taken at a spot I particularly like at Gatley Carrs using my bridge camera, a Sony DSC-HX50, and has been edited using Polarr.

*(Editor's note: The original image was about 7.3 MB, about twice the maximum size for the whole Newsletter that is allowed for uploading to our website. So I have saved it in lower resolution (0.133 MB, about 2% of the size of the original, so the quality will be reduced.)*



### The Saundersfoot Disaster 1974

Nigel Bann

There have been a number of terrible seaside disasters over the years, Boscombe, Lynton/Lynmouth, to name just two. The Saundersfoot disaster pales into insignificance compared with these, but as I was there, I can give a first-hand account.

Saundersfoot is a pleasant seaside village near Tenby in Pembrokeshire. In the early 70s my wife and I, due to financial constraints, often had joint holidays with the in-laws. This particular year we rented a 3 bed holiday let on the edge of Saundersfoot.



We all piled into two cars. My wife and I and our 2 year old daughter in one car, and mum and dad-in-law in the other, together with my brother-in-law and his fiancée. Oh – and Tony the Jack Russell. I had a pleasant journey down, but bro-in-law's fiancée described her journey as a nightmare. Tony was not a very likeable dog, and spent the journey doing his usual constant yapping, snapping and filling the confined space with obnoxious gases.

We arrived in Saundersfoot at about 4.30 pm on a Saturday night in late August. We unpacked, familiarised ourselves with the house, and then had tea. We had glimpsed the harbour area as we drove through to the house, and dad-in-law had spotted a nice pub opposite the harbour. So, at about 8.30 that evening the wife and I and mum and dad set off for the pub leaving bro and fiancée baby sitting child and dog.



The harbour walls bounded the main road, the first area being a free car park. We turned left through the entrance and parked against the low wall bounding the road. It was dark and raining quite heavily, so we all made a dash across the road, and were soon ensconced in the warm, cosy pub.

Deciding to get an early first night, we left the pub at about 10 p.m. As the driver, I had been drinking Coke and was stone cold sober. Outside, the rain had become torrential, coming down like stair-rods and bouncing up forming a fine mist. The visibility was poor.

We reached the car, soaked. The wipers couldn't cope and the car lights reflected back in the rain and mist. The car park floor was like a pond, with no white lines or arrows visible. It was like looking through frosted glass. Peering into the gloom, I could just make out on the left, a gap in the two foot high side wall, bounded by three foot high pillars. Ah, an exit. As I made my way to the exit, I could see the side gable of the first house on the main road past the car park, and it was obvious that there was a short side road between car park and gable, taking us on to the main road.

As I eased through the exit, suddenly our stomachs hit our throats as we dropped with a sickening bang. The front wheels were hanging in an abyss, spinning, and the bottom of the car had grounded in the opening. Imagine the finale of the "Italian Job". We gingerly climbed out, trying not to stumble into the abyss and into the rushing water we could hear below.

We all rushed to the main entrance and piled into a convenient phone box. I rang the AA and explained the situation. The AA gave me a number to ring and assured me that their local man, Mr Jones, would sort me out. "Hello", a Welsh voice came on the phone. I explained. "I'll meet you there at 9 tomorrow", said Mr Jones. "Tomorrow!" I said. "Well it's not going anywhere is it, boyo," said a pleasant Mr Jones. It made sense. We phoned for a taxi home.

Sunday morning 9 a.m. – what a beautiful morning. Two of us went in the other car and arrived just as Mr Jones was backing up his tow truck. The car was surrounded by a crowd of bemused holidaymakers and locals. In the bright light of the morning it was obvious that the gap in the wall was not an exit. The short road, as I saw it in the night, was actually a new slipway built between the car park wall and gable wall. It sloped down to the sands at the side of the harbour. It had been a short road and exit at one time, and why the council hadn't filled the gap in, or put a chain across, I never found out.

The slope at the gap had only just got going and the drop from car park level to the slipway was only about a foot, but it was enough to leave my tyres about a couple of inches above the slipway surface. The rushing water must have been the torrent of rainwater running down the slip. To be fair, if any of us had stumbled over the edge the night before, it could have been twisted ankles, or even a broken arm or nasty head bump.

On Mr Jones' command, I made my way through the crowd to unlock the car and release the handbrake. This signified to the crowd that I was the architect of the disaster. I could hear the chuckling from the crowd. The looks they gave each other, and me, varied from sympathy to "What a plonker".

Mr Jones gently towed my car back on to the car park, and a brief examination revealed that it had landed on the jacking points and was not damaged, apart from under side scratches that you couldn't see anyway. I tried to explain to the enigmatic Mr Jones how I had got into this mess. He just smiled a knowing smile. He had seen it all before. This little debacle didn't even rate on his scale of most bizarre accidents attended.

Off went Mr Jones with a fiver in his pocket for a drink, a signed AA form, and a smile on his face. We drove the two cars back to the house, relieved that mine seemed none the worse for the accident. Yes, that was the night that I drove over the Saundersfoot harbour wall.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Editor's best image yet of Henry



Robin taking bread from Linda Ewing's hand

Larissa sat on the window seat, her own private little nook, gazing out of the bay window. Of course, it was raining! She sighed in frustration. Her mum wouldn't let her out in this downpour. Why, she could not fathom. Think of all the fun she could have with those muddy puddles.

But, thinking of mud made her feel quite sad. Didn't her dad used to call her Mud Pie? Yes, she remembered, vaguely, her dad taking her into the garden to play saying, "Come on my little Mud Pie". Then they would sit in the grass making mud pies. Maybe that was why he always called her that. Because she loved playing in the mud.

That was then, though. Now, at ten years old, she liked the water but not the mud! Not only because it was messy but it reminded her too much of her dad, who had passed away when she was five. Now, she could hardly remember his face, the only photo of him was lost years ago.

Trying to take her mind off her sadness, Lissa looked for a distraction in the garden. Sure enough there were always the antics of the ever squawking magpies to entertain her. She laughed at their antics. They seemed to be fighting over something shiny. Probably some wet, silvery leaves for their nest building.

"Mum! Can I go out when the rain stops, please?" Her mum said "Yes, Lissa, just in the garden. You can put some bird feed out." "OK mum, but then I'm going to make a mud pie. Do you remember when dad used to call me his little Mud Pie?" Her mum looked puzzled for a moment, then realisation dawned on her face. "No, Lissa, he called you his little Magpie." "But, why? I thought it was Mud Pie because I loved making them." Lissa was a bit put out by this. Who wanted to be called a Magpie! "Well," her mum said, "it's because you loved shiny things and were always hiding them. Just like a Magpie in all those fables." "Oh, well, I just saw some fighting over a shiny thing. They were so funny when the thing was dropped and none of them could seem to find it!"

Mum laughed with Lissa and she felt a bit better at her nickname. She just wished her dad was there, or that she could remember his face clearly. Returning to her cosy hideaway, she daydreamed about her dad and mud pies and, all of a sudden, she had a vivid memory of sneaking out into the muddy garden after it had rained all night.

Of course, daddy had found her minutes later, making a mud pie. But, something niggled at her memory. That wasn't quite right. She had been hiding something! Yes! Something shiny! But, she could never remember where it was afterwards. Maybe she could look for it after the rain.

So, Lissa waited, impatiently, for the rain to stop. But she didn't have much hope of finding her 'treasure'. She might find the Magpies' 'treasure' though. As soon as she could, she bundled up in her warm coat and went on a treasure hunt. Amazingly, there in the soggy grass, was a dull silver looking chain with a lumpy, mud caked pendant dangling from it. THAT'S what the noisy gaggle of birds were fighting over!

Running in to her mum, Lissa proudly presented her prize to her. Mum suggested they clean it up straight away and they got to work washing it with warm soapy water. When it was nice and shiny again, mum was trembling and crying. "Mum...." Lissa hugged her mum. "What's wrong?" "N..nothing, Lissa. Nothing at all. I'm so happy."

"But, mum, why are you crying then?" Lissa could not understand why tears were coursing down her mum's face. "They're happy tears, Lissa. See this?" She held out the lovely silver chain and locket which had magically appeared from the slimy mud. Lissa nodded. Of course she saw it. Had she not found it? Then her mum opened the locket and they both gasped, for there was the only photo of her dad and, yes, she did remember his face now and it WAS him.

That night, in bed, Lissa clasped the locket which lay around her neck. After profusely apologising to her mum for burying it in the mud when she was about four years old, mum had agreed to let her have it. But, only after photographing it on her phone and putting the picture on her computer. So, tonight, one blissfully happy little girl would dream of her dad, with the right face for a change, and Magpies. Or would that be Mud Pies?



Thanks to Peter Briggs for sending a note about the R4GM Renew scheme, together with a leaflet he had picked up with details of the scheme. I hadn't heard of the scheme, and perhaps it's new to others too. The text in the leaflet reproduced here is a bit small; there's a bigger version in a link to the Welcome page on our website. The Renew website is [www.recycleforgreatermanchester.com/renew](http://www.recycleforgreatermanchester.com/renew). (Editor)



**Renew**  
Pre-loved items  
for you, your home & garden

**Creating value from waste to benefit Greater Manchester**

**How it works**

Donate your pre-loved household items → We will clean and repair them if necessary

All profits will be given to good causes across Greater Manchester, supporting those in need ← These will be sold in our Renew shops at an affordable price

↓

Your pre-loved items will be given a new lease of life, helping to reduce waste

**R4GM**  
Recycle for Greater Manchester

**suez**

## Items that can be donated at your local household waste recycling centre

- ✓ Furniture (e.g. garden furniture, tables, chairs, wardrobes, TV stands) 
- ✓ Toys (e.g. puzzles, board games, books) 
- ✓ Bric-a-brac (e.g. tea sets, vases, ornaments, CDs, DVDs, frames, mirrors, baskets) 
- ✓ Collectables / vintage (e.g. hand-crank sewing machines, trunks, instruments, signs, suitcases) 
- ✓ Bikes and sports equipment (e.g. bikes, scooters, tennis equipment, snooker cues, golf clubs, exercise equipment) 
- ✓ DIY (e.g. hand tools, step ladders, hand-held garden tools) 

### Please note

All upholstered furniture must have a fire safety tag attached.  
Glass items must have a kite mark.  
Children's toys must have a CE or UKCA mark.

## Items that we cannot accept

- ✗ Electrical or petrol-powered items
- ✗ Clothes, shoes and other textiles
- ✗ Toys containing chemical substances
- ✗ Mattresses
- ✗ Crash helmets
- ✗ Car seats / Cots / Highchairs / Prams
- ✗ NHS equipment

The Renew re-use shops are not for profit.

Each year, we will give:

**£100,000**  
to the Greater Manchester Mayor's charity

A minimum of **£220,000**  
to the Recycle for Greater Manchester community fund

Supporting those most in need in your communities!

## Where can I donate items?

The Renew donation containers are at the following household waste recycling centres:

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| → Woodhouse Lane (Altrincham)  | → Bayley Street (Stalybridge)  |
| → Adswold Road (Cheadle Hulme) | → Bredbury Parkway (Stockport) |
| → Lumns Lane (Clifton)         | → Boysnope Wharf (Eccles)      |
| → Cobden Street (Salford)      | → Chichester Street (Rochdale) |
| → Spring Vale (Middleton)      | → Longley Lane (Sharston)      |
| → Salford Road (Bolton)        | → Hurtswood Court (Bolton)     |
| → Arkwright Street (Oldham)    | → Every Street (Bury)          |
| → Cemetery Road (Radcliffe)    |                                |

## Where are the Renew shops?

There are 3 new Renew shops where you can buy pre-loved household items at affordable prices:

- Woodhouse Lane household waste recycling centre (off Sinderland Road), Altrincham WA14 5TB
- Boysnope Wharf household waste recycling centre Liverpool Road, Eccles M30 7RH
- Arkwright Street transfer station Arkwright Street, Oldham OL9 9LZ

### Opening times

Monday	10am to 6pm
Tuesday	10am to 4pm
Wednesday	10am to 4pm
Thursday	10am to 4pm
Friday	10am to 6pm
Saturday	10am to 6pm
Sunday	10am to 6pm

### Find out more

[www.recycleforgreatermanchester.com/Reuse](http://www.recycleforgreatermanchester.com/Reuse)  
[recycle4gm@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:recycle4gm@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)





## GROUP NEWS

### Book Group 1

Lesley Witton

We had a fascinating discussion on Zoom in May about what it is to be human and how we interact with machines.

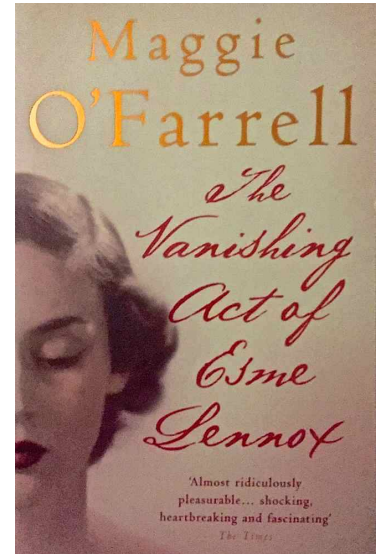
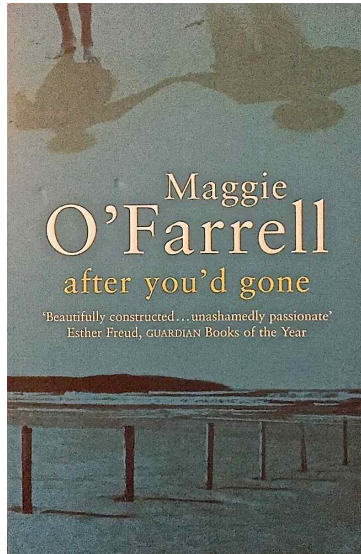
Recommended reads were:

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*  
by Philip K. Dick;

*Klara and the Sun*  
by Kazuo Ishiguro;

*Machines Like Me*  
by Ian McEwan;

*21 Lessons for the 21st Century*  
by Yuval Harari.



The author Maggie O'Farrell was our choice for June and we all thoroughly enjoyed her books. Those read and discussed were: *After You'd Gone*; *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*; *The Distance Between Us*; *The Hand That First Held Mine*; *Instructions for a Heatwave*; her memoir *I am, I am, I am*; and her latest *Hamnet*, based on the life of Shakespeare's son.

### Book Group 2

Tina Kelly

During a heated group debate about how we awarded star scores out of 5 to the mainly library-chosen books we have read, I wondered whether they were all disappointingly averaging around the mid point of 3.

Our august archivist, Pam Bell, decided to check whether that was true and came up with the actual statistics. Her findings are opposite - admirable analysis of 9 years worth of reading

The Covid Years' popularity prize must go to *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. We have been loaned 3 personal copies. A recommendation in itself surely...

We didn't star rate the books when the group started hence the discrepancy in the numbers.

Books read 2012 - 2021 = 109

0-1	★	15
2	★★	26
3	★★★	24
4	★★★★	30
5	★★★★★	8

Borrowbox electronic book lending continues to be a boon but we are nostalgic for a printed paper book. Somewhere over the rainbow....



## Bridge Group

Linda Ewing

Four of the bridge group have been meeting up online during recent times and a very nice gentleman from Norfolk joined us to make up a table for a game. You may wonder why we needed an extra but Ian and I can only play 1 at a time owing to the constraints of having only 1 computer that we could play on. It was very good playing online once we had got used to it especially as we didn't have to bother with dealing and scoring. The programme does it all for you. In fact it has made us very lazy in that respect. Games on this particular site are always against another person and not a computer. I for one will continue my membership as it is very enjoyable to be able to sit down and have a few games on the spur of the moment when the weather is poor in the winter. We have found ourselves playing with people from all over the world. My thanks go to Steve Carter of East Norfolk U3A for his infinite patience in teaching us how to do it.

The bridge group began meeting back in the Church Hall on 19th May. That 1<sup>st</sup> week there were only 5 of us but we all enjoyed getting back to a bit of normality enormously. Others were happy to come but had prior arrangements. For our second meeting there were 9 of us and it was lovely to catch up with everyone and re-establish the camaraderie of face to face playing and having a cuppa and a biscuit. Hopefully this will continue without the need for another lockdown.

If anyone would like to join us or would like help getting online please contact me on 0161 312 5072.

## Bus Pass, Day Trips and Holidays Group

Janet Farrall

This Group is open to everyone and is an excellent way to meet people and make new friends. We organise an interesting programme visiting a variety of locations, and there is something for everyone. We use our Bus Passes for outings, and the Day Trips and Holidays are organised through a reputable coach company. We have Day Trips organised and a Holiday in the pipeline and also a Plaza reminder. Our first Day Trip is going to Bets-y-Coed for lunch then down the Conway Valley to Rhos-on-Sea for a stroll along the prom, some sea air, and a cuppa.

Fortunately we have been able to be flexible in these changing times. Piccolos Café, near Gatley Green have kindly said we can use their conservatory which represents outside space. We meet there once a month on the 3rd Thursday, the next meeting being 15th July. Feel free to drop in at any time between 11:00 and 12:30 for a cuppa and a chat. Notices are announced at 11:30 to keep you updated.

We welcome all ideas, and at our monthly meetings lists are available to sign up for forthcoming events. If you are unable to get to our monthly meeting, no problem; all information is emailed to members as well as being announced at the meeting.



A reminder of the last coach holiday in South Wales (see the January 2020 Newsletter, on our website, for full details)

We are always pleased to see you.

Working together, Janet, Pat, Yvonne and Peggy.

Janet Farrall 0161 428 7883

## History Group

John Houghton

The History Group is maintaining contact with about half our members by regular Zoom sessions. We have been exploring the Victorian era and each of us is taking it in turn to produce a presentation on a particular subject of interest to the member. Some other members have indicated that they will return when we can make use of Elm Road, which is positive news.



In COVID-19 pandemic times u3a members are becoming more accustomed to virtual Zoom meetings and the 3rd Age Trust has stepped up by organizing several documentary meetings that are relevant to our Interest Groups. There have been two well-prepared and well-attended recent meetings on environmental topics; both of these meetings provided excellent opportunities to learn more about key subjects in this COP 26 year.

**Zoom 1 on Weds 12th May 'Fire! A century of the volunteer Brigade'** Speaker: Jo Livingston (Bexley u3a)

**Zoom 2 on Weds 9th June 'Introduction to Climate Change'** Speaker: Brenda Ainsley (Cotgreave u3a)

Recognizing that fire risks are higher in summer and that many of us are spending more time outdoors (with garden barbeques?) or in multi-occupancy surroundings (at sporting events?), this article will feature fire safety with acknowledgements to the above Zoom speakers.

Everyone has some awareness of how fires start but not many of us realise how quickly they can spread and how hazardous are the fire by-products of smoke and toxic gases. We know about high profile fires such as the Grenfell Tower inferno in 2017 and the uncontrolled wild- fires that can destroy vast acres of land (and buildings) throughout the world.

Many fires start with small ignition sources but they should not be ignored; ref. Image 1, which may aptly be called 'There's no smoke without fire' and which recognizes that 'The human nose is a super fire detector'.

Image 2 is an illustration of the first smoke mask developed in the USA. It relies on the concept that it is safer to breath in air sucked from ground level than air (including some smoke by-products?), which would be hotter if breathed in at a typical standing-height

Image 3 is included to show that the burning of fossil fuels (especially coal and oil) is one of the worst contributors to global heating and to localized air pollution. Image 3 is a photograph taken in 1963 of the LMS 'Black Five' locomotive pulling the 6 a.m. Warrington to Carlisle train on the climb to Shap Summit.



Image 1

Hazardous combustion products are not restricted to the exhausts of railway vehicles. This problem occurs with many other forms of transport (especially road vehicles, aircraft and ships). Hence, future generations should welcome the extensive efforts that researchers and production engineers are now making to develop efficient electric cars and other non-carbon fuel based vehicles.



Image 2



Image 3



## Painting and Drawing Group

Pat Marsden, Val Davison

In recent times, when the weather has permitted, some of the Group have been meeting in Val Davison's garden to do their artwork. Val invited me round to a recent session to take photos of some of their splendid work. I have included below 7 of the 13 images I took; I will include the others in future editions. (Editor)



Sign on the gate



Chris Healey, Val Davison, Mavis Wynne, Janet Davies

For this selection I have chosen mostly flowers.



Janet Davies

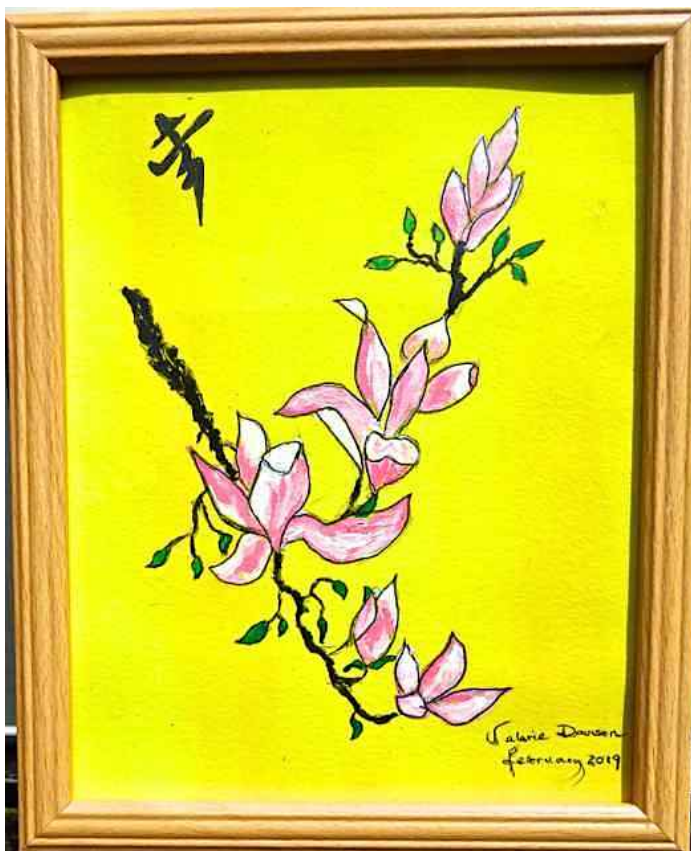


Mavis Wynne





Chris Healey



Val Davison



Val Davison



## Spanish Group

Elaine Bowker

This week we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting since the start of lockdown back in March 2020. We have recently had some face-to-face meetings in my garden, entertaining evenings of wine and chatter. For the latest meeting (on Mid-summer day!) it was dull and cool so we had to wrap up well (photo below).

There are books, CDs and conversation activities to be completed to help us improve, retain and practise what we know.

Most of the group cannot wait for restrictions to be lifted so that they can go on holiday outside of the UK again. Many of you may feel the same, and if you are going to Spain here are a few useful Spanish phrases:

Hola, cómo estás?	- Hello, how are you?
Dónde está la playa?	- Where is the beach?
Me gustaría una copa de vino tinto.	- I would like a glass of red wine.
Para mi, una cerveza.	- For me, a beer.
La cuenta, por favor.	- The bill, please
Hablas inglés?	- Do you speak English?



## Long Walks Group

Allan Witton

**In May** Keith led a small-group walk from Dunham Massey along the Bollin Valley Way, the Bridgewater canal and the Trans-Pennine Trail.



The sign on the building states *This school was erected in 1759 for the benefit of the township of Dunham Massey, according to the will of Thomas Walton (Gent)*





Sculpture park by the Bridgewater canal



**In June**, with regulations now permitting walks with more than 6, Linda and Ian led a walk from Adlington and along part of the Macclesfield canal to Lyme View Marina. There were just 7 of us on the walk; it may be a while before we return to our usual average of 12.



The start of the Macclesfield Canal section



Elevenses



An orchid and buttercups



Common Spotted Orchid



Lunch



## Short Walks Group

Stuart Forsyth

The group has started walking again. Our first walk was around the green areas of Gatley and Cheadle. In May we walked on the Dee estuary and Wirral way. This month we walked around Rudyard Lake. In July we intend to walk on Holcomb Moor. If any U3A members would like to join us or would like more information please contact me on 491 3592.



At Rudyard Lake in June

## Wine Appreciation Group

Keith Marsden

Judi and I were pleased to host this year's Wine Appreciation Group barbecue and the weather was kind to us so we were able to be Covid-friendly on our patio. The food was excellent and very well cooked by John Houghton and David Gane, while the wines were all from Marks and Spencer's interesting new "Found" range. These wines are produced from less well known grapes around the world and you don't have to be a wine buff to enjoy them – they were in the medium price range from £7.00 - £9.00 per bottle and we all felt that they represented really good value for money. A splendid social evening was enjoyed right through to darkness and it was especially enjoyable not to be on the end of a Zoom call.



---

**Editor's Note:** Once again, a big thank you to all contributors who sent copy, please start collecting material now for the next edition. **Allan Witton**