

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2007 – September Issue

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

This is, I believe, what the media call the "Silly Season" with little news – So I will not take up too much of your time !

Many of you will either have had your holidays, be on holiday or about to go. Whatever your status I hope you have a good time. I am staying put !

In spite of the appalling weather affecting many parts of the country, fortunately our area has been spared any flooding although I was surprised to read that the North West has had the heaviest rainfall. Apparently the Mersey and the Lune saved us. Of course Cheadle Hulme U3A has continued

as usual with our schedule of interesting speakers and activities. Also very pleasingly, we have welcomed a number of new members during the last few months. I hope those concerned are being made to feel "at home" with us and are enjoying what we have to offer.

Plans are afoot to upgrade our audiovisual equipment. Hopefully more about this in our future newsletters.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Paul Leigh

CHU3A Monthly General Meetings at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall on Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, on the first Thursday of each month.

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
6 th September	In the Steps of the Brontes	Margaret Curry
4 th October	A walk in Nepal	Kathy Potts
1 st November	The other side of living & working in Africa	David Norris
6 th December	*** Christmas meeting ***	

VISITORS: *Potential members are allowed one visit without joining, and need to pay £1 on that occasion. Visitors from other U3As, can come a maximum of three times a year and need to pay £1 each time towards Cheadle Hulme U3A's costs.*

This rule also applies to attendance at Groups of Cheadle Hulme U3A but the charge may vary.

***** **LATEST NEWS – Alma Lodge Annual CHU3A Lunch – 18th January 2008 £14.50** *****

CHU3A – Events Diary

The following events listed should be paid for in full, at the time of booking.
Please make cheques payable to “*Cheadle Hulme U3A Events*” and send to: -
Shirley Cawthra.

Wednesday 26th September 2007 – 2.30pm
£12.50 & £10.50

“HENRY V”
ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE

Thursday 27th September 2007 – 3pm
£10

Noel Coward’s “PRIVATE LIVES”
LIBRARY THEATRE

Thursday 27th September 2007 – 2.30pm
£14.50

“SOUTH PACIFIC”
OPERA HOUSE

Friday 12th October 2007 – 2.30pm
£15

“THE NUTCRACKER”
(Northern Ballet Theatre)
PALACE THEATRE

Thursday 25th October 2007
£26

AUTUMN TINTS IN LLANGOLLEN

Coffee en route through the scenic Horseshoe Pass, we head for the wonderful Denbighshire town of Llangollen, taking in the breathtaking scenery through the valley; its appeal is definitely nostalgic. For lunch we head for the Wild Pheasant Hotel where you will be tempted with a culinary delight. In the afternoon we take a scenic run through the Autumn Tints and head for home. Lunch included.

Pick up at Fiveways, Hazel Grove at 9.55 am.

Thursday 29th November 2007
£21.50

CHRISTMAS AT CHATSWORTH

Due to its popularity last year, we take a visit to the Peak Village at Rowsley for morning coffee. Time for shopping before heading onto Chatsworth House where we have ample time for lunch before taking our timed self-guided tour through the house bedecked in all its finery.

Pick up at Fiveways, Hazel Grove at 9.55 am.

Wednesday 23rd January 2008 – 2.30pm
£12.50 & £10.50

“AN IDEAL HUSBAND”
ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE

Wednesday 27th February 2008 – 2pm
£10

“WAITING FOR GODOT”
LIBRARY THEATRE

Family History Group

Having decided to leave the War Memorial project over the summer months, the Group made a visit to the Hat Museum in Stockport on the 25th May and what an interesting and



informative time we spent there with an excellent guide. After watching a fascinating video about hat making, which is known to have existed in the area since at least the 17th century, we went on to look at how the process was carried out starting in the bow garrett. This room could be attached to the cottage or an upper room could be put to use. There was still evidence of a cottage having existed in this area and information shows that one family of twelve lived in a two-roomed cottage in the Hillgate area where much of the home hatting took place as late as

1891, according to census material.

The original hats were made from felted beaver fur but due to a shortage of beavers the most popular fur, and subsequently proving to be of the finest quality, came from the rabbit. The fur was laid out on a bench and a bow was constructed out of ash to which was attached a string made from catgut. The hatter plucked the string which vibrated and as it passed over the fur caused it to settle evenly on the bench. This was teased gently into a large cone shape but was very fragile indeed and it was then taken to a "kettle" for "planking". The "kettle" was a cauldron of boiling water to which was added sulphuric acid and surrounded by six or eight "stations" of sloping planks which meant that several workers could use the same kettle. The hoods were dipped in this concoction several times. After each dipping the hoods were rolled out on the surrounding wooden planks with a "planking" pin (similar to the rolling pin) and this process caused the hoods to shrink and thicken so felting up. Not surprisingly the operatives' hands were damaged by the liquid over time, even though they used the pins to get the hoods out of the liquid in order to try to avoid touching the hoods too often.

Soon, of course, mechanisation began to take over from the cottage industry and the fur was cleaned largely by women and processed in very archaic looking machinery in factories around Stockport. The hoods were then further processed by being pulled over a wooden block, usually made from sycamore and alder, to form various designs of hat shapes

such as the bowler. The hoods were stiffened by using shellac. Soft hats were proofed with water and only the brims had shellac applied but bowlers were fully dipped in shellac and methylated spirit and dried in an oven – so producing the hard hat we still know today.

Numerous photographs taken over the 19th and early 20th centuries showed people going about their daily lives wearing hats of all kinds so demonstrating why this business was so important to Stockport. One member of our Group had worked for a hatting firm and the Museum staff were keen to ask her about any memories she had. Finally we were allowed to wander freely around the large collection of hats produced over the two centuries for military, working and fashion purposes. This was in itself interesting for us all as we remembered hats we had worn, perhaps for weddings or work several decades ago! A most interesting free attraction and well worth visiting if anyone reading this has not yet been.

Not content with this visit, one week later about 16 people set out for Birkdale to visit the General Record Office based in a listed ex-hydro whose main rooms are elegant and include an ex-ballroom, dining room (now the café) and a room where the swimming pool used to be. This building houses copies of all our medical cards as well as being the source of copies for all birth, marriage, and death certificates available from 1837 to members of the public who apply.

The tour was fascinating as we saw where all the thousands of applications arrived by

telephone, internet or post. Each entry of a birth, marriage, or death is first made at the local Register Office and a copy is sent to the GRO each quarter, entered into their records and given a unique number. These entries are filmed using microfilm or fiche and, more recently, computer, and stored at Southport in their millions and extracted from their files when required throughout the day by the staff. Reference books are available in order that the staff can try to decipher the copied original entries, many from the 19th century, in order to ensure the copy certificate is as accurate as is humanly possible. If the entry is illegible the enquiry is sent to a specialised unit who attempt to read it and then write the copy certificate out by hand instead of the usual automated copy. Each morning blank certificates are released from one security controlled area

and the numbers are carefully recorded as they go out to staff dealing with enquiries. If a mistake is made when entering details on the copy that certificate is returned to the issuing office for destruction before another is issued in its place.

Special wedding anniversary certificates can be requested and the office also has a direct phone link to Buckingham Palace in order that certificates can be sent by HM The Queen on 100th birthdays or 60+ wedding anniversaries.

After this absorbing tour we were treated to an excellent talk entitled "Sex, Lies and Registration" which was very amusing as we heard of the way people lied on certificates about their circumstances. Perhaps they were under-age, did not have the approval of parents or had been married

before (divorce was not available to the majority of people for many, many years). People upped their status in order to impress and fathers who were agricultural labourers suddenly became farmers whilst some acquired fathers in order to avoid awkward questions being asked. Nevertheless, hilarious as the talk was at times, it was given as a warning not to believe everything you see on a certificate and to try to back up your findings with evidence from other sources if possible.

Having taken on board so much information within one week we all agreed that a relaxing meal out at the Governors in Cheadle Hulme would be our next event in the summer before restarting our Memorial work in the Autumn!!

Judith Durrant

- **"As mad as a hatter"** - Hatters used mercury in the making of hats. This affected their nervous systems and, because of the tremors they experienced, they were labelled as mad.
- **"Pop your clogs"** is believed to come from the hatters. When the poor breadwinner died, the widow would pawn (pop) his clogs to buy food for the children.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is "uncopyrightable" !
- A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second!
- A hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute on average !
- The sun is 330,330 times larger than the earth !

Cheadle Hulme War Memorial

In October 2005 our group came to the decision that we had as individuals and as a group met most



of the aims regarding family history that we had set ourselves. The meetings had changed into mainly social get-togethers and talking shop with no particular aim or reason. We decided we had to take a decision regarding the future and we had three options:-

1. Carry on as we were
2. Disband
3. Find some project, which would be of interest to enable us to research information with a family history slant.

We chose the third option and looked for ideas.

One of our members mentioned a book "REMEMBERED" Marple Men who fell in The

Great War (ISBN 0 9536948 0 1). This was based on the names of those on the memorial in Marple Memorial Park who fell in World War 1. It dealt with their service in the war and also their families and background. We decided that our group would carry out similar research. The book mentioned is well worth reading and is/was available at Marple Bookshop.

The Cheadle Hulme War Memorial is located at the junction of Manor Road and Ravenoak Road. Apart from Remembrance Day it is doubtful if it is often visited. According to the Cheadle Hulme Web (www.cheadlehulme.net) the site for the memorial was agreed at a subscribers' meeting in 1919. The foundation stone was laid on 2nd June, 1920. It was unveiled on 29th May, 1921. The cost of the memorial was £1,300. Names are in alphabetical order and are WW1 85 (all male) and WW2 62 (61 male and 1 female)

We decided to concentrate on the WW1 names, 85 being enough to research. Our aims are to research the men in respect of their war service and their families at the time and historically. In looking historically we are building up family and social information. Members have spent much time in research and we hope to produce a book or pamphlet and possibly give a talk at some future monthly meeting.

If any U3A members or friends have any information regarding the families concerned then we should be pleased to hear from them. Similarly if any member requires any information then please contact our Group Leader or any family history group member.

Our group continues to study family history and any new members are always welcome at our monthly meetings. We are happy to guide or give assistance, as necessary, in carrying out family history research.

Keith Crowther

“Message In a Bottle”



The Lions “Message In a Bottle” scheme, free to the user, is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the Fridge.

Whilst it is focused on the more vulnerable people in our community, anyone can have an accident at home, so this scheme can benefit anyone, including you.

You just complete the details on the form. Put it into the bottle supplied and place in the door compartment of your fridge.

All Emergency Services are aware of the Lions Message in a Bottle scheme. They will be alerted by the use of the two special Green Emergency/Green Cross stickers. One is stuck on the fridge door and a second one on the inside of your front door. The bottle is passed on to a doctor or hospital personnel in an emergency. This will save the Emergency Services valuable time identifying you and your emergency contacts by telling whether you have special medication or allergies, etc. It is a potential lifesaver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and families.

Phone:0121 441 4544 (UK Lions HQ – Birmingham) for details or contact George Rogers, Newsletter Editor.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Lions International founded in America in 1917 is the largest service organisation in the world and has grown to include 1.3 million men and women in approximately 45,000 clubs located in 200 countries and geographic areas around the world.

Lions were originally responsible for the white stick for the blind, eye camps for India and are now extremely active in promoting guide dogs for the blind.

Unwanted Items

If you have any items redundant to your needs, which may be of use to other U3A members, you can advertise this on one of our tables at the meeting. One of our members has a computer desk surplus to requirements.

Please note that we CANNOT have items brought to the meeting nor can CHU3A be responsible for any private arrangements made to pass on any such items.

List of Tradesmen

Just a reminder that our Secretary is keeping a list of tradespeople from whom members have received good service. The current list is extremely short, so if you have any names of people who have provided satisfactory service to you and you are willing to share with other members, please let Joan know. One recent addition to the list is someone who is happy to undertake small jobs around the house – from inside window cleaning or putting up a shelf to walking the dog! Anyone requiring details should contact our secretary, Joan Wadsworth.

Second Wednesday Autumn Walks in the Peak District

Tittesworth Reservoir, June 2003

September 12th 2007 – Tittesworth



The 4½-mile trail around Tittesworth Reservoir (Grid ref. SJ993602) – an easy walk, mostly along gravel paths, but with a few short steep inclines along the way – will be a repeat of a walk we did exactly four years ago. Then, Sue and Chris led a party of 19 around the reservoir; the views up to the Roaches were impressive, the blackberries were sweet and the reservoir's water level was very low after a dry summer.

At the time of writing, after a first 'recce' (for lunch at the Lazy Trout) I cannot speak for the quality of this year's blackberry crop and I hardly expect the lake-bed to be visible on this visit to Tittesworth.

The walk will start from the Lazy Trout Inn, in Tittesworth Village, to which we shall return, for those who wish to have a cosy pub lunch. Otherwise, for relaxation at the end of the walk, there is the visitor centre and restaurant or a picnic area, beside the reservoir.

For more information see <http://www.stwater.co.uk/server.php?show=nav.5758>



October 10th 2007 – Fernilee

For our October walk, Patricia will be leading us on a gentle 4-mile circular walk around the shoreline of Fernilee Reservoir.

On our last visit to Fernilee, in June last year with Derek leading, we had another 19-strong turn out. Then, we took a different route from the dam. Following the path down along the valley beside the Goyt, the river was crossed at Taxal, and we returned on the west side of the valley, following a section of the Midshires Way, along the lower slopes of Taxal Edge below Windgather Rocks.

For more information see <http://www.theshadyoakinn.com/>

A mirror surface, Fernilee Forest and Reservoir - June 2006



John Anderton

COMPUTER GROUP

Website <http://www.chu3a.org.uk>

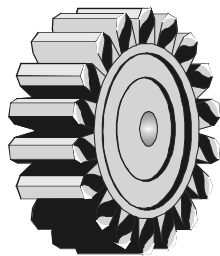
Our regular training/learning sessions continue at the Café Unity in Heald Green on the second and fourth Mondays & Tuesdays of the month. John and George are helped by regular contributors Brian Durrant, Jean-Noelle Aiers, Peter Rhodes & John Murray – Gosh, almost one-to-one tuition !

Costs per two-hour session have been set at £2.50 per person to start with. Eight computers plus a teaching machine using a video projector for large-screen demonstrations are available.



TECHNOLOGY

GROUP



Co-ordinator Ian Reid

SUMMER OUTING - BAE Systems at Woodford

July 10th - Our chosen summer outing was to BAE Systems at Woodford and sixteen people attended, some of whom wished to revisit the site to be re-acquainted with the experience.



Nimrod MRA4 – © BAE Systems

After signing in and obtaining our official visitor badges the party was then divided into two groups,

one to the Flight Simulator and Training Centre and the other to the Heritage Centre. Sadly for the first group the flight simulators were fully occupied during the morning but the party were able to observe trainee pilots at work in the simulators whilst the guide curator briefly explained the training procedures.

Another guide curator explained to the second group, the development of the Heritage Centre and a description of the pioneering work of Aliot Verdon Roe the founder of the famous A V Roe and Company. Roe showed an early interest in flight by constructing a prize winning model aeroplane in 1907 which was powered by rubber bands obtained from his brother's factory which made braces. He then constructed full size aeroplanes for his personal use in which he flew, or rather hopped in, at Brooklands racetrack and went on to build aeroplanes for customers and thus started his aeroplane manufacturing company. The curator guided us through the various rooms where the



Computer generated image of the Nimrod MRA4 flight deck simulator – © BAE Systems

history of the British aircraft industry and, in particular, the role played by the Woodford complex; was described and illustrated with

artefacts rescued by the staff of the Centre, aircraft models and old photographs.

The two groups met again and walked to the staff restaurant through the area where Nimrod aircraft were being assembled and so it was possible to see the various stages of construction and parts ready for assembly.

After a good lunch at subsidised costs in a relaxing atmosphere the groups interchanged. Fortunately for the afternoon group one of the flight simulators was not in training mode and so the group was able to squeeze in whilst the flight tutor talked us through and demonstrated the various stages of take-off, landing, flying in fog and/or snow conditions and emergency actions. This was a most captivating and interesting visit, enjoyed by all.

Brian Pullan and Errol Formilli

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Tuesday 2 nd October 2007	“G.M. Food – Blessing or Curse”	Dr. G. Wilson
Tuesday 6 th November 2007	“Telford’s Road”	Dr. G. Beaumont
Tuesday 4 th December 2007	“Rev. Stirling’s Amazing Heat Engine”	Dr. B Pullen

Technology Group meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Heald Green village hall on Outwood Road commencing at 2.00 pm – 4 pm. (£1 per member is charged at each meeting to cover the cost of hall hire and refreshments)



ITEMS ALWAYS WELCOME FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER !

If you would like items published in the Newsletter, please hand them to the Newsletter Editor at one of the Members’ Meetings, or send to:

*George Rogers
Email: chu3a@talktalk.net*

**Closing date for copy for the next Newsletter
at the Members Meeting on Thursday 1st November 2007**

Ed: Have you a story to tell about yourself or a member of your family ?