

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007 – December Issue

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

Since the last Newsletter it has been a positive and progressive time for CH U3A. Membership and attendance at our meetings have increased. 92 people came to our November meeting including 4 new members. This must be amongst the highest we have had and the new members are especially welcome. I hope you make new friends amongst us, enjoy the meetings and find interest in some of our activities. Participating in the groups is the best way to get to know new people and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

In September we had "a first" for CHU3A - an "away" weekend for the Walking Group. It was very successful and hugely enjoyable. Our sincere gratitude goes to all the organisers. Read more about it later in this Newsletter.

Many of you are aware that the Committee applied for a lottery grant to purchase audio visual equipment. This has been awarded and our thanks go to those who carried out so much work on our behalf and to this successful conclusion (I did very little!) Read on for more details.

As well as the good news we do have a recurring problem – **CAR PARKING!** I have

mentioned this at a number of our monthly meetings but it still happens. **We may NOT use any of the NUMBERED parking spaces.** We only rent the meeting hall. The numbered spaces are rented to others and obviously those who have paid for this facility are annoyed if they find their space occupied by one of our members. It is very important that we maintain good relations with our landlords so will everyone please co-operate and avoid giving cause for further complaints.

Our thoughts will now be turning to Christmas. At our December meeting we look forward to welcoming some young musicians to entertain us. After that, the usual excellent array of refreshments and an opportunity to socialise and perhaps get to know people we do not normally have a chance to speak with at our regular meetings. I hope it will be an enjoyable event for everyone.

I wish all of you, your families and friends, a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Keep coming to CH U3A and bring your friends!!

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 December	*** Christmas meeting ***	
3 rd January	Collective Legal Solutions	Larry Carroll
7 th February	*** AGM ***	No Speaker
6 th March	My Life in Jazz	Mart Rodger
3 rd April	Preserving our Footpath Heritage	Peter Rhodes

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.

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 (details in the newsletter)

SUBSCRIPTIONS are due at the January meeting
Payment £10 - Please pay by CHEQUE
as cash causes administrative and insurance difficulties

Wed 9th January 2008 1.25pm

Chetham’s concert and Library visit
FULLY BOOKED (30 members)

Wed 16th January 2008 2pm

Conducted tour of Stockport Plaza Theatre and
afternoon tea
£4.50

Fri 18th January 2008 12noon for 12.30pm

Alma Lodge
Annual Lunch CHU3A £14.50

Wed 23rd January 2.30pm

Royal Exchange Theatre
“An Ideal Husband” FULLY BOOKED

Fri 8th February 2008 7.30pm

Stockport Plaza Theatre
“Voulez Vous” Abba – the Story
£13.50

Wed 13th February 2008

Snowdrops at Hopton Hall and Masson Mill



Firstly to Masson Mill for all the bargains, free time for
lunch and then on to Hopton Hall, a private house in
Carsington with a splendid display of snowdrops
(entrance included)
Pick up Fiveways at 9.55am £17.50

Tue 19th February 2008

The fascinating City of Manchester with Barbara
Frost. Coach tour with the Blue Badge Guide
Barbara Frost, taking in the sights of Manchester,
both old and new. We then head for the Trafford
Centre.

Pick up Fiveways 9.55am
£14.50

Wed 2nd April 2008 £12.50

“The Children’s Home” - Royal Exchange Theatre
(10 seats available)

CHEADLE HULME WAR MEMORIAL “Age Cannot Wither Them”

In our research I thought it would be interesting to look at the ages of the 85 men whose names are on the War Memorial. Of these 85 we were able to trace the details of 82, which are as follows:-

Year of Birth	Number	Age at Death	Number
1878-1880	7	16-20	17
1881-1885	18	21-25	24
1886-1890	14	26-30	14
1891-1895	28	31-35	17
1896-1900	15	36-40	9
Not known	3	41	1
		Not known	3

The average age at death of the 82 known men was 26.75 years. The neighbourhood lost a large number of young and mature men. It is only when you look beyond the numbers that the men concerned become people who were known, loved and respected by the people of Cheadle Hulme.

I have taken two of them as examples – the youngest, DONALD HOBSON and the oldest, HENRY HERBERT NIDD.

Donald Hobson was sixteen at the time of his death. He served as a boy artificer with HMS Indus at Devonport, Plymouth. HMS Indus was established in 1904 and was the Royal Naval Engine Artificers' Training Establishment. She was capable of housing 200 lads between the ages of fourteen and sixteen. Donald died on 2nd August 1915 in a swimming accident at Devonport. He is buried in All Saints' Churchyard, Cheadle Hulme. Prior to joining the navy he was at Cheadle Hulme School and Stockport Technical College. Donald was a member of the Church choir, Sunday School, cricket club and scouts. He lived at 7 Bellfield Avenue, Cheadle Hulme. Donald's father, Luke Hobson was at one time Station Master at Cheadle Hulme Station and later a coal merchant and local estate agent. He leased a site on Mellor Road to Chads Theatre Company when they quit their old hut in 1928.

Henry Herbert Nidd M.C. was forty-one at the time of his death. On volunteering in 1914 he joined the 16th Battalion the Manchester Pals. Later he was with the 1st/7th Battalion Manchester Regiment and served in Gallipoli and France. He became a captain, and won the Military Cross in France in March 1918. He died on 4th March 1919 in Cheadle Hulme. He had served for three and a half years and although offered six months' home leave had taken only ten days. He had had dysentery and rheumatism in Egypt, and was wounded in France. He was invalided out of the army, and after a long period of continued illness he died at home in Cheadle Hulme. The cause of death was given as acute endocarditis and epileptiform convulsions. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission does not commemorate Herbert, as he did not die in service. It is not known where he is buried. Henry attended the Warehousemen & Clerks' School (Cheadle Hulme School) and is noted on their War Memorial. He lived with his aunt and uncle, Mr. & Mrs. W. Cooke at 'The Thorns', 103 Cheadle Road, Cheadle Hulme. Their son, John Howard Cooke, is also on the Cheadle Hulme memorial. Prior to the war Henry had worked as a Mantle Buyer with Sparrow Hardwick & Co. in Manchester.

Our thanks are due to Mr. John Hartley, a local historian, who has provided much of the information above. Further articles will follow in future newsletters.

Keith Crowther

The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile phones is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112. The mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked.

Try it out !

Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keys?

This may come in handy someday and is a good reason to own a mobile phone. If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at

home, phone someone at home on his or her mobile phone from your mobile.

Hold your mobile about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button of your spare key, holding it near the mobile phone at their end. **Your car will unlock.** This saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away and if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the boot).

Enid Burgon

Editor's Note: It really does work – I tried it and it unlocked our car over a mobile cell phone!

Contributions from members

The police in Indiana stopped a car being driven by a 5-year-old. His mother, charged with neglect and intoxication, claimed, "He's such a good driver." The little boy, still dressed in his pyjamas, told the police "It was hard because I can't reach the pedals!"

Michael Esser, a 33-year-old blind man tied up a 17-year-old skinhead who tried to mug him in Marburg, Germany. "The blind judoka used some expert moves to wrestle the robber to the ground and pinned him down while calling for help," said a police spokesman. "I may be blind but I am fit," said Michael !

**(from "The Friendship Centre Federation"
supplied by Tina Menges)**

December Child

Spring was a time of stillness
when you lay, shell curled
in your womb cave,
Then as summer blazed
you gently drifted
star fingers stretching
exploring your wave dark world.
Breathing its rhythm
you dream of flowers
and the sound of seas
breaking on a far off shore.
Restless in autumn days
falling leaves and racing skies
storm without yet safe within.
Not until deep midwinter
a dark December day
did you choose your hour of birth.
And so it was the Christmas stars
sparkling in snow
that first reflected wonder in your eyes
each year renewed
at winter's festival of light

Alice Rawlinson

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Panadol but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home. The burglar could sue you for assault and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

Four stepbrothers survive him: -

*I know my rights
I want it now
Someone else is to blame, and
I'm a victim.*

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him please pass this on ...

... if not, join the vast majority and do nothing ...

A. Nonymouse (supplied by Brian Pullan)

CHU3A WALKING GROUPS

Weekend Visit to Llandudno 21st to 23rd September 2007

An enormous amount of planning went into making a success of this weekend away, by the organising team – Errol and Carole, Derek and Beryl and John and Barbara – and it turned out to be just about perfect for everyone. There were planned walking routes for the majority, while those who wanted to could opt out and do their own thing. The facilities at the hotel were good, we had half-board and it was very good value for money.

On the Friday, a group of 23 of us set off, in spite of very bad weather, and arranged to meet at the Aber Falls Tavern, at the entrance to Abergwyngregyn Village, Llanfairfechan. It was lashing down and, on arrival, we found the pub had closed down. (Browsing the Internet had provided a lot of information about the tavern, but failed to mention its closure.) Refusing to be beaten, we all managed to assemble in a café (in the Tourist Information Office) further on, in the centre of the village. Eight of the most intrepid of us decided we should go on, as planned, to see the Aber Falls and that was when things started to go all right. We hadn't been



walking for very long before the sun came out, the sky turned blue and our spirits lifted. The river, in full spate, and the waterfalls were all the more spectacular after the heavy rainfall. We had an enjoyable stroll back along the swollen river and all met up later at the hotel in Llandudno.

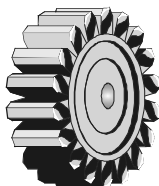
On Saturday, we drove over to Anglesey and – while a few of the group visited Plas Newydd, the elegant home of the Marquess of Anglesey, with spectacular views of Snowdonia – the walkers went on to Newborough Warren, from where we had a most memorable walk along a long sandy beach. The sea was calm, the sand dunes behind us and no one else around. On Llanddwyn Island we sat on ancient volcanic rocks eating our picnic lunch, overlooking a little cove with the lighthouse perched on the other

side. It couldn't have been more picturesque. We then set off to Beaumaris and nearby Llangoed to visit a special café and craft centre, Plas Bodfa, that John had discovered on the Internet. It was indeed a good find, with tea and cakes enjoyed by all – and plenty to see as well. The day ended with a hearty meal followed by plenty of chat (and talk of where we should go next time) in a “quiet” sitting room, we had made our own, at the hotel.

After checking out on Sunday morning, we had a picturesque drive, through the Conway Valley to Llanrwst, where most of the party walked to Pont Fawr, the picturesque stone bridge and the Ty Hwnt i'r Bont, an ivy-covered tea house on the banks of the Conway River. Meanwhile, one car had gone on ahead to Trefriw, where the rest of the party met up later in the traditional woollen mill. Another short walk had been planned, but, after a great lunch in the Fairy Falls Hotel, feeling warm and full, everyone decided it was time to go. Returning via a very busy Betws-y-coed (where salmon were leaping on their journey up the River Llugwy), we then had a wonderfully scenic drive back to the North West. It began to rain as we joined the M56 and the downpour just got heavier the nearer we came to home. Brought back to reality with a splash, it seemed all the more remarkable that we'd been so lucky with the weather while away.

Anne Benton





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 tea/coffee)

2007 – 2008 PROGRAMME

Tuesday 4 th December 2007	“Rev. Stirling’s Amazing Heat Engine”	Dr. B Pullan
Tuesday 5 th February 2008	Reconstructing Faces from the Past	Prof. R Neave
Tuesday 4 th March	A History of Printing	Mr A Baker
Tuesday 1 st April	Hospital Infection Control	Mr J Honigman

October 2nd - Nineteen people attended the Group’s first meeting of the new season and, for the benefit of three prospective new members, our Group leader Ian outlined the aims and procedures of the Group. He then introduced Dr. George Wilson, who then presented a very simplified paper on “GM. Foods – a blessing or a curse”.

It’s a historical fact to note that the interest in GM. Foods dates back to the 1860’s when a certain Gregor Mendel tried to put hereditary characteristics on a scientific footing using peas as a cross bred basis for an experimental subject.

Quickly passing through nearly a century George zoomed into the 1950’s outlining the studies of in-born errors of metabolism which were solved, in 1953, by Crick and Watson with the discovery of DNA. This opened up a whole ‘new world’ in the fields of investigation and experimentation. It was then found that the genetic code is universal and so Genetic Modification comprises snipping a piece of DNA. from one organism and introducing it into another.

George then outlined the current four main GM.crops namely – soya bean; maize; cotton; and oilseed rape and mentioned that two thirds of GM. crops are grown in the USA. In the UK the only approved GM. crops are - tomatoes; soya; maize; and beet.

Regulation and labelling were the next topics on this high speed and complex tour of the great GM. foods debate prior to a break for tea/coffee and cakes – someone’s ‘o’ birthday, wonder who? !

George then continued his talk with the development of a pro’s and con’s list of GM. foods with input participation from us. It was observed the list divided into three categories namely – impact on environment; sterility; fear of the unknown.

The final part of the talk embraced consumer attitudes – information gathered from focus groups on behalf of the Food Standards Agency expressed concerns that consumer benefits are, at present, unproven. Questions and answers then followed this whirlwind tour and much thought provoking presentation by George who is, for those who do not know, our past Chairman.

Carole and Errol Formilli

November 6th - 26 people including new members and visitors attended, and our Group leader introduced Dr. G. Beaumont, a retired general practitioner, who then gave a three part illustrated talk entitled “Telford’s Road”. In the format of subject introduction – this year being the 250th anniversary of Telford’s birth – Dr. Beaumont outlined the career of Thomas Telford, the Scottish civil engineer who, despite little formal education, rose to immortal heights amongst his professional contemporaries. His commissions and achievements are far too many for this short appraisal but suffice to mention:- the Caledonian canal; Holyrood House; Somerset House; Portsmouth Dockhouse; St. Katherine’s Dock; Pontcysyllte canal aqueduct at Llangollen; Chirk canal aqueduct; Conwy suspension bridge and the Menai Strait suspension bridge.

The middle part of the talk centred on the development of a road (A5) for the then, horse-drawn post coaches to travel from London to Holyhead en-route to Dublin. The concept included the design and construction of the famous Menai suspension bridge and the construction of the road over the Nant Ffrancon pass.

Historical, contractual and financial facts, figures and statistics flowed as the talk progressed into the final part which related to problems associated with the crossing of the Menai Strait and the construction of the road across Anglesey to Holyhead. Opposition to this crossing was fierce and political from landowners, ferry operators and shipping lines but eventually the bridge was opened in 1826 having taken 8 years to build and most remarkably there were no fatalities during its construction.

Telford never married, died in 1834 aged 77 years and, yes; he really was an engineer's engineer! A break for tea/coffee etc. followed the talk during which many browsed the display of books and relevant information that Dr. Beaumont had kindly brought along to supplement his most enjoyable illustrated talk. After the break there was just enough time for questions and answers.

Carole and Errol Formilli



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
(as per details in the newsletter)*

**Closing date for copy for the next Newsletter
at the Members Meeting on Thursday 7th February 2008**

LOTTERY GRANT

£3,645

The Cheadle Hulme U3A was successful in obtaining a lottery grant from 'Awards for All' in November. This was achieved through the efforts of a small sub-committee formed for the purpose and comprised your Chairman Paul Leigh, George Rogers, Bernadette Murray-Robb, Brian Pullan and finally, but not least, Paddy MacDonnell.

Our independent referee, the local Member of Parliament, Mark Hunter, supported the application. The award of £3,645 is for IT equipment to support visiting lecturers and provide the means for members to learn and use the equipment for presentations to fellow members. It is hoped to give a demonstration and to organise short workshops in the New Year to help members who wish to expand their knowledge and experience in support of the learning process and in furtherance of the objects of the U3A.



LOTTERY FUNDED

COMPUTER GROUP

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

Our regular training/learning sessions continue at the caféunity 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 !

Initially 17 members signed up and a waiting list of those interested has now been established. 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.



caféunity www.cafeunity.com

The Internet Cafe Proposal was initiated in August 2004. There are five churches in Heald Green: Brown Lane Methodist, St. Catherine's Church of England, Heald Green United Reformed, Christchurch Roman Catholic and Kings Way Fellowship. The churches co-operate together under the umbrella of "Churches Together in Heald Green", which is itself part of "Greater Manchester Churches Together".

Italian

Some members have expressed interest in learning Italian through their membership of our U3A, but were unable to find anyone qualified to teach them. I know from personal experience that a qualified teacher is not necessary. While a member of Marple U3A I was one of a number of people who wished to learn Spanish, but could find no teacher available. I decided to take the initiative because I did not wish to lose the opportunity of learning the language, so suggested that I choose a suitable text book then study one chapter or part of a chapter each week and then teach the rest of the group what I had just learned.



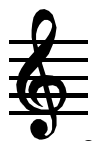
The others were agreeable, so I selected "Teach Yourself Spanish" as an appropriate book,

supplied each member with his or her own copy (at their own expense of course) and we were off.

After the first few classes I started to concoct brief vocabulary tests in the form of phrases, rather than individual words, which was excellent practice for me and a useful challenge for the group. The book also offered its own tests after every fifth chapter. The class was very successful, one member in particular finding it invaluable for her visit one year later to South America, and we continued until I moved to Cheadle Hulme.

As I lead the French Conversation class and am continuing with my Spanish I feel unable to involve myself on a regular basis with Italian as well, but if anyone is interested in speaking to me about setting up such a class I will be only too pleased to help.

Margaret Crowther



The Music Making Group has recently welcomed a new member who plays the cello. This has added a new dimension to our music-making group, particularly as our clarinettist is no longer able to play with us. At the moment we are adapting previous pieces but from now on as we continue to expand our repertoire, arrangements of music will be made for this new set-up (4 recorders, 2 keyboards and one cello).

Gwyneth Pailin