

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008 – March Issue

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

Welcome to this, the first newsletter of 2008. I hope it will be a happy year for all at Cheadle Hulme U3A.

I am going to take this opportunity to give a brief resume of the principal events affecting CH U3A during 2007, mainly for the benefit of the many members who were unable to attend our AGM on 7th February. Those who were present, please bear with me if you have "heard it all before!"

Membership continues to increase and at the end of 2007 reached 223, a net increase year on year of almost 10% and definitely a good result. A special thanks to those who have introduced friends and helped to swell our ranks. However, as I said at the AGM, the Committee does have one concern in that we may be becoming slightly victims of this success. Generally between 70 and 90 members attend our monthly meetings and prospective new members, on entering the room, can find this "sea of faces" a little daunting. On the other hand one of our objectives is "friendship" and from that stance it is natural that during the refreshment interval friends group together, which to the newcomer can, wrongly, make us appear "cliquish". So I would like to take this opportunity to suggest we all keep an eye open for newcomers, those on their own, or looking lost and try to include them. To those who are new to us and who have not joined one of our groups, I would strongly urge them to do so and hopefully make new friends. Equally if we do not have a group catering for your particular interest, do please let a committee

member know. We will see what can be done; we are anxious to increase our activities. Incidentally we have not forgotten the interest in an Italian group but we still do not have a leader! – any volunteers?

There have been two significant developments during 2007. Firstly the Walking Group branched out from their usual one-day walks and had an extremely successful and happy weekend away break in Wales. It was so good that another is planned for the Spring. Other groups may wish to consider venturing beyond their normal routines!

The second, which will benefit all our members, is the lotterygrant we have been awarded for the purchase of audio visual equipment. Purchasing is in hand and we hope to have it all up and running shortly.

Our financial situation remains healthy (which should make Gordon Brown envious!) and whilst your Committee is keeping a close watch on costs, membership remains at £10 a year and attendance at our monthly meetings at 50 pence, which includes our guest speaker and refreshments. What fantastic value!

We bade farewell to 2007 with our post Christmas lunch at the Alma Lodge Hotel. It was our third such event and again a very happy occasion much enjoyed by everyone I spoke to. About 60 members attended. Hopefully we can look forward to a repeat next year when, may be, more members will join us.

My best wishes to you all for the rest of 2008.

Paul Leigh

Dates for your diary (details to follow): -

Saturday 24th May – Celebration of steam in the village of Chipping £16.50
Saturday 7th June – Tatton's first ever Orchid Festival
Saturday 19th July – Liverpool City of Culture 2008 and Tall Ships
Stockport College U3A Summer School 14th-18th July

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 March	My Life in Jazz	Mart Rodger
3 rd April	Preserving our Footpath Heritage	Peter Rhodes
1 st May	North of England Way	Philip Jelf
5 th June	Who wrote Shakespeare's Sonnets?	Ben Alexander
3 rd July	The Titanic	Terence Mumford
7 th August	Beatrix Potter, Industrial Inheritance to Lakeland Legacy	Margaret Curry

VISITORS 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.

CHU3A Events - Please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A Events" and send to: Shirley Cawthra

**Saturday 15th March
Doveleys and Kedleston Hall**

Firstly, we call at Doveleys Garden Centre for an early lunch before continuing on to Kedleston Hall, a stately home built between 1759 and 1765 for the Curzon family.
Free time to visit the hall, gardens and park.
NT members free, otherwise £6.60.
**Pick-up 9.10 am Fiveways
£14.00**

**Sunday 30th March
Crocus Sunday Special
- lunch at Wyreside Lakes**

First we call at Poulton-le-Fylde to visit St. Chad's Church and the lovely display of crocus at this time of year before heading on to Wyreside Lakes for the sumptuous two-course lunch.
**Pick-up 9.55 am Fiveways
£22.50**

**Wednesday 26th March
Full day shopping at Bury Market**

Full day in Bury for the famous Bury market
Plenty of time to shop and take in the many bargains and have lunch.
Afternoon at leisure - Why not take a trip on the East Lancashire Steam Railway, visit the Fusiliers Museum or wander round Bury's Museum and Art Gallery.
**Pick-up 9.55 am Fiveways
£12.00**

**Sunday 27th April
Harrogate Flower Show**

Spend the day at the Harrogate Flower Show enjoying the annual pageant of food, forestry and flowers.
Alternatively, spend the day in Harrogate shopping.
Tickets for Flower Show - £10 in advance
**Pick-up 9.25 am Fiveways
£17.50**

**Tuesday 6th May
Derbyshire Dales and
Tissington Well Dressing**

First we call for coffee in Bakewell and then onto Hartington for a leisurely two course lunch. For our afternoon stroll we visit the pretty village of Tissington at Well Dressing Time. Free afternoon to stroll around the village and admire the Wells. Visit the Flower Festival and enjoy the beautiful displays.
(Two course lunch included).
**Pick-up 9.55 am Fiveways
£22.50**

Royal Exchange Theatre

All at 2.30 pm £12.50

Wednesday 2nd April "The Children's Hour"

Wednesday 14th May "The Glass Menagerie"

Wednesday 11th June "The Revenger's Tragedy"

Wednesday 9th July "Hay Fever"

A WINTER INTERLUDE

Having carefully packed our touring caravan and vehicle, methodically checked everything as appropriate, we started off in early January 2007 on a 13 weeks tour of Spain and Portugal.

En route to Granada, using western France as a transit route we made a detour to explore CORDOBA, an ancient city in Southern Spain and dating back to pre-Roman times. Having found a good campsite in a small village near the city, we stayed three days as we had read and heard that this city is a "must see" visit.

As we wandered through the ancient ruins and a labyrinth of alleys we conjured up thoughts and

the beauty of this enchanting city and, with the snow-clad Sierra Nevada mountains as a backdrop, the setting was really special.

Again we chose a campsite on the perimeter of the city and so made use of local transport. Dominating the city skyline from a hill-top position is the Alhambra, a huge red fortress-type castle, ancillary buildings and gardens of such beauty all enclosed and rising from woods of cypress and elm. The snowy mountain peaks in the background, a winding road up to the castle gates and the whole area bathed in warm sunlight, was the setting of fairy-tales, really magical!



The Alhambra has a very long chequered history and, it is understood that this magnificent palace-fortress is the only surviving large medieval Islamic palace in the West. Another architectural gem to be appreciated is the immense, very imposing Roman Catholic Cathedral of Gothic and Renaissance styles. Construction work on this cavernous building commenced in 1521 and was completed in the mid 18th Century.

Before we continued our journey to the Mediterranean and more warm sunshine, we went up to the 9000 ft. Sierra Nevada mountains where we watched with great interest and, indeed, mingled with the Spaniards at play in the snow and sunshine.

Travelling west on the Mediterranean coastal highway there loomed in front of us, like the prow of a great ship, the awesome yet rather thrilling sight of the Rock. This vast limestone ridge, which

discussed the medieval wonders that embrace the Islamic, Jewish and Christian faiths, as this community live side by side. Also, we noted Cordoba has skilfully managed to blend oriental romanticism with a healthy dose of modern commercialism, no mean feat we thought.

The jewel in the crown goes to the Mezquita or perhaps it could be referred to as the 'Mezquita-Cathedral' a most magnificent and colourful piece of Islamic mosque architecture that is so beautiful and breathtaking in sheer size. In the very centre of the forest of illustrious decorated weight-bearing arches and pillars, there stands a 16th century Christian Cathedral of equal magnificence and proportions to wonder and ponder upon. It is one of the world's architectural wonders, has the status of a world heritage site and is the most striking example of Islamic art in the West.

Arriving in GRANADA we found that several days would be required to explore and appreciate

rises to 1408 ft. with sheer cliffs on two sides, squats high above a small handkerchief-size piece of land that measures only 8 miles long and 2.5 miles wide is, of course, GIBRALTAR.

We allowed ourselves three days to explore and enjoy this almost perfectly preserved atmosphere of "little England of the 1960's." Also we found it had a pleasant cocktail of cultures due to the many different nationalities that live and work harmoniously in so small an area.

As there is no campsite in Gibraltar we chose one just south of the Spanish/British border crossing and so, each day we visited the colony we had to pass through border control and then cross over the airport's only runway in order to enter Gibraltar.

Highlights of our stay were: The Rock including the Great Siege Tunnels and a good brisk walk (with the cheeky apes for company) to the summit and back from the half-way cable car station; an

interesting selection of churches and museums etc; and a town exploration which included a visit to Morrisons!

Further west along the coast CADIZ beckoned us and we found it to be an elegant and organised port with a most fascinating history and architecture to match. It was from here that Christopher Columbus sailed the oceans blue on two of his historical voyages and, in 1587 Sir Francis Drake commanded a lightning attack on the city. During our three days stay we explored the surrounding small coastal villages and harbours where time is almost at a standstill, then an inland excursion took us to the home of the famous Harvey's Bristol sherry.

PORTUGAL then beckoned us. The crossing from Spain into Portugal was merely a large road sign in several languages, 'Welcome to Portugal' and so began our eight weeks love affair with this most beautiful romantic country.

Slowly we progressed westward along the coast allowing plenty of time to venture inland for cultural exploration and some energetic hill walking at about 2600ft. whilst staying at some lovely quiet campsites.

Several days later we arrived on the ALGARVE - from the Moorish 'Al Gharb' meaning Western Land. Colour of every hue welcomed us, from French lavender -purple, multi-coloured heathers, yellow of mimosa trees, various shades of magnolias, pink, red and yellow of succulents, to shades of orange from the orange groves. At the coast: the deep blue-green seas, the ochre coloured cliffs, sand stacks and arches carved by nature, the almost empty golden fine sandy beaches and above: the deep azure skies. Abundance of colour and exquisite craftsmanship is everywhere; none better than the beautiful painted, enamelled pictorial tiles seen in and on many buildings. There are miles of cork oak woods and cork is first harvested when trees are 20 years old. Also exotic carob trees that produce dark brown beans, have a variety of uses particularly as a cocoa substitute. They are harvested, processed and some exported. Not very colourful but just as striking are house chimney pots. Some are grooved, others with beautiful complex lacework, and others represent miniature clock towers or houses.

Continuing westward and exploring at length, we visited the network of coastal resorts and towns as far as we could go namely CABO DE SAO VICENTE (Cape St Vincent) the most south-westerly point of continental Europe. A barren, wind-swept, flat and awesome area with seas crashing against sheer 250ft.cliffs, though during the three days we were walking and exploring the area from a nearby campsite, the weather was very settled.

From here our journey took us north along the very craggy coastline broken occasionally by quiet sandy coves. Roads were in poor condition and several skirted the massive sheer-drop cliffs with the Atlantic Ocean roaring some 200ft. below. We watched in awe as fishermen at the cliff tops reeled for a catch and we were told of recent fatalities. Surfing seas, vivid sunsets and romantic campsite locations will remain happy memories in this less frequented part of Portugal.

Sometimes we digressed to explore more inland villages thus quenching the thirst for further cultural knowledge and also, to walk in areas where time has almost stopped.

Eventually we arrived at LISBON and stayed for one week at the excellent municipal campsite situated in wooded parkland on the outskirts of this capital city.

A significant reason for the stay was to do further genealogy of the Formilli family. Here we must mention sincere thanks to Judith and Brian Durrant, of our CH.U3A. Family History Group, for their assistance in highlighting a query in the 1901 Census that required input whilst we were in Lisbon. At the ultra modern National Archives Office, the very helpful staff immediately set to work to assist us with our enquiry. The only information we could supply was my father's date of birth and also that of my aunt both having been born in Lisbon. In passing, my Italian grandfather who was an artist, architect and travel author had accepted commissions for interior and exterior design works in Lisbon in about 1893, hence our visit. Sadly, his address was not known so it was not possible to isolate the specific parish as there were 52 in Lisbon. Further investigation will require checking other records which we intend to do, sometime!

The rest of the stay in this vibrant and historical city was spent visiting: the castle; several beautiful churches; the Jeronimos Monastery with its wonderful cloisters; the Torre de Belem, a 16th century multi-turreted fortress washed on three sides by the sea; the Padrao dos Descobrimentos (Monument of the Discoveries) a modern angular high building in the shape of a caravel, a 45ft. 15th century sailing ship, with sculptures of immense proportions of Henry the Navigator and other maritime heroes at the prow looking across the River Tagus.

The Portuguese are so very friendly, so obliging and, rightly so a proud nation of mariners and explorers. Integrated with this is a huge variety of landscapes from craggy snowy barren mountains in the north to the arid sun-soaked plains of the south. Amazing topography and climate variation for such a small country and during our stay we experienced a good dose of these conditions.

Reluctantly came the day when we had to bid adeus (goodbye) to Portugal and be homeward bound.

Travelling northeast from Lisbon through the country's highest mountain ranges we stayed for a day in GUARDA, a quintessential mountain town almost 3500ft. above sea-level, and an interesting architectural mix of very old and very modern buildings set in a remote wind-swept wilderness. Continuing northeast we crossed into Spain once

more and over the northern snow-clad mountain passes before descending steeply to the warm northern coast, in time for Easter. After four days of local sight-seeing and some hill walking during the fine warm weather we embarked on the large P&O ferry at BILBAO ready for the 30 hours sail back to Portsmouth and, it really was very calm across the Bay of Biscay.

Carole and Errol Formilli

The Games Group continues to be a popular, well-attended group. We recently welcomed two new members, and in spite of holidays, sickness etc. we usually have a keen attendance of about 16. With the New Year comes a new venue and from now on we will meet at the (almost new) Community Room attached to the Cheadle Library. With it comes all the advantages of a purpose-built new accommodation – it is cosy and comfortable and just the right size for our requirements. I should like to thank all the members for their support – they are friendly, helpful and a pleasure to be with !

Margaret Bohl

Tour of Plaza Theatre Stockport 16th January



The Plaza is an outstanding surviving example of an Art Deco cinema, now Grade 2 listed. It opened on 8th October 1932 as a Super Cinema, more luxurious and opulent than all the many other cinemas in the town. At the time the local newspapers refused to advertise it, and complained that it had been constructed by "outside" labour at the height of the Depression.

During the war it remained popular, and was considered reasonably safe from bombing raids, as the back of the cinema was cut out of the rock face, because the original site was not large enough.

Refurbishment was carried out in the 1960's, when many cinemas were being demolished, but in 1965 it was sold to Mecca and converted to a bingo hall. Most of the original features were covered and so preserved. The famous Compton organ survived unaltered in good working order.

The Stockport Plaza Trust, with grants, was able to purchase the building in 1999, when it was rapidly becoming derelict, and volunteers have worked long and hard to bring it back to its former glory. It reopened with "Oklahoma" on 7th October 2000. More restoration is planned, to include a lift. Stage 1 of a lottery bid has been successful.

We were shown round by Ted Doan, the Plaza's enthusiastic, first full-time manager. We were able to tour the whole building, up and down narrow staircases and corridors, to see the auditorium and the dressing rooms and stand on the stage. We met the projectionist in his "eyrie". The projectors, which have to be tilted at a steep angle, were rescued from a derelict former cinema in St. Anne's, and restored by an enthusiast. They are the same age as the cinema. All 15 of us finished the visit with a splendid afternoon tea in the large bar area.

Gillian Rowe

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he continued walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7 foot grizzly charging towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him. At that instant the atheist cried out: "Oh my God..."

Time stopped.
The bear froze.
The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice came out of the sky saying: "You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist, and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light, "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps, could you make the BEAR a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice.
The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive and for which I am truly thankful. Amen."

Tony Hillier

So you think you can't run a U3A Group

If you have met someone who is unsure but would, you think, enjoy running a group, you might like to show them the extracts below from a U3A group member in the Worthing U3A:

1. "I don't know enough". Most U3A leaders are not instructors so much as "facilitators". They encourage their members to discover things for themselves and to share their findings with the group. To be a facilitator you don't need to be an "expert" but someone who can infect others with their enthusiasm.

2. "I couldn't face a group". It's easier to hold others' attention when you're the leader of a group, than when you're just a member. However much you may doubt your ability, you will find that, once you have your "badge of office", people will listen to you.

3. "It's too much of a commitment". There are at least three ways of making the job more congenial:

- (a) Co leadership: you could offer to share the running of a new or existing (perhaps overgrown) group.
- (b) Delegation: you could agree with your members that you all take turns at preparing the subject matter for each meeting.
- (c) Phasing: you could offer to run a group for a limited period (say 5 meetings) in the first instance.

4. "I don't have a big enough room". There is no necessity for a new group to meet in the leader's home. You may well find that one or more of your members are willing to play "host". If not there may be accommodation for you at a local library, club or help can be given by other members to find appropriate accommodation.

5. "I'm not very mobile". This is an ideal reason to be a leader. Assuming you have adequate space, it means that people come to you rather than you to them. So, if you are considering running a group, why not talk it over with one of our group leaders or a committee member ?

Be serenaded on the terrace!

If you can't wait to be serenaded until August for our garden party you could join the Music Appreciation group now!

We listen to all types of music in congenial surroundings and presented by the members of the group throughout the year. No specialist knowledge is needed or expected and any type of music may be played although at the moment many of our members seem to favour more classical music.

We often have lively conversations on what we have heard which adds immensely to our enjoyment.

If you would like to come to any of our meetings to sample the delights on offer, please contact either of us for a programme. We meet in the afternoon of the third Monday of each month in members' houses.

Joint leaders: Joanne Haigh and Derek Moffitt



Walking Groups Outline Programme

March to May 2008

Unless otherwise stated the walking group meets on the second and third Wednesdays of each month, at 9.30a.m. for 9.45a.m. departure, outside Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church, in Swann Lane. This programme is subject to change and a walk may at any time be altered, or in the event of severe weather cancelled, by the walk leader.

- 12th March** **LOCAL canal or riverside** - area to be advised (probably New Mills) - 4 to 5 miles – easy. Leader: Derek Weedon. Tel: 485 3977 - There will be a pub stop at the end of the walk.
- 19th March** **ETHEROW VALLEY** * – 6½ miles, moderate – a hilly circular walk, along both sides of the valley, from Etherow Country Park, Compstall, to Bothams Hall. Picnic Lunch.
- 9th April** **TAXAL / FERNILEE** – approx. 6½ miles, no stiles - Leader: Doreen Simcock. Picnic lunch.
- 16th April** **TEGG'S NOSE to KERRIDGE** * – 5 miles, moderate with lots of ups and downs. Picnic Lunch.
- 30th April** **LAWTON WOODS** * – Canal and Bluebell Walk – approx. 3 miles, followed by pub lunch. An extra walk this month, to celebrate the Spring.
- 14th May** **TATTON PARK** – approx. 5 miles - Leader: Peter Rhodes. Visit to Gardens – optional
- 21st May** **CHATSWORTH and BEELEY** * – 6½ miles, moderate with one steep climb. Picnic Lunch.

*Third Wednesday Walks Leader: John Anderton.

Please let John know if you wish to be added to the Walks emailing list for details of either:

Second Wednesday walks – easy strolls of up to 5 miles; or, only slightly more strenuous,

Third Wednesday walks – easy strolls of up to 7 miles – or both.

Technology Group meetings

4th December. 28 people attended this pre Christmas talk entitled “Rev. Stirling’s Amazing Heat Engine” given by group member Dr. Brian Pullan.

As many of us know the world now requires a clean, environmentally friendly, and a sustainable economic form of power source. Well, Brian with his keen interests in engineering delved into the history of ‘mechanical movement as a power source without the aid of a steam engine, water power or wind power’.

This was the thrust of his presentation and from ‘bits and pieces’ found in his garage and then applying his practical skills Brian had made a working model of the Stirling Heat Engine which was invented in 1816 by a Scottish clergyman named Robert Stirling. Stirling applied his invention as competitive technology to the steam engine, which at that time, was recognised as being unsafe and liable to explode with fatalities.

With heat produced from a lighted candle Brian then demonstrated and eloquently described the basic function of this fabulous and simple engine movement, which is a source of constant delight to keen engineers. Perpetual motion was almost achieved which is of course the ultimate form of movement. Brian explained the principle of operation, namely the heating (expansion) and cooling (contraction) of a gas when inside a closed volume (cylinder) thus forcing a working piston, which in turn drives a crankshaft for external power drives.

Of course the engine of today is far more complex but still operates on the same basic principle and it can run on solar energy and is used in the space industry, and many industrial and commercial complexes. It really is a simple, safe, and a cost-effective way of contributing towards solving many ecological problems.

5th February. Professor Richard Neave was unable to deliver his talk so, at very short notice, Brian gave another superb illustrated talk, this time on "The history of glass and glass making". This subject happens to be one of his hobbies and he expertly demonstrated his knowledge with the aid of OHP slides and some of his beautiful and delicate glassware which were on display together with a good selection of books expanding on the pre and post Roman glass period.

Brian took us back some 5000 plus years BC to unknown beginnings of glass. There are no known specific factual historical records but with the aid of detailed slides and his excellent commentary we were guided through its history and we began to appreciate that without glass we would still be in the pre Middle Ages. For example there would be no glazed windows, electric light bulbs, electronics, microscopes, telephonic communications, etc., etc.

A suitable slide indicating the required materials and temperatures to produce soda lime glass, lead glass and borosilicate glass was of particular interest, then Brian, with his light-hearted humour, ignited a blowtorch and demonstrated the flexibility of glass. He proceeded to guide us through the earliest development stages of smelting, blowing, moulding and the formation of mosaic glassware before enlightening us with details of the world famous Portland Vase. Interjected with the slides Brian showed us some of his intricate glassware pieces which made the talk that much more interesting.

Ian Reid mentioned that he intends to step down as Group Leader in the autumn after guiding us for three years, and so if you are interested in leading this enthusiastic group please speak to Ian.

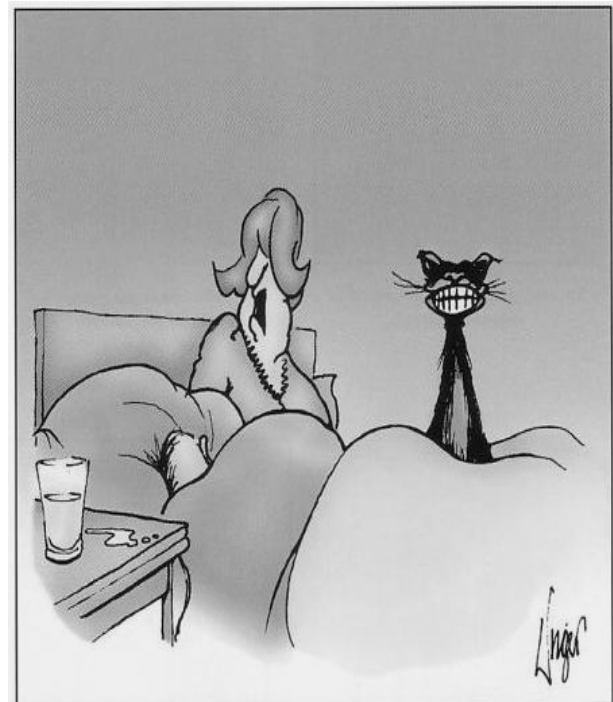
Errol and Carole Formilli

GMPTE confirm that the new 'smart card' for free national bus travel starting on the 1st April will also include the current concessionary travel for train and metro within the Greater Manchester area

Church Bulletins - These actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services: -

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

(Supplied by Eunice Hewitson)



"Wake up. The cat's got your teeth."

(supplied by Tina Menges)

Cheadle Hulme War Memorial Study using Census records

The continuing study of the history relating to the men who fell in the Great War and who are commemorated on the Cheadle Hulme War Memorial has been centred upon censuses from the Internet. Without these records our work would have been even more difficult and would have taken much longer than it has and this has already been substantial. For people who have not delved into their past it is perhaps of interest to know that since 1841 every ten years a census has been taken throughout the land and everyone present in a house was supposed to be listed with details of their name, status, age, gender, place of birth and occupation. Clearly there are omissions but, nevertheless, substantial knowledge can be gained through looking through these records. We are now collating the information we have got and are trying to glean a snapshot at least of the social changes which have occurred through the period mentioned. We can observe the movement of people into Cheadle Hulme as greater urbanisation began and note how this appeared to affect the type of work people did for a living.

We are first looking at men whose ancestors appear to have lived for at least those sixty years being covered in the censuses within Cheadle Hulme or the close surrounds such as Handforth and Bramhall. We are aware that many people then would walk daily throughout this area to their work place, meet and marry and not be aware of boundaries or mileage as we are today.

Even the information taken from two men's ancestors provides us with interesting facts. In 1841, Sydney Barber's paternal great grandfather was a farmer in Handforth and of the seven children who were living with him and his wife at that time one was Hannah. Ten years later she has married William Barber who is an agricultural labourer in Bramhall, close to the Lamb Inn, and we notice that she is a hand loom weaver of cotton and they have a young son who will become Sydney's father. By 1861 they have moved to Grove Lane, have five children still at home, and one daughter has continued her mother's occupation of weaving but in silk.

In 1871 we still see the family occupation of working on the land continuing in their son, Mark, and he is employed at Stringers Farm in Cheadle Moseley. Others shown on the page indicate that this was still an area influenced by agriculture.

This agriculture still seems to be the main occupation in 1881 as Mark is still farming, now two and a half acres. He is married to a girl who is a silk weaver but now lives in Grove Lane. In 1891 he is living in Chapel Walks and by 1901 in Acre Lane. His life is still bound up in agriculture but by 1901 he lists himself as a hay cutter, which would

suggest his work is seasonal. Maybe this is an indication of a decline in agricultural work beginning to show. Yet, when our family history group walked around this area recently, strong evidence seemed to indicate the continuance of that rural lifestyle in the established trees, open countryside and a few old houses, even though these were overtaken by houses built in the 20th century. Indeed, census material of other men's families seems to indicate that there were strong areas in Cheadle Hulme, such as Grove Lane and Smithy Green, which retained a largely agricultural base and handloom silk weaving. Nevertheless, even here there is a suggestion of change as the railway arrived and incomers left the industrial dirt, and with their new found wealth settled in Cheadle Hulme creating a labour market which better suited their needs.

Similar developing changes, although not radical, can be seen in another serviceman's ancestors. In 1841 Oliver Brunt's great grandparents were listed as living at an address "new houses, Bramhall" which could suggest some pressure developing for new homes. However, care has to be taken in making assumptions without cross-referencing as much relative information as is possible, because it is thought that these houses were so named because they were built at New House Farm. Family responsibilities appear to have been important, there being five children and a grandchild living with them. This family had two daughters engaged yet again in silk weaving as was the family of seven next-door. In 1851 the family were still at the same address thus showing some stability, something that was much more rare in the developing towns. Oliver's future grandparent was still living at home, though married, with three children, and four of the household were handloom silk weavers.

A boy of eight was an errand boy, showing that child workers were needed to supplement the family income and before compulsory teaching was brought in.

By 1861 the younger family were living independently at Smithy Green. Both were silk weavers as were ten other people listed on that page indicating very clearly that this was an important industry for people living in what was a very small area of Cheadle Hulme. Indeed, we are endeavouring to prove that, as thought, people from this area did not in fact get their work from Stockport but travelled to Macclesfield by foot.

In 1871 there is the first indication of change as Oliver's grandfather was now a railway platelayer as trains arrived in Cheadle Hulme. Presumably research might indicate a larger wage would help

the family income. However in Smithy Green silk weaving was still "big business" as evidence from even one page of the census would seem to indicate because there were ten silk weavers still at work.

1881 suggests a real change. The grandfather is now a gardener – perhaps the railway job is finished or maybe he is too old at 58. There are two silk weavers in the household but two daughters are domestic servants perhaps indicating the growing influence upon employment of the rising status of incomers and their aspirations. Indeed, the page shows that there are two laundresses, one apprentice plumber/painter, one solicitor's clerk, a stable boy and a coachman. By 1901 the two most recent censuses seem to indicate that Smithy Green hung on to its more rural life and even in 1901 there were silk weavers in this area though reduced in number. In 1891 the page shows there was a horse breaker, painter,

governess, joiner and lorry driver but in 1901 the grandfather, at 78 years of age, was still a day gardener, and there were two dressmakers. Perhaps they were all working for the new rich in Cheadle Hulme.

Obviously this is a mere snippet of the changing scene in this small part of Cheadle Hulme and there is so much more to do but it already suggests a change in work and living patterns of people who had traditionally lived locally. The impact upon Cheadle Hulme of the men whose names are on the Memorial but had families who came into the area and brought the commercial world with all its changes is also to be studied. However, all displayed heroism and fell in defence of their country and lay buried in some foreign field which Keith, one of our members, is of course covering.

Judith Durrant

Cheadle Hulme War Memorial's "27 Heroes"

Twenty-seven of the "85 Heroes" served in the Manchester Regiment. Of these, 11 served in the 1/6th and 3 in the 1/7th Battalions. In looking at these we can have a flavour of the service given by the men of Cheadle Hulme in the First World War.

The 1/6th and 1/7th were territorial battalions forming part of the 42nd (East Lancs.) Division. At the outbreak of war in 1914 both battalions were based in Manchester and formed part of the Manchester Brigade. In September 1914 it was the first T. A. Division to go overseas, to Alexandria, Egypt. They were sent to protect the Canal Zone from the Turks.

In May 1915, 14,224 men of the East Lancs Division sailed from Alexandria to land at Cape Hellas, Gallipoli. In August 1915 the battalions took part in the Battle of Krithia Vineyards. This was an action to divert the Turks from a large British landing at Suvla Bay. By mid-August, due to battle and sickness, the Division was down to little more than one third of their normal establishment. By January 1916 they had withdrawn from the Hellas Bridgehead and returned to Egypt.

In February 1917 the battalions arrived in Flanders and in July 1917 at Havrincourt they faced the German Hindenburg Line in front of Cambrai. After a rest they were involved in August in the 3rd Battle of Ypres (known as Paschendale). September to November was spent at rest at Nieuport on the Belgian coast. November 1917 was spent at Givenchy a notorious spot near Bethune.

In late 1917 and in 1918 they took part in most major actions on the Western Front including the 1st Battle of Bapaume, Battle of Arras, Battle of Albert and Battle of the Canal du Nord. Final actions were the Pursuit to Selle and Battle of Selle.

By March 1919 the 42nd Division was largely demobilised and set at cadre strength. It was reformed in the U.K. from April 1920.

Of the 14 men of 1/6th and 1/7th Battalions 10 died in Turkey and one each in Egypt, France, Belgium and England. The one who died in England had served in Turkey and France.

Keith Crowther

The Family History group recently visited the War Museum at Salford to see an exhibition of photographs of war graves from around the world. We had lunch together and watched two of the "big picture shows".

Gillian Rowe

Visit to Chetham's School of Music - 9th January 2008

What a fantastic visit!

We (about 26-28) met in the Baronial Hall in a building dating in part from the 15th century, where we were entertained with two of Mozart's compositions, played by senior pupils of the school. The pupils played with skill and aplomb and we were immensely impressed by the standard they attained.

Then, after afternoon tea, the librarian, Michael Powell, who proved to be an excellent and erudite guide, met us. We were next taken outside to discuss the very old part of the school, dating from the 15th century and helped to place the new and the old buildings in their historical context, so we could see how they were juxtaposed.

The library was mind-boggling. Chetham Library, founded in 1653, is the oldest public library in the English-speaking world, and houses about twenty thousand books. The books are stored in sections. A reader would be locked in the section where he wanted to read and released when he was ready.

In the room where the Governors meet, we saw where Karl Marx and Engels read; remains of a four-poster bed, beautifully carved, a chained library, a painting and miniature statue of Sir Humphrey Chetham.

It is hard not to continue telling you all we enjoyed during this visit. If you have not yet been to Chetham's, earmark a future opportunity for a truly unique experience.

Jean-Noelle Aiers

COMPUTER GROUP

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

A new series of six sessions starting on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th March replace the previous regular training/learning meetings held at the caféunity in Heald Green. These will normally continue on the second and fourth Mondays & Tuesdays of the month. Peter Rhodes has designed the series assisted by John Anderton and George Rogers. The cost will be £15 for the six meetings payable at the first meeting subject to a minimum of six and maximum of eight members signing up. Eight computers plus a teaching machine using a video projector for large-screen demonstrations are available.



caféunity

www.cafeunity.com

The Internet Café Proposal was initiated in August 2004.

The 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 co-operate together under the umbrella of "Churches Together in Heald Green", which is itself part of "Greater Manchester Churches Together".

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

Closing date for copy for the next Newsletter at the Members Meeting on Thursday 1st May 2008

Note: Committee and Group contact details, deleted from these pages, can be found in the printed edition of your Newsletter.