


Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009 – December

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

As I write this letter, our lovely mild autumn seems to be coming to an end and winter looms ahead with all the darkness, wind, and rain, that that entails, I look forward to my U3A activities and the friends I have made in this great organisation.

Recently Monica and I had some friends visit us from Scarborough, we mentioned our involvement in the U3A to them and their blank response was "how do you spell U3A". Anyhow we told them all about it and I'm pleased to say that we had a phone call from them last week telling us that not only had Scarborough got a U3A, they had joined it, and two of the activity groups within it, as well. Evidently the Scarborough U3A meets weekly and has 70 group activities

My sister and her husband have also been visiting, they come from Dublin, and also had not heard of the U3A, we did a bit of proselytising here as well and hopefully she will be joining shortly. All of which brings me to the proposed formation of the Bramhall U3A on the 19th of November. I wish it well, hope it will work in collaboration with our own, and I will be going along myself to support it. I am convinced that there is a real need for organisations like the U3A in our community. Long may it last.

Paddy MacDonnell

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 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 7 th January 2010 | Birds of Prey | Keith Offord |
| 4 th February | *** AGM *** | |
| 4 th March | The Music of Elgar | Bertel Hutchinson |
| 1 st April | Every Year Forever | Ann Metcalf |

Membership remains closed to new members until further notice.

VISITORS are allowed one visit without joining, and need to pay £2 on that occasion. ***Visitors from other U3As may come a maximum of three times a year and need to pay £2 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 with each group.

(CHU3A members pay £1 each month as from the March 2009 meeting)

Note: Committee and Group contact details have been deleted from these pages. Relevant addresses and telephone numbers are listed in the printed edition of your Newsletter.

CHU3A EVENTS

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

Roy McCarthy Coaches

Sunday 13th December

Christmas Fantasia at Belvoir Castle £28.50

Royal Exchange - Wednesdays at 2.30pm

23rd December "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward £12.50

17th February 2010 "A Raisin in The Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry £14.50

10th March "Nineteen Eighty-Four" £14.50

14th April "The Comedy of Errors" £14.50

16th June "Pygmalion" £14.50

4th August "Charley's Aunt" £14.50

If anyone is interested in a back stage tour at the Royal Exchange on Wednesday, 16th December, phone their box office – 833 9833.

Alma Lodge Annual lunch

Friday January 8th 2010 – 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm £14.75

Menu available from Shirley

Bullocks Trips 2010

Thursday, 14th January Chester Special and/or Cheshire Oaks £7.95

**Sunday, 31st January Hodstock Priory Snowdrop Spectacular
(entrance included) £15.95**

**Monday, 15th February Bakewell market and Denby Pottery
(fully guided craft room tour included) £14.95**

More Events

Sale U3A - A small drama group meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Sale Moor Community Centre. Anyone interested in joining them – contact Josie Anderson on 980 3533. Also, contact her if you would like to go to their Christmas presentation.



Manchester Jewish Museum Cheetham Hill Road

**Friday, 26th February £2.95
(guided tour. 2pm)**

The oldest surviving synagogue building in Manchester. It is now a museum which chronicles the lives of Jewish people in Manchester. The building is a beautiful example of Victorian architecture, listed Grade II.

L'Eau-t-Cuisine

Friday, 2nd July £28.00

Coach from Bramhall, coffee at Blakemere Garden Centre and then a unique dining experience through historic Chester. The journey begins on the Restaurant Cruiser from the Mill Hotel. Four star, four-course lunch is prepared at the hotel. The starter course is served, you sail away, returning to the hotel to collect the main course before sailing away again on the second part of the journey. Dessert and coffee also served on the cruiser. Limited numbers, so book early.

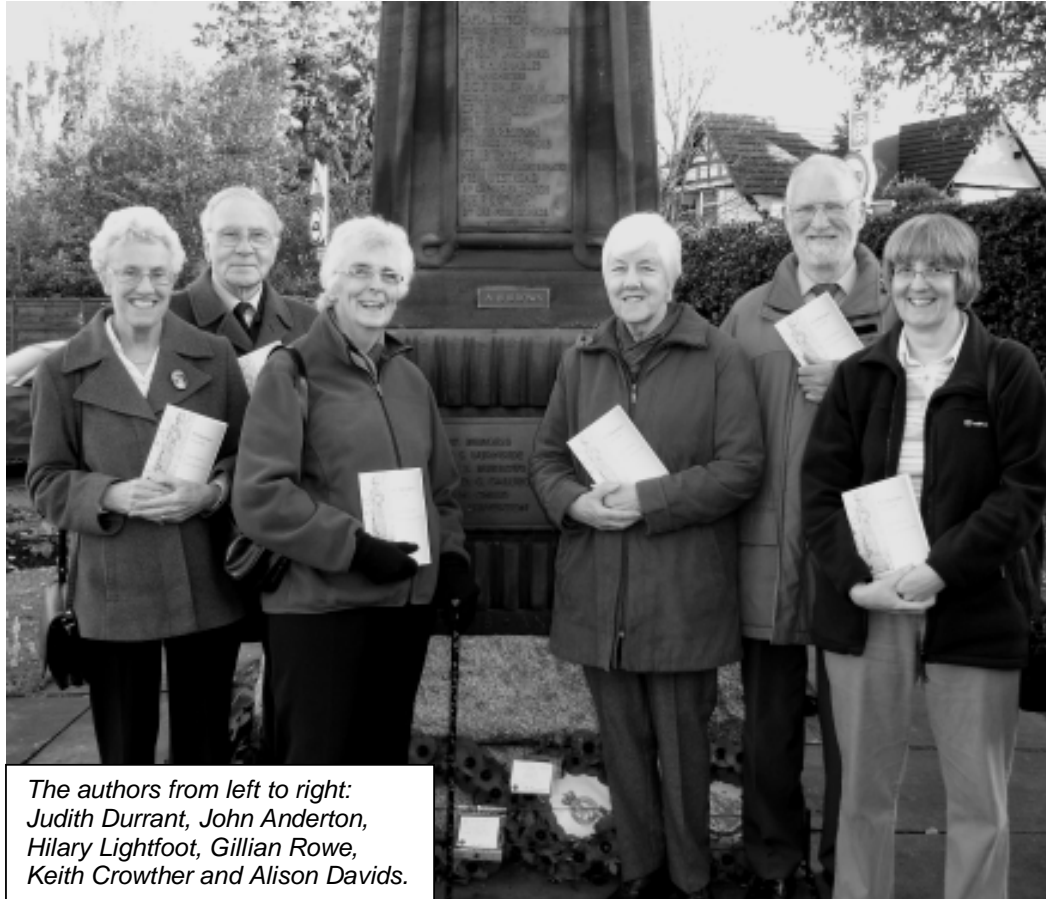


MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

- **Membership renewals are due on the 1st January each year** (currently £10 pa), regardless of the month of joining.
- **Membership will automatically lapse at the 31st March for unpaid renewals.**
- **Because of a significant monthly increase in membership during 2008/2009, the trustees reluctantly introduced a waiting list.** Rejoining of lapsed members will therefore be subject to new vacancies occurring.
- **A prospective member is allowed ONE 'taster' visit before joining if a vacancy in the membership is available.**
- **Renewals and enquiries** to join the waiting list must be made to the Membership Secretary at the monthly meeting in January, February or March, by telephone or by post with a stamped addressed envelope for your annual membership card to: **Judith Durrant**

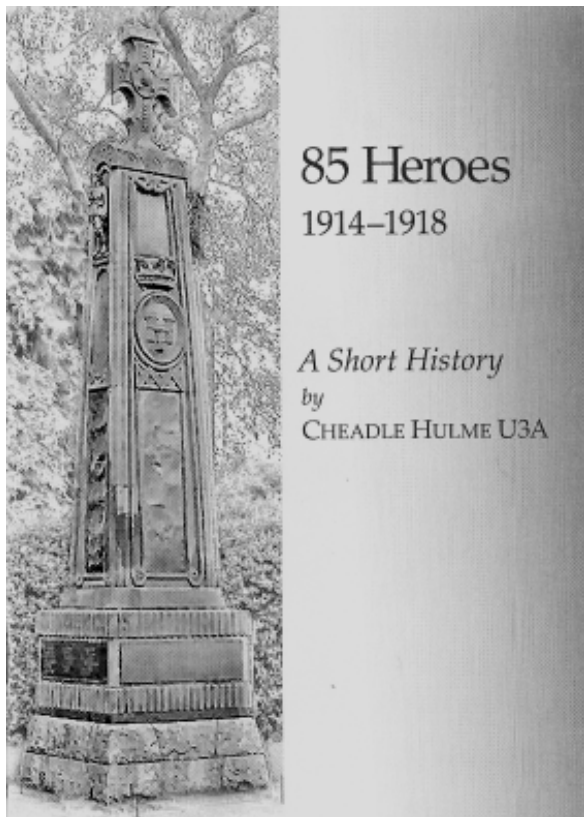
CONGRATULATIONS !

Cheadle Hulme U3A's first publication



*The authors from left to right:
Judith Durrant, John Anderton,
Hilary Lightfoot, Gillian Rowe,
Keith Crowther and Alison Davids.*

85 HEROES 1914-1918



Published, to coincide with Armistice Day, you can now see the result of our investigations in this 52-page booklet.

Some three rewarding years have gone by. During this time we have, through the internet, used national censuses in our quest to find the families of the 85 men whose names appear on the Cheadle Hulme War Memorial. Armed with this information we have located homes, schools, churches, clubs and places of work, using websites, newspaper accounts, directories and visits to build up a picture of the men who died and of the area in which they lived. Finally, we committed it all to disc and to print, a painstaking task.

All profits from the sale of the booklet will go to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) who, especially at this time, have many calls on their support. So ... do buy the booklet, **a snip at only £2**, support SSAFA and find out more about your local area and some of the people who lived there. Copies are on sale at the monthly meetings or phone Gillian Rowe, if you want your copies while stocks last! We would be delighted to have to reorder more booklets.

Technology Group

All meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Heald Green village hall on Outwood Road commencing at 2pm – 4 pm. (£1 per member is charged at each meeting to cover the cost of hall hire and refreshments)

2009 – 2010 programme

| DATE | TOPIC | SPEAKER |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| January 5 th | 'Origins of Cancer' | Professor Pat Kumar |
| February 2 nd | Oxford University – Download lecture | Group activity |
| March 2 nd | Manchester BBC - TV studios | Group booked visit |
| April 13 th | To be announced later | Professor B Richards |

Tuesday 8th October 2009. Our first talk of the new season was given by Ian Reid, our Chairman.

Thirty-one people attended, a new record for the group.

Ian talked about how electricity is generated and distributed. He finished by showing a video about the work he was involved in detecting faults in the distribution network.

The talk started with a short tutorial on electricity using an analogy of water flowing through a pipe from a tank to a garden sprinkler to explain voltage current and resistance. He also explained how an alternator produces alternating currents and voltages and how these can be changed to higher voltages for transmission using transformers. Using this Ian explained how electrical power is distributed around the country and why the transmission of power through the grid has to be done at very high voltages to reduce losses in the cables. Ian showed a picture of a tower, he insisted that they are not called pylons, together with its suspended cables. He asked the audience to estimate how much coal consumed per minute would be equivalent to the power carried by the cables. The surprising answer is twenty tons per minute. Ian gave a short history of power generation in the Manchester area and explained how the current grid system grew from small local networks.

The talk finished with the video, after some technical problems with the digital projector which were sorted out by George. The video showed how tests were conducted to determine where faults had occurred on the grid and also the resulting behaviour of the protection equipment. To create faults at will a gun was developed which fired an arrow trailing a conducting braid through a hoop on one wire and into a grid on another wire so causing a spectacular short circuit with a substantial spark and bang. The event was recorded on high-speed cameras and showed that the power was switched off by the protection gear in only a few cycles. The members of the group were impressed to see a young Ian Reid, looking very serious, doing the countdown to the firing of the arrow.

The talk and video were followed by the usual lively questions and answers

Tuesday 3rd November 2009.

The afternoon started with the usual five minute talk. This time it was on the use of coconut charcoal as a gas absorber in the proposed ITER nuclear fusion reactor in the South of France.

The main talk was by Mr Malcolm Magee, an architect and writer who talked to us about the process of designing, planning and commissioning an architectural project. Malcolm started by describing his career from a part time architectural student through a partnership in Wilmslow to his own practice in Macclesfield. He then considered all the steps an architect has to go through in working on a project. To do this he handed out copies of the RIBA outline plan of work sheets and described the steps as detailed in this document. In summary these are preparation including the design brief, design, pre-construction considerations including tender documentation and then construction. The final step is helping the user during initial occupation. Malcolm then went through an actual example. He described the process of getting planning consents and doing the designs for the conversion of the White Lion in Knutsford to a tapas bar. The talk concluded with a lively 30-minute question and answer session.

Brian Pullan

WOW !!



The new Bramhall U3A group was launched on Thursday 19th November at St. Michael's Church, Bramhall with nearly 200 people attending. There was standing room only and about 70 people provided their details before being turned away because the hall was full. Our own Dorothy Chesterman took the Chair with Shirley Cawthra giving a short account of the origins of the U3A followed by a brief description of how Cheadle Hulme U3A was formed and what we do. Then Eva Wilkie from Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A talked about the links available to their and other U3A groups. The very able Carole Millin, Education and Development Officer for the U3A then followed by explaining many of the benefits of being a member. Apart from the public liability insurance cover we all enjoy she told us that all members of U3A have entitlement to free 24/7 phone access to legal advice via the U3A solicitor.

A committee is being formed from the volunteers who will now choose their new chairman and officers who will then decide the annual fee, etc. The Bramhall U3A is now fact and the **first meeting will be on 21st January 2010** at 2pm, St. Michael's Church, Bramhall. Meetings will be on the **third Thursday** of each month (to avoid clashes with Cheadle Hulme U3A).

TO ALL GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

If your group is likely to need to use the CHU3A's technical equipment (video projector, computer, overhead projector or screen) you need to have at least one (preferably more) of your members able to operate the equipment. This will spread the load, help to avoid damage to the equipment and reduce repetitive requests to the same individuals.

Please contact John Anderton to arrange for a teaching session – to be organised shortly.

NOTE: – Only those who have been to a teaching session will be able to make use of the CHU3A equipment on behalf of their group.

CHU3A Computer Club at *caféunity, Finney Lane, Heald Green*

We had an OPEN day on Tuesday November 24th, mainly for inexperienced users who had not previously been to our meetings. Several 'extras' turned up to see what they had been missing and appeared to benefit from the experience.

The Computer Club has one more meeting in 2009 on Tuesday December 8th before we then start 2010 with MONTHLY meetings on each 4th Tuesday of the month 10am -12noon at a cost of £3 per session at the caféunity, Finney Lane, Heald Green.

**2010 dates for your diaries are January 26th, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, May 25th, June 22nd, July 27th, August 24th, September 28th, October 26th and November 23rd
(no meeting in December).**

We discuss common problems and interests in computing, and although a certain basic understanding of computing is expected, an occasional topic will be presented by a more experienced computer user from within the group.

New members are welcome and no one is excluded. The group is **not** solely for experienced computer users.

Please contact George Rogers if you would like to come. Email: chu3a@talktalk.net

**The following questions were set in last year's GCSE examination in Swindon, Wiltshire (U.K.)
These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds)**

Q. Name the four seasons

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire

Q. What causes the tides in the oceans?

A. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum.

I forget where the sun joins the fight

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs (Shoot yourself now, there is little hope)

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery (so true)

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes

A. Premature death

Q. What is artificial insemination?

A. When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

*A. Keep it in the cow
(Simple, but brilliant)*

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure?

*A. A Roman Emperor.
(Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit)*

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head

Tom Swifties

I was cleaning out my ~~garage~~ computer the other day and came across some "Tom Swifties". As one does, I paused to read some of them, and somehow my cleaning-out work seemed to come to an end. A Tom Swiftie is an adjectival pun. The adverb usually, but not necessarily, ending in "ly". It is defined by the Random House Dictionary of the English Language, 1st edition (1966) thus:

Tom Swiftie: a play on words that follows an unvarying pattern and relies for its humour on a punning relationship between the way an adverb describes a speaker and at the same time refers significantly to the import of the speaker's statement, as in

"I know who turned off the lights," Tom hinted **darkly**.

[named after a narrative mannerism characteristic of the Tom Swift American series of adventure novels for boys]

Here are some examples:

"I still haven't struck oil," said Tom **boringly**.

"This is mutiny!" said Tom **bountifully**.

"I'm the presenter of the South Bank Show," Melvyn **bragged**.

"I fought with Geronimo," said Tom **bravely**.

"I presented my case to the judge," Tom said **briefly**.

"It's a unit of electric current," said Tom **amply**.

"I hate shellfish," said Tom **crabbily**.

"They had to amputate them both at the ankles," Tom said **defeatedly**.

"Who discovered radium?" asked Marie **curiously**.

"Hurry up and get to the back of the ship," Tom said **sternly**.

"Who would want to steal modern art?" asked Tom **abstractedly**.

"I gave the donkey some vinegar," said Tom **acidly**.

"My investments are worth more every day," said Tom **appreciatively**.

"You have the right to remain silent," said Tom **arrestingly**.

Paddy MacDonnell

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 (preferably) email to chu3a@talktalk.net or post to:

George Rogers

**Closing date for contributions to the March 2010 Newsletter
is the Members' Meeting on the 1st Thursday in February 2010**

Website www.chu3a.org.uk

***** This space has been reserved for your short article *****

Go on, give it a go. Don't be shy.

It can't hurt and you never know, you may even enjoy it; others have !

Autumn Walking Weekend

The autumn weekend for the walkers was to Market Bosworth about eighty five miles away in the county of Leicestershire. We arrived at our



The Bosworth Hall, Leicestershire

rather splendid hotel, The Bosworth Hall, about 12.30 pm. After lunch our first outing was to Bosworth Battlefield for a guided tour. Not too sure how Henry Tudor with 6000 men managed to defeat Richard III with 12,000 men. As to where it happened seems to be anybody's guess as they cannot find any evidence! The very good museum was a help and the coffee shop excellent. One sensible member didn't fancy getting her feet wet so test drove a motorised scooter. She passed with flying colours.

On the second day, a lovely day weather wise, we set off on our four and a half mile walk organised by Sue and Pamela. I must congratulate them on their choice of venue for our lunch which was Shackerstone station on "Thomas the Tank" fun day. Can you picture a

group of elderly folk eating their sandwiches sitting on the platform watching Thomas the Tank and Denzil Diesel racing up and down the track! The ice cream was good too! We did eventually continue the walk along the canal. A good day and it wasn't over yet! Our mystery murder was to be enacted that evening. The best laugh for some of us for a long time. It didn't quite go according to the script but the adlibbing was a great improvement. I think Vera has missed her way. A very enjoyable evening. I think the walking group might branch out into amateur dramatics!

Day three and the weather was not so good. The group decided to split into two groups, the planned walk and a slightly shorter one from the hotel. The organised one started at Ibstock and again the place for lunch was improbable. It was quite wet so when we saw a football ground we wondered if there were any benches around. We did better than that – we sat in the stand of Elistown FC. Three rows of 10 tip-up seats, very little room but with a roof. Some people made their way to the club hut for a pint with the team. A very friendly bunch who allowed us to use their facilities (not the showers). On returning to the hotel we had time to explore the grounds, village and St. Peter's Church, all on the doorstep.

On our last day we made our way to Lichfield. After a coffee in the Garrick Theatre lounge we joined a guided tour of the town. After lunch there was just enough time to visit the Cathedral. It was a most enjoyable weekend. Thank you Joan and Ken for all your hard work.

Anne Webster

The cream tea walk

It was Saturday evening and Eunice and I were feeling a little weary after a splendid walk led by Sue and Pamela. It was Sue who heard me saying that I didn't fancy a 5 mile walk the next day. I have just the thing for you she said brandishing a typed sheet and sketch map from a book of teashop walks.

I don't know if it was the idea of a cream tea at lunch time (yes I know that seems a bit bizarre) but 11 people turned up for this 4 mile walk from the village. It was rather drizzly as we set off down a gated road shortly arriving at Sutton Cheney. It was here that we expected to locate the teashop only to be told by a local man out walking with his dog that the teashop closed 5 years ago! However all was not lost for he directed us to a local hostelry, The Hercule, which was the name of a famous race horse. We were made very welcome even though we didn't want the advertised Sunday lunch. After soup and three kinds of bread we set off again through fields and Bosworth Park to arrive back in the village for the cream tea which had been the object of the walk in the first place!

I have to say that this was a perfect end to our walk especially as it was still rather drizzly. The cream tea included strawberries and was quite delicious. So thanks Sue and your book of teashop walks!

Alice Rawlinson

Note: Committee and Group contact details are listed in the printed edition of your Newsletter.