

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2010 – September

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Report

You may well be reading this as we commence the debate on our future course as a U3A. Margaret Bohl's paper has certainly provided us with the catalyst that made your committee take a contemplative look at our U3A's conduct and activities. I urge you also to think about ways that our organization might be improved.

The debate will focus on ways that our U3A might be enhanced. Everything is up for grabs – it is not just a discussion on Margaret's suggestions. You might want to propose new groups or a change in the way we welcome new members or a different format for the monthly meeting. On the other hand you might think that things are fine as they are. You might want a large/small sub-committee to look into things; alternatively you might feel the debate has highlighted enough areas for improvement.

Remember this is your organization; its purpose is to serve your needs, so please help us by contributing to the debate.

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 |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 2 nd Sept | Roman Manchester | Brian Redhead |
| 7 th Oct | Feathered Friends | Peter Rhodes |
| 4 th Nov | "85 Heroes" | CHU3A team |
| 2 nd Dec | *** Christmas Meeting *** | |

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)

The Bramhall U3A website has now been revised by Charlie Barker.
It is now possible to see all the groups and details of the outings:
<http://www.bramhallu3a.org.uk/>

Note: Committee and Group contact details have been omitted from these pages and can be found in the printed edition of your Newsletter

CHU3A EVENTS

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

Royal Exchange

Wednesday November 3rd 2.30pm £15.50
The Lady From the Sea

Wednesday December 1st 2.30pm £15.50
The Bacchae

Alma Lodge

Annual lunch Friday January 28th 2011 £14.75

Alas, Shirley will no longer be organising the events, other than those above. We owe her a big debt of gratitude for the many years she has single-handedly done this on our behalf - **Thank you Shirley.**

As this month's discussion centres around the possible future of our U3A group, it is perhaps timely to consider how we organise future events and outings. It would perhaps be wise to consider spreading the load by having a small group to share the responsibility rather than relying on one individual. What do you think? Would you like to become involved? Now is the time to contribute.

Wrong Address

An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter in the address, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before.

When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen:

Dearest Wife,
Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow.
Your Loving Husband

Ps. *Sure is hot down here.*

Tina Menges "The Friendship Centre Federation".

Walking Group's Long Weekend - North Wales



Photos: Peter Rhodes

“For the first time Joan and Ken decided to use the services of a holiday company to arrange the accommodation and organise the walks, along with the excursions for non-walking members of the trip.

After meeting our guides at the hotel a walk up to Halkyn gave us our first view of this area of Wales. The walk of about four miles broke us in gently for what was to come. The evening entertainment was a presentation from one of our hosts on the 'Drovers Roads'.

Saturday was to prove to be a most enjoyable day. Transport took us to Denbigh Castle and the circular walk of about 7 miles to Henllan and back was pleasant indeed. The only drawback was the many stiles which were difficult to negotiate and made us feel that the local farmers didn't welcome walkers. However, a lunch stop at the pub in the village of Henllan, and a 'free' pint went down well.

The highlight of the day was the return to Castle House, a magnificent Georgian residence of eight bedrooms which is run as a five star bed and breakfast. We were promised afternoon tea but none

of us expected the home made scones, fresh cream, jam and strawberries which were served in such magnificent surroundings; a truly wonderful experience. Our host's Group, appropriately called 'Muddy Boots', provided the evening's entertainment and a talented set of musicians they proved to be.



Sunday's walk around the Penycloddiau area was harder than many had undertaken for some time, but no less enjoyable for that. The excellent evening quiz, provided by Brian and Sylvia, created keen competition and a close finish.

On Monday the planned walk from Rhuddlan to Rhyl was not possible because of overhead power cable works but a new route from the town to St Asaph was quickly organised. Thank goodness for our guide's local knowledge.

Finally our thanks go to Bob Eckersall and the staff of Clwydian Walking Holidays, along with the Springfield Hotel, for looking after us so well and making this a weekend that will be remembered for a long time. Thanks are also due to Joan and Ken for all their work on our behalf."

Peter Rhodes

"**The non-walkers** attached to the walking group had an excellent set of excursions arranged for them. We visited St. Asaph Cathedral, the smallest ancient cathedral in the UK, and then a small church near Llanrhaeadr which had medieval stained glass and what was effectively the prototype for the Wurlitzer organ. After that we went to a local pottery and visited Loggerheads Country Park, following all this with afternoon tea in Denbigh. On Sunday we were taken to Bodelwyddan Castle which, amongst other attractions, has a collection of portraits on permanent loan from the National Portrait Gallery. We ate our sandwiches at Tweedmill Outlet Centre, which allowed some of the party to indulge their shopping needs, and we then went on to Ruthin where we visited Nant Clywd house. The current building was commenced in the 1450's and reminded us all in many ways of Staircase House in Stockport. All in all we had a most interesting time exploring this part of North Wales and would like to thank Clwydian Walking Holidays for the excellent arrangements they made on our behalf and the care they took of us when out and about with them."

Sylvia Pullan

"Saturday's visit to St Asaph cathedral provided an interesting and informative talk on its history, followed by a tour of the town. After a picnic we were taken to the top of Moel Famau for a wonderful view of the mountains. We set off on a short walk to the Jubilee Tower, erected for Queen Victoria, but did not manage to reach that far.

Afterwards we were treated to an evening of 60's music by our hosts. Brian and Sylvia provided us all with a quiz to complete the Sunday evening. Sadly all good things come to an end and after the short walk on Monday it was time to return home."

Ann Allison

"Having just returned from the U3A holiday 13th-16th August based in the Clwydian area of North Wales, I felt I should tell you how splendid it was. Our organisers Joan & Ken are to be complimented for the attention to detail. I did not participate in the walks but non walkers were provided with an enviable range of memorable visits"

Margaret Brown

"It was the best U3A trip yet and as the company motto says we were 'Looked After - Every Step of the Way'. The Springfield is newly refurbished and enjoys beautiful views over the Mersey estuary to Liverpool and Runcorn. Food was good, as long as we do not mention the bread! The non-walkers were provided with an enviable programme of visits to interesting places but the more energetic stuck to their guns and accomplished some challenging walks. On Sunday some were ferried back to the sight seeing party before we tackled a steep upward track along Offa's Dyke.



Ed: Ken & Joan's room looked something like this !

On Monday we walked from Ruthin Castle to St Asaph enjoying the magnificent view from Bonk Hill, an Iron Age hill fort."

Joan and Ken Clifford

APOLOGIES FROM THE EDITOR: I neglected to credit the two superb photographs taken to illustrate the article on the Manchester Jewish Museum (page 3 – June 2010 issue) to Julienne Taylor. It is important that due credit is given where possible when members make an effort to contribute; so please accept my apologies Julienne.

York Spring Break - 14th to 18th March 2011

Having successfully completed one holiday, Ken & Joan have now made a provisional booking for four night's dinner, bed and breakfast at the **Newington Hotel in York** from **Monday 14 March 2011 to Friday 18 March 2011**. All the single rooms (at £180 per person) have been booked. 2 sharing a double/twin is £139.95 per person and single use of a double or twin is £230 per person.

A non refundable deposit of £25 per head is required no later than the 10th September. Any expressions of interest after that date will depend on room availability at the hotel.

Ken and Joan will be taking care of the walkers and it is hoped that those who do not wish to walk will get together to arrange trips to places of interest in and around York.

While the organisers will try to arrange lifts to minimise cars on grounds of economy and ecology it must be understood that they are not tour operators and in the absence of sufficient people who are able or willing to car-share, participants must make their own travel arrangements.

As fewer of our members drive enquiries are being made about coaches and trains, with the thought that if the worst comes to the worst it may be possible to arrange favourable group travel rates.

All replies and enquiries should be made directly to Joan and Ken Clifford

Play reading:

We are a group who enjoy an informal afternoon together reading through various types of Plays.

No rehearsals, no lines to learn, no props or costumes needed: just the enjoyment of the spoken word. Various people take the different Parts, and depending on numbers those not reading act as the audience.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month in each other's houses. Plays are readily available from Stockport Library.

Meeting time 1.45 for a 2pm start.

Patricia Kenny

Friday Discussion Group

We are a friendly group that meet on the second Friday in the month at 2.00 pm in group members homes.

We welcome new ideas and enquiries about membership. Future topics include:

- 'Can we afford measures to combat Global Warming? Can we afford not to?'
- 'My Ideal Day.'
- 'A debate on whether University education should be privatised.'
- 'The strengths and weaknesses of a coalition government in the UK.'

If interested please contact the Co-ordinator, Peter Hopkins.

Ed: One of the benefits of being a member of the U3A:

"In November 2009 our car was severely damaged on the nearside whilst parked outside a house in Timperley.

We had an idea who was responsible but he denied it even though his car was damaged and he was unable to say how or when the damage occurred.

I spoke to Sarah, a solicitor at the address given to me by the U3A. After listening patiently to my full story she advised me that I had a strong case to proceed to the small claims court.

I instituted proceedings in the civil court and after many denials of responsibility his insurance company appointed a solicitor who advised that they should accept the claim without prejudice.

We are now in the happy position that we will receive almost £1200 from his insurance company to cover all our cost of repair and court action.

So I would say to any member who requires legal advice free of charge to use the service provided by the U3A"

John Murray

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)

Autumn Programme 2010

| DATE | TOPIC | SPEAKER |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 5 October | Roman Glass | Dr B. Hoffmann |
| 2 November | Engaging with Communications | Prof. N. Linge |
| 7 December | The Origins of Cancer | Prof. P. Kumar |

ITEMS ARE 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 December 2010 Newsletter
is the Members' Meeting on the 1st Thursday in November 2010**

Website: www.chu3a.org.uk

EVER WONDER ...

Why people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why we leave cars worth thousands of pounds in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage?

Why Tesco's make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front ?

Art Appreciation

Visit to Wightwick Manor and Walsall Art Gallery

Our summer outing to Wightwick Manor and The New Art Gallery in Walsall concluded the first full season of the Art Appreciation group. The sun smiled on us as we promenaded in the lovely gardens of Wightwick Manor (pronounced 'Wittick') near Wolverhampton. It was Sue



Greenhough's idea to visit here where she especially enjoyed the roses.

The manor was completed in 1887 and extended in 1893. The house and furnishings were both heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement with original wallpapers and fabrics mainly by William Morris, the father of the movement, tiles by De Morgan and glass by Kempe, together with Pre-Raphaelite works of art. Most of the furnishings are original, including the early light fittings and even an early electric light bulb manufactured by Swan and Company, complete with its pointed end. (Joseph Swan was the co-inventor, with Edison, of the incandescent lamp). It is fascinating to think that the wallpapers in the house are over 100 years old and still look good today.

If anyone fancies having some Morris wallpapers then these are still manufactured but no doubt at a price.

I also spied some fabrics by Charles Voysey, notably the winged chair in the 'Great Hall' and

also the curtains in the nursery. Like Morris, his designs are very recognisable.

One point of interest in the design of the house is that the 'Great Hall' is based on mediaeval designs but the architect of the house, Edward Oswald of Liverpool, cleverly

incorporated at least two subtle clues to indicate that it is not a faithful copy. One is the depiction of a kangaroo shown on a freeze and the other is that the entrance to the room is opposite the minstrel's gallery, not below it, as in mediaeval halls.

In the afternoon we visited the New Art Gallery at Walsall. The building itself is quite interesting as, for example, the windows are designed to be types of paintings, where each window has a specific vista of the town. The top floor included a sort of balcony where one could enjoy vistas of Walsall. It

reminded me of the balcony at the Reichstag in Berlin where it is possible to walk round the famous glass dome designed by Norman Foster and enjoy fine views of the city.

We commenced our visit with a specially tailored talk about the background to the Garman Ryan Collection. This is a personal collection of art and artefacts given to Walsall by Sir Jacob Epstein's widow, Kathleen Garman and her close friend, sculptor, Sally Ryan. This included works by many famous artists including Van Gogh, Constable and Picasso.

Current exhibitions included works by Matthew Houlding who is renowned apparently for his 'beautifully detailed sculptures of imagined futuristic buildings'. I'm not quite sure that we were taken 'on a journey that reflects a new world of dynamism' but the models of the buildings did perhaps portray to some extent the colourful world of Mombassa where he grew up.



Quite the most dynamic work of art we saw was that done by Sun Kwak, a Korean artist, who creates large scale drawings 'that use the specific architectural space as the canvas for her work'. She created a site-specific drawing, which spanned the whole width of the building and was quite stunning. The drawings were made by tearing black masking tape and then applying it to the wall in layers. These drawings did appear to be 'epic, gestural and flowing' as

the group photograph shows. This creation was a one-off work that now no longer exists as the exhibition ended on 4 July.

My grateful thanks go to Bernadette for organising the whole trip and to Sue for her suggestion to visit Wightwick Manor and Walsall.

Derek Moffitt

Computer Club at caféunity - 228 Finney Lane, Heald Green, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 3QA

The Computer Club monthly meetings are on each 4th Tuesday of the month 10am -12noon at a cost of £3 per session. Remaining **2010 dates for your diaries are: -**
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

Music Appreciation - A Summer Garden Party



As the dull days of late July continued into August the thoughts of a garden party seemed only a remote possibility. The 'met' men said it was because the wriggling jet stream was too far south and so the dull days continued. On the Thursday of the previous week the heavens opened and we had flash floods. And then by the weekend the jet stream seemed to wriggle a bit more and suddenly there was the sun! And so we were able to have our garden party after all and listen to some lovely summer music under blue skies and fluffy white clouds.

We were entertained to a delightful programme of summer music starting with the second movement of Mahler's Symphony Number 1, which seemed to float along the warm caressing zephyrs. Actually I'm not sure whether Mahler's music can ever float but it was a fine start to our garden party.

Some sounds did indeed seem to float over the sounds of the rustling leaves and the nearby waterfall like the 'Fantasia on Greensleeves' by Ralph Vaughan Williams, which was surely evocative of a lazy summers day.

Much of the music we heard was ideally suited to summer such as 'Un sueño en la Floresta' ('Dreams in a magic garden') by Agustin Mangore, a Paraguayan guitarist and composer and played by John Williams, whilst the gavotte by Boyce from his symphony No. 4 in F was equally delightful. The spring sonata No 5 by Rossini was written to be played in a garden on summer days. Our spirits soared to even greater heights as we listened to 'Joyeuse Marche' ('Joyous March') by Chabrier. This composition is the second half of a pair of orchestral pieces, 'Prelude Pastoral' and 'Joyeuse Marche' first performed in 1888.

I was not too familiar with the traditional song 'Who can sail without Wind' which was described as being a sultry folksong from a Swedish speaking part of Finland. This particular song was from an album called 'Chill Out' played by a group called 'ZUM'. They performed at the Buxton music festival in 2009.

It didn't seem too long before we had a break for refreshments and for some, a short promenade in the garden. The lucky ones would have seen Tom, Dick and Harry, three new arrivals in the pond. They are very lively and colourful Comet goldfish, which are quite dashingly handsome – the other fish in the pond seem to find them arrestingly attractive. For the humans we had a lovely spread of cakes, pies, snacks of one sort or another and of course some refreshing wine and soft drinks.

Last year I remembered that one person noted that the armillary sundial showed solar time, which was almost one hour behind clock time. However he wondered if the difference between apparent or solar time and clock time could be detected. In fact this is sometimes possible but only when the deviation is at its greatest, which is round about January/February and October/November. The deviation on the day of the garden party was only about three minutes, which couldn't be detected. Just out of interest the armillary sphere is the symbol of the British Horological Institute.

But the music beckoned once more and we had some more very appropriate summer music, such as 'Prelude' from 'Summertime' by Gershwin and Fauré's 'Pavane'. One of my favourites was the phenomenal comet playing of Wynton Marsalis in his performance of variations of 'Le Carnaval de Venise'.

May I thank everyone for bringing their summer CDs and also to those who contributed to the refreshments. And a very special thanks to the man from the meteorological office who arranged for our splendid weather on the day, or as he probably would have put it, for favourable synoptic conditions.

Derek Moffitt

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