

# Cheadle Hulme



## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010 – June

Editor: George Rogers

### ***Chairman's Report***

As most of you will know, Bramhall U3A has become a great success; they now have more activity groups than we have. Bramhall U3A came into being because we (Cheadle Hulme U3A) could not accept any more new members due to the fact that our monthly meetings were becoming overcrowded and a larger venue could not be found.

Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall U3A's were determined from the start to work closely together and with that in mind our committees have met to determine the mechanism by which we should do so. In broad terms the arrangements are:

- We can join each other's activity groups.
- We can share outings, theatre visits, holidays etc..
- We can **not** attend each other's monthly meetings, unless of course, one is a member of both U3A's

I believe the first two points will prove of great benefit to us because, at a stroke, it more than doubles the pool of membership and provides the potential to set up ever more diverse activity groups.

A list of Bramhall's groups is included with this newsletter

***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
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Coast to Coast Walk	Alan Nolan
1 <sup>st</sup> July	RSPB	Sheila Rydz
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	The Role of the Local Councillor	Peter Burns
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Roman Manchester	Brian Redhead
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Feathered Friends	Peter Rhodes
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	The Cheadle Hulme War Memorial	CHU3A team

**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)***

**CHU3A EVENTS** - Please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A Events" and send to Shirley Cawthra, at the address shown in the printed edition of this Newsletter.

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***L'Eau-t-Cuisine*** Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



***Conducted tours Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>*** - of **St. Mary' church, Alderley** (14<sup>th</sup> century) at 2.30pm. Not only is the 14th century parish church of St. Mary a 'living church', it is also a treasure trove, steeped in the history and romance of ancient Alderley. Like all great historic churches, St Mary's owes many of its unique features to the patronage of the local aristocratic family - the Stanleys of Alderley.

On the same day - **Nether Alderley Mill** opposite at 3.30pm. £2.95 (free for National Trust members). With its 15<sup>th</sup> century corn mill water wheel it is one of only four virtually complete corn mills in Cheshire, and is a grade II listed building. The mill was in active use until 1939, and was acquired by the National Trust in 1950.

Please phone Shirley if you intend to come.

***Clonter Theatre, Congleton*** Thursday 22nd July.7p.m. £12

Dress Rehearsal of Rossini's La Cenerentola (Cinderella) A few seats left – but hurry.

***Royal Exchange*** - Wednesday at 2.30pm 4<sup>th</sup> August "Charley's Aunt" £14.50

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***Cake sales for Francis House***

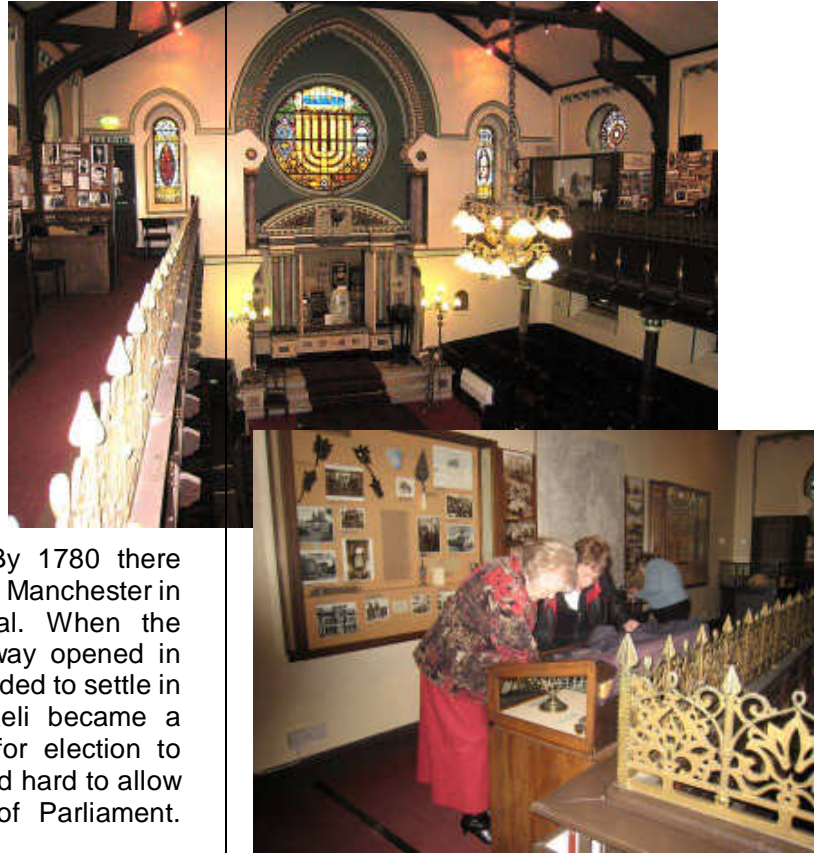
Most months I attend the meetings and bring my cakes which make a small amount of money for Francis House Children's Hospice. If anyone would like to join me in this effort, even if it is only for the months that Ken and I are away I would be very grateful of the help. Jean-Noelle arranges for her friend Margaret, who is not a member, to make marmalade and lemon curd for the sales table and in the past others have contributed items such as plants and books to raise some additional cash. The principle is that most of us have enjoyed a long and healthy life and have children that are doing well. It is a way of supporting young people not as fortunate as ourselves. Recently the sales table has looked rather a sad shadow of its former self. Has anyone any ideas or holiday reading that they could bring along to help us raise a little more cash?

**Joan Clifford**

## ***Manchester Jewish Museum***

A few members recently paid a visit to Manchester Jewish Museum. We received a warm welcome from Mr Michelson who gave a fascinating talk on the history of the Museum and the presence of the Jewish Community in England and, in particular, Manchester. The first Jewish families arrived in England in 1066 but, in 1290, when Edward 1 came to the throne he expelled all Jews from England and they were not able to return until Oliver Cromwell came to power. By 1780 there were about 20 families living in Manchester in the vicinity of the Cathedral. When the Manchester to Liverpool railway opened in 1830 more Jewish people decided to settle in Manchester. Benjamin Disraeli became a Christian in order to stand for election to Parliament and he then worked hard to allow Jews to become members of Parliament.

The Museum was built in 1874 and has retained its finest features, in particular its beautiful stained glass windows and cast iron fittings. One of the most magnificent features is the Ark which houses the Torah scrolls. There is also a desk on which is kept the Torah Scroll (currently in use) which is written by hand using a goose quill. This is the First Five Books of Moses and the most sacred object in the Synagogue.



Shirley Cawthra being shown the exhibits

Unfortunately, time beat us and we did not have the opportunity to absorb the exhibition area thoroughly. Most of us felt that a return visit was essential.

Thank you, Shirley, for arranging this extremely interesting afternoon, and I strongly recommend a visit to everyone.

**Iris Kirk**

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A car carrying a mechanical engineer, an electrical engineer, a chemical engineer and a Microsoft Technician, suddenly breaks down.

The mechanical engineer says "It must be engine failure"

The electrical engineer says "It must be the points or the plugs".

The chemical engineer says "The fuel to air ratio must be wrong".

The Microsoft technician says "Lets all get out and get back in again".

***Courtesy of Bill Thacker***

## ***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)

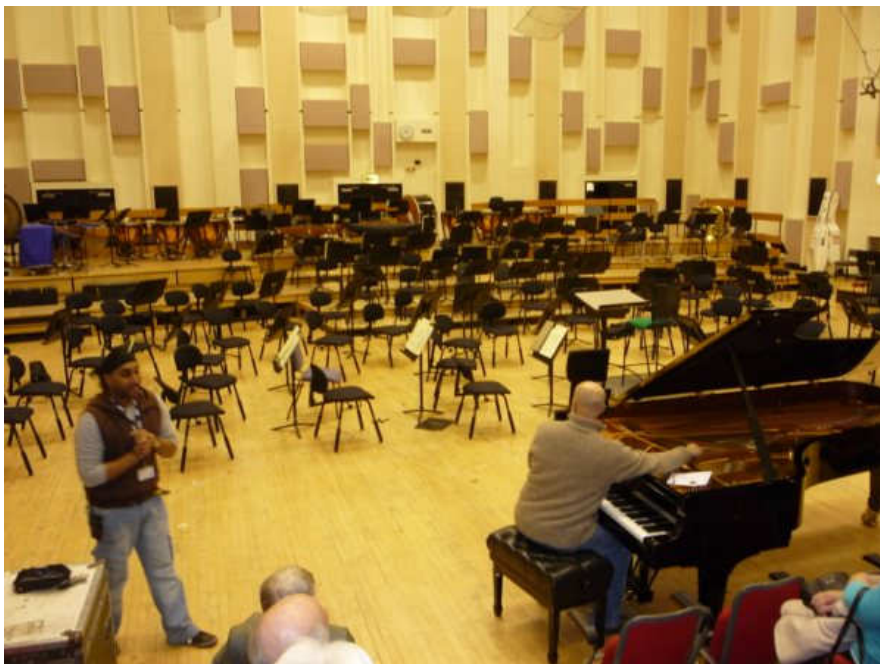
### Autumn Programme 2010

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
5 October	Roman Glass	Dr B.Hoffman
2 November	The evolution of the Mobile Phone The first 25 years	Prof N.Linge
7 December	The Origins of Cancer	Prof P.Kumar

### ***Visit to the BBC Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March***

The visit was arranged in two groups, the first scheduled for 12-30 pm and the second at 3-30 pm. The groups were met by our guides and were given the health and safety talk followed by a description of the work and output of BBC Manchester and information about the forthcoming move to Media City in Salford which will involve 1600 jobs being transferred from London.

The tour proper started in the BBC Philharmonic studio with our guide trying to make himself heard



over the noise from the piano tuner. We were told that the BBC employs 89 full time musicians and is the largest employer of musicians outside the Ministry of Defence.

The next stop was at the Radio Manchester studios. The workings of the presenter's control desk with its five computer screens, multicoloured microphones, each with individual faders were explained and we got a real impression of how complicated the task of presenting can be. A column of signal lights was pointed out which tell the presenter if he is on

air etc. If the blue light comes on it signals a category one death, the Queen or other VIP. It was explained that the music played on the station is not chosen by the presenter but by a focus group.

The next item on the agenda was the highlight for many of us, the Interactive Room. We were greeted by a genuine Dalek and shown a DVD in which Dianne Oxberry gave a demonstration of how to do a weather forecast. We moved to a mock studio where Brian was volunteered to put our instruction to use and do a weather forecast. He was ably assisted by Roger working the control desk. Our embryo television careers then developed when some of our members performed a

spooky radio play entitled "Dinner Party". Anne worked the electronic sound effects desk, Sylvia the manual sound effects. Carol, Ian, Lois, Barbara and John were the actors standing behind a bank of microphones with their scripts.

The whole play was recorded and then played back. It was rather good although we say it ourselves.

The last visit was to the production area and the studio for NW Tonight. We started in the control room where the director, producer and their support staff sit and the roles of the various people were explained. We all went down to the studio which looked much smaller than it appears on television and quite scruffy. This only gives an impression of the visit based on the experience of the first tour group. We were told that this group can claim a first in that they saw both Gordon Burns and Ranvir Singh.



(Photos by Marilyn Johnson)

*Errol and Carole Formilli*

## Tuesday 13<sup>TH</sup> April

**Professor Bernard Richards** the Professor of Medical Informatics in the University of Manchester gave an excellent talk entitled "Computer Science in Clinical Medicine". The talk started by listing the areas where computers are used in the practice of medicine. These ranged from simple administrative tasks to clinical decision making. The first area Bernard considered in detail was the role of data bases. He described a fascinating study showing a correlation between the palm print of infants and the development of type 1 diabetes in later life. A matrix method was explained and its applications, including the identification of congenital abnormalities. The next topic considered was the use of computers in scheduling tests in a programmed investigation unit and showed that when the number of tests was small the ward sister did better than the computer but with larger numbers of tests the computer did better than the ward sister. The talk concluded with a description of work on the computer management of aspects of intensive care and the control of procedures in open-heart surgery.

*Brian Pullan*

### **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](mailto:chu3a@talktalk.net) or post to:

*George Rogers*

*at the address shown in the printed edition of this Newsletter.*

**Closing date for contributions to the September 2010 Newsletter  
is the Members' Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in August 2010**

Website: [www.chu3a.org.uk](http://www.chu3a.org.uk)

## ***Art Appreciation***

### **A CHANCE ENCOUNTER.....**

When Joseph Briggs walked out of that particular building in 1892 he could never have imagined that in the next few minutes his life would change forever. By chance it was raining. By chance Louis Comfy Tiffany was walking towards the entrance. By chance Joseph had his umbrella with him, which he quickly used to shield Mr Tiffany from the rain. A conversation ensued which was to result in Joseph becoming a design apprentice and subsequently working for Mr Tiffany for 40 years.



When much later the demand for Tiffany glass declined, Joseph shipped three crates of it back to his hometown of Accrington. It was this collection that we saw on our visit to the Howarth Art Gallery on Thursday 18 February.

Our coach set forth from the verdant greens of north Cheshire where we climbed steadily until we were soon in the snowfields north of Manchester. At the entrance to the gallery we marvelled at the skill of the driver as he manoeuvred the coach through the very narrow gate pillars with millimetres to spare. It seemed rather like a coach version of trying to thread a needle with a very small eye. He thoroughly deserved the cheers we gave him for his driving skills!



The art gallery was formerly the home of the cotton manufacturer William Howarth and his sister Anne. It is a beautiful Arts and Crafts mansion built in 1909 and now a Grade II listed building.

We were taken round the gallery in two groups by the Curator, Jennifer Rennie, who was extremely helpful and knowledgeable. We learnt about Tiffany's fabulous Art Nouveau glass, which is superbly displayed in four rooms with different themes, such as 'Tiffany and Interior design' and 'Tiffany and Nature'. We were shown 'Flowerform' vases shaped like vegetables and 'Cypriote' vases inspired by Roman and Egyptian examples. Other exhibits included what are known as

'Millefiore Paperweight' and 'Intaglio' or cut glass.



The latter part of the nineteenth century was a very interesting period in the art world when the Arts and Craft movement gradually changed to Art Nouveau through the transitional Aesthetic movement, which I touched upon in my presentation in December. Tiffany glass is a fascinating part of the Art Nouveau period and we are fortunate indeed to have such a wonderful collection in the North West.

Unlike Joseph Briggs, ours was only a brief encounter with Tiffany glass but a very rewarding experience. May I give my grateful thanks to Jennifer for the tours of the gallery and also to Sylvia Pullan for organising and arranging the visit. The coffee and sumptuous cakes in the tearooms were a lovely touch just before we set off for home.



**The new season will start in October.** Please contact me if you would like to join the group or just pop along to any of the meetings and make yourself known to the person at the door. We generally meet at the Village Hall, Outwood Road, Heald Green, on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm from October to March but always check the programme first. A summer outing is also being planned and details will be available from Bernadette.

***Derek Moffitt***

### ***A Journey to Italy***

For the final meeting of the Art Appreciation group on 15 April we had a superb presentation on 'Italian Renaissance Art' by Judith Durrant. We delighted in the exquisite works of art as Judith took us all on a wonderful tour, particularly of Florence. She had obviously put an enormous amount of work into her presentation which was given with considerable interest, knowledge and skill.

This was without doubt the finest presentation so far and made a fitting end to our first full programme. It was particularly pleasing because Judith is a member of the group. From all of us in the Art Appreciation group may I give her a very big thank you!

***Derek Moffitt***

### ***In Case of Emergency (ICE) - Did you know?***

You can put a name and phone number under the heading **ICE** into your mobile phone. The emergency services will always look on your mobile phone for any information relevant to the situation you are in.

We have become aware that in cases of emergency, or illness whilst on a U3A outing we do not hold relevant medical and contact details of relatives, friends or doctors. It would be helpful for all members to have these on a card in their purse, wallet, or rucksack. Please also include details of any medication. Emergencies can happen at any time when dining out, on trips to museums or walking. Please do not think you are fool proof.

People living alone, on regular medication could also obtain a plastic pot, to be kept in the fridge with a copy of their current prescription. These are available from your chemist, or your local Lion's club.

***Joan Clifford, Groups Organiser***

**Ed:** You may also like to know that in 1930 **Lions International**, the largest service organisation in the world, introduced the White Stick for blind people and were principally involved in the introduction of Guide Dogs for the blind. They have since developed Eye Care Projects in India where over 70,000 patients were examined resulting in treatment for 47,000 including 10,000 cataract operations and 12,000 prescribed spectacles.

## ***Walking - Scarborough 2010***



***(Photo: Roger Perry)***

Ken and Joan Clifford arranged the Spring break for our walkers and friends, at the Grand Hotel in Scarborough. They also organised the three days there, with help from Brian and Sylvia Pullen, who reconnoitred and led two of the walks. Walter and Philippa Fitzpatrick set up the Murder Mystery, persuading twelve very sporting members to take part, for the entertainment and delight of the rest of us. I think they probably enjoyed it as much as we did.

Tuesday's walk, the 16<sup>th</sup> March, started from West Ayton, following the Forge valley northwards. We climbed steadily on the eastern side of the valley; the steep wooded slopes falling sharply to a deep valley on our left. Continuing through mixed

woodland, still in its winter gauntness, we passed rock outcrops and some fine rock exposures, then across pastures and meadowland. This valley may well have been carved by summer melt water at the end of the last Ice Age, when the North York Moors were still partly surrounded by the deep decaying ice sheets and the eastward exits were blocked by an ice sheet in the North Sea. Here the upper Derwent river cuts across the Jurassic sandstone and limestone strata on its way to the Vale of Pickering, which was one of the great ice dammed lakes, at that time. The serious walkers then went on another six miles or so climbing up the western side of the valley. We strollers returned along the

beautifully constructed boardwalk in the valley bottom. This was the easy, sheltered route, although we did have a short climb up to Ayton Castle. The high level walkers had the more spectacular views.

The next day Brian led the walk from Cloughton, north of Scarborough. It started along the line of the old Scarborough to Whitby railway, built in 1885. This closed in 1965 and now makes a very pleasant route for walkers. At Hayburn Wyke we turned off and most of the group made the steep descent to the secluded rocky bay. Some of us waited for their return at the inn. The Hayburn Wyke Inn was cheerful and welcoming and the mild spring weather encouraged us to

have lunch outside. Inside it was warm and cosy with the faint, fragrant smell of wood smoke from the log fire burning brightly in the corner. When we left the inn we climbed up to the cliff top to join the Cleveland Way. Here the path hugs the cliff tops, which drop steeply and occasionally vertically to the sea: 350 feet high at Little Cliff. The return was a bit more taxing as the path rises and falls, quite steeply in places, before we reached Cloughton Wyke. The compensations were breathtaking views out to sea and along the east coast, starting with the spectacular view across Wyke Bay; Wyke means a landing place. The sea views were then repeated intermittently as the hawthorn hedges on the seaward side gave shelter and occasional respite for those of us with a tendency to vertigo. On the way we had distant views of Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head.

Thursday was another bright and cheerful day. One group went north to follow the Cleveland Way from Ravenscar to Robin Hood's Bay. Brian and Sylvia led the town walk in Scarborough. This took us up past St Mary's church and the grave of Anne Bronte, and on to the high

promontory. Here the castle is a conspicuous landmark which, seen in silhouette, high on the northern horizon dominates the town some 300 feet below. Enough of the splendid square stone keep and the massif curtain walls remain to give a good impression of what the 12<sup>th</sup> century stronghold was like. Inside the walls, other ruins are identified across a great flat grassy plateau. Strolling around the sixteen acres was a good walk and we still had the long trek down to the harbour and the lighthouse, before climbing back up into the town. The view of Scarborough from the observation platform above the south facing wall of the castle was spectacular. The one time fishing port, then spa town and now tourist centre, could be seen in all its detail. The Grand Hotel dominated the centre scene and to the right the fine church of St Mary.

Seen from the castle, or from the harbour, the Grand Hotel is a fine example of Victorian architecture. From the harbour you see the full twelve storeys, from the town you see a fine façade of six storeys, but from any view you see the four towers and the magnificent roof. Located in the centre of the town and

overlooking the town harbour and South Bay; it is one of Scarborough's dominant buildings, instantly recognisable. The young architect John Gibson had a keen eye for the potential of this site. As a Spa Town Scarborough had attracted visitors since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. When the Scarborough to York railway was built in 1845 he foresaw that the influx of visitors would increase. The hotel was completed by 1863, one of the largest in Europe, at that time. The interior architecture is equally impressive and the views across the harbour, promenade and North Sea were quite magical, especially at night with the harbour lights reflected in the water.

The hotel now caters for a mass market, with coach parties and groups like ours coming and going, so occasionally, there were a lot of people milling around. Nevertheless our party of twenty-seven found room enough to get together and make our own entertainment, although the Hotel provided live entertainment every evening. The highlight for us was Walter's murder mystery. Our thanks to Joan and Ken for another successful and enjoyable few days away.

**Derek Weedon**

***The Music Making Group*** has vacancies for one or two players.

At present it consists of recorders, cello and keyboard and would welcome players of any of the following: -

Recorder, flute, clarinet, oboe, violin

The music played is very varied and is arranged to specifically match the member of the group's skills. It is however necessary to be able to read music. We meet twice a month in each other's homes. Please contact Gwyneth Pailin if you are interested.

## Can you Help ?

**Cheadle Hulme Communicare** is a group of volunteers who support local people living in Cheadle Hulme with transport to essential appointments. Our clients are those who cannot use public transport, and have no-one else to help them. We take them to local clinics, doctors and hospital appointments etc. We are in urgent need of volunteers to help with driving or answering the phone. Drivers use their own cars and telephonists their own phones. All expenses are reimbursed.

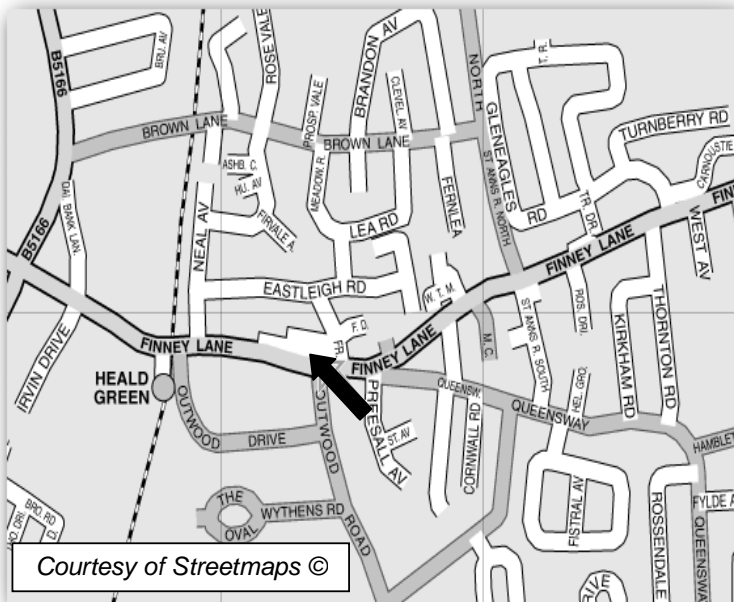
If you have recently retired or have a little time on your hands, please phone Margaret on 485 1845 or Joan on 485 7695 and have a

chat with us about what we do. The commitment from you can be for as little or as long as you feel able to give. The drivers do not have a regular slot but just help out as and when they are available and there is a client who needs help.

The people we support are really appreciative of what we do, and realise how invaluable we are to them. So please have a think and consider if you can help. The volunteers find their roles rewarding, and we would urge you to give us a try....

**Margaret Smith, Chairperson**

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



The Computer Club monthly meetings are on each 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 10am -12noon at a cost of £3 per session. Remaining **2010 dates for your diaries are June 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup> (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](mailto:chu3a@talktalk.net)

## U3A 24 hour legal helpline

Just to remind you of the FREE 24 hour legal advice service subscribed to on behalf of all U3A members – contact the U3A Phone: 020 8466 6139 and you will be given the number to ring and a U3A reference code for accessing the service.

**Ed:** I know of one member of CHU3A who previously used the service. This prompted me this very morning to seek legal advice on behalf of a member of the family. A five minute phone call with a qualified solicitor answered the problem instantly – so please make use of the service if you have a need.

## Clwydian Walking & York

We have arranged a weekend away with a company called **Clwydian Walking Holidays** for 13 - 16 August. It is based on a three star hotel, The Springfield at Pentre Halkyn. The cost is £187.50 per person with a £27 supplement for a single room. This will include bed, breakfast and evening meal plus a picnic lunch. Transport will be provided to and from the walk. We will be guided by members of the company. They are prepared to split the party into groups of no more than eleven. This will provide the opportunity for us to accommodate strollers and more able walkers who are able to complete seven to eight miles. If anyone is in any difficulty transport will be arranged to take them back to the hotel. On Friday afternoon there will be a short walk for those that arrive early and in the evening there will be a talk about the area. On Saturday there is musical entertainment. We are hoping that we will be able to either have another murder mystery on Sunday, or a quiz. Enquires are being made about the theatre in Mold, we may be able to visit this on the way home.

As usual we are hoping to accommodate every one in as few cars as possible and we will advise you later of the amount that you should pay your drivers. Once we arrive cars can be parked for the rest of your stay.

Although we have booked for the majority of people who have already paid their cheques into the U3ACH Events account, there may be further rooms available should any members of Cheadle Hulme or Bramhall wish to join us.

### ADVANCED NOTICE

Are you interested in a **Spring Break to York** on 14 March, or 21 March 2011 for four nights dinner bed and breakfast £42.50 (pppn), single rooms £45 or double rooms for sole occupancy £57.50 ? This may seem a long time ahead but the Newington Hotel is quite small and being close to the city is booked up very quickly. There is a regular bus service into the city from outside the hotel and plenty to do in York, should the weather be against us. Expressions of interest should be made to Brian Pullan or Joan and Ken.

*Ken and Joan Clifford*

### I'm Not Old – I'm Merely Mature

Understand – I'm not Old – I'm merely Mature,  
But some things are changing – temporarily  
I'm sure,  
The newspaper print gets smaller each day,  
And people speak softer – can't hear what  
they say.  
My teeth are my own (I have the receipt),  
And my glasses identify the people I meet,  
Oh, I've slowed down a bit – not a lot, I am  
sure,  
You see I'm not Old – I'm merely Mature.

The gold in my hair has been bleached by the  
sun,  
You should see all the damage that chlorine  
has done,  
Washing my hair has turned it all white,  
But don't call it grey – saying blond is just right.

My friends all get older – much faster than me,  
They seem much more wrinkled from what I  
can see.

I've got 'Character Lines', not wrinkles for sure,  
But don't call me Old – just call me Mature.

The steps in the houses they're building today,  
Are so high they take your breath all away,  
And the streets are much steeper than ten  
years ago,  
That should explain why my walker is slow.  
But I'm keeping up on what's 'Hip' and what's  
'New',  
And I still think I can dance a mean 'Boogaloo',  
I'm still in the running – in this I'm secure,  
I'm not really Old – I'm merely Mature.

*(Contributed by Ann Allison)*