

# Cheadle Hulme



## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011 – March

Editor: George Rogers

### ***From the Chairman***

*It is a great honour to become Chairman of the Cheadle Hulme U3A. Returning to England after many years living aboard, it was to the U3A that I turned for new interests and connections.*

*For me it has more than lived up to its remit, providing me with opportunities for new learning and the company of like minded people. Being Speaker Secretary has certainly kept my adrenalin flowing, and at times, yours too with the inevitable glitches!*

*Last year was a particularly productive one. We had our first coffee morning for new members, new groups were formed, we had several large group outings, and we have a planned holiday with Bramhall members. To all those arranging these new ventures, I offer a heartfelt thank you for the enthusiasm and hard work involved.*

*This year will see us celebrating our tenth anniversary. As a result of Errol's query about ways of recognising this important milestone, your committee has discussed a variety of approaches to this, and will share these with you at the March meeting. However, it is your organisation, and many of you have been members from the beginning, and so we need some input from you. Please think about it, and help us firm up plans for the end of the year.*

*I look forward to working with you all to continue to promote the goals of the U3A in general, and the special warmth of the Cheadle Hulme branch in particular.*

*I had contemplated trying some "Paddy" type jokes at our meetings, but after his last performance, I give up. Who could follow that?*

**Bernadette Murray-Robb**

### **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> Mar	Facial reconstruction	Dr. John Pragg
7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Radio Broadcaster	Kevin Fitzpatrick
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Was Haig a Donkey leading Lions?	Dr. Jennifer Palmer
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	"A pocket full of posies"	Ann Metcalfe

**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** - Pat Vermes and Marilyn Johnson

*For all future events, please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A Events" and send to: Marilyn Johnson, at the address listed in the printed edition of this Newsletter.*

### **Events 2011**

<b>Stockport Symphony Orchestra</b> at Stockport Town Hall		
Mozart, Vaughan Williams and Beethoven (5 <sup>th</sup> symphony)	Sat. 28 <sup>th</sup> May Payment by 1 <sup>st</sup> May	£7.00
Bruch's violin concerto, Mahler's 5 <sup>th</sup> symphony	Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup> June Payment by 1 <sup>st</sup> June	£7.00
<b>The Lowry</b>		
Midnight Tango with Vincent and Flavia (4 seats available)	Thurs. 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2.00pm	£29.50
<b>Royal Exchange</b>		
A View from the Bridge (10 seats available) Payment by 8th April	Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup> June	£20.50
As You Like It (7 seats available) Payment by 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Wed. 6 <sup>th</sup> July	£18.00
<b>Clonter Opera</b>		
Lucia di Lammermoor (Dress Rehearsal) (10 seats available) Payment by 12 <sup>th</sup> March No transport arranged, but car share a possibility	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	£12.00
<b>Buxton Festival</b>		
Gibert and Sullivan Matinee performance of H.M.S, Pinafore. More details later. Coach transport a possibility with enough interest.	Wed. 17 <sup>th</sup> August	
A summer visit to <b>Knutsford Heritage Centre</b> (home of the famous "Millennium Tapestry") - date to be arranged. For this event, we need a minimum of 10 and a 25% deposit is required. More details at the next monthly meeting.		

### ***Parrs Wood Cineworld*** (live by satellite)

The following productions are beamed live by satellite and obviously include any intervals and applause, so tend to be quite long. They are very popular and are booked up quickly. As we can only make any bookings with payment, would you please let the events team know if you would like to attend enclosing your payment by the dates given below: -

Il Trovatore	Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup> April Payment by 20 <sup>th</sup> March	£12.00
Die Walküre	Sat. 14 <sup>th</sup> May Payment by 1 <sup>st</sup> April	£12.00
The Cherry Orchard (Chekhov) - This production is directed by N.T. associate director Howard Davies whose recent productions have won wide acclaim. Zoe Wanamaker will play Madame Ranevskaya.	Thurs. 30 <sup>th</sup> June Payment by 1 <sup>st</sup> April	£10.00

**A full list of operas and plays is available on request.**

### ***The Bridgewater Hall***

**BBC Philharmonic** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Mozart

**The Hallé** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
**Handel, Mozart and Britten**, with the Hallé choir and the Hallé Children's choir.  
(Car share a possibility for these two events)

### ***Roy McCarthy Coaches***

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**Biddulph Grange gardens and Little Morton Hall** - £12.50

Arriving at Biddulph Grange in time for morning coffee before exploring the gardens.

In the afternoon we head on to Little Moreton Hall.

Nat. Trust members free, non-members joint ticket approx £12.00

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**Historic Houses-The Cavendish Collection** £16.50

A stop for coffee at Chatsworth Garden Centre before continuing on to spectacular Hardwick Hall where we have lunch before exploring the finest collection of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century embroideries and tapestries. Outside there are tranquil walled gardens, fragrant herb gardens, orchards and lawns.

Nat. Trust members free; non-members approx. £9.50

**NB** - Wherever possible, details of all events will be published in the Cheadle Hulme U3A Newsletter. However, as this is produced quarterly, there will be occasions when we only have short notice of a particular event and it will be too late for the Newsletter. When this occurs, the event details will be posted on the CHU3A website under the Events section so "watch this space"!

**Ed: If you don't have access to a computer, ask one of your friends who has a computer to keep you informed.**

**A thank you to Marilyn** for booking the coach trip to Buxton on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Everything went very well - a good lunch at Foolow and an excellent production of "My Fair Lady" The driver was both helpful and cheerful. They were running two full coaches, as it was so popular.  
**Gillian Roe**

**Congratulations to Shirley Cawthra** on another successful Alma Lodge annual lunch attended by 55 members who enjoyed a first class meal and numerous free raffle prizes donated by members of the committee. Shirley will continue to organize this event each year.

### **King Lear – Parrs Wood** (3<sup>rd</sup> February)

*Pat Vermes and Marilyn Johnson have taken over the responsibility of organising various outings for U3A members. The first one to see National Live Theatre was supported by ten members and what an experience we had. King Lear was broadcast live all across the world and therefore over different time zones on Thursday, 3rd February. It was held in Cinema 6 at Parrswood, East Didsbury. There was a short resume of how this dream had come about and also details about the different themes running through the play written of course by William Shakespeare. It was suggested that each member of the audience may well choose a different theme from people sitting beside them, so complex is the play.*

*The scenery was just boarding, painted in a haphazard fashion in white and in the very small theatre was likened to a box to concentrate the senses of the audience into a small central space. Wow! how well that worked. Every member of the cast was wonderful, the blood, the neglected sores and, above all, the gradual decline in King Lear were so well captured and moving.*

*Derek Jacobi was superb and the advantage of the cinema of course as against live theatre was that they could use the camera for close-up shots to emphasise the pathos, the jealousy, and the despair to wonderful effect. The failing mind so childlike and pathetic in Lear written by Shakespeare were set against the occasional glimpses into the realities of political scheming and intrigue. The audience was spellbound, hardly a cough, no food smells as they were transfixed by the wonderful acting of such a great play.*

*I do hope that this new venture by our two events organisers becomes popular - it certainly deserves to. The venue was perfect with plenty of parking in a well-lit, safe area and where could you see Derek Jacobi for a ticket costing only £10? I can't wait for the Cherry Orchard in June - do support what is a tremendous venture by the theatre companies and well done to Pat and Marilyn for organising such a wonderful experience.*

**Judith Durrant**

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

*George Rogers*

*at the address and 'phone number shown in the printed edition of this Newsletter.*

**Closing date for contributions to the June 2011 Newsletter  
is the Members' Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in May 2011**

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

## ***MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS***

- **Membership renewals are due on the 1st January each year** regardless of the month of joining.  
Annual fee currently £10 pa
  - **Membership will automatically lapse at the 31st March for unpaid renewals.**
  - **The waiting list is still in force. 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** should be made to the Membership Secretary before the end of March at a meeting, by telephone or by post with a stamped addressed envelope for your annual membership card to: **Judith Durrant** at the address and 'phone number shown in the printed edition of this Newsletter.
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There were 99 members present at the AGM and they appointed two new committee members Paul Leigh and Nancy Lomax. Everything passed off peacefully with no contentious issues.

***We now have two new groups – Philosophy and Tai Chi***

Brian Pullan and family would like to thank all those members of Cheadle Hulme U3A who attended Sylvia's funeral. We also wish to thank the members who gave donation to Francis House in memory of Sylvia. The total collected was £450.

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

We had 19 people attending our first meeting of the new year. The monthly Computer Club meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 10am -12noon at a cost of £3 per session. **2011 dates for your diaries are: 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> November (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)

# 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)

## Spring Programme for 2011

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Precious Metals	Jon Clipsham
5 <sup>th</sup> April	" Superbugs"	Dr. Alan Jacob

### Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010

31 persons braved snow and ice to attend the last of the specialist talks for the current year namely **"The Origins of Cancer" by Professor Pat Kumar.**

Unfortunately the talk was delayed by 15 minutes due to a sudden "high tech." problem with the Group's computerised projector and the Professor's memory stick which contained all her slides. Our projectionist and computer wizard John Anderton has to be admired for his calm approach to this unforeseen problem whilst the speaker patiently waited. With the assistance of two other computer specialists the problem was solved.

Chairman Ian Reid then opened the meeting, welcomed all and commented that besides the sombre weather the subject of the talk was also sombre especially with Christmas around the corner. He then asked our Dr. Brian Pullan to introduce the speaker as he had known and worked with the Professor for many years. Even though it was a very sad and emotional time for Brian he was still able to spontaneously deliver humour to be appreciated by all.

Professor Kumar, a cancer cell biologist (the study of living organisms) mentioned that the subject is vast, hugely complex and her presentation would be an overview of 12 lectures which she would present to us in one talk within the allocated time.

She touched on sub-subject areas that would be of specific interest to the layperson for example: What is cancer?; What does a cancer look like?; Causes of cancer; Cancers in children; Cancers worldwide; Role of the immune system etc.

With the aid of many slides and her sincere conversational manner she explained that cancer is an uncontrolled growth, or tumour, which has a blood supply and invades other organs. Carcinogens interact with, and cause damage to, DNA. It is difficult to define a

carcinogen and it can cause changes within a normal healthy cell.

Genetics, viruses, chemicals, radiation are some of the causes of cancer whilst in children it is the result of an abnormality in one of a pair of matching chromosomes.

Cancer is a disease and is sometimes a combination of several diseases especially in the elderly. For instance, viruses can harbour oncogenes and therefore can attach to, and integrate with, suppressor genes thus producing non-active genes and so weakening the immune system. In Africa for example, malaria leads to Burkitt's lymphoma. However, in the majority of cases the viruses are of a specific known nature. Chemicals within food we consume as well as other chemicals we inhale, including tobacco smoke, are all contributory factors in the prognosis of cancer. Peas, beans and lentils can be difficult to keep dry and if mouldy can cause the disease.

A countries- of- the- world slide indicated population density that have specific types of cancers appropriate to a said country. All species are subject to the development of different types of cancer due to possible changes of respective DNA structures. Apparently even dinosaurs were subject to the disease. Regarding our species, homo sapiens, a severe personal shock to our system such as a bereavement, divorce, having to move home etc. can suppress and so lower the immune system which can then stimulate the beginning of a cancerous tumour.

Professor Kumar concluded with the recommendation of a good read, but not in the scientific sense, the book by Robert Weinberg entitled "One Renegade Cell".

Ian then invited questions prior to the refreshment break, but for a few moments there was stunned silence whilst the enormity of this serious subject was mentally digested.

However, the usual Q & A. session did commence and carried on during and after the break.

Ian thanked Professor Kumar for her overview of this very complex and very delicate subject which was handled with such sensitivity.

This write-up is concluded with a tribute to Philippa Fitzpatrick, her first attendance at this

Group, who certainly outwitted me regarding material absorption on this particular subject and also for her speed writing during this fast moving talk, parts of which I have used in this report. Grateful thanks Philippa. I owe you a favour!

**Errol Formilli**

## **Tuesday 1st February**

28 people were present to learn from a talk given by Professor J D Jackson on the eminent Manchester scientist and engineer - Osborne Reynolds.

The Professor opened the presentation with a biographical overview of this brilliant scientist and engineer born in 1842 who lived for 70 years. His father, The Reverend Reynolds who schooled him in his early years, observed Osborne's keen interest in mathematics and mechanics. He then arranged for his apprenticeship in mechanical engineering prior to studying at Cambridge. Ultimately he became a Fellow of Queens' College.

Aged 25 years he applied for, and was elected to, the new position of Chair of Engineering at Owens College, Manchester which was eventually to become the University of Manchester though on a different site.

His scientific mind, experimental approaches to the mechanical problems of the day, the papers he wrote and presented to many professional bodies, made him the outstanding scientist and engineer of the period.

He had an almost uncanny insight into physical fundamentals of a problem. His interests and experimental work opened doors to a new scientific and mechanical engineering dawn which eventually led the way to engineering applications such as fluid mechanics; multi-stage turbines and pumps; air turbulence and water turbulence, etc.

Though a rather poor lecturer his heart and dynamic enthusiasm was in the direction of scientific, experimental and development work, the results of which are built into today's world.

**Carole Formilli**

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## ***York Spring Break***

Unfortunately Joan and Ken are unable to come to the York holiday, despite having put so much effort into its organisation. However they have masterly planned arrangements to provide a successful event in their absence for which we thank them heartily.

**Ed:** *It is sometimes not fully appreciated how much work is put into organising events such as this.*

Four night's dinner, bed and breakfast have been booked at the **Newington Hotel in York** from **Monday 14 March 2011 to Friday 18 March 2011**.

Four walks have been arranged through a new member, Gail Horn, who is an experienced walk leader. Gail may even organise a 'Ghost Walk' !

It is expected that those who do not wish to walk will get together to arrange trips to places of interest in and around York to ensure no one is left on their own. Walter and Phillipa Fitzpatrick have agreed to do another "murder mystery" for us.

Some participants are going by train while others have arranged lifts in member's cars.

Several members have booked places for an early English music concert on Thursday 17th March, kindly co-ordinated by Nancy Lomax.

## ***A Festive Walk***

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010, under a clear azure blue sky, frosty conditions and welcoming sunlight albeit pale at that time of the year, 29 members from the Walking Group gathered at the Miners Arms Pub, Woods End near Poynton, for a gentle 3.5 miles walk before our pre-booked Christmas lunch.

Three plus inches of frozen snow carpeted the surrounding fields and meadows and so part of the planned walk which was to be from bridge 18 to bridge 23 along part of the Cheshire Ring Canal towpath had to be abandoned due to the treacherous icy conditions. Barbara and John Anderton were the walk leaders and lunch organisers and their infinite wisdom prevailed for, Barbara had contacted the pub landlord beforehand only to be informed that the canal was completely frozen and the towpath was definitely a no-go area.

John informed the assembled group of the now modified walk as we donned boots, knapsacks etc. and then made our way towards bridge 12 on the disused Middlewood Way railway line. This railway once linked Marple to Macclesfield, opened in 1869 and closed in the 1960's as a result of national railway network reorganisation.

Great care had to be taken as one by one we descended frozen snow-clad steep steps that led down to the railway cutting. The gallant efforts of Alan Swain and Tony Bicknell to support the ladies from slipping and falling were much appreciated. Part of the walk was in the cutting and so one side of the embankment was

really icy under frozen snow and in the shade whilst, on the other side, the weak sunlight softened the hard winter scenery.

It was so lovely and peaceful in the crisp clean air as we strolled along chatting and observing the frosty scenes of nature as snow crunched beneath our boots. Some even commented and discussed the hard physical work that had to be endured to create this cutting and, indeed, the development of the nearby canal both of which served the Adlington and Poynton coalfields some 200 years ago. Soon we were out in open countryside again and reached Higher Doles Farm, the zenith point of the walk and here we stopped for a refreshment break and relaxed in the warmth of the sun that now prevailed over the landscape. Whilst others rested Margaret Ross, John, Carole and I decided to tread the virgin snow for a few minutes and made our way up to the canal. The sight of frozen solid water and the iced-up towpath; thick hoar-frost clinging to trees and hedges; absolute stillness of the scene; glistening white countryside and the remarkable panorama of the Cheshire plain from this elevated position were truly stunning. In fact the whole ambience of the scene was a Christmas card setting and one to be remembered. Our thoughts and comments turned to survival as we noticed, some distance away, two canal boats moored to the iced towpath and completely trapped. One boat with light coloured smoke gently rising from a brightly painted chimney had occupants on board who were busy

clearing snow and ice off essential parts of their craft. Very brave sturdy folk we concluded.

Re-joining the now waiting group we then back-tracked towards the cutting observing a different perspective of this winter wonderland as the sun, now behind us, began to throw longer shadows as time marched on. After traversing up the steep slippery steps at bridge 12 and, happily without incident, we emerged out of the cutting arriving back at the pub in time for lunch at 1pm.

Over drinks and talk we met up with another 12 members of the Group thus making a total of 41 seated for Christmas lunch! Tables were decorated with traditional festive cheer and also at every place setting there was a wrapped present from the management. How thoughtful. After lunch Sarah, the Landlord, arranged a quick quiz and the winning team namely "The Elegant Lady Walkers" having won the prize of a bottle of wine, then lined up for a photo. It was an exciting finish with a knockout question after a dead heat with two other teams.

A big vote of thanks to Barbara and John for organising the day's activities was given by George Rogers and this was supplemented by a loud applause of appreciation. So, shortly afterwards and reluctantly we all made our exit to be met by the cold and a wintery sun that was now beginning to kiss the horizon as we journeyed home. Thanks again Barbara and John for a most enjoyable and memorable day.

**Errol Formilli**

***Ed:** Several walkers (myself included) have since purchased the inexpensive slip-on 'crampons' as demonstrated by Margaret & Keith Crowther during the walk, which provide an excellent grip on ice and snow due to the small carbon spikes imbedded into the rubber.*

## ***Family & Social History Group***

The Group has decided on a new approach following the start of the new season and we have changed the name to more correctly reflect the topics we hope to cover in the coming months. Unless otherwise stated, we will continue to meet on the afternoon of the last Friday of each month, at the Cheadle Hulme Quaker Meeting House on Station Road.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Leader</b>
25th March	Police and Criminals	John Murray
13th May	Domestic Service	Hilary Lightfoot
No meetings on 29th April and 27th May		
If you would like to join the group please contact Gillian Rowe whose phone number is shown in the printed edition of this Newsletter..		

### ***“85” HEROES - BELGIUM***

We have received a copy of a letter (via Anne Webster) from a family in Belgium in which they note being very grateful for the interesting booklet about the fallen heroes in the Great War.

The letter notes:-

“I saw that one of the 65 names, Leonard Brown, is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Hainaut Province, Belgium. Ploegsteert Memorial is a very smart memorial, Ploegsteert was called ‘Plugstreet’ by the British and is just on the border of West Flanders province and the French speaking province of Hainaut on the border of France and Belgium.

The memorial notes the names of more than 11,000 missing soldiers from Great Britain and South Africa, who died as a result of ‘routine’ trench warfare or in one of the minor operations designed to support major offensives elsewhere. The memorial is a round building with two big lions ‘guarding’ the entrance.

The ‘Last Post’ is sounded at 07.00pm on the first Friday of every month”.

The letter mentions that many works are in hand to commemorate the Great War in 2014. The museum ‘Flanders Fields’ will be enlarged. New “Visitors’ Centres” will be built at Lyssenthoek Cemetery, Poperinge (nearly 11,000 graves) and at Ploegsteert Memorial. In Nieuwpoort there will also be a brand-new ‘Visitor Centre’ to remember the inundation (man made floods) of 1914. The smallest American Cemetery (368 graves), of the First World War in Belgium, at Waregem will also have a new visitors centre.

Belgium (mainly West Flanders) expects about two million visitors between 2014 and 2018 to commemorate the Great War. 15 million Euros have been provided by the minister of tourism to support forty-four museums, graveyards and other historic places in Flanders with links to World War I.

We now have only a very limited number of our book “85 Heroes”. Copies £2 each, if still available, can be obtained from our group leader, Gillian Rowe.

**Note: Committee, Group and all other contact details omitted from these pages  
can be found in the printed edition of this Newsletter**