

Cheadle Hulme

December 2011



Editor: George Rogers

10th Anniversary Newsletter

From Bernadette

We welcomed our new Groups' Co-ordinator Pat Wright last month. Pat has been enthusiastically involved in getting to know our Group Leaders, and making herself known to our new members at the Coffee Morning in October. We have a new Local Theatre group, and a Chess group is being organized. If any of you have ideas for new groups, please see Pat and she will work with you to try to get it started. The Coffee Morning was again a great success. In response to a suggestion from some of our members, we will be discussing the organization of a Coffee morning for all our members in the New Year.

The newly formed North East Cheshire Network, which is comprised of Cheadle Hulme, Bramhall, Poynton, Wilmslow and Gatley & Cheadle U3As met again in September. The aim of this group is to work together for the benefit of all members. At this meeting, it was decided that any member wishing to take part in an existing interest group offered by another U3A must join that U3A.

The exceptions would be where a group was in danger of closing due to lack of participants, or where a new study or interest group was being formed for a designated period. All arrangements, which are currently in place, will remain unchanged.

Over the last few weeks, several of us enjoyed a tour of the John Ryland's library, a presentation on the history of wallpaper with a fascinating glimpse into examples stored in the archives at the Whitworth Gallery, and a visit to the Ford Maddox Exhibition at the Manchester Art Gallery, organized by both the Technology and Art Appreciation groups.

We are all looking forward to our Anniversary party in December, and by the time you read this, it will probably be over, so I hope you all enjoy yourselves, and that it will be a great way to lead us all into the Festive Season.

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
5 th January	Who was Jack the Ripper?	Dr.Jennifer Palmer
2 nd February	AGM	
1 st March	The King Arthur legend	Allen Stevenson
5 th April	Stockport Heritage Centre	Kevin Dranfield

VISITORS are allowed one visit without joining, and need to pay **£2**. **CHU3A members pay £1**

CHU3A EVENTS - Pat Vermes and Marilyn Johnson

For all events, please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A Events" and send to: - Marilyn Johnson, at the address listed in your printed edition of this Newsletter. (Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your tickets)

Theatre on Screen at Cineworld Didsbury

Live Transmissions from The Royal Ballet

Thu. 15th December 2011
Sleeping Beauty

Thu. March 12th 2012
Romeo and Juliet

Wed. May 16th 2012
La Fille Mal Gardée

Live Transmissions from The Met.

10th December 2011
Faust
Gounod

11th February 2012
Götterdämmerung
Wagner

7th April 2012
Manon
Massenet

21st January 2012
The Enchanted Island
*Handel, Rameau, Vivaldi
and others*

25th February 2012
Ernani
Verdi

14th April 2012
La Traviata
Verdi

Royal Exchange Productions

Saturday Night and Sunday Morning:
Wed. 7th March 2012 at 2.30 p.m.
Cost:£18.
Payment, please, by Jan. 30th 2012

Lady Windermere's Fan :
Wed. 23rd May 2012
Cost:£18.
Payment, please, by April 14th 2012

Miss Julie :
Wed. 18th April 2012 at 2.30. p.m.
Cost:£18.
Payment, please, by March 10th 2012

A Midsummer Night's Dream:
Wed. 18th July 2012 at 2.30.p.m.
Cost: £18.
Payment, please, by June 10th 2012

Stockport Plaza

The ELO Experience:
Jeff Lynne and the Electric Light Orchestra – the Greatest Hits tour.
Thursday, 19th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m. Cost: £19.00
Payment, please, by 5th December

Back to Broadway:
Thursday, 1st March 2012 at 7.30 pm. Cost: £20.50.
Payment, please, by 15th Jan.2012

Stockport Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, January 28th 2012:

Conductor Gergely Madaras

Mendelssohn: The Fair Melusina

Beethoven: Symphony No 2

Brahms: Piano Concerto No 1

Soloist: Ian Buckle

Cost £7.

Payment, please, by Dec. 28th 2011

Conductors Alijosa Skorja and Yibin Seow

Schumann: Concertstück for 4 horns

Soloists: Frank Proctor, Paul Selliers, Fiona Hughes, Jennifer Ward

Arenska: Variations on a theme by Tchaikovsky

Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 5

Cost: £7.

Payment, please, by April 12th 2012

Saturday, May 12th 2012:

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 (www.chu3a.org.uk) under the Events section so "watch this space"!

GUIDELINES for arranging trips and events are available from the Events Co-ordinators, Pat Vermes or Marilyn Johnson (tel. numbers in Newsletter).

**Annual Lunch at Alma Lodge Hotel £15
Friday 27th January 2012 (contact Shirley Cawthra)**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

- **Membership renewals are due on the 1st January each year** regardless of the month of joining. Annual fee is currently £10 pa
- **Membership will automatically lapse at the 31st March for unpaid renewals.**
- **A prospective member is allowed ONE 'taster' visit before joining if vacancies exist.**
- **Renewals** should be made to the Membership Secretary at the monthly meeting in January, February or March, or by post with a stamped addressed envelope for your annual membership card to: -

Judith Durrant at the address listed in your printed edition of this Newsletter.

***A Walkers Spring
Break at the
Longmynd Hotel
CHURCH STRETTON***

***Sunday 25th
March 2012 to
Wednesday 28th
March 2012***



The cost per person, for the three nights, dinner, bed and breakfast, is £171.

There is no single room supplement on several rooms. In addition, and at the present time, the hotel has two family suites available consisting of a double room and a twin room with a shared bathroom. Priority will be given to walkers for the single rooms and the two family rooms, giving us eleven single rooms without a supplement.

As the hotel also serves coach parties we need to secure an early booking and a deposit of £50 per person is required without delay.

This holiday is also open to members of other U3As.

Members who wish to make this a sightseeing holiday and are prepared to make their own arrangements are also welcome.

For further details please contact Joan and Ken Clifford.

A very rewarding experience - During the last two years, a number of people from Cheadle Hulme U3A have been helping with reading and other things at Pownall Green School. They can always use more help and will arrange the necessary checks to make it as easy as possible for new people. They have developed a garden club where help is always welcome and they can use many other skills such as crafts, science and technology.

We have been asked why we help at a Bramhall school. This is because no primary schools in Cheadle Hulme were interested in our services.

You do not need to be a qualified teacher and all help is greatly appreciated.

Tai Chi - The Tai Chi group was started in February 2011 and managed to keep going with some members from Bramhall U3A. Numbers are reducing again and we would welcome new people to join us.

With practice, you can expect to achieve improved posture, balance and breathing, relaxation and calmness. Recent research has shown that developing the type of breathing technique used by practitioners of Tai Chi can reduce blood pressure and reduce drug dependency.

Music Appreciation Group Summer Garden Party



The 2011 summer event was held in the beautiful garden of Sheila Jeffers in Hazel Grove on 15th August, which proved to be one of the hottest days of the year. As usual each member attending brought along a CD with a piece of music chosen by the member who would give a brief introduction. Refreshments were provided by the hostess and several of the members. Given below are details of music played:

Setting the scene for a summer event we had 'Summer Time' from Gershwin's opera 'Porgy and Bess' beautifully sung by Kiri te Kanawa and a rarity – 'August' from Tchaikovsky's 'The Seasons' played by Vladimir Ashkenazy. In celebration of English Gardens we also had 'Country Gardens' by the Australian Composer Percy Grainger played by Martin Jones (piano) and also a fascinating piece which was new to most of us – 'An English Garden' from a disc called 'Voices of Tranquillity', performed by Hypnosis. Vaughan Williams' 'Fantasia on Greensleeves' also seemed appropriate in this context; it was played by the Orion Orchestra conducted by Stuart Wright. A more contemporary take on the same general theme was 'Floral Dance' by the Brighthouse and Rastrick Brass Band. The Floral theme was also strongly represented by the beautiful 'Flower Song' from the Opera 'Lackmé' which has become very well known after its use by British Airways in its TV adverts.

The Classics were not ignored and were dominated by the concluding movement of Beethoven's 'Emperor' Concerto in a virtuoso performance by Maurizio Pollini. Mozart appeared twice, starting with the andantino from his 'Concerto for Flute and Harp' played by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by William Bennet. Mozart's Opera 'The Magic Flute' was represented by two Papageno's arias. We also heard a most beautiful song by Berlioz – 'La Spectra de la Rose', sung by the French Soprano, Régine Crespin. In contrast we heard a very invigorating orchestral piece by Aaron Copland – 'El Salon Mexico' which recalled a dance hall visited by the composer. We also heard an extract from a piece for guitar and orchestra by the blind Spanish composer Joaquin Rodrigo – 'Fantasia para un gentihombre'.

In a class of its own was a piece called 'Blue Rondo a la Turk' conducted and played by Dave Brubeck – a fascinating number.

Arthur Baker

Art Appreciation Programme 2012

Date	Subject	Presenter
19 th January	The Art of 'Art Deco'	Clyde Raines
16 th February	Winston S Churchill – the Artist	Derek Moffitt
15 th March	William Hogarth – Father of Modern English Painting	Carol Massey

The meetings will be held in the Village Hall, Heald Green, Outwood Road, commencing at 2.00 pm.

Church near A La Ronde, Exmouth (the following notice was found on the wall of the kitchen in the Church pictured below!)

“NO EXCUSE” –

“To make it possible for everyone to attend Church next week we are holding a special “No Excuse Sunday “. Beds will be provided for those who say Sunday is the only day I can sleep in. Optrex for those with tired eyes from watching late



Point in view Church, Exmouth

night television on Saturday. We will provide steel helmets for those who say the roof will fall in if I ever go to Church, blankets for those who find it too cold, fans for those who find it too hot, cushions for those who feel the seats too hard to sit on, meals for those who cannot cook and come to Church at the same time, and a car wash for those who must wash their car on a Sunday morning.

The rear portion of the Church will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to find God in nature. There will be hearing aids for those who say the Minister speaks too softly, and cotton wool for those who think he speaks too loudly. Relatives will be in attendance for those who like to go visiting on Sunday. A special section will be roped off for those who say ---- I can be a Christian without going to Church----so they can talk amongst themselves. Finally, the Church will be decorated with Easter lilies, harvest fruits and a Christmas tree for those who have never seen a Church without them”.

Barrie Couch

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

Starts again in January 2012 on the 4th Tuesday of each month 10am -12noon at a cost of £3 per session. (excluding August and December).

New members are welcome and no one is excluded. The group is **not** solely for experienced computer users, although a certain basic understanding of computing is expected. We discuss common problems and interests in computing and a more experienced computer user from within the group will present an occasional topic. Contact George Rogers if you would like to come. Email: chu3a@talktalk.net

All our U3A Members can obtain "Software" at Student prices!

U3A is accepted as a bona-fide educational establishment by "Software4Students", an internet company based in Belfast. The company is an official "Microsoft Partner". Software is identical to that provided to Schools and Colleges. To contact them, simply enter "**Software4Students**" on **Google** or other search engine, click on that site when it appears.

Once you have decided what you want to purchase, you will need to enter the U3A as the Educational Establishment and give their UK address and this should be :- "University of the Third Age U3A" with the address "Old Municipal Buildings, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1QE .

Kelvin Vann

A Brief Encounter - King's Lynn U3A

During our October 2011 holiday in North West Norfolk, we contacted the Chairman of King's Lynn U3A to enquire if we could attend their monthly meeting as we were in the area. Of course! she replied, you will be most welcome.

On arrival at their venue, we were warmly greeted and given a white identity name stick-on label. The idea being to let others know that one is a visitor and, it certainly worked, for many came to introduce themselves.

The format of the meeting was almost the same as ours and when the Chairman opened the meeting and introduced us, we suddenly empathised with our potential new members / visitors when heads and eyes turned to see who these 'strangers' were!

Warm social intercourse continued over refreshments when we were given a copy of their 20th. Anniversary Newsletter (1991- 2011). A 28 page A5 "booklet" comprising, usual Group activities and accompanying colour photos, various articles etc. and, also, a large amount of statistical information relating to membership over the last 20 years. These facts, presented in colour block graph formats, included Year of joining; Age group; Age: Sex and Occupation. All very interesting especially for those interested in statistical analysis - as we are.

The talk, after the break, was given by a professional actor whose specialty is Victorian history and the subject was 'The history of the Great Western Railway' designed and built by the famous engineer Brunel.

If you are on holiday and there is a U3A nearby why not make contact, it could be a most interesting visit - as it was for us.

Carole and Errol Formilli

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)

Programme for 2011 - 12

Date	Subject	Speaker
6 th Dec	Alan Turing	Prof. Bernard Richards
7 th Feb	Concorde Supersonic Superlative	Gordon G. Bartley
6 th Mar	Development of New Drugs	Dr. George Beaumont
3 rd Apr	Manchester's Place in the History of Computers	Prof. Bernard Richards

Technology Group Lecture 4th October 2011

The first lecture of the new season was attended by 29 members and was given by Professor Nigel Linge from Salford University. The lecture was entitled “ How Manchester Cotton Wired Up The World”. It was not however about the cotton industry but about the history of the development of telegraphic communication between countries and in particular the influential role of John Pender and other Manchester cotton merchants in the laying of the first Trans Atlantic telegraph cables.

At the time of the laying of the first cable Manchester had a 99% share of the world cotton piece goods industry and rapid communication between the United States and the UK was clearly of advantage to the Merchants. The troubled story of the technical and financial problems involved in laying a successful working cable was described. The first attempt was to lay a cable between Valentia Bay in Ireland to Trinity Bay in Newfoundland, a total of 1200 miles. No ship large enough to carry the whole of this cable was available and the cable was made in two halves and each half carried on two separate ships. The ships set out in 1857 and 380 miles out of Valentia Bay the cable snapped. A second attempt was made in 1858 with both ships setting out from the middle of the Atlantic. When the ships were 100 miles apart the cable snapped again. The ships returned to Ireland. A new attempt was made and this time both ships got to the end. A message was sent by Queen Victoria to the American President and following that a total of 400 messages were sent before the telegraph stopped working shortly after one month of operation. The American Civil War now stopped any further attempts until 1865, by which time Brunel had built the Great Eastern. This ship was big enough to take the whole cable and a further attempt was made but the cable again snapped. In 1865 £600,000 was raised to make a new attempt but this was not enough to persuade all parties so John Pender gave a personal guarantee of £250,000 to ensure progress could be made. In 1866 the Great Eastern laid a successful cable and in the process recovered the 1865 cable.

John Pender went on to set up a total of eight telegraph companies which at the time owned 35% of the total telegraphic cable mileage. These companies and others eventually merged to become Cable and Wireless.

Professor Linge concluded by stating that it was the Manchester cotton industry that gave the business incentive to invest in telegraphic cables and in this John Pender played a major part, his cotton business giving him the wealth to invest. He also had the foresight to persist in the face of all the problems which beset the project.

A more complete version of the material contained in the lecture can be found at www.engagingwithcommunications.com and clicking on "The Trans-Atlantic Cable 150th Anniversary Celebrations 1858-2008".

Brian Pullan

First Aid Course

As a new member of the committee I was invited to go along to the first aid course. About twenty of us attended, including many of the group leaders. Can you guess how many people believe they should attend a first aid course? Well it's around 80% and how many people actually do something about it? about 5%. Another interesting fact is that when presented with some kind of incident such as someone collapsing in the street only about 4% of people stop and help. Why so few, are we so uncaring and indifferent or is it fear stopping us? Do we fear we could do more harm than good?

The course lasted just over an hour. At the beginning, I was sure I would be a complete liability to anyone unfortunate enough to collapse anywhere in my vicinity. By the end of the session, I felt a lot more confident that if the situation ever occurred I would not be on my own. By phoning 999, I would be guided by an expert at the other end of the phone. I am so glad I attended the course and would recommend it to all U3A members.

Groups' Co-ordinator, Pat Wright

ITEMS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER !

****** Congratulations to Margaret Crowther – winner of the £10 prize ******

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

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

**Closing date for contributions to the March 2012 Newsletter
is the Members' Meeting in February 2012**

Website: www.chu3a.org.uk

Family and Social History

- January 20th (Note change of date)
Italian Family History – Errol & Carole Formilli
- February 24th Food & Drink – Kevin Dranfield

Meetings are on the afternoon of the last Friday of each month at 2pm, at the Cheadle Hulme Quaker Meeting House on Station Road.

The Family History Group started ten years ago, and over the years has grown. During this time, some members of the group researched the names of the men on the Cheadle Hulme War Memorial and in 2009 produced the booklet "85 Heroes". Sales raised almost £300 for SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association). In September 2010, 'Social History' was added to the Group's name to reflect the widening subject interest.

This was the first publication by members of our CHU3A Special Interest Group. The six authors (left to right) Judith Durrant, John Anderton, Hilary Lightfoot, Gillian Rowe, Keith Crowther and Alison Davids were pictured here at the Cheadle Hulme War Memorial just after Armistice Day in 2009.

