


Cheadle Hulme



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007 – March Issue

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

As many of you will know, on 1st February, we had our AGM. About 80 members attended, or rather less than half the membership. Therefore for the benefit of the majority who were unable to be with us I will take the opportunity of the Newsletter to report on the main events of 2006 at CH U3A, as I did at our AGM and beg the indulgence of those who did attend and therefore will have heard it all before!

Firstly the format of the AGM itself changed from our usual procedure insofar as this time we had a guest speaker, Joan Dikon, who is a volunteer worker at Francis House Children's Hospice in Didsbury. Joan is a delightful person who gave an enthralling talk about the activities and work at Francis House and showed us how much warmth and happiness can be created in what could otherwise so easily be heart breaking situations. Some of the information Joan gave surprised many of us. For example they can only accept seven children at a time and their running costs are £4,400 per day. Now we know why fund-raising is so essential. Joan's talk brought our proceedings to a close and we certainly did leave the good one until the end!

Now back to matters closer to our AGM. I reported to the meeting that at the end of 2006 our membership was 207, slightly higher than the same time the previous year (200). Actually, that is slightly better than it appears. As always happens, some of our members left the area during the year so new membership was quite encouraging insofar as it more than compensated for those who had left.

Financially our situation remains satisfactory and I was happy to be able to tell the meeting that the Committee had unanimously decided that our current membership fee and charge for our monthly meetings would remain unchanged. However I had to point out that we have to keep this under review. Our costs are rising. Speakers' fees have increased, we also have rent, printing, postage, refreshments etc. all on an upward trend. To put our situation into perspective, normally the money collected at our monthly meetings does not even cover the rent for the hall. Clearly the Committee does have to keep its eye on this.

The Groups continue to prosper and are well supported. A new group – Computer Workshops – is about to start. Enthusiasm for this is already greater than expected. By the time you read this it may already be up and running. A great deal of preparatory work has gone into this for which our thanks go to John Anderton and George Rogers. Also, I hear that we may shortly be starting another Bridge Group. For this initiative our thanks go to Barbara Anderton.

During 2006 CHU3A established its own Web Site. It is very attractive and much work has been done by John Anderton in setting this up. As you will know, as well as at our monthly meeting, our activities and events are published in our newsletters for the benefit of those unable to attend the meetings. However as it is a quarterly publication, frequently an event has already taken place by the time members receive their copy. Our Web Site will be regularly up-dated so that members who have access to a computer will be able to obtain current news on what activities are planned, where and when. I hope you will agree that this is a major step forward.

At the beginning of 2006 George Rogers took over the editorship of our News Letter. He has more than maintained the high standard he inherited. He has also introduced some excellent initiatives which have been very well received. All the feed-back I have had has been most complimentary.

The main item on the agenda at our monthly meetings is the guest speaker. We have enjoyed a range of very interesting subjects. For these we have to thank our Speakers' Secretary, Bernadette Murray-Robb who is involved in a considerable amount of work on our behalf in arranging these talks, contacting speakers, arranging suitable dates, negotiating fees etc. etc. All very time consuming and we are very grateful to Bernadette for her conscientious and enthusiastic approach to this responsibility.

To summarise I would like to take the opportunity of this, our first Newsletter of 2007, on behalf of all our members, to thank the Group Organisers and Co-ordinators and all who give their time and effort to ensure that Cheadle Hulme is the success we enjoy.

Finally, two hard working Committee members have resigned after five years' dedicated work for us all. Errol Formilli – Hall Steward and Anne Gorton, his deputy. Errol and his wife Carole, who has also contributed greatly to our success, are now enjoying an extended tour of Portugal and Spain. I hope they are benefiting from a well-earned rest and look forward to welcoming them back to our meetings.

With best wishes for the remainder of 2007 and thereafter.

Paul Leigh

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
1 st March	Skelling Michael	Patrick MacDonald
5 th April	The Quaker Tapestries	Christine Adams
3 rd May	The Canadian Group of Seven	Bernadette Murray-Robb
7 th June	Well Dressing	Margaret Curry
5 th July	John Dalton The Man and his Manchester	John Doughty
2 nd August	Manchester Manor	Jennifer Fisher
6 th September	In the Steps of the Brontes	Margaret Curry
4 th October	A walk in Nepal	Kathy Potts
1 st November	The other side of living & working in Africa	David Norris
6 th December	*** Christmas meeting ***	

VISITORS: Potential members are allowed one visit without joining, and need to pay £1 on that occasion. Visitors from other U3As, can come a maximum of three times a year and need to pay £1 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.

CHU3A – Events

Congratulations to Shirley Cawthra for organizing the very successful Festive lunch held on Friday 19th January at the Alma Lodge hotel. Over 50 members attended, to enjoy excellent service, a first class meal with guests sharing numerous free donated raffle prizes between them.

Following the AGM you may have noticed some changes:

The new team organizers for refreshments are Margaret Rogers, Judith Durrant, Chris Read and Anne Webster. A rota has been established for helpers at each meeting, but please contact any of the above if you would also like to be involved. The more help the better and it can be fun.

Brian Durrant is looking after the sound equipment and our esteemed Chairman has taken on the mantle of key-holder and liaison with the hall management committee. All these functions were previously carried out by Errol & Carole Formilli (see below) – **what a debt of gratitude we owe them !**

Thanks - from the Hall Steward

By the time you read this March will be here, Spring on the way and Carole and I will still be away on our travels.

Understandably the thoughts of the AGM held in February will naturally have diminished down memory lane but, if I may, I would like to refer to it because due to our current travels we were unable to attend – sadly the first AGM we've missed!

After holding the position of Hall Steward for five consecutive years until the AGM I feel it would be inconsiderate and discourteous of me not to briefly reflect on my

past duties so I can sincerely thank all who have helped me during those years.

In case some may not know, my duties were threefold namely hall stewardship; refreshments; amplification. During those years there were specific persons who assisted me regularly and some on a spasmodic basis. I have no intention of thanking people by name for I'm sure if I did they would be embarrassed but suffice for me to say that they know who they are and so my sincerest of thanks go to all concerned. There is one exception though and that is

to thank my wife Carole for her constant support and input.

Regarding the Committee on which I served during this period, I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and camaraderie and so may I thank our past Chairman George Wilson and our current Chairman Paul Leigh for their leaderships.

In closing please support your Committee - they work conscientiously for your benefit. Enjoy life and keep smiling!

Errol Formilli

Family History Group – a Progress Report

The members of the group were very happy indeed to welcome some new people, some very experienced and some not. All the combined skills of our members will be available to all those who need help in whatever way. For anyone else wondering whether to join please do approach Gillian Rowe – she is almost always at the monthly meetings.

We are now setting out on the next phase of our project based upon the Cheadle Hulme Memorial. We have taken names of men who were born in the area and we are now extracting material from censuses to see where their ancestors were born, their occupations and movements over several decades. We hope to chart the changes up to 1901.

We know, for example, that silk weaving was carried out in the area and we are interested to see at what stage it began to lose favour – for example one soldier's grandfather of 80 was still a silk weaver in 1901 but was this unusual?

One member is now trying to find information about Ladybridge Sports Club and others will look at the various churches that had day and Sunday schools in the area.

Another member is collating information regarding the various Regiments our men joined and the surprisingly varied areas where they sadly fell. If anyone in the U3A has any information they feel would be of interest please contact Gillian Rowe or Judith Durrant – they don't have to be group members!

Judith Durrant

REMINDER if you haven't already paid your subscription due 1st February 2007 - please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A" for £10 and send to our Treasurer: - Anthony Hillier.



DID YOU KNOW ?

- The average person has over 1,460 dreams a year!
- A mole can dig a tunnel 300 feet long in just one night!
- One in every 4 Americans has appeared on television!
- No piece of square dry paper can be folded more than 7 times in half!

Stockport Library's contributions to the BBC's 'How we built Britain'

URGENT – Stockport Local Heritage Library is celebrating the vast array of unique buildings and amazing architecture in our area by asking members of the public to share their pictures and memories of their favourite buildings in the borough. The material the Local Heritage Library receives is to form part of an exciting exhibition, which will be held to coincide with BBC One's six-part television series 'How We Built Britain', commencing on Saturday 24th March 2007.

"We are looking for photographs, pictures and memories of what the people of Stockport feel are the buildings that make Stockport into the place it is today" says Kathryn Gill – Librarian in Charge at Stockport Local Heritage Library. "There are many buildings which are recognised locally and nationally as making up the face of Stockport but what about those less well known treasures in our area?"

"This exhibition is about displaying the modern with the historic, the well known with the undiscovered – the buildings that we as local people, think make Stockport."

To be part of this exciting project, please send your pictures and writing to:

Stockport Local Heritage Library, Wellington Road
South, Stockport, SK1 3RS
Tel: 0161 474 4530 - Email:
localheritagelibrary@stockport.gov.uk

By Friday 2nd March 2007 (**ED**: there may still be time to contribute)

Or why not call in and see the Local Heritage Team for further information

Events Diary

The following events listed should be paid for in full, at the time of booking. Please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A Events" and send to: -

Shirley Cawthra, 19 Brookdale Road, Bramhall, Stockport SK7 2NW Phone: 0161 439 3420

Stockport Garrick Theatre

Friday 16th March 7.30pm - £6
"Separate Tables" by Terence Rattigan
(Booking deadline 6th March)

Tuesday 12th June 7.30pm - £6
"Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare

Opera House Northern Ballet Theatre

Thursday 10th May 2.30pm - £10 circle
David Nixon's, The Three Musketeers
(must have cheques by March 30th)

*** N.B. CHANGE of DATE ***

Wednesday April 4th 9.15 a.m. Fiveways, Hazel Grove - £16

Daffodil Time - Barnsley and Yorkshire's Secret Garden

Firstly, we call for coffee at Barnsley in time for the fabulous market and free time for lunch and then on into Cannon Hall Museum Park and gardens. Excellent café for afternoon tea and ample time to stroll around the gardens, visit the museum or the superb farm shop.

Wednesday April 11th 9.15 a.m. Fiveways, Hazel Grove - £24

A full day tour of Liverpool with our superb Blue Badge Guide showing us the splendid sights of this marvellous city, including the change to the Pierhead and an insight into some of the famous buildings. Then, to the famous Adelphi Hotel for lunch and a tour of the hotel. Free time to look around the Maritime Museum, Tate Gallery and Albert Dock (guided tour and light lunch included).

Monday 7th May 9.55 a.m. Fiveways, Hazel Grove
Adults £22, children £17

A full day at Knowsley

An exciting day for all the family. We tour through the game reserve to see the lions, monkeys and many other wild animals and then there is free time to visit the Sea Lion Show, Reptile House and visit the Children's Farm. (entrance included, under 3 free)

Sunday 27th May 9.10 a.m. Fiveways, Hazel Grove. £18.50

The Duke of Westminster's Gardens

First we call for coffee at Grosvenor Garden Centre where we have time for a browse, then on to the home of the Duke of Westminster, the magnificent Eaton Gardens which are only open to the public three times a year. Well worth a visit.

Sat. 23rd June - £13 Trentham Gardens and Spode (Details to follow)

Royal Exchange

"The Triumph of Love" 25th April - 2.30 pm
£10 concession

"The Tempest" 30th May - 2.30 pm
£10 concession - Starring Pete Postlethwaite

U3A Summer Schools at Chester

"Full board residential delegate in en-suite accommodation £268.00 per person
Non-residential day delegate including lunches £100.00 per person".

Contact the CH U3A Secretary, Joan Wadsworth for details if you are interested.

U3A in the North West • Conference & Study Day

University of Central Lancashire, Preston
Thursday April 12th 2007 10.30am – 3pm
The Music of Life - Cost £11 to include coffee and buffet lunch - Cheques payable to Life Long Learning
Phone: 01772 892469 for programme and details

***** STOP PRESS *****

Sat. 14th April - Grand National at Aintree £10.50
(booking deadline – 31st March)

Wed. 9th May - Chester Races £8.40

Sun 13th May - Malvern Spring Gardening Show
£14.50

Tue 19th June - Cheshire Show at Tabley £7.25

The Walking Groups

We are fortunate enough to live within easy reach of the Peak District and the Pennines are rarely out of sight on the horizon. Marple – and the road down Brabyns Brow to Marple Bridge – is probably the nearest point to home, for most of us, at which we come close enough to appreciate the sheer majesty of the hills, as we look across to Mellor and beyond to the high peaks.

Travel out in that direction on a fine day and park up at Etherow Country Park beside Compstall Village. Here the Etherow River and the enclosing steep tree-covered hills glow in the soft winter and spring sunlight. Walk up to the hillside viewpoints or take a gentle stroll, away from the squabbling geese outside the lakeside visitor's centre, along one of the waterside paths to the weir, and just see if you don't feel a whole lot better.

Roman Lakes - After an inclement start beneath heavily overcast skies, the light rain stopped soon after we arrived in Marple and Roman Lakes. It turned out to be a very good choice for the Second Wednesday Walkers autumn November stroll. Fifteen strong, with Derek Weedon leading, we set off on the three-mile circular route from Marple Memorial Park, out along the Peak Forest Canal. Taking the track down from the canal through Barlow Woods to the banks of the River Goyt we began the return leg along the valley, passing under the railway viaduct. A break for refreshments was taken at Roman Lakes before continuing along the riverside route and back to Marple, from where the group travelled to Chadkirk for lunch at the Wyvale Garden Centre.

Healey Nab - Eight of our Third Wednesday Walkers enjoyed another beautiful November walk. Our first visit to Anglezarke had been in the height of summer, but now the scene was filled with autumn colour – another of those occasions when, after days and days of persistent rain, the weather relented just long enough to give us a few hours fresh air and cheering sunshine. This is an easy 6½-mile walk (but nearer 7 miles, if your “walk organiser” takes you on a second circuit around the upper contours of Healey Nab.) Our picnic lunch on the veranda of the White Coppice Cricket Club pavilion was memorable for its picture postcard view across the pitch. This miniature Lancashire Lakeland, on the edge of the Western Pennines, is well worth the half-hour dash up the M61 to Chorley.

Marple and the Ring o'Bells - To accommodate the Second Wednesday Walkers' annual festive lunch (following our favourite chef's change of kitchen from Crompstall to Marple) the 17-strong December walk, led by John and Barbara Anderton, was a 4-mile stroll that started and finished at the Ring o'Bells pub, beside bridge No. 2 on the Macclesfield Canal. A short walk along the canal to Goyt Mill and a daring crossing of the Marple Golf Course (hedges resplendent with holly berries on one side and a deep gully on the other) brought us to the Middlewood Way along which, (following a muddy interlude along field paths), we came to Windlehurst, near High Lane. Here a fallen tree, blocking a green lane, forced a slightly longer roadside walk back to the canal.

However, once past the deer park and back on the towpath for the easy return leg to Marple, we soon quickened our pace and thought of festive fare to come.

Nelson Pit and Lyme Park - A baker's dozen, led by Derek Weedon, set out from the Boar's Head on the first of the year's Second Wednesday walks. It began as an easy stroll along the canal, passing the marina at Nelson Pit. Then, only a short way along the track, after leaving the canal at Middlescale, we were led across a stile where deceptively green grass camouflaged a very muddy field. Thus began the steadily ascending cross-country squelch in the direction of Disley. Eventually the going got easier as we descended into Lyme Park at Elmerhurst Cottage, near Parkgate. Here, our walk became a pleasant, if rather fresh and breezy stroll in the park along the drive, passing Cage Hill and its tower, to reach Lyme Hall. From there, after enjoying cups of hot chocolate from the snack bar beside the car park, we climbed the rise for the return leg. Cresting the hilltop and meeting the full force of the SW wind we were caught in a very sudden short and heavy downpour. But it was all over and quickly forgotten as we came down off the bare hillside into the shelter of the woodland and before long we were back, crossing the canal and the Middlewood Way at Nelson Pit and ready for lunch in the Boars Head.

Dovestone Reservoir - After three weeks of solid cloud cover and almost incessant rainfall our options were left open in choosing Dovestones as the place for the Third Wednesday walkers' January outing. Depending on conditions on the day we had a choice of at least four different routes ranging from only three to six miles in length around the reservoirs above the Saddleworth village of Greenfield. No one could have guessed that the day would bring such a change in the weather – which is why, perhaps, only four of the group turned out. As it was, the valiant four – blessed with bright sunny spells between belts of scudding cloud in a very fresh SW wind – had a glorious day for walking . . . just so long as they stayed well wrapped and hooded up, whilst keeping their backs to the wind.

We circled both Dovestone and Yeoman Hey reservoirs, found a sheltered spot and a bench under trees with a spectacular view, for our picnic lunch, marvelled at the speed of a lone wind-surfer on Dovestone and still had time for a visit to the Clarence back in Greenfield to finish off this good day out.

But now you've read the trailer, why not see the pictures in the Walks Diaries, which you can access from the Groups page of our website at www.chu3a.org.uk/page3.html

The Roman Lakes walk is still to follow because that was on the day your correspondent forgot to take spare batteries for the camera (like only one walker has a camera?) The upside is this gives me an excuse to do the walk again. However, as I can't wait until November 2007, the description of this autumn walk is likely to appear with pictures of Spanish Lakes in springtime!

John Anderton

Computer Group

Website <http://www.chu3a.org.uk/>

By the time you read this we will have had our first two regular training/learning sessions at the Café Unity in Heald Green on Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th February. The sessions cover beginners, intermediate and advanced computer users and are to be held four times a month on the first and third Mondays and Tuesdays. Initially 17 members signed up and a waiting list of those interested has now been established. Costs per two-hour session have been set at £2.50 per person to start with.

The Café Unity was the brainchild of the local Methodist Minister, Rev. Charles Nevin and is now organised by 'Churches Together' for the benefit of the local community. The Café has a paid manager with a multitude of volunteer staff. It has a specially created modern training room (furnished by John Lewis) with 10 computers able to access the internet with a central video projector to demonstrate to learners on a large screen. The project was initiated by John Anderton and George Rogers and now has a nucleus of U3A members willing to help each other learn basics and expand their knowledge.



caféunity

Website <http://www.cafeunity.com>

The Internet Cafe Proposal was initiated in August 2004.

There are five churches in Heald Green: Brown Lane Methodist, St. Catherine's Church of England, Heald Green United Reformed, Christchurch Roman Catholic and Kings Way Fellowship, The churches co-operate together under the umbrella of "Churches Together in Heald Green", which is itself part of "Greater Manchester Churches Together".

caféunity is a place where older members of the community can find companionship, where those with young children can meet one another while their children play safely and where young people can come 2 evenings a week to meet in a safe and secure environment.

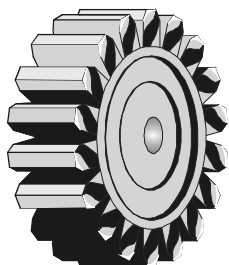
Remember:

Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid: humans are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant; together they are powerful beyond imagination. - *Albert Einstein*

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 send to:
George Rogers

Closing date for copy for the next Newsletter
is at the Members Meeting on Thursday 3rd May 2007



December 5th. 16 people attended in order to learn, or try to understand a little more about the subject 'The History of the Internet and WWW' given by our Group member Paddy MacDonnell, a university lecturer in this particular and highly specialised field.

What is it? How did it develop? What happens when the 'hit button' is pressed and the information or message disappears into the ether of the system?. Who pays for it? Paddy suitably answered these questions and many more with the aid of his laptop computer and screen.

Internet infrastructure and the history were outlined from the beginning in 1957 to current times and examples of internet activities were noted. The immense internet growth from 1982-2006 was then highlighted in the form of a block graph indicating an exponential curve.

Access speeds -kilobytes per second- were briefly outlined which conveniently led to packet switching and was of particular interest. To simplify these complex procedures the next illustration indicated a packet switching procedure demonstration in the format of routers and nodes.

Paddy then moved on to outline how system addresses are assigned to all devices so that they can identify themselves and thus communicate accordingly i.e. e-mail and www site addresses.

Internet versus the www site and what is www (world wide web) were also touched on which paved the way to a brief history of the www from 1991 onwards. Wireless networks were then explained.

Finally illustrations of Government funded JANET (Joint Academic Network) indicated www connection services for the UK, Europe and worldwide. This was a most fascinating historical and factual tour at supersonic speed owing to the limited time available.

Errol and Carole Formilli

The first meeting of the New Year was held at Heald Green Village Hall on Tuesday 6th of February. 20 Members attended an illustrated talk by Roy Frost entitled "A Little Bit Of Manchester". This was different

to the advertised talk but covered the growth of the environment in which the technology and science, which lead to Manchester's wealth, developed.

The talk was divided into three parts starting with the early history of Market Street, then the history of Piccadilly and finally returning to Market Street in more modern times.

The story started in 1650 with Market Stede Lane, a road passing through fields from the old market place shown by series of maps illustrating the growth of the area. Copies of old prints illustrated the town houses along the lane, which later became Market Street Lane. The houses included a number of very fashionable homes including Strangeways Hall, the name later to become much less fashionable! The speaker described the many changes taking place along the street, which was originally quite steep and narrow at the lower end. The street was progressively made less steep over the years and was widened between 1822 and 1830 at a cost of £232,925. This was a result of a number of accidents in the narrow part of the street and in particular that of a young man who was crushed to death by a horse and cart.

The part of the talk on Piccadilly started by showing pictures of Daub Holes, an area where clay was dug out resulting in a pond, which according to one illustration had a ducking stool. The road at the side of the pond was called Lever's Row and this eventually became Piccadilly. The pond becoming the lake in front of the old infirmary was later called Piccadilly Gardens.

The third part of the talk was about the development of Market Street after 1800 with reference to the building of manufacturing mills in the centre of Manchester and their later replacement by warehouses as the factories moved out and the commercial activity of the city developed.

The talk concluded with more recent images including the effects of the blitz in 1940 and the IRA bombing. After tea there was a lively question and answer session in which the members exchanged information about the history of Manchester.

Brian Pullan

The following Technology Group meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month at the Heald Green village hall on Outwood Road commencing at 2.00 pm – 4 pm.

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
6 th March	G. M. Foods – Blessing or Curse	Dr. G. Wilson
3 rd April	Food Additives	Dr. L. Davies

(£1 per member is charged at each meeting to cover the cost of hall hire and tea/coffee)