

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010 – March

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

As I come to the end of my first year in office I am pleased to say that Cheadle Hume U3A is in good shape. We have had a good year in which our main problem has been that of success. This has manifested itself as an increase in membership, resulting in the fact that our meeting place was not large enough to accommodate all our potential members, and culminating with the realisation that we have had to put a cap on membership.

The forming of a Bramhall U3A should help greatly with this problem and I look forward to a much reduced, or even no, waiting-list. For this we have to thank Dorothy Chesterman and George Rogers and all the others who contributed to the success of the Bramhall venture. I hope, as a result of the above, that when the dust settles in March, and all of our renewals are in, that we will be able to clear our waiting list.

Our finances are in good shape and I look forward to another successful year with Cheadle Hume U3A. Finally I would like to thank your committee and all those others who help with catering and managing groups. My thanks also go to Jean-Noel Aiers for her organisation of the Francis House Table.

Paddy MacDonnell

It is with regret that we inform you that the CHU3A Secretary, Joan Wadsworth, died on Saturday 13th February in the Christie Hospital after a short illness. Her husband Alan is one of our members. Arrangements have been made for the Vice Chairman, Bernadette, to act in her place until a successor can be found.

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
4 th March	The Music of Elgar	Bertel Hutchinson
1 st April	Every Year Forever	Ann Metcalf
6 th May	Open Garden	Caroline Melliar -Smith
3 rd June	Coast to Coast Walk	Alan Nolan

Membership remains closed to new members until further notice.

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)

Royal Exchange - Wednesdays at 2.30pm

10th March	"Nineteen Eighty-Four"	£14.50
14th April	"The Comedy of Errors"	£14.50
16th June	"Pygmalion"	£14.50
4th August	"Charley's Aunt"	£14.50

L'Eau-t-Cuisine Friday, 2nd 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.



POSSIBLE HOLIDAYS

Dutch Bulbfields	10th-15th May	£269	
St Ives	16th-24th May	£299	
Criccieth and Snowdonia	16th-24th May	£289	
Lake Garda and Venice	17th-28th May	£599	
Isle of Wight	22nd-30th May	£339	
Channel Island Hopping	4 nights in Guernsey and 3 nights in Jersey	8th-15th June	£698
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs	13th-21st June	£304	
Romantic Rhine and Moselle	19th-27th June	£409	

Blue Badge Guide – Barbara Foster	Cheshire Tales Tour	Monday 8th March	£28
Eaton Hall Garden Open Day	Sunday 4th April	£19	
Tiptoe through the Tulips to Chatsworth House	Monday 3rd May	£23.25	

The Edinburgh Tattoo, Royal Yacht and Falkirk Wheel	6th-8th August	£232
Austrian Tyrol	13th-24th September	£609
The Orkney and Shetland Isles Explorer	16th-23rd September	£698

Conducted tours Sunday July 4th - of St. Mary' church, Alderley (14th 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 15th 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.

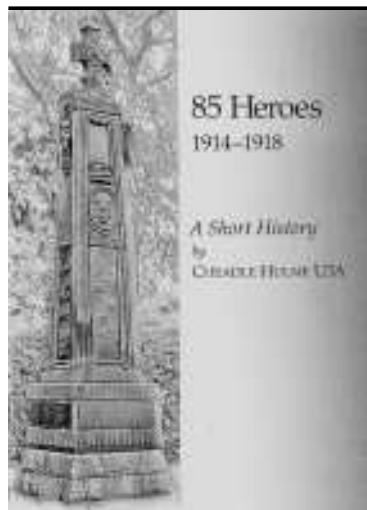
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

- **Membership renewals are due on the 1st January each year** (currently £10 pa), regardless of the month of joining.
- **Renewals** must be made before the 31st March 2010 or membership will lapse. **Enquiries** to join the waiting list should be made to the Membership Secretary by telephone or by post, with a stamped addressed envelope for your annual membership card to:
Judith Durrant*
- **The waiting list (of 38) will continue until the end of March when we will be able to establish who has continued with membership.**

*(*For contact details please refer to printed edition of this Newsletter)*

Bramhall U3A are running groups on ***History of the Church*** (Wednesday mornings every fortnight) and ***Ballroom dancing***. There is insufficient interest from Bramhall members to run a ballroom dancing group alone but if there are members from Cheadle Hulme U3A, it may be viable. ***Anyone interested ring Dorothy Chesterman****.

You do not need to join Bramhall U3A to join groups arranged between the two U3As, however you will be expected to be a member of either Cheadle Hulme U3A, or Bramhall U3A where groups are exclusively run by either U3A.



“85 Heroes 1914 – 1918” - A Short History

This 52 page illustrated booklet is the result of 3 years in-depth investigation and preparation by 6 members of the Cheadle Hulme U3A Family History Group.

It is a factual, thought provoking, heart rendering and, at times, quite emotional presentation and I am certain that when read, one will agree that those involved are worthy of much praise and admiration for their tenacity in this very challenging project.

After reading this booklet I was so enthralled, that I actually trailed around some of the roads, addresses, buildings and, of course, the War Memorial. At each stop I referred to the appropriate page(s) of the booklet as I reflected on those hard days and the men who gave their lives for our freedom.

Very well done to the 6 members whose names are mentioned in the Introduction of the booklet, you have every justification to be very proud of your achievement in the publication of “85 Heroes 1914 – 1918”.

Errol Formilli

There's still just a few left. All profits from the sale of the booklet will go to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) who, especially at this time, have many calls on their support. So ... do buy the booklet, **a snip at only £2**, support SSAFA and find out more about your local area and some of the people who lived there. **Copies are on sale at the monthly meetings or phone Gillian Rowe***, if you want your copy while stocks last! We would be delighted to have to reorder more booklets.

*(*For contact details please refer to printed edition of this Newsletter)*

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)

Tuesday 1st December 2009. Twenty five people attended. Peter Rhodes gave the short introductory talk on the subject of bar codes using a Power Point presentation. Peter explained how information is coded into the stripes on a bar code and how the information is read and checked mainly using the example of the bar codes in books.

The main presentation of the afternoon was by Paddy MacDonnell who explained, using the example of Peter's talk, how to put a power point presentation together. Paddy demonstrated how to put pictures, tables, bullet points, lists and bar charts into a presentation and then proceeded to show how the presentation can be made more attractive by changing the background and the transitions between successive slides.

The afternoon ended with the usual question and answer session.

Brian Pullan

Tuesday 5TH January 2010

Sadly, due to adverse weather conditions (snow and ice you may remember) the meeting had to be cancelled at very short notice. The topic "Origins of cancer" by Professor Pat Kumar will now be integrated in the Autumn/Winter Programme.

Tuesday 2nd February

The topic for this meeting was a first for the Group and also an experiment. One of the fundamental philosophies of the Group is group participation.

During a discussion meeting about future programmes for the Technology Group, it was agreed to download an Oxford University technology video lecture, and present it to the monthly meeting with the idea of having group discussion participation. So our "super technologist" John Anderton, with his in-depth computer knowledge, downloaded the material so that the 1.25hour lecture could be presented in 2 twenty minute slots with a break for refreshments. Also John had to be sure that the Group's PowerPoint equipment would be compatible for the experiment.

After hours of technical input and viewing time, he then obtained the expertise of another of our specialist "super technologists", Paddy MacDonnell. Eventually, the lecture was ready for the presentation using two projectors for the first time.

The lecture, entitled "Information Engineering" and delivered by Professor Sir Michael Brady from Oxford University, embraced the subjects of: signal and image analysis; robotic vehicles; artificial and systems intelligence including an ancient Roman tablet.

Although the lecture concluded with a Q & A session from the video audience there was NO discussion session within our Group, consequently the meeting terminated abruptly and much earlier than normal. Well perhaps next time!!

Considerable amounts of time and effort were exercised by John and Paddy so we sincerely thank them. As mentioned, it was an experiment and so Technology Group members' feedback is sought after for future reference.

Tuesday 2nd March

Booked visit to BBC NW TV Studio, Oxford Road, Manchester. Tour 1:12.30pm & Tour 2: 3.30pm.

Tuesday 13TH April

A talk by Professor Bernard Richards on "Computers in medicine". This will be the Group's last meeting until we recommence on Tuesday 5th October.

Have a safe and pleasant technology browsing summer!

Errol and Carole Formilli

A few suggestions from Joan Clifford

Many of us find ourselves on limited budgets in retirement but still enjoy the theatre and concerts. I wonder whether you are aware of the many reasonably priced events at the RNCM on Oxford Road in Manchester. It is easily accessible on the X57 bus, or train to Oxford Road.

To give you some examples:

Saturday 6 March Junior RNCM Concert at 12.30 free.

Sunday 7 March at 7.30 Friends of Bury Music Centre, tickets £6 concessions are often available.

Monday 8 March 1.15 Lunchtime concert free. It is possible to attend many concerts

for less than £10 with concessions and the standard of performance is usually very high.

Perhaps if there are a number of members interested in these concerts, you could form an interest group. It is more pleasant to attend these events with people who share your interests and if the events are in the evening we often feel safer travelling on public transport together. I must say that when Ken and I have travelled on public transport to Manchester in the evening the only people we have met are people who have attended concerts or the theatre like ourselves. The concerts are usually over before 10 pm.

I will bring a copy of the Spring season along with me to the next U3A meeting for any interested parties to browse.

The folk train - Some of you may also be interested in the folk train. It runs from Manchester Piccadilly to Strines, or sometimes through Cheadle Hulme to ? It is free with the travel pass for some of the journey and an economical fare can be purchased with a wayfarer ticket for the rest of the way. The music played varies from folk to jazz and other genres, although I have not come across a classical trip.

Can you suggest an event that you would like to attend with members of the U3A?

The reading project with Pownall Green School is now in full swing. In addition to reading with the children the school would welcome our members who have other skills they could share with the children. They are starting a gardening club after school on Fridays and would welcome our help. Are you hiding your light under a bushel? Could you show the children something, either as a one visit presentation or on a regular basis?

Joint interest groups with Bramhall U3A

We are hoping to run some joint interest groups with the newly formed Bramhall U3A. In the past we have had a number of members who have wanted us to form a group to learn a particular subject but we have been unable to find a leader, or sufficient members to share the interest. We now have an opportunity to expand the number of groups to the benefit of both ourselves and Bramhall members. The rules regarding membership of groups which span both U3As are that members of the U3A setting up the group take priority. However, once a member from the other U3A has joined an interest group anyone from the home U3A must wait for a vacancy in the usual way.

At our AGM I mentioned that we would have an even more dynamic U3A if every member tried to do one thing during the coming year for the benefit of the membership. This can be something small such as being on duty at the door at our monthly meetings, helping with the tea at break, putting out and putting away chairs. It would be even more helpful to be prepared to help to form an interest group. We need leaders for some subjects but in some cases groups could run as a group of people interested in the same hobby etc.



REMEMBER YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU, NOT JUST TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETINGS BUT ALSO TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER, TO ENABLE US ALL TO FULFILL OUR AIM OF LIFE LONG LEARNING.

FROM STUBBS TO RILEY

A group of twenty people from the Art Appreciation group visited Manchester Art Gallery on Thursday 21 January for a guided tour. We were led by Debbie, one of the volunteers of the gallery.

After some refreshments, we set off to look at a small number of paintings but where Debbie explained various points of interest in some detail. The first was a very fine painting by Stubbs, 'Cheetah and Stag with Two Indians', about 1765. The cheetah and its handlers are very finely painted but the stag seems to be a curious hybrid. This was painted over in 1882 but subsequently removed in 1960. The background seems to be from Derbyshire rather than Windsor Park.



Another English painter represented at the gallery is Turner where we saw 'Now for the painter' (Rope) – Passengers Going on Board', 1827. The title is a play on words, where a 'painter' is a boat rope. The passengers seem to be very vulnerable, especially in the turbulent seas and swaying boats, and particularly as the larger boat is still decked in full sales.



Symbolism is very important in many paintings, not least those by William Hunt, a very popular English Victorian painter who founded the Pre-Raphaelite movement. We saw his 'Shadow of Death', 1870-73, which combines normal everyday activities and objects with religious symbolism. At the time many people objected to Christ being portrayed as a working man. Here we see a carpenter's workshop, complete with shavings on the floor. Christ is apparently yawning but where his shadow foretells his crucifixion. At the same time the window behind doubles as a halo. Amongst other examples, a symbolical Crown of Thorns is depicted.

It is difficult to imagine the smogs of Manchester before the clean air acts, but Valette's painting of Oxford Road, dated 1910, gives a very good impression. It is in fact known as an impressionist painting and shows pedestrians, horse drawn and motor vehicles moving towards the city. The Refuge Assurance Building (now the Palace hotel) can be seen in the background to the right.



The Surrealist art movement is perhaps not one of the most popular, but the painting by Max Ernst, 'The Petrified City', 1933, is an example held by the gallery. The technique used here is called 'frottage' where the painter uses rubbings from textured surfaces, such as wood. In this picture the artist is said to have tried to capture the anxiety of Europe between

the two world wars. Surrealism was a kind of development from the Dada movement, which was a reaction to the horrors of war and wanted to shock.

The tour concluded with a look at a modern abstract painting by Bridget Riley, entitled 'Zephyr' and dated 1976. At first sight it is just a pattern picture. It has a somewhat yellow hue, but there is no yellow in the picture. The surface of the painting is flat, yet it has a corrugated look. And most remarkable of all is that by running the eye evenly down the painting, the whole picture appears to be swaying to and fro, just as corn or long grass does when swept over by a gentle breeze, or zephyr. I could quite happily hang this picture in my living room.



Derek Moffitt - Art Appreciation

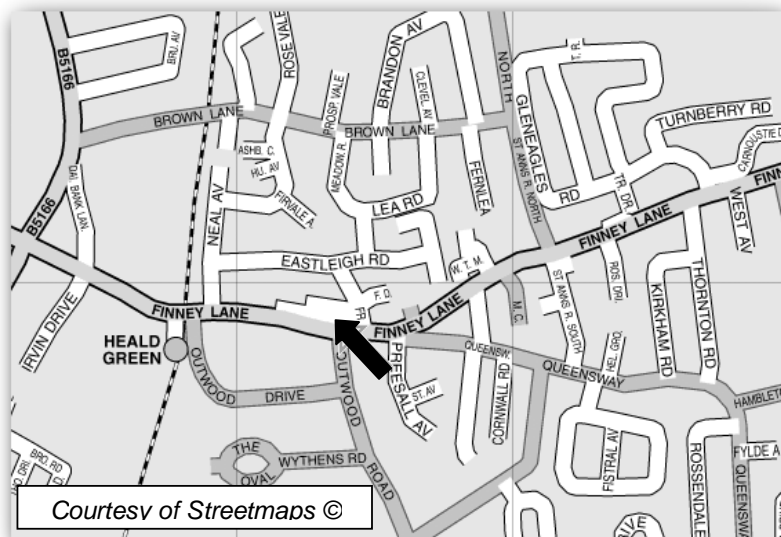
ED: It is such a pity we are unable to reproduce these painting in their original colours (in the printed edition of this Newsletter)

Singing Group

The group was formed in April 2008, with about twenty people expressing interest. Since then, we have settled down to a core group of around ten regular attenders, and have agreed that we are a singing group rather than a choir: we get together and enjoy singing. Among our number are people with valuable musical experience, and their contribution is much appreciated. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, at 2 p.m. in our homes, and welcome new members who would like to sing with us.

Pat Vermes

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



The Computer Club monthly meetings are on each 4th Tuesday of the month 10am -12noon at a cost of £3 per session.

2010 dates for your diaries are March 23rd, April 27th, May 25th, June 22nd, July 27th, August 24th, September 28th, October 26th and November 23rd (no meeting in December)

We discuss common problems and interests in computing, and although a certain basic understanding of computing is expected, an occasional topic will be presented by a more experienced computer user from within the group.

New members are welcome and no one is excluded. The group is **not** solely for experienced computer users. Please contact George Rogers if you would like to come. Email: chu3a@talktalk.net

French Study Group - We are a group of eleven (ten women and one man!) who meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at each others' homes. We make sentences around French words chosen at random from my 'dreaded tin', translate texts of varying degrees of difficulty, answer questions - in French - posed by the leader, and do various other exercises designed to enhance our vocabulary and understanding of the language. Unfortunately we are unable to accept new members at the moment.

The Board Games Group - continues to thrive in a happy, competitive atmosphere. We meet once a month on a Wednesday evening at Cheadle library and we play most of the well known games, and some of the lesser known ones. We now have space for a few new members and should anyone wish to join us, they will be most welcome. Please contact Margaret Bohl.*

(*For contact details please refer to printed edition of this Newsletter)

The Art of Kissing

Most people kiss, but not one in a thousand knows how to extract bliss from lovely lips than he knows how to extract diamonds.

The gentleman should be taller than the lady and should have a mouth of expression.

Take the lady's right hand and place your left hand on her shoulder and let it fall gently to her waist – but DO NOT HURRY.

Gently and lovingly draw her to your heart, her hand will fall on your shoulder, which will cause your heart to flutter.

*Now you are nearly heart to heart
BUT DO NOT SQUEEZE*

Look right into her eyes, gently but manly draw her to your bosom, stand firm and do not shiver – your lips are now together

*Her eyes close, your heart opens, but do not take your lips off at once
Press firmly to hers – your nerves dance before you and your heart glows in tenderness.*

Now the 'Art of Kissing' is learnt and it takes nothing but LOVE to make it perfect

Always respect the girl you kiss and never kiss at all if you cannot kiss properly.

This poem was stuck in my mother's address book, dated 1939.
(Carolyn Dee)

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 or post to:

George Rogers*

**Closing date for contributions to the June 2010 Newsletter
is the Members' Meeting on the 1st Thursday in May 2010**

Website: www.chu3a.org.uk

Walking Groups - There are two walking groups and they regularly meet on the second and third Wednesdays in the month.

The first group walks between three and five miles and we get together once a month. Details of the next meeting are given at each walk and repeated, at the monthly Members' General Meeting, the week before the walk. The walks are organised, tested and led by volunteers from within the group. We are a sociable, friendly and enthusiastic group of strollers. Most of our walks are within 30 miles of Cheadle Hulme although we may travel a little further into the Peak District in summer.

Our intention is to get out into the open air and enjoy the physical activity of gentle walking, whatever the weather. We are fortunate in having such beautiful countryside so readily accessible, which also has such a variety of interest in its natural history, industrial archaeology and in its social history. The walking is non-strenuous even when we go into the hills. We usually finish up at a pub or tea room for those who choose to stay behind after the walk. Occasionally, in summer, we will suggest a picnic lunch.

This second, smaller group, is intended for more experienced walkers wishing to undertake a slightly more strenuous walk of from five to seven miles and who do not mind travelling further afield to obtain a more varied choice of terrain. Third-Wednesday walks are along published routes, but are not always walked out in advance by the organiser. Members pack a drink and sandwiches for a picnic lunch during the walk. Location and arrangements for the walks are notified by group email or by 'phoning the group leader.

Both the Second and Third Wednesday groups share transport to reduce the problems of parking and to make the activity accessible to all.

Having several good rambling clubs in the district to serve the needs of serious walkers, leaves both groups free to stroll at the pace of the slowest. Our walks are aimed at discovering as much as we can about the places we visit and to allow time to stand and stare and marvel at the beauty of our countryside.

Group Co-ordinators' contact telephone numbers are listed on the end page of the printed Newsletter.

To All Group Coordinators

If your group is likely to need to use the CHU3A's technical equipment (video projector, computer, overhead projector or screen) you need to have at least one (preferably more) of your members able to operate the equipment. This will spread the load, help to avoid damage to the equipment and reduce repetitive requests to the same individuals.

Please contact John Anderton* to arrange for a teaching session - to be organised shortly.

NOTE: – Only those who have been to a teaching session will be able to make use of the CHU3A equipment on behalf of their group.

*(*For contact details please refer to printed edition of this Newsletter)*