

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009 – March Issue

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

I thought, as your newly elected chairman, that this might be a good opportunity to introduce myself.

I have been a member of Cheadle Hulme U3A for about five years and during that time have joined the Friday Discussion Group, the Technology Group, occasionally the Dining Group and the Walking Group, especially for their weekends away, which Monica and I enjoy very much.



Over the years, I have given one or two talks at our monthly meeting.

I have deliberately chosen not to introduce myself in terms of my past career or the job I used to do, because I feel that in joining the U3A we start again with a clean slate where these past things are irrelevant.

In taking over from Paul Leigh I realise that I have a hard act to follow and can only hope that I will, over time, rise to the occasion. I hope to get to know more of you personally over the months and year ahead, so if you see me standing around looking lost, please approach me and introduce yourselves.

Paddy MacDonnell

CHU3A Monthly General Meetings at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall on Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, on the first Thursday of each month.

| DATE | TOPIC | SPEAKER |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| 5 th March | Within the Wooden "O" | Ann Metcalf |
| 2 nd April | I wandered Lonely as a Cloud | Barry Myers |
| 7 th May | Forensic Science – The Media and Reality | Dr Rachel Crossley |
| 4 th June | Music and Poetry, an Entertainment | Philip Holland |

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 will now pay £1 as from the March meeting).**

REMINDER – Subscriptions became due on the 1st January 2009
There are still more than 90 members who have not yet renewed.
If you have not yet paid, please send your cheque for £10 payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A" to Judith Durrant, Membership Secretary.

Note: Committee and Group contact details, deleted from these pages, can be found in the printed edition of your Newsletter.

CHU3A EVENTS

Please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A Events"
and send to: Shirley Cawthra, Events Co-ordinator.

Opera House

Riverdance – Farewell Tour

Thursday 26th March 2009 **£25** (minimum 10 seats)

Stockport Town Walks by the Heritage Trust

Saturday 11th April 2009 1.00 pm
Historic Food and Drink Walk

Discovering Stockport's amazing food and drink history 2 hours **£4.**

Saturday 13th June 12.00 noon – **Old Stockport Walk**

An exciting look at the history and heritage of old Stockport 2½ hours **£5**

Saturday 11th April

"The Duchess" Exhibition at Kedleston Hall

£14.50 Coffee at Ashbourne; then at Kedleston Hall you can find out what went on behind the scenes during the filming of "The Duchess" (costumes used for filming) etc.

NT members free; + £7.25 for non-members.

Royal Exchange Wednesdays at 2.30pm

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 6 th May | Widowers' Houses | £13.50 |
| 3 rd June | Haunted | £13.50 |
| 24 th June | The Pianist | £19 |
| 8 th July | Everybody Loves a Winner | £13.50 |

Manchester Airport Tour Centre

Friday, 8th May 10.30 am **£6 + £5** for Concord.

Explore the world of aviation in an exciting way that brings together the past and present. Our guide will take us through the inner workings of the Airport with a two-hour "landside" view of Manchester Airport from Terminals 1 and 3. Car parking is free.
Will let you have road instructions for tour centre.

Working Class Movement Library, Salford

Thursday 18th June 11.00 am. **£3 donation**

The Working Class Movement Library (a charitable trust) records over 200 years of organising and campaigning by ordinary men and women.

The collection provides a rich insight into working people's daily lives as well as their thoughts, hopes, fears and the roles they played in the significant events of their time.

The visit will consist of a browse of the new ground floor displays, which highlight some of the library's treasures – there's also a small exhibition to mark the centenary of the state pension – followed by a tour of the Library. Please be aware that the tour involves quite a lot of stairs. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be on offer!

Roy McCarthy Coaches

Sunday 19th April – Steel, Steam and Stars II – Gala Festival in Llangollen.
Coffee at Grosvenor Garden Centre. On to Llangollen for a trip on the steam train to Carrog or a guided tour of the locomotive shed **£17**
(Unlimited all day train ticket approximately £20 not included).

**Sunday 26th April – Harrogate Spring Flower Show £11
or Harrogate for shopping**
Flower Show tickets £11 extra.

Thursday 28th May – A Majestic Mountain Top Adventure in Wales.

Coffee at St. Asaph Tweedmill.

Llanberis for electric mountain or slate museum **£20.50**

OR

Journey on Snowdon's Mountain railway from Llanberis to the new Snowdon Summit Visitors Centre

(30 mins. stop at the summit) **£33.50** (includes an extra £13)

Sunday 31st May – 'Brief Encounter' Carnforth to Grange over Sands

Coffee at Carnforth Station where 'Brief Encounter' was filmed. Lunch in Carnforth

or catch a train to Grange over Sands (where the coach will pick you up) **£20**

Saturday 27th June – Cruising the Canals of Lancashire

Coffee at Garstang Visitors Centre. Barton Grange Garden Centre for lunch.

Cruise along Lancaster Canal (cruise included) **£23**

Stockport College Town Centre Campus

U3A Summer School 2009 13th-18th July

(All sessions from 10 am to 4 pm with lunch from 12 noon to 1 pm)

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|-----|--|
| Monday | 13 th July | 1 day course | £15 | Russia |
| Monday and Tuesday | 13 th & 14 th July | 2 day course | £25 | Computing – Using Microsoft Word and Clip Art |
| Tuesday | 14 th July | 1 day course | £15 | Al-Andalus: Islamic Spain |
| Wednesday | 15 th July | 1 day course | £15 | Computing – Creating a Calendar using Photographs |
| Thursday | 16 th July | 1 day course | £15 | Computing – Introduction to Searching the Internet and using E-mail |
| Thursday | 16 th July | 1 day course | £15 | Fashion Corsages (may have small charge for materials) |
| Friday | 17 th July | 1 day course | £15 | Card Marking – Quilling (may have small charge for materials). |
| Friday | 17 th July | 1 day course | £15 | Youth Justice: Punishment Versus Rehabilitation |

Ring & Ride provides a door-to-door accessible minibus service for people of all ages who find it difficult to use ordinary public transport.

Ring & Ride is designed to make short, local journeys, helping you to:

- do your shopping;
- travel to work, school or further education college;
- attend health appointments, including visits to hospitals and medical centres;
- take part in social and leisure activities; and
- visit places of worship.

The Ring & Ride service operates throughout Greater Manchester, and before you use Ring & Ride you must register. Registering and general enquiries or to receive more information about the service, please phone the enquiry line on **0161 432 6699** or visit the website: <http://www.ringandride.info/index.htm>

Anagrams from Tina Menges

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters:
A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THEY SEE

ANIMOSITY:

When you rearrange the letters:
IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters:
LIES – LET'S RECOUNT

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:
I'M A DOT IN PLACE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:
TWELVE PLUS ONE

caféunity – 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 the New Life Church, Heald Green. The churches co-operate together under the umbrella of "Churches Together in Heald Green", which is itself part of "Greater Manchester Churches Together". This is a registered charity. It has a purpose built room on the first floor for meetings/discussions, with disabled access.

I dreamed death came the other night
And Heaven's gate swung wide,
An angel with a halo bright
Then ushered me inside.

And there to my astonishment
Were folks I'd judged and labelled
As "Quite Unfit", of "Little Worth"
And "Spiritually Disabled".

Indignant words rose to my lips,
But never were set free,
For every face showed stunned surprise,
No one expected me!

from Pat Couch

Computer Club Website: www.chu3a.org.uk

The **CHU3A Computer Club** continues to be held at caféunity bi-monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon. The cost of £2.50 each is payable directly to the café on arrival. The specialised facilities at 'caféunity' * on Finney Lane, Heald Green can accommodate up to 20 people with comfort. There are 8 machines available to connect to the Internet and a teaching machine connected to a video projector for demonstration to the whole group. Individual laptops can access the café's wifi system by arrangement.

This forum discusses common problems and interests in computing, and although a certain basic understanding of computing is expected, our discussions have now found their own level, with an occasional topic being presented by a more experienced computer user from within the group. No one is excluded and the group **is not** solely for experienced computer users.

Please contact George Rogers if you want to come.
Email: chu3a@talktalk.net

Groups – Message from the Groups’ Organiser, Joan Clifford

As we begin a New Year it is time to review new groups and consider joining some of the groups that are already running.

The **Craft group** got off to a good start and we hope to learn from Maureen and other members of the group with different knowledge and expertise. At the moment the group will meet twice monthly on Monday am but this is flexible and may be moved depending on availability of interested parties. Please do not be afraid to express an interest and alternative dates you may be available.

The **Art Appreciation group** has recently had its first meeting. We do not have any groups, apart from walkers and country dancers, for **general health and fitness**. Is there anyone out there who is interested in leading or forming a group for **ballroom, salsa, yoga, tai chi** etc? The **swimming group** gradually diminished to nought but has now been revived.

Is there anyone who would like to start a **play reading group**? Perhaps those with an interest could contact the committee to be introduced to each other.

Everyone is welcome at the U3A. It has been suggested that we have an occasional meeting for new members only, to give them an opportunity to put forward their initial reaction to the U3A at Cheadle Hulme. If you are a fairly recent member of our group do tell us how you feel.

If you have been a member for some time, please remember when you were new and make a special effort to get to know a new name at every monthly meeting. The best way to become known, whether a new, or old member is to become involved. Consider offering to be on the door, put out the chairs or help with the teas.

Our monthly meetings start at 2 p.m. but it is much appreciated if members arrive early, from 1.30 onwards, as it is difficult to book everyone in by 2 p.m. if most people do not arrive until after 1.45. Make the most of the time and have a chat to friends and make new ones.

Here are a few ideas for new groups. Anyone want to start one ?

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Badminton | Birds & Botany | Bowls |
| Calligraphy | Canoeing | Country Dancing |
| Cryptic Crosswords | Cycling | Film Group |
| Geology | Landscape Archaeology | Medieval History |
| Needlecraft | Philosophy | Photography |
| Play Reading | Poetry | Salsa |
| Table Tennis | Tai Chi | Travel |

Or have you got your own suggestion ?

Buongiorno! Parla Italiano?

The Italian Group was founded in June 2008.

We meet twice a month at 2.30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month (except during the main holiday seasons). Meetings are held in the homes of Group members in Cheadle Hulme and Bramhall.

When we started many of the members had not studied Italian previously. The Group is therefore intended for those who are beginners or who feel that their Italian is so rusty they would like to start again.

We aim to be able to hold simple conversations on everyday topics, read simple passages and also study the basics of the underlying grammar. We work mainly from a course book with accompanying CDs or cassettes which members buy.

A professionally qualified teacher of Italian leads the Group. There are now one or two places available. If you would like to join us or find out if the Group would be suitable for you, please contact Pat Clayton.

Outline of a proposed Supper Club

Following the announcement at the February's monthly meeting regarding a proposed U3A Supper Club, Errol and I thought we should outline how it would operate: –

1. 3 couples A, B and C or a mixture of singles and couples (i.e. 2 couples and 2 singles) meet say, every 6 – 8 weeks for a 3 course evening meal with appropriate drinks.
2. Couple A (or 2 singles) act as hosts and provide the main course.
3. Couple B (or 2 singles) provide the starter/s and drinks – alcoholic and non alcoholic.
4. Couple C (or 2 singles) provide the dessert/s and cheese and biscuits followed by coffee provided by couple A (or 2 singles).
5. As the Group numbers increase the original 3 couples will then integrate with new couples and so the process starts again with each couple taking turns to provide 1st, 2nd, and 3rd courses.
6. Please note that these social evenings are NOT culinary competitions!! We have participated in such a group activity and it was very successful.
7. Should this proposal become reality then a schedule of hosts' names, venues and associated couples will be issued to those concerned.

Interested ? – Then contact: Carole and Errol Formilli

Art Appreciation – New Group

We will be looking at all aspects of art from the earliest cave paintings and drawings to the cutting edge of modern art. If you are interested in hearing a mixture of in-house and guest speakers then you would be very welcome to join us.

We will also be visiting art galleries to widen our horizons. Please contact the leader beforehand or just pop along to any of the meetings.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month from October to March at the Village Hall, Heald Green from 2pm to 4pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 19th March. There will be a subscription of £1.50 for each meeting, which includes refreshments.

Derek Moffitt

ED: – *The inaugural meeting of this group was held on Thursday 19th February and now boasts 40 members or so.*

ITEMS ALWAYS WELCOME FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER !

If you would like items published in the Newsletter, please hand them to the Newsletter Editor, George Rogers, at one of the Members' Meetings, or (preferably) email to chu3a@talktalk.net

**Closing date for contributions to the June Newsletter
is the Members' Meeting on Thursday 7th May 2009**

Website www.chu3a.org.uk

Technology Group

Tuesday 7th April 2009

“Transport Strategy for the 21st Century”

Group Activity

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)

5th December – This, our last meeting for 2008 had a record number of attendees namely 33! We wondered – could it have been the thought of seasonal mince pies during the refreshment break!?

Ian, our Chairman introduced fellow member Peter Rhodes to present a few minutes of technology news – you may recall our new experimental format prior to the main topic of the meeting.



Peter really feels at peace with the world when, complete with binoculars and camera, he's out and about bird watching either in the UK or overseas. But his real passion within this subject is the migration of birds and their specific routes over many thousands of miles. Incidentally, his wife Pam also enjoys the subject and frequently accompanies him.

Peter mentioned that with the aid of transmitter technology, a device carefully attached to a bird, we now have a unique insight into the world of birds in flight and their migratory routes. For example, the osprey, a large fish eating bird from Scandinavia with a wing-span of 6ft, came to the Scottish shores in 1954 but did not succeed in nesting until the 1959 season. However with the advent of very small tracking transmitters attached to birds, the use of satellite technology, satellite photographs and computer wizardry, bird watchers like Peter are able to track and plot the migration route of birds like the osprey.

It really is an astonishing route, for it commences in the Scottish mountains and via Spain terminates on the west coast of Africa, Mauritania to be precise. Acetate projection format gave us a view of the great distances these birds fly, the exact route and “stopping off” places. Ospreys remain in the Mauritania area for up to three years before returning to the Scottish mountains to breed.

Peter, with his touches of humour, had told us a wonderful, extraordinary and true story of a bird's migratory life integrated with state of the art technology information.

There is a web site for up-to-date information and Peter will be happy to impart his knowledge if you ask him.

Ian then introduced our guest speaker, Professor Richard Neave to give a talk titled “**Reconstruction of faces from the past**”. You may recall Professor Neave made and narrated the television series titled “Meet the Ancestors”. After being trained as an artist, he then attended university in London to study medical art and pathology and then went on to produce detailed illustrations for medical text books and general medical books.

Circa 1975 and with the agreement of a professional institute in London, an ancient Egyptian mummy was unwrapped in the glare of the national and international news media interest.

By invitation he reconstructed a wax face from the remains of the 2000 + years old mummy and the

finished project, complete with glass eyes, eye lashes and hair, attracted further mass media photographic and interview interest.

About two years later the forensic department of a UK police force sought his assistance with a murder case. Having completed this first commission with positive results, other police forces started to seek his assistance and soon a salient percentage of his commissions were connected with forensic work and court proceedings.

Slides showing the skulls of four sailors from the ill fated Mary Rose were of particular interest as the Professor described the various stages and specialist techniques applied to reconstruct these faces from the past.

Of interest were slides and descriptions of the articulated joints of the human skeleton and an anatomical model of a face indicating muscle fibre, fat and major blood vessels.

Progressing, he outlined the history and previous attendant problems that had to be solved with the development of facial reconstruction from the past which date back to 1894 in the UK and 1948 in the USA. No two skulls are the same. Each has different facets and a set of slides clearly indicated these differences ie. male; female; age; ethnic origin; positions of: eyes, nose, jaw etc. in relation to skull features – all play a very important part in the reconstruction process.

Professor Neave then outlined the general process stages of facial reconstruction and also mentioned that accurate measurements and an eye for detail are essential. Further slides of skulls supplemented his comments.

He concluded the talk by informing us how the introduction of CT scanning has assisted this specialised subject and aided the comparison between the scan of a living person's head and that of a reconstructed wax head of the same person.

For those interested, Professor Neave will be seen on TV sometime next year in a BBC 2 documentary titled 'The human journey'. There then followed a good selection of questions which continued after the mince pies refreshment break.

We must thank our member Dr. Brian Pullan for inviting his well known friend and former colleague who is always very busy, to be our speaker.

This is the last of our monthly reports for it is time to have a change. We thank those who have stepped into the breach on the few occasions that we were absent from the meetings.

Errol and Carole Formilli

3rd February 2009 – Chairman Ian Reid welcomed people to the first meeting of the year. Twenty-two people attended in spite of the bad weather.

Paddy MacDonnell opened the proceedings with a short presentation on the subject of clean materials and described a number of novel surfaces for materials which shed dirt easily. This was one of the new experimental presentations, at the start of our meetings, which the group is encouraging. The short talk made excellent use of the U3A's new digital projection facilities and was an example of what can be achieved in the way of presentation skills. Carole Formilli volunteered to do the short presentation at the next meeting

Our main speaker of the day was Professor Kenneth Letherman who spoke on the subject of "Science and the Built Environment". The talk covered the physical considerations when designing buildings. He first discussed lighting from the point of view of both natural and artificial lighting in rooms and went on to consider acoustics and noise control.

An interesting fact that emerged was that a gap in a wall of only 1% of the wall area can reduce the sound insulation by 50%, a small gap under or around a door or window can therefore let through a lot of noise. His next topic was ventilation, air movement and thermal comfort and showed results indicating that whatever you do, 5% of people will always be dissatisfied with the temperature in a room and a change in temperature of as little as 1degree centigrade can cause 30% of people to be dissatisfied. Prof Letherman finished by talking about energy conservation and boilers for central heating systems. One of the final slides showed the enormous improvements in thermal efficiencies of modern houses compared with those built in the twenties, this improvement being achieved by better insulation and more efficient boilers. The improvement is by a factor of 10.

A lively discussion followed mainly concerning how you actually design lighting schemes and whether the Chairman should change his old boiler!

Brian Pullan

And more technology

- Does pushing the lift button more than once make it arrive faster ?
- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground ?
- If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be ?
- What is the speed of darkness ?
- Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet ?



St Francis and Gorton Monastery

On a cold, rainy afternoon in November 2008 our Events Co-ordinator took a group of us to Gorton Monastery, built in 1861 and designed by E W Pugin, whose father A W N Pugin designed the House of Commons.

Our Guide, Tony Hurley, told us that in 1861 Gorton, still a rural area, had 3,000 inhabitants with a small Catholic minority of around 300 people. Significantly, in 1829 the Act of Catholic Emancipation at last granted freedom of worship, the franchise and property rights to English Catholics after centuries of religious conflict. Manchester was predominantly Protestant and St. Francis' Church and Friary, built as a parish church, was not so much a local church as a manifestation of the Catholic revival. The Pugin family were prominent Catholics and famed architects of the High Victorian Gothic style.

Within nine years there stood a building more resembling a cathedral than a church. It was 184 feet long, 98 feet wide and 100 feet high and was acclaimed to be the largest parish church built in England since the Reformation. A particular feature was the cascade of natural light on the statues of Christ and the Virgin, through high, pointed windows, in tune with the seasons and at specific moments of the religious calendar (the Feast of the Nativity and the Assumption). To our guide, Tony Hurley, this clearly was of lasting significance despite the deconsecrating of the building in 1989.

We learned that 1861 was a time of great hardship because of the Cotton Famine and the American Civil War. Only seven friars arrived from Belgium together with Brother Patrick Dalton from Ireland – a practical genius. They had £2000 with which to buy a four-acre site (Bankfield Cottage). They came not for a life of contemplation but to minister to the poor and sick although the church has retained the misnomer 'monastery' because the friars wore long, brown habits. The building work was done by the Brothers themselves and by volunteers, both male and female. We saw the imprints of their hands on bricks made out of local clay. Money was raised by appeal and mainly consisted of small donations.

From 1872 to the 1960s Gorton Monastery was at the heart of the local community, providing schools, a parish hall and social activities. Gorton grew rapidly at this time and the Monastery was surrounded by terraced houses and factories. For those generations it was their place of baptism, marriage and burial. We watched a BBC video and realised it was individuals who remembered the Monastery's hey-day who were determined to rescue the building after it fell into decline during the redevelopment of the 1970s following depopulation and industrial decline.

Jennifer Fisher

In 1996 the Monastery of St. Francis and Gorton Trust was formed by dedicated volunteers and the following year it was designated one of the Hundred Most Endangered Sites in the World by the World Monuments Fund. There followed ten years of single-minded dedication by individuals such as Tony Hurley and Elaine Griffiths who was awarded the MBE in 2007. Statues were retrieved from Sotheby's and the Crucifix, which had once been suspended over the altar, and Brother Patrick's reredos screen turned up in Miami and was bought back for \$20,000. (A few brackets were missing but someone recognised them when he saw them in Ashton market). By 2007 the first phase of restoration was complete.

Today it is one of the North's finest Event Venues, costing £3000 per day to hire. We saw the building ready for a formal dinner that evening, Remembrance Day. The stained glass figure of St. Francis looked down on tables decorated in black and silver, curtained off from the reception area by sumptuous drapes in black and gold. State-of-the-art lighting played on the angelic faces way above our heads and on the magnificently ornate screen.

Over tea and biscuits in the café we admired the artwork of local students and heard that young offenders had moved barrow loads of earth for the garden. Community and local cultural events figure prominently in the calendar at the Monastery in keeping with the past. We found our visit not merely interesting but inspiring.

