

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2008 – June Issue

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

As we approach the mid year point, (it hardly seems a moment since New Year!) it is pleasing to report to you that our membership has now reached 198. Whilst this is lower than at the end of 2007, there is always a drop in the number of paid up members during the early months of a year and then, normally, it steadily increases. Membership is higher than at this time last year, and we have continued to welcome newcomers at each of our meetings. It was nice to be told by two people that they chose CHU3A because, after checking various U3A Web sites in the area, they decided that ours was the best. I am not surprised! Clearly, in our ranks, we have an abundance of talent and our congratulations go to those responsible, John Anderton and George Rogers.

The Walking Group have now had their second 'away weekend'; this time based in Morecambe. The hotel was good, the walks very enjoyable and the company excellent. What else could one ask for?! Well, perhaps, better weather, but it was not too bad. Thirty-six of us thoroughly enjoyed the three days and our very grateful thanks go to the organisers of the accommodation, the walks and the hosteliaries they sought out for our pleasure.

All our established Groups continue to flourish and we have new interest groups. It looks hopeful that the Italian language classes will finally be getting off the ground, after trying for about a year. Perseverance pays off!

The Choir is now up and running and has met twice under the initiative and guidance of Shirley Cawthra. May we look forward to the streets of Cheadle Hulme being filled with "The Sound of Music"?! There are also indications that we may soon have further dancing activities – CHU3A Salsa!!? Wait for more news! And a reminder – if we do not have an activity catering for your interest and which you would like, please let any member of the committee know. We will see what can be done.

I wish a happy and safe holiday for those who are going away, and good summer weather for us all.

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
5 th June	Who wrote Shakespeare's Sonnets ?	Ben Alexander
3 rd July	The Titanic	Terence Mumford
7 th August	Beatrix Potter, Industrial Inheritance to Lakeland Legacy	Margaret Curry
4 th September	Historical mysteries	Dr. Jennifer Palmer
2 nd October	Men of the Bramhall War Memorial	Jeff Tuck
6 th November	An Artist's Life	John Mawbey

VISITORS 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 - Please make cheques payable to "Cheadle Hulme U3A Events"
and send to: - Shirley Cawthra

Dates for your diary (details to follow): -

Saturday 7th June

**Tatton's first ever
Orchid Festival**

This 2 day orchid show will take place on the 7th and 8th of June, when the Tenants Hall becomes the venue for this Annual Show.



**Royal Exchange
Theatre**

All at 2.30pm **£12.50**

Wednesday 11th June
"The Revenger's Tragedy"

Wednesday 9th July
"Hay Fever"

Stockport College

U3A Summer School

14th-18th July

See CHU3A website for details

Saturday 19th July **£14.00**

**Liverpool City of Culture 2008
and Tall Ships**

Pick-up 9.55am - Fiveways

18th July or 8th August 6.45pm

**Butler & Housekeeper
tour of Lyme Hall**

plus wine and nibbles after

Monday 28th July 1pm

Anderton Boat Lift

And River Trip

£8.50

**Saturday 16th August
Shrewsbury Flower Show
£13.50**

**Saturday 30th August
York
£14.60**

Bullocks

various pick-up points
e.g. Cheadle Hulme, Hilma Travel,
Station Road. 9.15am pick-up

Alma Lodge Annual Festive Lunch Friday 23rd January 2009

HELP !

Are you able to help the CHU3A by examining our financial books (once per year) ?

You do not have to be an accountant, just someone who is numerate. Appointment of a professional auditor is expensive and could lead to annual subs going up. Please contact our Treasurer, Ken Clifford.

Computer Group

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

Following the successful series held earlier in the year, a new series of six sessions are planned for autumn 2008. These will probably continue on the second and fourth Mondays & Tuesdays of the month. The cost will be £15 for the six meetings payable at the first meeting subject to a minimum of six and maximum of eight members signing up. Eight computers plus a teaching machine using a video projector for large-screen demonstrations are available.

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 contributions to the September Newsletter
Is the Members' Meeting on Thursday 7th August 2008**

Walking Groups Outline Programme - June and July 2008

Unless otherwise stated the walking group meets, on the day of a walk, at 9.30a.m., for departure at 9.45a.m., in the car park of Cheadle Hulme United Reformed Church, in Swann Lane.

2nd Wed. June 11th *Bakewell and Monsal Trail* – approx. 4 miles – easy. Take sandwiches.
Leader: Derek Weedon.

3rd Wed. June 18th *Ashford-in-the-Water and Monsal Head* * – 6 miles, moderate. Pack a lunch
*Spectacular views from Monsal Head over the Dale and Viaduct.
The route to Ashford is alongside the Wye and through Shacklow Wood.*

2nd Wed. July 9th *To be announced* – *Leader: Walter Fitzpatrick.*

3rd Wed. July 16th *Alstonefield* * – 4½ miles, easy. Pack a lunch.
Taking us to the middle section of Dovedale, between Wolfscote Dale and Milldale, this is an easy walk with a steep descent at the start, from Gypsy Bank to Coldeaton Bridge, for a walk along Dovedale and Milldale and on to Hope, with only a gradual ascent on the return.

*Third Wednesday Walks Leader: John Anderton.

This programme is subject to change at short notice. A walk may be cancelled, at the discretion of the walk leader, in severe weather conditions.

Walk leaders can be contacted by phone for information about a walk. Details are also regularly circulated by email. If you wish to be added to the e-circulation list, please contact John Anderton stating your preference for –

Second Wednesday walks – easy strolls of up to 5 miles;

Third Wednesday walks – easy strolls of up to 7 miles; or all walks.

The Walking Group's Weekend in Morecambe (25th–27th April)

“A Brief Encounter’ with lots of lovely friends and wonderful memories.” [J.K.]

The weekend in Morecambe was, as has become the norm, meticulously organised. Most of our party of 36, travelling in 10 cars, met up at Glasson Dock on a rather grey Friday mid-morning to set off on the first of the weekend's walks: a 5½-mile circuit of the surrounding countryside, returning to Glasson along the coast from Cockersands.

“Non-walkers in the party, meanwhile, repaired to the well-known Lantern O'er the Lune Café beside Glasson Dock, for a very welcome warming drink. Refreshed they then drove to the local garden centre at nearby Conder Green, but, on the whole, managed to resist further temptation.” [S.P.]

Reaching the ruins of Cockersands Abbey near the shore, the walkers stopped for a packed lunch or a snack, before ambling back to Glasson. Most then enjoyed further refreshment in greater comfort, either at the café, at the Dalton Arms or the Victoria Hotel (or opted for bacon butties at the Smoke House).

Despite the occasional showers and walking head on into a very fresh breeze off the sea on the outward leg of the walk, everyone enjoyed this first, “atmospheric” excursion.

We all met up again at our HQ – The Headway Hotel on Morecambe's East Promenade. This large seafront hotel accommodated us very well – being clean and comfortable with cheerful local staff, good food and a pleasant atmosphere.

“. . . and the shared companionship we all had at mealtimes and the social get together in the evenings was a tremendous success.” [J.K.]

On Saturday morning, after the walkers had set off on the second of their walks, another 5½-mile circular walk, this time in Silverdale – a designated AONB – some of the non-walkers made good use of their new bus passes to visit Carnforth Station. *“Here an excellent Visitor Centre has been developed, telling the story of the town, the railway and the making of the film Brief Encounter” [S.P.]*

None of our ladies needed to have a smut of soot removed from their eyes, but they do thoroughly recommend the 1940's station refreshment room's homemade cakes and speciality teas.



No such recommendation was forthcoming from the walkers when, en-route from the Cove to Jenny's Point, they took a greatly extended but unforgettable coffee break on the patio of the Silverdale Hotel. However, helped by an improvement in the weather our walk in this well-known beauty spot was most enjoyable. We rambled through woods, across open country, along quiet lanes, through the village, beside marshes, over limestone paving – seeing an extraordinary variety of spring wild flowers and, as we skirted the coast, enjoying lovely views across Morecambe Bay. Our day included leisurely breaks for refreshments and ended at the RSPB Visitor Centre at Leighton Moss.

Sunday dawned grey and miserable with lots of heavy rain.

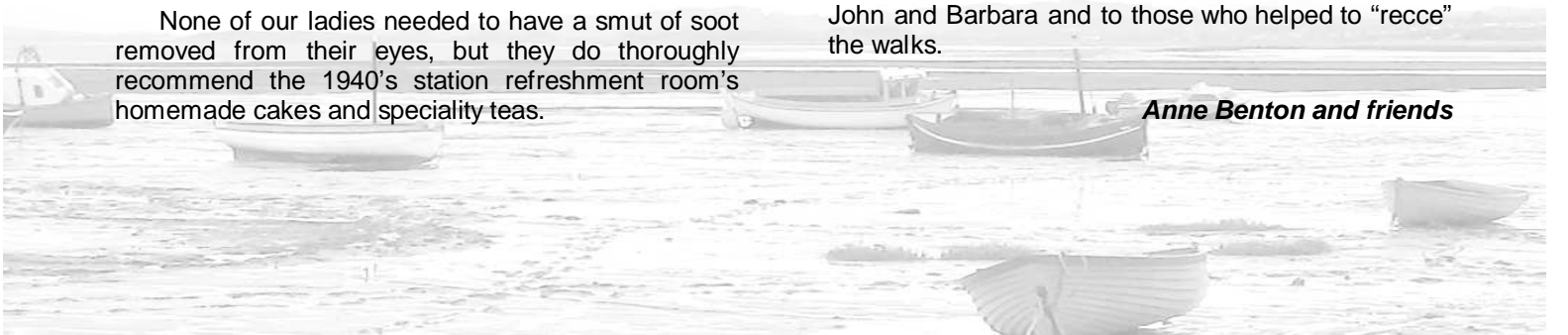
We set off after breakfast and convened at Sizergh Castle, a NT property a few miles south of Kendal. The parking area is now served by a good café and, whilst waiting for it to open at 11 a.m., its wide covered verandah provided us with seated shelter from the rain. Later, after taking refreshments there, or at the nearby Sizergh Low Barn farm shop café, small groups went on diverse excursions – most to explore the garden with its charming rockery.

Unexpectedly, just after noon, the clouds lifted, the rain eased and patience was finally rewarded, when a few of the walkers were able to take the third and last of the planned walks. This 2½-mile loop around the northern sector of the Sizergh Estate leads to a high point with fine views across to the estuary of the River Kent – the location of our final rendezvous: The Ship Inn, at Sandside, on the road from Milnthorpe to Arnside. (A few of the party also made Arnside a pre-lunch destination for sight-seeing and a visit to the art gallery).

Again, a lovely location – with beautiful views, that just has to be revisited – the Ship Inn is a comfortable old pub serving wholesome food and we thank landlords Linda and Keith and their staff for making us welcome and providing a great venue for a final farewell lunch, before setting off for home.

Walkers and non-walkers had a thoroughly good time and look forward to more of these breaks in the future. Thanks to the organisers, Carole and Errol and John and Barbara and to those who helped to “recce” the walks.

Anne Benton and friends



ED: Organisers of the accommodation for CHU3A's second walking weekend in Morecambe were surprised to find they had been allocated the bridal suite complete with four-poster bed !



Thanks – from a grateful member

May I, through the medium of this Newsletter, convey my sincerest thanks for the kind thoughts and warm get well messages after my 'knee job' which was carried out the day before Good Friday so, I then spent a quiet Easter in hospital.

On checking my progress the surgeon informed me that the bone was (quote) "completely shot" and so a partial new knee had been implanted.

I now have to accept the fact that, sadly, I do not have full movement of the knee and I will not be able to hop over stiles as I so easily did during the U3A walks!

Again, thanks for all your concern and without doubt it is helping me to recuperate. Keep smiling and whatever U3A activities you are involved with – may you enjoy them!

Errol Formilli

Visit to Martinmere Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Reserve 26th February 2008

After the disappointment of having to postpone our visit in January because of the atrocious wet weather, the 26th of February proved to be dry and sunny if a little windy.

Our first call to a hide displayed the hundreds of wild whooper swans which spend the winter at Martinmere before returning to Iceland each spring to breed. The various ducks, waders, and geese were identified and their colourful plumages admired.

On a nearby bird table a flock of tree sparrows was feeding and the differences between them and our familiar house sparrow noted. On the return from the far hide a greater spotted woodpecker was seen silhouetted against the trunk of a tree.

A talk by a member of staff at the flamingo house proved most interesting and questions about these birds were asked by our party. A pink sock with the face of a flamingo drawn on it was used to demonstrate the 'flamingo dance' – part of the courtship ritual of these large pink birds.

Next a visit to the new beaver enclosure where there was much evidence of beaver activity with gnawed tree trunks and a loosely constructed dam.

However, the largely nocturnal beavers were not seen.

A quick trip around the collection of wildfowl introduced us to another species of flamingo – the Chilean flamingo, a much pinker and more elegant bird.

Afternoon tea then seemed to be a good idea and we awaited the feeding of the swans at 3pm. The warden with his wheelbarrow laded with grain appeared and hundreds of swans tentatively made their way towards the hide to enjoy their daily rations.

This concluded a most enjoyable day in pleasant company with 31 species of wild bird seen in total: dunnock, robin, blue tit, great tit, goldfinch, blackbird, wood pigeon, great spotted woodpecker, magpie, carrion crow, pheasant, ringed plover, ruff, lapwing, avocet, oystercatcher, grey heron, coot, moorhen, wigeon, pintail, mallard, teal, shoveler, pochard, shelduck, greylag goose, pink-footed goose, whooper swan, black-headed gull and cormorant.

Peter Rhodes

Technology Group

A History of Printing - Arthur and Sylvia Baker – 4th March

Arthur started by pointing out that printing, before it could emerge, needed four other technologies/inventions to have occurred first. These were:

- 1) **An alphabet with a limited number of characters.** The Chinese had over 4,000 but the Romans introduced us more or less to the alphabet we use today, though only in uppercase form. Lowercase appears in Europe about 800 AD.
- 2) **Roman numerals** were introduced from the 4th century BC, but they proved very cumbersome to use. 'Arabic' numbers (1, 2, 3...) using positional notation, were invented by Hindus in India around the 4th century BC. These spread to the Middle East around the 9th century AD and to Europe soon after. Thus the current set of characters were in use by Scribes from around 1000AD
- 3) **Paper** Papyrus was an early form of paper made from reeds. Outside of Egypt, parchment or vellum, made of processed sheepskin or calfskin, were used for writing purposes. Paper, produced from a matt of fibres from wood pulp was invented by the Chinese circa 105 AD. Paper was being made in Europe by 1400, mainly using hemp and linen rags as a source of fibre.
- 4) **Inks.** Scribes in medieval Europe (about 800 AD to 1500 AD) wrote on sheepskin parchment, using an ink based upon iron salts and natural gall (gallic acid). Handwriting inks could not adhere to printing surfaces.

Arthur pointed out that from around 1000 AD there was a big demand for religious books, especially bibles. A book 'factory' might employ 50 or more scribes.

Woodcuts, which probably supplied the idea of printing, appeared in Europe about 1000 AD and were used as illustrations in manuscripts. Books of text can be, and were, made from woodblocks but it was very difficult as mistakes could not be rectified.

The inventor of the printing press was Johann Gutenberg (1400? - 1468) born in Mainz, Germany. He was a silversmith by profession. Around 1430-40 he invented movable, interchangeable, re-usable type, for printing on a wooden press (adapted from a wine or cheese press) using a printing ink of a composition also invented by him.

Arthur pointed out that Gutenberg's masterpiece was the Bible, printed in 1453-4. 180 copies were made, each of 1282 pages with 42 lines in two columns. Some 48 copies are known to exist today. He then described to us refinements of the printing press since that time - the Stanhope Press circa 1810, the Columbian Press circa 1813, the Albion Press circa 1823 and later on the Heidelberg for large print runs. Finally the Linotype typesetting machine invented by Ottmar Mergenthaler in 1885 was used in one form or another until superseded in the 1980's by computerised typesetting.

A most enlightening and entertaining talk from one of our own members Arthur Baker and his wife Sylvia

Patrick MacDonnell

"Hospital Infection Control"

1st April. Twenty-six people attended this last of the current season talks. The presentation entitled "Hospital Infection Control" was given by Mr J Honigman, a retired senior specialist pharmacist who had worked in a medical services and technical information department of an international pharmaceutical organisation. He has enjoyed a most impressive and stimulating career in trouble-shooting associated with infection control within hospitals, not only in this country but also on an international scale where he was frequently invited "to solve an infection case". He also lectured in this specialised subject.

The talk embraced three parts namely: infection control, antibiotics and hygiene culture, thus illuminating a truly amazing insight of a topic not many of us stop to think about, until we are affected either directly or indirectly by a hospital virus.

To keep hospital infection control to an absolute minimum staff hierarchy is vital, and when a new unknown infection is found virus organisms are grown and tested in order to find a suitable antibiotic to combat the virus. Hygiene culture, although well documented in quality assurance manual format, discussion groups, signs and associated information etc., finally comes down to the individual.

It was observed that the talk, although of relatively short duration, certainly paved the way to a questions, answers and personal experiences session that lasted almost twice the length of the actual presentation! A delicate and emotive subject for some.

Grateful thanks to our Group Leader Ian Reid for compiling an excellent and varied programme and to our members for giving illustrated talks. Thanks

also to Lesley and Joan for refreshments and to all members for your continued support.

PLEASE NOTE! For those who have pre booked for the summer field visit to the Anson Engine Museum at Anson Road, Higher Poynton SK12 1TD (Tel: 01625 874 426) we meet at 2.00pm on Tuesday 5th August at the museum entrance. Teashop facilities will be available.

Errol and Carole Formilli

Technology Group 2008–09

Sessions will start again in October and continue on the 1st Tuesday of each of the months October, November, December, February, March and April.
There are no meetings in January, May, June, July, August and September.

HOTEL KEY CARDS – Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card ?

Answer:

- a. Customer's name
- B. Customer's partial home address
- c. Hotel room number
- d. Check-in date and out dates
- e. Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner.

An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee reissues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically 'overwritten' on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process.

Did you know ?

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase..... "goodnight, sleep tight."

- Q. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?
A. Honey

But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them into the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip!

If you have a small magnet, pass it across the magnetic strip several times. Then try it in the door, it will not work. It erases everything on the card.

Information courtesy of: Police Service

Brian Durrant

- Q. What do bullet-proof vests, fire escapes, windscreen wipers, and laser printers all have in common?
A. All were invented by women.

In the 1400's a law was passed in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb"

(Supplied by Tina Menges)

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