

Cheadle Hulme



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009 – June Issue

Editor: George Rogers

Chairman's Letter

It has been a long winter; so it seemed anyhow. Perhaps it was the fact that last summer was so bad that made the winter seem so long. Anyhow isn't it great to see some sunny days and the promise, we hope, of a really good summer.

Cheadle Hume U3A goes from strength to strength; in fact we had so many people attending the February monthly meeting that we ran out of chairs. This resulted in a cap on membership and frantic efforts by your committee to look for a solution to the problem, because as U3A members, we do not like turning people away.

I am pleased to say, as this letter goes to press, that solutions are in sight and that those on the waiting list may shortly be members.

One of the nicest things about being chairman is the fact that I get to know more of you and get to make more friends amongst you. The U3A is a great organization with great people of like mind.

Long may it last.

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
4 th June	Music and Poetry, an Entertainment	Philip Holland
2 nd July	The Future of the U3A	Dr Alex McMinn
6 th August	Roman Britain	Norman Redhead
3 rd September	Walking to the top of Kilimanjaro	Arthur Cross
1 st October	Manchester-Down Below	Keith Warrander
5 th November	Guy Fawkes	Dr Jennifer Palmer

Membership closed as from February 2009 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 will now pay £1 each month as from the March meeting)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

There seem to be some misunderstandings as to when renewal of annual membership is due. It is hoped that the following, based on the Cheadle Hulme U3A's Constitution, will clear these up: -

- Membership renewals are due on the 1st January each year (currently £10 pa), regardless of the month of joining. (A reduced fee of £5 is charged for those joining during the months of October, November or December).
- Membership will automatically lapse at the 31st March for unpaid renewals.
- Because of a significant monthly increase in membership during 2008/2009, the trustees reluctantly introduced a waiting list. Rejoining of lapsed members will therefore be subject to new vacancies occurring.
- A prospective member is allowed ONE 'taster' visit before joining if a vacancy in the membership is available. However, the U3A's public liability insurance does not cover a non-member attending more than once.
- Membership is open to older people no longer in full time employment in Cheadle Hulme and its surrounding locality.
- Renewals and enquiries to join the waiting list must be made to the Membership Secretary at either the monthly meeting, by telephone or by post.

Possible formation of a new Bramhall U3A group

Several volunteers have offered to assist in the formation of a new group in Bramhall. The U3A are in the process of having meetings with interested parties to get this off the ground. No one currently at the CHU3A would need to leave and it is possible to have membership of both groups. The U3A Development Officer stressed that experience has shown that opening a new group in an adjacent vicinity has not led to any loss to existing groups, but rather the reverse.

CHU3A Computer Club

We are taking a break for the summer and will meet again on the 8th September at caféunity (bi-monthly on Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon).

The cost of £2.50 each remains the same and is payable directly to the café on arrival. This forum discusses 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 want to come. Email: chu3a@talktalk.net

Technology Group

The 2009 – 2010 session starts on Tuesday 6th October 2009

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)

3rd March 2009 meeting

Ian Reid started proceedings by explaining that he wanted to step down as chairman and that there had been an informal meeting to determine how to proceed. The result of the meeting is that Ian will remain as chairman and introduce speakers but will relinquish all other duties. Errol Formilli will in future act as secretary assisted by Carole and will make arrangements for and liaise with speakers. Brian Pullan will take over the role of scribe writing up the meetings and Sylvia will look after the group finances. It has also been proposed that all group members will be responsible for finding suitable speakers.

In fact a lot of people contribute to the success of the group, not the least Ian himself without whom the group would never have started and prospered. This is perhaps an appropriate time to thank them all but in particular Ian.

The proceedings proper started with Carole Formilli giving a very interesting five minute presentation on vertical light columns seen when ice crystals refract light from street lamps under certain meteorological conditions.

Brian Pullan then gave a talk tracing the history of the development of medical imaging methods starting with the invention of the microscope, onto the gastroscope and then through the discovery of X rays to computed tomography and then onto MRI imaging, nuclear medicine scanners and cameras and

finishing with ultrasound imaging and a rather remarkable image of the face of a baby in the womb made using the latest ultrasound imaging technology.

There were a number of demonstrations intended to show how fibre optics work, how radio waves from spinning protons in the water molecules in our bodies can be used to make images of both the anatomy and function of the inside of the body. Brian also showed two historic items, the first gastroscope to be used in Manchester in the early 1930's and an original computed tomographic image of one of the inventors of computed tomography, Godfrey Hounsfield. For this invention he received the Nobel Prize. Brian was keen to point out throughout his talk that five physicists had received Nobel Prizes for work of relevance to medical imaging; Roentgen for the discovery of X rays, Hounsfield and Cormack for the invention of computed tomography and Lauterbar and Mansfield for the development of MRI imaging. Brian was of course a physicist!

In the short discussion that followed, the possible future of medical imaging was discussed and it was suggested that this would be towards obtaining more information regarding the function and biochemistry of the organs of the body as well as more detailed pictures of the anatomy.

Brian Pullan

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 September Newsletter
is the Members' Meeting on Thursday 6th August 2009**

Website www.chu3a.org.uk

CHU3A EVENTS

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

Stockport Town Walks by the Heritage Trust

Saturday 13th June 12.00 noon

Old Stockport Walk

An exciting look at the history and heritage of old Stockport

2 ½ hours **£5**

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!

Royal Exchange

Wednesdays at 2.30pm

24th June	The Pianist	£19
8th July	Everybody Loves a Winner	£13.50

Palace Theatre

Thursday 17th December 2009

"Sound of Music" with Connie Fisher £28

Roy McCarthy Coaches

Saturday 27th June	Cruising the Canals of Lancashire Cruise along Lancaster Canal (cruise included)	£23
Friday 10th July	Welsh Wanderer in the Ceiriog Valley and Chirk Castle. Two course lunch included	£24.50
Saturday 18th July	The Twenty First Wem Sweet Pea Festival and Bridgmere Garden World	£17.50
Thursday 23rd July	Fountains Abbey and Studley Water Gardens	£19
Tuesday 28th July	Eyam Village and Chesterfield Medieval Market	£14.50
Sunday 2nd August	Whalley and Stonyhurst College (Guided tour and light lunch included)	£28.50
Wednesday 5th August.	A day on the planes – RAF Cosford	£18
Saturday 8th August	Crich Tramway Village – 1940's weekend	£25.50
Tuesday 25th August	Liverpool, Albert Dock or Birkenhead Market	£14.50
Sunday 30th August	Duke of Westminster Gardens	£19
Sunday 27th September	Worcester or the Great Malvern three Counties Autumn Show	£21

Stockport College Town Centre Campus

U3A Summer School 2009 13th - 17th 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

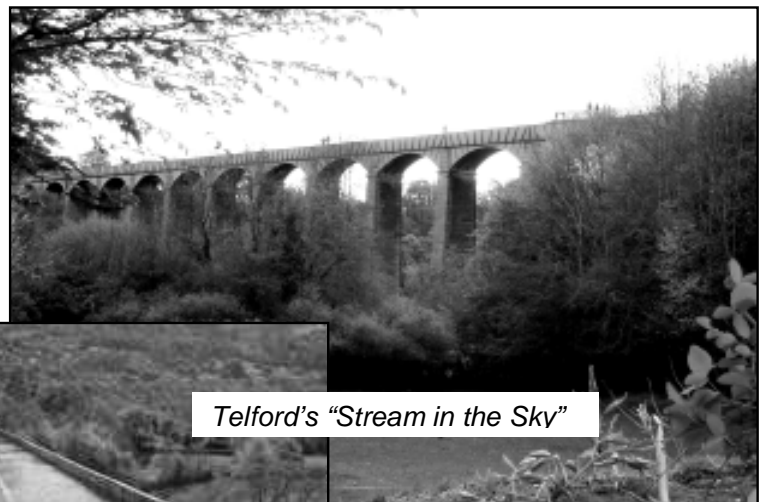


Llangollen U3A Spring 2009

Maybe “April is the cruellest month“, but the third weekend was surely the kindest for our walking group in Llangollen, despite the weather forecast. It was Gillian Rowe’s initiative to select the time and place of what has now become an established tradition of a Spring Weekend away for the walkers. As usual this involved a lot of preparation and careful organisation and Gillian carried the burden of that, with help from Anne Webster and with other members of the group who helped to reconnoitre the three walks. Our four weekends away so far have all been well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all but this was one of the most successful. Gillian made things easier for us by running a shorter, gentler walk alongside the more strenuous walk each day. On Friday Gillian led the high walk above the river Dee to look down on the Horseshoe Falls and Berwyn Station before meeting up with Anne’s party which had taken the gentler towpath route along the Llangollen canal. That route took us from Llangollen past the Horseshoe Falls and onto Llantysilio church, passing through woodland with swathes of white wild garlic, bluebells and primroses, with glimpses of the hills beyond or down to the river Dee below, and the occasional panting steam engine as it climbed the inclines on this Steam Weekend in Llangollen.

Starting from Trevor Canal Basin some 3 miles east of Llangollen, on the Saturday, Ken and Joan Clifford led the more strenuous walk, meeting up later with the strollers who again followed the easier route along the canal. The passing narrow boats, brightly coloured and reflected in the still brown waters, moved leisurely by and the boatmen waved cheerful greetings. On this sunny morning, surely, without Voltaire’s cynicism, we could say, “ all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds.”

The highlight of the day was the afternoon walk across the Pontcysyllte aqueduct from Trevor Basin. The aqueduct was built by Thomas Telford between 1795 and 1805 to carry the iron trough of the canal across the valley above the river Dee on massive stone piers. The towpath is protected by high iron rails on one side but the



Telford’s “Stream in the Sky”



canal side has only a foot of iron protection from the long drop below. Looking straight down over the railings

exaggerated the 120 foot drop below, enough to make me turn back after crossing half way, little wonder this was known as the “Stream in the Sky.”



On the Sunday Peter Rhodes arranged our walk in Erddig, near Wrexham, on our way home and then we spent time in this National Trust property and in its fine gardens, a lovely way to end the weekend.

The Hand Hotel in Llangollen was a happy choice; the accommodation was comfortable, the food was good and the staff were very friendly creating a lovely relaxed and cheerful atmosphere. The lively conversation and hilarity at the evening meals was matched by the even livelier singing in the bar afterwards. We were expecting a male voice choir on the Friday, but they were delayed in London. Instead we had spontaneous singing from four local singers with very fine voices, as you might expect in the town

which hosts the Eisteddfod and international music in the summer.

The small group who stayed up late on the Friday were even persuaded to join in the Welsh singing guided by a large and cheerful Max Boyce figure who called out each line in Welsh: a memorable evening indeed.

Thanks to Gillian and Anne we had a delightful weekend.

Derek Weedon

LETTER FROM GRANDMA

The other day I went to a Christian bookshop and saw a “Honk if you love Jesus” sticker and I put it in my car. I’m so glad I did – what an uplifting experience followed!

I had stopped at a red light at a busy crossing, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is, and I didn’t notice that the lights had changed. It was a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn’t honked I’d have never noticed. I found that lots of people love Jesus. While I was sitting there, a man behind me started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of the window and screamed “For the love of God, go, go!” I just leaned out of my window and started waving and smiling at all these lovely people. I even honked a few times myself to share in the love.

I saw another man waving in a funny way with only two fingers stuck in the air. When I asked my teenage grandson (sitting beside me) what that meant he said it was probably an Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well, I’ve never met anyone from Hawaii, so I gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing, even he was enjoying the religious experience.

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started to walk towards me. I bet they wanted to pray with me or ask which church I attended. This was when I noticed that the lights had changed and so ... not wishing to hold anyone up, I gave a cheery smile and waved goodbye to all my new found brothers and sisters and drove off. In my mirror I noticed that I was the only car that got across before the lights changed again. I felt very sad that I had to leave them all behind after all the love we had shared so I slowed down, leaned out of the window and gave them the Hawaiian good luck sign as I drove away.

This article was originally found in the Church Magazine, St. Peter’s, Edinburgh, but discovered in the magazine of St. John’s, Basildon, West Yorkshire.

Sylvia & Brian Pullan

“Play Reading”, a new group organised by Patricia Kenny got off to a good start recently with 10 members participating. Contact Patricia if you are interested, as she may have space for a few more.

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