

# Cheadle Hulme



## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2008 – December Issue

Editor: George Rogers

### *Chairman's Letter*

I have not calculated how many contributions I have made to our Newsletter, but this is my swansong! After four years my term as Chairman ends at our AGM in February 2009. My successor will be decided by the membership at the AGM.

However this is my opportunity to record my indebtedness and gratitude to all the Committee and Group Leaders for their constant support and co-operation, which I also extend to so many of the members. I do assure you it has been greatly appreciated by me. I could not have functioned without it!

I am delighted to say that Cheadle Hulme U3A continues in rude good health and membership has now reached 232. Hardly a meeting goes by without us welcoming one or more new members. I also want to praise your committee and group leaders all of whom do more than I and really work hard to ensure the smooth running and success of Cheadle Hulme U3A.

One of the many benefits and aims of the U3A organisation is friendship. I can testify to this having made a number of new friends since joining. This is also one of the strengths of CHU3A and membership of our groups is a great way of meeting people.

I am aware that unfortunately some still find it difficult to integrate but I do urge you to persevere, join a group or speak to a committee member who will always be happy to introduce you to others.

Now as the end of my term as Chairman approaches, Christmas is even closer. I wish you all every happiness for the coming holidays and the New Year and particularly my best wishes go to the Cheadle Hulme U3A for its continued progress and success.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

Best Wishes *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.

**PLEASE NOTE – the January meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 because of the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday falling on New Years Day.**

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	Wandering with Water Rail	David Taylor
5 <sup>th</sup> February	**** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009 ****	
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Within the Wooden "O"	Ann Metcalf

**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 with each group.

## **CHU3A EVENTS**

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

### ***Royal Exchange Theatre***

(All on Wednesdays at 2.30 pm)

7<sup>th</sup> January "See How They Run" £11.50  
11<sup>th</sup> February "True Love Lies" £13.50

### ***Alma Lodge***

Annual Festive Lunch

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009  
12 noon for 12.30pm £14.75

### ***Bullock's Coaches***

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009 £7.50 Chester and/or Cheshire Oaks

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 £19.95  
Easton Walled Garden - Snowdrop special  
(walking shoes required).

See spectacular drifts of snowdrops along the riverbank.  
Gardening specialist talk and entrance included.

### ***Stockport Heritage Trust***

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2009 £2 1.00 pm "Market Place Stroll"  
Leisurely stroll round Stockport's historic Market Place.  
Takes about 1½ hours.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2009 £4 1.00 pm  
Discovering Stockport's amazing food and drink industry.  
Takes about 2 hours.

### ***McCarthy's Coaches***

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009 £15 Manchester Past and Present  
(A fabulous tour with the well-renowned Blue Badge Guide – Barbara Frost)

Taking in many scenic and historic places both from the past and present.  
We stop for coffee and lunch and learn some interesting and unusual facts  
along the way (guided tour included).

### ***Opera House***

Riverdance – Farewell Tour

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 £25 (minimum 10 seats)

## ***New Groups - Joan Clifford***

Since the November meeting three people have indicated they wish to form a ***crafts group***. I hope to arrange the first meeting to discuss how to run it on the second Monday in December. This will provisionally be at my house. Although I do not wish to run the group myself, I am willing to facilitate its setting up.

There was a great deal of interest at the meeting for an ***art appreciation group***. As there are over twenty expressions of interest we will need to arrange to have the first meeting in a room or rented hall, as the group will clearly be too big to be home based.

The committee is very conscious that there is a large number of new members. As a lot of the groups meet in houses they are oversubscribed very quickly. If you cannot join the group that you have an interest in, please let me or a member of the committee know, so that we can try to form a second group. If we do not have a group to cater for your interest we will try to arrange to set one up.

***Group Organiser, Joan Clifford***

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## ***TOP - TaxHelp for Older People***

TaxHelp for Older People is a service originally provided through the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group (associated with the Chartered Institute of Taxation) but is now provided by Tax Volunteers. This is an independent organisation, to make free professional advice on personal tax available to older people who could not otherwise afford to pay for it.

If you have any queries, contact TOP on the helpline:

**0845 601 3321**

or

**01308 488066**

or write to: TaxHelp for Older People

Pineapple Business Park, Salway Ash, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5DB

E-mail [taxvol@taxvol.org.uk](mailto:taxvol@taxvol.org.uk)

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## ***Anagrams from Tina Menges***

DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters:

DIRTY ROOM

GEORGE BUSH:

When you rearrange the letters:

HE BUGS GORE

SNOOZE ALARMS:

When you rearrange the letters:

ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

PRESBYTERIAN:

When you rearrange the letters:

BEST IN PRAYER

THE MORSE CODE:

When you rearrange the letters:

HERE COME DOTS

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters:

THAT QUEER SHAKE

ASTRONOMER:

When you rearrange the letters:

MOON STARER

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:

CASH LOST IN ME

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST !

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

When you rearrange the letters:

WOMAN HITLER

## ***STILL GOT SOME SPARE TIME? - WHY NOT VOLUNTEER?***

U3A members are not the sort of people who sit around wondering what to do but if you find that you have a bit of spare time or are newly retired and are looking for meaningful activities you might like to consider volunteering. I have certainly found it very rewarding.

When I was nearing retirement I knew that I could not afford to spend my time globe-trotting so began to make other plans. Adult education and the U3A looked interesting but I thought there would be time for some volunteering. I contacted the secretary of the **Friends of the Whitworth Art Gallery**, a group I had joined several years before and whose lectures and social events at the gallery and study trips to different parts of the UK I had greatly enjoyed. In the first month of my retirement I joined their famous Tuesday Team which meets behind the scenes in the gallery every Tuesday to organize the Friends' events, mailings and memberships. At first, using my experience as an archivist, I listed some papers relating to the early years of the Friends. Then, after I had asked why there were no study trips abroad, the chairman asked if I would like to organize one. Although I had never done anything like it before I thought, "Why not? If I can choose where we go!" So, working through a specialist agency, I organised annual art study visits to Florence, Venice, Genoa, Brussels and Paris. We had some wonderful times visiting some of the best art galleries and most beautiful buildings in the world and I am glad to say that another volunteer took over from me and continues to run foreign visits, most recently to Sicily. At present I am involved in the administration of memberships, subscriptions and mailings. Of course the main objective of the Friends is to support the gallery – having fun is incidental – and it is wonderful to look at a work of art and know that we helped to buy or conserve it.

Before I went back to full-time work I had a part-time job demonstrating hand spinning at **Quarry Bank Mill** so the Visitor Services Manager had me on her list as a potential volunteer. During the first summer of my retirement I helped in the Apprentice House garden. My most vivid memory is of trying to weed round the apple trees while keeping belligerent geese at bay with the hoe. Then I moved inside the Mill, selling entrance tickets once a week in Reception. I was amazed to discover that I had to handle 15 different types of ticket, all of different colours. Shortly afterwards the foot and mouth epidemic caused the closure of the whole estate, so it was several months before I really got going in this role. At this time the Mill organization was going through the changes caused by the National Trust's takeover of direct management from the Quarry Bank Mill Trust, which disturbed some of the long-standing volunteers. Now that my own role has changed, mainly due to the re-allocation of ticket sales to paid staff, I have more understanding of their feelings. Now I am a Welcome Host at the Mill entrance twice a month, helping with buggies and wheelchairs and giving out information such as the location of the toilets because there is always someone who did not see the signs. In summer 2007 I also helped in the early stages of getting the Quarry Bank House "Secret Garden" ready for public opening in 2008, a tremendous task. When going round the garden

now it is amusing to pass the site of the huge bonfire I tended one day.

My next major **volunteering involvement was with our own U3A**. After being on the start-up committee I was vice-chairman and groups co-ordinator for the next few years. It was great fun setting up the group, deciding how it should be run, formulating the constitution etc but also hard work. If you have not been involved in such an enterprise it is hard to realise how much effort it takes to set up a group and keep it running. Listening to the buzz at our monthly meetings and noting how many active interest groups we have must make all officers and committee members past and present feel proud to have been involved.

**Bird watching** has been a major interest of mine for about 15 years and I have been a member of the RSPB almost as long. Recently I have been able to do some voluntary work for the local RSPB group on the sales table at Golden Days each autumn and helping with group newsletter mailings. This year I have taken over the twice yearly newsletter distribution in my area. Deliveries can be quite difficult as some blocks of flats are guarded like Fort Knox and other addresses are hard to find. When I asked my predecessor about one particularly elusive address not in the A to Z he said, "Oh, I've never found that. I just stick a stamp on it and put it in the post." Determined not to be beaten (or too mean to waste a stamp) I eventually found it and can now do the round in an afternoon, provided it does not rain.

For most of my adult life I have supported **Oxfam** and used to help at an Oxfam shop in Northenden in the 70s, so I was delighted when an Oxfam shop opened in 2007 on Cheadle High St within walking distance of home. For over a year I have thoroughly enjoyed helping in the shop on Thursday mornings, advising customers, pricing, stocking shelves and dressing the window. It is one of the specialist shops for used books and music and new cards, Fairtrade, seasonal and eco-friendly goods and it is very satisfying to know that we are helping vulnerable people threatened by starvation or the effects of major disasters.

So, do you always need to go out and about to volunteer? No, you can stay at home and knit! I have always loved knitting and many years ago I used to knit blanket squares and children's jumpers for Oxfam and also stripey children's mittens which we used to sell in the Northenden Oxfam shop for 2s6d per pair! Nowadays I knit Teddies for Tragedies and hats, scarves, mittens and glove puppets for the shoebox appeals. The only trouble with knitting small toys is that there is a lot more sewing up which I do not enjoy so much.

**As you can tell from just one volunteer's experience, there is a great variety of opportunity in our area and most organizations are eager for new recruits. If you decide to have a go you will learn new skills, make new friends among staff and fellow volunteers and have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making very good use of your spare time.**

*Valerie Hill*

## ***Keyboard Group***

A rare opportunity has arisen. We are pleased to announce that we can accept two new members to the group. If you are a complete beginner or played the piano when younger you are welcome to join us. We meet on Fridays from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon at The Village Hall, Outwood Road, Heald Green.

For those who are not too sure if this is for them we can offer a loan keyboard to get you started. Why not come and give it a try!

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## ***Computer Club***

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

The **NEW U3A Computer Club** held at caféunity has been running bi-monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 10am to 12 noon) since 9<sup>th</sup> September this year. We have been averaging 12-14 members per session at a cost of £2.50 per head 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.

It is intended to provide a forum to discuss 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.

There are still spaces - please contact George Rogers if you want to come. Email: [chu3a@talktalk.net](mailto:chu3a@talktalk.net)

\* *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.

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### **These actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:**

- "Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help. "
- "Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation."
- "Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get."
- "Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days."
- "At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice."

Provided by **Eunice Hewitson**

# Technology Group 2008 - 2009

## Spring Programme

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2009	"Science and the Built Environment"	Prof. K. M. Letherman
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2009	"A History of Medical Imaging"	Dr. B. Pullan
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	"Transport Strategy for the 21 <sup>st</sup> 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 2.00 pm – 4 pm.  
(£1 per member is charged at each meeting to cover the cost of hall hire and refreshments)*

### 6<sup>th</sup> October

Chairman Ian Reid opened the meeting by welcoming 26 individuals including 2 newcomers and commented that this is the commencement of the 4<sup>th</sup> season of the Group!

Ian then mentioned that following discussions with several members regarding the future of the Technology Group – on a self help basis – it was agreed that there will be a small deviation from current meeting procedures. He emphasised this would be experimental and as an example, he read out a selection of short technical articles from newspapers and journals. Brian Pullan had copies of the "New Scientist" and Paddy MacDonnell had copies of "Scientific American" for distribution to those interested in giving a few minutes technical presentation at a future meeting.

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Due to unforeseen circumstances the expected talk "Science and the Built Environment" had to be postponed until next spring. However, at very short notice Dr. E. O. Maxwell a retired CEGB Reactor Fuelling and Development Manager with 32 years experience in the nuclear power industry kindly stepped into the breach. He gave a truly absorbing, rather awe inspiring and vivid descriptive talk titled "Energy and Nuclear Power".

He started by saying that the Government's green light to go ahead with the design and build for nuclear power stations is several years too late primarily due to the public inquiry, planning, design, construction and commissioning of each station, whilst the annual energy consumption of the UK increases very rapidly. For example, the public inquiry for the Sizewell station took 3 years compared with 5 years to build.

Using slides Dr. Maxwell outlined the design parameters of electricity generation by means of wind turbines and then wave machines, and surely convinced all present that this is not the way forward to totally solve the forthcoming energy consumption crisis. The basic process of electricity generation by means of nuclear fusion was then described.

There are 8 old Magnox reactor power stations in the UK but 6 are shut down ready for decommissioning. The basic design and operation of the Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (ARG) at Calder Hall was then outlined, which incidentally, was used for the extraction of plutonium for weapons development prior to the

generation of electricity for domestic and commercial usage.

Dr. Maxwell then described the pros and cons of the two systems and included the huge built-in safety factors to meet all necessary statutory, environmental, public inquiry and political requirements. He concluded, by comparing development, building and running costs, and efficiency factors for wind turbine farms and wave machines, with electricity generation by means of nuclear fusion.

Dr Maxwell made the talk so very interesting and at a level that the 'non nuclear' attendees could understand the subject matter demonstrated by the number of questions asked.

Ian has a copy of a summary sheet indicating the many facts and figures relating to this talk – if interested please contact him.

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### 4<sup>th</sup> November

Twenty-eight members were present. Bernadette was the first volunteer to open the Group's new experimental format of technology reporting. Her chosen topic from the New Scientist was a discussion paper on the ethics of implanting a chip in children with severe disabilities. In the event of a sudden illness or accident the chip would activate appropriate services for assistance. After the pros and cons of the subject, the report questioned if this could be the thin end of a large wedge regarding an individual's privacy and whereabouts and how it would impact on today's world. Bernadette bravely and graciously integrated the presentation with her very personal experience and so this enabled all to empathise and appreciate both sides of this serious ethical debate.

Brian followed with a very brief (perhaps too brief for such a serious subject) report from the New Scientist regarding an unanswerable problem – earth's finite resources.

With only two acetates and a few oral paragraphs to support the projection images he imparted facts that were astonishing and much more than thought provoking – rather frightening.

Acetate1: "In an average lifetime of 77.8 years what every American will consume in kg / tonnes." For example, tin; silver; lead; copper; uranium; gold; nickel, chromium etc.

Then acetate 2: Pie chart – “How long will these finite earth resources last?” At present America, it would appear, is the world’s largest consumer of these precious resources and with 5% of the world’s population it utilises some 25% of world energy!

One can soon conclude that some of the key resources may very well be exhausted in our children’s/ grandchildren’s generations. However it should be noted that there is a proportion of material consumption absorbed by the now important recycling of materials but then, consideration must be given to the energy costs for the recycle processes!

Thanking both volunteers Ian then mentioned that hopefully others would come forward to present similar short reports.

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Ian then reintroduced his friend Dr G Beaumont a retired general practitioner who just a year ago gave a fine illustrated talk on “Telford’s Road” – remember? His second talk titled “Parys Mountain” centred on this 480ft. copper mountain and Amlwch, both situated just off the A5025 in North Anglesey. To set the scene Dr Beaumont had an array of excellent large photographs, guides and subject information on display prior to his presentation. With the aid of his high quality superb slides and accompanied by his in depth subject knowledge he soon whisked us away on an industrial/historical journey.

Slides showing the exact site location, site exploitation and Amlwch Port were the introduction. Amlwch translated from Welsh is - the ancient copper town. Copper was extracted from the mountain as far back as pre Roman times but this talk embraced the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Crown Monopoly Mines); 16<sup>th</sup> century (Royal Monopoly) and onwards. In the 1600’s, two large well-established families, the Bayly’s and the Hughes owned the mountain and surrounding lands.

In circa 1764 a Charles Roe from the Macclesfield area, who was much involved in the extraction of copper from the Alderley Edge mines, turned his interest towards Parys Mountain. Circa 1768, with a surveyor from Derbyshire named Jonathan Rose, they

became key players in the development of copper extraction from the mountain.

Three mining techniques were used namely: Underground shafts – not successful or economic; Open cast – very successful, economic but had disastrous effects on surrounding landscape; Precipitation tanks – shallow lake type ponds and of limited usage.

Miners had to purchase all their own equipment i.e. explosives, fuses, candles, hammers etc and mine owners paid only for copper extraction per ton of material – usually about 5%. Typical working day was 12 hours and also female miners were employed.

From circa 1790 onwards mine owners’ profits started to fall due to very complicated legal and land ownership problems of the mountain and also the embryonic development of copper imports mainly from South America. The heyday of copper mining at Parys Mountain was coming to an end and eventually dissolved circa 1802.

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century very little mining was carried out owing to large imports of much cheaper copper ore. Ancillary industries evolved such as smelting; brimstone (sulphur), vitriol (sulphuric acid) and copper sheathing for hulls of wooden warships e.g. HMS Victory.

Supplemented with some lovely detailed slides he described the transportation of copper ore from the mountain to other parts of the UK and also the export via Amlwch Port, which was enlarged by an Act of Parliament in 1793.

Today the whole area is a Heritage Site punctuated with circular walks in and around the now derelict and windswept, but not forgotten, mountain and Amlwch Port. An application has been lodged for World Heritage Site status and should you visit this area you’re sure to agree it justifies acceptance.

A most interesting and informative talk with questions and discussion carried on well after refreshments.

***Errol and Carole Formilli***

## **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](mailto:chu3a@talktalk.net)) or post to: George Rogers (at the address contained in your copy of the printed Newsletter)*

**Closing date for contributions to the March Newsletter  
is the Members’ Meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

## ***Walking Group: Weekends away – nostalgic thoughts***

It all started on a Wednesday walk around The Edge at Alderley Edge, surrounding woods and pastoral lands.



The date was 13<sup>th</sup> September '06, a beautiful warm sunny autumnal day, the sky was blue and all was well with the world and, indeed with the U3A, especially the Walking Group! As we recall there were 15 persons on the walk and Carole and I were the leaders. During a short “refuelling” break where a large uprooted tree trunk provided impromptu seating under a canopy of leaves Carole happened to mention to Derek, Beryl and one or two others close by that as we all get on well together in a happy and friendly way, wouldn't it be nice to extend today's walk to two consecutive days and so stay overnight somewhere. Embryonic thoughts and opinions were then expressed and generally it was said to be a good idea and so Derek suggested we investigate further. Fortified with enthusiasm we then embarked upon a time consuming investigation to find a suitable walking area with hotel potential to suit our needs.

Investigation parameters were: To find a 3 star half board tariff hotel at reasonable cost to accommodate all the party under one roof, no single supplement, a separate room for our evening social intercourse needs and also member special need amenities as required. Hotel location had to be in a walking area suitable for our members but not forgetting the needs of those who, for various reasons, were unable to participate on the walks.

That was our assignment! Tenacity prevailed and eventually we amassed appropriate information.

Liaising closely with Derek and Beryl Weedon and John and Barbara Anderton it was decided we should all meet to discuss the matter in detail. Errol and Carole would arrange hotel accommodation and car sharing/passenger list, whilst the Weedons and the Andertons would investigate, reconnoitre as required, and then arrange walks for Friday pm, Saturday and Sunday am.

And so the idea of a Cheadle U3A Walking Group away weekend was born!

The first weekend break (autumn) was 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> September '07 at The Marine, Llandudno, supported by 23 members, the 2<sup>nd</sup> break (spring) was 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April '08 at The Headway, Morecambe when 36 people participated and the latest (autumn) 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September at The Royal Victoria, Llanberis when 29 attended. Sadly, another 8 people were not able to go due to prior holiday arrangements otherwise the party would have totalled 37!

Walks associated with Llanberis were planned and led by John without a recce. trip due to the distance from Cheadle and so full credit must be given to him and Barbara who heartily supported him in the planning stage and during the walks.

After 3 successful weekend breaks within the space of 12 months Carole and I have made it known to all concerned that it was time for us to step down and pass the baton on to other willing members of the Group. These are Gillian Rowe assisted by Anne Webster and so we wish them well together with John and Barbara who, we understand, will continue with the planning and leading the walks.

In conclusion, Carole and I wish to sincerely thank the Weedons and the Andertons for their valued time, co-operation and input during those early days when we entered untried territory and, of course, we must warmly thank all of you who supported these away weekends. They were enjoyable events, fun to organise and judging from your “thank you” telephone, postal and computer messages received by the Weedons, the Andertons and ourselves, the Walking Group weekend breaks were a success.

Keep smiling and enjoy the outdoors.

***Errol and Carole Formilli***

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### ***U3A Strollers – Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 around Capesthorpe Hall and Redesmere (4 miles approx)***

Approaching 20 strollers began the walk at the car park at Redesmere, Siddington, ably led by Errol Formilli, with Carole as “back marker”. We skirted Redesmere before crossing Congleton Road and walking by the fishing lakes of Capesthorpe Hall, prior to crossing luxuriant green fields, which so typify Cheshire. The autumn colours were spectacular where considerable stands of deciduous trees dotted and lined the landscape giving it a timeless aura. Even the weather played its part.

After returning to the lakeside car park the group drove to the Blacksmith's Arms, Henbury, where pre-ordered lunches were duly served. A feature of the strollers' walks is always conversation and an enjoyable sociable lunch in a hostelry. Well done Carole and Errol!

***Walter Fitzpatrick***

## **WALKERS' WEEKEND - LLANBERIS 19-21 SEPTEMBER 2008**

***"After so much rain all summer, we were blessed with super weather for our most enjoyable few days away."***



### ***Day One***

We all made our way safely to gather at the Royal Victoria Hotel for a 12-noon start. This first walk took us on to the lower slopes of Snowdon, where we enjoyed our picnic lunch in the sunshine. Later in the afternoon we booked in, found our rooms, and after a rest and a freshen-up, met up in the bar for drinks. After dinner, a relaxing time for chat or a game of Bridge.

### ***Day Two***

After a good breakfast, today's walk was quite a challenging one. This took us round Padarn Lake – a good deal of climbing on one side of the lake, but pleasantly flat through woodland on the return side. Another picnic en route, and on arriving back in Llanberis, most of us then took the 40-minute boat trip round the lake, feeling a sense of achievement seeing from the water how far we had walked.

### ***Day Three***

Off to Penrhyn Castle to spend the morning exploring this National Trust venue – a very unusual building. We had lunch here, then all set off for home.

There were a few 'non-walkers' on the weekend, and on their behalf, **John writes:** -

*'Leaving our friends "the walkers" as they set off to conquer the lower slopes of Snowdon, we decided to have our picnic lunch in the lovely sunshine before embarking on the Lakeside Railway, which was a very enjoyable trip taking in panoramic views of Snowdonia. Later in the afternoon we visited the Slate Museum and the inevitable café where we had afternoon tea.*

*Next day Chris and I decided to attempt Snowdon – but only on the Mountain Railway. It was again a beautiful day and the views were magnificent. On our return, Margaret was waiting for us and we had a delightful lunch before embarking on the Boat for a trip on the lake. On Sunday walkers and non-walkers joined together to visit Penrhyn Castle.'*

Everyone in the party would like to thank Carole and Errol for all their hard work in organising and booking everything for us and the walkers thank John Anderton for the super walks.

***Patricia and John Kenny***

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### **Strange Facts**

- If a statue in the park has a person on a horse which has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.
- Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden"...and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.